

Lesson 21: Background Testing is Your Insurance

Wind farms have a problem with noise.

People sleep peacefully at night in rural environments without a wind farm in the area.

But when a wind farm is built, people can't sleep.

Wind farms can't stick to the legal limit.

Wind farms know their turbines are louder than the legal limit.

And even though the Noise Standards favour their business, wind farms still can't operate under the law.

So, wind companies lie and cheat, and manipulate measurements to falsify reports.

They get away with it because authorities don't have access to the measurements (the data).

Authorities rely on the word of the wind farm, and sign off on a wind farm's self-written reports.

The Officers are merely Rodeo Clowns.

Authorities are completely inept and unable to help.

Their systems divert you out of the way, so the wind farm can continue to operate without restriction.

EPA Officers don't ask to see the data.

And wind farms don't disclose the data.

Audits are signed off on self-written opinions only, without validation and verification of the data.

The wind industry is in control – not the authorities.

Neighbours need to take back control.

Neighbours need to have their own data.

Neighbours need to undertake their own background testing and noise monitoring.

Wind farms have a licence to emit noise up to a certain level, depending on the background noise.

The level of noise emissions allowed depends on the initial background levels.

The higher the background level the higher the noise a wind farm can emit.

Wind farms manipulate the data to produce reports to show higher background noise levels.

Then, using these false reports, they claim the turbine noise is not an issue because the existing background levels were already high.

And the authorities are happy to accept their opinion.

If you can't sleep at night – What then?

Wind farms cause sleep disturbance.

They know it – and cheat the system to cover it up.

What do you do? Do you walk away, and let the wind farm destroy your family and trash your assets?

Or, do you get clever, take-out noise insurance and get your own data?

Your Data

1. Background Data – your Insurance for later.
2. Post-construction Noise Monitoring Data:
 - a) An initial report as leverage - a piece of paper to wave in front of their faces to go for bigger money, if that is your aim.
 - b) Valid, objective noise data evidence to take whoever to court.

Remember,

Raw Data is not a noise report containing figures.

Raw Data is the measurements straight from the meters.

They lie when they say “the raw data is in the reports”

Background Data is your Insurance.

The definition of “background noise” in the wind industry is the ambient noise in the natural environment before the construction of a wind farm. Once construction starts, ambient/natural noise no longer qualifies as “background noise”.

Neighbours will have no idea about wind farm noise and no idea what they’re up against. But at the first sniff of a wind farm, neighbours must **seriously consider undertaking background testing.**

The wind farm rep will tell them:

“Nah – don’t worry about the noise, we will comply with the limits” – **they’re lying.**

“We can do noise testing to ensure the noise will comply” – **they want your data to use against you.**

The Ambient / Background Rural Environment

Ambient noise levels at night in a rural area are usually between 8 – 20 dB LA90.

In Victoria, wind farms have a licence to emit turbine noise up to 40dB LA90, - **but only** if background levels are measured at 35dB LA90 and below.

If background levels are measured above 35dB LA90, wind farms can add 5dB to the background calculations.

This allows them to push the licenced level above 40dB LA90.

So, they falsify their reporting to come up with higher background levels to push the levels above 35dB LA90.

By the time the wind farm is finished with your data, your typical background level of 20dB LA90 – is turned into 36dB LA90 and above, allowing wind farms to emit noise at dangerously high levels above 40dB LA90.

36dB LA90 + 5dB = 41dB LA90

37dB LA90 + 5dB = 42dB LA90

38dB LA90 + 5dB = 43dB LA90 **and so on.**

Post-Construction Data

If a neighbour holds their own data – they hold objective evidence that the EPA doesn’t have.

The EPA doesn’t have access to the data because wind farms don’t give them access to the data.

The EPA has no means of questioning a wind farm’s falsified reports.

So, if a neighbour presents valid information to the EPA showing the wind farm is polluting the land, the EPA officers are obligated to act.

With raw data, neighbours can do the following:

1. Hold objective evidence to add to their subjective evidence of diaries and complaints.
2. Hold objective evidence to challenge the inept authorities.
3. Hold objective evidence to wave in front of the wind farm’s nose to negotiate a suitable financial payout.
4. Hold the objective evidence to take whoever to court.

Neighbours are at War and their Data is their Weapon.

Invest in noise monitoring – for the protection of your family’s health and your farming assets.

Engage an independent and reputable acoustician who will hand over the data straight from the metres.

Don’t sign anything – The wind farm will want to get rid of you because you are a risk to their business. They will offer you crumbs to silence you.

Don’t wait until it’s too late.

Once construction starts – it’s too late to do background testing.