Appendix E

Correspondence from Worksafe Victoria

Work Safe
VICTORIA

10 February 2010

Reference: E10/0002

Mr Nick Wimbush
Panel Chair
Department of Planning and Community Development
GPO Box 2392
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Mr Wimbush

Berrybank Wind Energy Facility

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 December 2009 on behalf of the planning panel considering public submissions on the Berrybank Wind Energy Facility.

WorkSafe Victoria has met with other government agencies regarding the possible health effects of wind energy facilities.

The Victorian Department of Health (DH) has examined both the peer-reviewed and validated scientific research and also looked at the health aspects of the current planning process.

The DH has determined that the weight of evidence indicates that there are no direct health effects from noise (audible and inaudible) at the levels generated by modern wind turbines. Numerous international reviews on low frequency and infrasound noise, and case studies of actual wind farm noise emissions, have demonstrated that:

- there is insignificant infrasound generated from modern wind turbines; and
- levels of low frequency sound emitted from modern wind turbines are not at a level that would lead to direct health effects.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer, Dr John Carnie, has also referred this matter to the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for further consideration and advice.

WorkSafe is reliant upon information from the DH, Victoria's principle health authority, regarding possible adverse effects of low-frequency, sub-audible noise.

As the regulator of workplace safety, WorkSafe will monitor the NHMRC's response to the matters referred and, as necessary and appropriate, address OHS issues that may emerge as a result.

I recommend that you liaise directly with the DH for an update on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Tweedly
Chief Executive
Victorian WorkCover Authority

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State Government
Victoria