

Ministry of Climate Energy and Building

Ministry of Environment

December 5th. 2013

Dear Mayor,

The expansion of wind turbines in Denmark is essential for the investment in renewable energy and to meet energy policy objectives that a broad majority in Parliament agrees. The number of onshore wind turbines in 2000 was 6200 turbines. That number is now 4600 turbines, while capacity has increased from just over 2300 MW in 2000 to more than 3200 MW in 2012.

Wind turbines are not silent, and they are visible in the landscape. It is therefore important that wind turbines are placed after careful planning that takes into account both neighbors and nature. You in the municipalities are in charge of the planning. In recent years, concerns about noise from wind turbines emerged in the debate on wind turbines because some people experience annoyance and are worried about adverse health effects caused by noise. However, there is no scientific studies that show that noise from wind turbines have adverse health effects.

Local Government planning of wind turbines is done based on a number of considerations and rules. Wind Turbine Order contains binding limits on noise. The vast majority of the rules reflect a balance, and it is also the case for the noise limits that reflect a balance between the climate and energy policy direction we want to go in Denmark, and the protection of citizens against noise. The Danish noise regulations in line with the rules in force in the countries we normally compare ourselves with.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building, jointly with the Ministry of Health decided to fund a study of the relationship between wind turbine noise and health effects. The intention and our expectation is that we, with a thorough investigation once and for all are able to addressing the concerns.

The long tradition of wind turbines in Denmark and the comprehensive data on population diseases provides a unique opportunity to use registry data and therefore get valid, impartial results. In addition to examining the relationship to cardiovascular disorders, it is decided that the study should also clarify whether there is a correlation between wind turbine noise and respectively, depression, hypertension, sleep disorders, diabetes and birth weight.

A detailed project protocol for the study will be assessed by the Health Protection Agency's Scientific Advisory Committee on Health and Environment and in addition by an international noise expert. The assessment must ensure that the study meets the international research standards. If applicable, the investigation will be in progress by the end of 2013, and the total study is expected to be completed in approx. 3 years. It is our firm opinion that the municipalities work with the planning of wind turbines, resulting from the energy agreement from March 2012, can continue while the investigation is underway.

Sincerely, Martin Lidegaard (sign.) Ida Auken (sign.) ((Informal Google translation)