



GARRY BASHFORD

OBJECT

Submission No: 164520

Organisation:		<i>Biodiversity, Visual impacts, Traffic and transport, Noise and vibration, Agricultural impacts and land use, Social and economic, Physiological - infrasound noise / electromagnetic interference / shadow flicker / blade glint</i>
Location:	<i>New South Wales 2354</i>	
Submitter Type:	<i>I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development</i>	
Attachment:	<i>Thunderbolt Wind Farm.docx</i>	

Submission date: 18/3/2024 3:39:06 PM

See attachment

Thunderbolt Wind Farm (SSD- 10807896).

This submission is against the Thunderbolt Wind Project and supports the submission I made to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) at Kentucky on the 14th March.

Firefighting

Suppression of wild fires around wind turbines with aircraft will be, according to pilots, a non event. The combination of the development size with a three km no fly zone around it as is the case with existing wind farms (ie Sapphire and White Rock in the Glen Innes area) will mean that a fire starting on the Western edge of the development travelling under a westerly wind with little to no suppression will possibly impact the N.E. Highway with a frontage of approximately 9 kilometers. This will mean that the largest proportion of residences in the Kentucky area a further 8 kilometers downwind will be subjected to a higher risk of fire impact that would otherwise be the case. An unacceptable situation given that the prevailing winds are from the West and Northwest.

Recommendation:

Reduce the size of the development or preferably move it to an area where the combination of factors does not pose such a significant threat to a relatively closely inhabited area such as Kentucky.

Noise and Infrasound

There are countless references about how audible and inaudible (infrasound) sound can or may affect the health of large numbers of people in impacted areas. Yet NEOEN in their glossy paraphernalia claim that some 17 reviews from leading health and research organizations concluded that there is no published evidence linking turbines with adverse health effects. Then we have a report from a Vermont medical doctor Dr Sandy Reider a Harvard University School of Medicine graduate where he encourages the Vermont Public Service Board members to read and conduct careful review of a study by Bob Thorne a professional acoustician in Australia that he presented to the Australian Senate in 2011 (1). Reider states that Thornes report is a careful and well designed case study covering sound measurements and health measures in a "balanced and scientific way" (2). In one example from Thornes' study he states that "a 1-2 km setback is not nearly sufficient; significant low frequency sound pressure measurements have been recorded in homes 3-6 miles from large projects in Australia" (2). Although we have not been made aware of the size of the turbines NEOEN is planning to use in this Project I am fairly confident that the proposed towers will be larger and higher than the ones where the above measurements were taken.

Recommendation:

That the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure members read Bob Thorne's Clinical case study and apply his recommendations to any approvals that they are considering.

Social License /Procedural Fairness.

Current actions by Government and Developers have done nothing to instill trust within the Community. We are constantly burdened with information overload and with as many supposedly scientific references supporting the Developers claims as there are refuting it. We, the general public, have little chance of determining where the truth lies. Does this scientific disagreement represent either gross incompetence or intentional bias? Where are our Chief Scientists and Researchers to provide the credibility and scientific rigour to these matters? At the moment this uncertainty is creating huge Community upheaval and mental stress exacerbated by the knowledge that the decision was significantly influenced simply by the presence of easily accessed high voltage lines overriding consideration of other aspects. This was evident from the presentations delivered at the Final Public Meeting of the IPC by both the Department and NEOEN.

Recommendation:

The Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure use comprehensive credible independent and peer reviewed information when determining the suitability of developments such as the Thunderbolt Wind Factory. A whole of NSW integrated land use plan would be a good start.

Garry Bashford

Kentucky

18 Mar 2024

(1) See: Bob Thorne, "The Problems with 'Noise Numbers' for Wind Farm Noise Assessment," *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* 2011 31: 262. DOI: 10.1177/0270467611412557, <http://bst.sagepub.com/content/31/4/262>

(2) "Properly interpreting the Epidemiological evidence about the health effects of Industrial Wind turbines on nearby residents" *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* vol 31 No 4 (August 2011) pp 303–315 <http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/properly-interpreting-epidemiologic-evidence-about-health-effects/>