

Wind Science Panel Literature Review Media Headlines vs Truth

By Preston Ribnick and Lilli-Ann Green

Truth: Please note the panel's findings are quoted below:

"It is acknowledged that noise from wind turbines can be annoying to some and associated with some reported health effects (e.g., sleep disturbance) (p. 29) "Given the effects of sleep deprivation on health and well-being, including problems with mood and cognition, it is possible that cognitive and mood complaints and other medical or psychological issues associated with sleep loss can stem from living in immediate proximity to wind turbines, if the turbines disrupt sleep." (p. 32-33)

A majority of media headlines announcing the release of the panel's findings did not properly inform the public. As you will read below, some truths contained in the report were completely ignored.

It is important to note that the headlines also ran counter to Governor Patrick's quote on the report which included the words: "... further study is needed to look at health impacts from "annoyance" for residents who live near turbines."

Question:

Do the following headlines acknowledge the "need for further study" as stated by Governor Patrick?

Media Headlines:

[Massachusetts clears wind of health effects after independent experts review evidence](#)

American Wind Energy Association Blog

[Panel: Wind turbines not hazard to health](#)

Berkshire Eagle

[Report: Wind turbines don't cause health problems](#)

Boston Globe

[No Adverse Health Effects from Wind Turbines, Report Concludes](#)

Boston Magazine

[Wind Farm Opponents are Hypochondriacs A state panel debunks Cape Cod residents' claims of 'Wind Turbine Syndrome.'](#)

Boston Magazine

[Mass. Panel: No major health impacts from wind turbines](#)

Brockton Enterprise

[State: Wind turbines not harmful](#)

Cape Cod Times

[Study: Wind turbines pose no health issue State report debunks "wind turbine syndrome"](#)

CommonWealth Magazine

[DEP panel: Wind turbines pose no health risk](#)

Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise

[State finds no ill health effects for residents](#)

Newburyport Daily News

[Experts say wind turbines aren't health hazard](#)

Old Colony Memorial & Wicked Local Plymouth

[Mass Panel: No major health impacts from wind turbines](#)

Quincy Patriot Ledger

[Wind Turbines pose no serious health risks to residents, Massachusetts panel says](#)

Springfield Republican & Mass Live

[Mass. Panel: No health risk from wind turbines](#)

Springfield Republican & Mass Live

Headlines above **misinterpreted the findings** of the panel to support a definitive and erroneous conclusion that "wind turbines pose no health risk" (Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise). **These headlines promote a false and misleading narrative..**

The headlines, listed above, have contributed to a setback in the public's right to an honest understanding of scientific truths on behalf of:

1. Massachusetts residents who have been, and are currently, exposed to the very real and degrading impacts of operational wind turbines, and also for
2. Massachusetts residents living in towns that are currently, or soon will be, engaged in the important process of vetting wind turbine proposals.

Final thoughts:

Why have the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health failed to respond to official requests to correct the media supported "False Narrative"? Consider that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health states as their mission:

"Helping People Lead Healthy Lives In Healthy Communities"
"We protect, preserve, and improve the health of all the Commonwealth's residents."

Doesn't the public have the right to be told the truth, especially when their health and welfare are at stake?