

Falmouth Wind Turbine Noise Study

Key Findings

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- The Town is very concerned about the effects of turbines on neighbors, and interested in hearing ideas to address them.
- Background sound levels increase with wind speed.
- Sound from Wind-1 does not cause violations of MassDEP noise guidelines, but sound levels approach the 10 dBA increase threshold on Blacksmith Shop Road.
- With both Wind-1 and Wind-2 operating, modeling predicts no violations at any measurement positions, but there may be slightly greater than 10 dBA increases at two homes at the end of Ambleside Drive only:
 - During early morning hours when background noise is quietest, and
 - With wind speeds in the range of 5 to 6 meters/second at the turbine hub.
- Nighttime background sound levels with low wind measured in June 2010 are nearly the same as those measured in January 2008, suggesting minimal seasonal variation.
- Reference measurements suggest the Wind-1 turbine is operating at or below the manufacturer's noise specifications.