

Dr. Brendan Cole
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Objections to Albany Wind Farm
67 African street
PO BOX 934
Grahamstown
6140

5 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Objection to Albany Wind Farm, Makhanda

I am writing this letter of objection to the proposed Albany Wind Farm on behalf of all owners, staff and interested parties of Coleridge Game Reserve. Coleridge Game Reserve forms the Northern-most section of Buffalo Kloof Private Game Reserve, which is located closest to the proposed wind farm. Buffalo Kloof is a protected area and also encompasses land owned by the Yendella community and the Waters Meeting Nature Reserve.

Coleridge Game Reserve objects for the following reasons:

- Decreased **tourism** due to the eyesore
- Noise pollution during construction
- Noise and vibrations from operational farm
- Disturbance due to increased traffic during construction
- Disturbance of delicate fauna and flora which the EIA failed to mention (hottentot buttonquail, king protea, violet-backed starlings, leopard, to name a few)
- The unforgivable eyesore of the turbines and the strobe lights atop each one
- Birds which will be killed by the turbines
- Bats which will be killed by the turbines
- The inevitability that more turbines will be constructed

Not one of the EIA reports mentioned that the operational turbines make significant noise when turning. Additionally, they send vibrations into the ground which disturb the sub-terrain species. During 2013-2014, Health Canada and Natural Resources Canada conducted a study of wind turbine-generated seismic ground vibrations. Their published report, "Analysis of Measured Wind Turbine Seismic Noise Generated from the Summerside Wind Farm, Prince Edward Island", found that seismic vibrations from turbines could be measured up to 10 kilometers away, and concluded that seismic ground waves from operational turbines could affect readings at seismological recording stations at distances of up to 63 kilometers. A

similar study in Scotland led to a turbine exclusion zone of 10 kilometers and a consultation zone of 50 kilometers around their Eskdalemuir seismological recording station. Our reserve is home to many species which live beneath the ground, as well as above which may be affected by seismic vibrations.

“Elephants produce low-frequency vocalizations at such high amplitudes that they couple with the ground and travel along the surface of the earth with a separate velocity than their airborne counterparts. There are physical properties of seismic cues that, if detected on their own or in combination with acoustic cues, could enhance the elephant’s ability to interpret signals. Elephants respond vigilantly to alarm call vocalizations transmitted through the ground, demonstrating that they can detect seismic information from background noise. In addition, elephants can also discriminate subtle differences between seismic playbacks of the same call type made by different callers. Elephants are well equipped to detect seismic cues through either bone conduction, somatosensory reception, or both (Ref. 6; O’Connell-Rodwell CE, Bouley DM, Hart LA, Arnason B, Hildebrandt T, Ketten D, Hart S, Puria B).”

Has there been any study on the potential effects of your turbines on these species which will be within 10km of your proposed site?

It would appear that the assessments which were carried out by the specialists were merely a formality. In a world where our wild spaces and pristine areas are shrinking before our eyes, it is shameful that a beautiful area such as Grahamstown has been earmarked for the destruction of its vistas and dark night skies. The owners of Coleridge and Buffalo Kloof have spent the past 25 years restoring nature, protecting the smaller creatures and rehabilitating the over farmed and degraded land. We have helped uplift a local community, who will also lose out on the tourism benefits that they have worked so hard to secure. Your project will detract from everything that we have built and preserved.

I encourage you to have a long, hard look at what you are proposing to do to our beautiful part of the world. There will always be more turbines, more money, more construction... but I assure you, the sacred areas in our world are not guaranteed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brendan Cole', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Brendan Cole
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Coleridge Game Reserve