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**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BRINGS ON
SOUND EXPERTISE OF AERCOUSTICS**

Toronto, ON, September 2010 - To develop a protocol for measuring noise emitted from wind turbines, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, earlier this year, retained **Aercoustics Engineering Ltd.**, a prominent acoustic engineering consulting firm.

The protocol will provide an objective method which can be used to evaluate sound levels for wind plants across Ontario. This measurement convention will establish a baseline to determine whether wind facilities comply with sound level limits and will provide a standardized methodology for everyone across Ontario to follow.

“Currently, there is no standardized approach which has been developed”, says Steven Titus, project leader on this initiative, who along with Payam Ashtiani and the team at Aercoustics are developing the protocol.

“We believe that Aercoustics was chosen because of our extensive experience in environmental noise assessments and in-depth experience with wind turbine facilities”, says Ashtiani. “This includes modeling and assessment, measurement and complaint response experience.”

For the general public, it will mean that developers of wind turbine systems will put in controls to ensure that sound levels meet and comply with set standards. For the developer, it will provide the assurance that their facility is operating within the established norms. The goal is to lend clarity to the debate by establishing an objective procedure which can then be used as a neutral platform of discussion.

While there are other noise issues beyond the scope of this project, this protocol is the first step in addressing this situation.

One of the first components has been a consultation session to gather input from interest groups comprised of residents, CanWEA (a developers' organization), consultants, academic leaders, residents and community action groups, including The Society for Wind Vigilance and Wind Concerns Ontario.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has also retained another firm to review infrasound and low frequency noise issues related to Wind Turbines. Notwithstanding, Aercoustics continues to conduct its own independent research on infrasound, low frequency noise and the mechanisms for noise generation. This includes the development of sound and vibration measurement systems related to wind turbines as well as other sources of environmental sound and the development of active noise cancellation systems. Examples of work which has been conducted where low frequency noise or infrasound has been a concern include Wind Machines used for frost control, transportation noise, gas turbine exhaust systems, heat recovery systems, large industrial fans and boilers.

When the project is finished, the Ministry of the Environment will utilize the recommendations to fully develop a standard protocol. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of year.

- 30 -

For more information please contact **Steven Titus at 416-249-3361**. Or email us at aercoustics@aercoustics.com.

Since 1971, Aercoustics has become Canada's premier engineering firm specializing in acoustic design, noise control and vibration control for performing arts centres, institutional facilities and industry. Their consultations have taken their expertise to the United States, Central America, Europe, Australia, China, the Middle East as well as their home base of Canada.