

**CAA Standards Committee  
June 2016 Meeting  
Environmental Noise Subcommittee Report**

Submitted by: Bill Gastmeier, HGC Engineering

*The following items are carried forward or presented for informational purposes.*

*MOECC (Ontario) Guideline NPC 300*

- It replaces (merges and aligns) Land Use Planning Guideline LU-131 used for Planning Act Applications with Noise Pollution Control Guidelines NPC 205 and NPC-232 used to obtain EPA approvals. It's use has generally settled in. Loose ends/contentious issues remain to be: the consideration of vacant lands as noise sensitive receptors for industrial approvals; and municipal uncertainty around how to deal with Class 4 Acoustical Environments.

*MOECC Modernization Programme*

- The MOECC is considering expanding the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) programme to include medium sized commercial and industrial facilities. A noise study would still need to be done but it would simply need to be uploaded as part of the Registration process, not formally reviewed by the MOECC. A Professional Engineer would be required to declare that the study it is complete and accurate, and if there were non-compliance, lay out a noise abatement action plan.

*Wind Energy in Ontario*

- There are a significant number of wind energy projects that have been completed or will be completed in the near future. Nearly all wind energy projects in Ontario require Emission and Immission Acoustic Audits under their Renewable Energy Approvals. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) is currently reviewing a significant number of submitted reports.
- The MOECC has recently updated the Noise Guidelines for Wind Farms (PIBS 9900e) which was published on May 2, 2016. The updated Guideline provides additional analysis requirements for wind energy project Noise Impact Assessments. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/noise-guidelines-wind-farms>
- The MOECC has proposed updates to the Compliance Protocol for Wind Turbine Noise, the Acoustic Audit – Immission guide utilized to complete Acoustic Audits of wind energy projects in Ontario. Comments on the draft update are due June 16 with the updated protocol expected to come into force sometime after. MOECC staff indicate that once the updated Protocol is finalized, responses to the significant number of previously submitted reports will be provided. [http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env\\_reg/er/documents/2016/012-7445\\_final%20protocol.pdf](http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2016/012-7445_final%20protocol.pdf)



*Air and Waste Management Association - Ontario Section*

- Explore advances in measurement technology, data quality assurance, and data uses at the Air & Waste Management Association Ontario Section's "Air and Acoustic Monitoring" conference to be held Oct 26, 2016 in Waterloo Ontario. The conference continues the Section's legacy of promoting current monitoring and measurement methods and data use.
- The conference provides a forum for current advances in measurement technology covering all aspects of air quality, including ambient and stack sampling, and acoustics monitoring. Both laboratory and field studies are welcomed. Three concurrent sessions (acoustics, ambient air and stack sampling) and vendor exhibits are planned.

*FCM – RAC Noise and Vibration Workshop*

- The FCM –RAC Proximity Initiative, a joint effort by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Railway Association of Canada retained Valcoustics to present a half day workshop on noise and vibration issues relating to land use planning in proximity to railway lands. The workshop was held on Friday, October 9th from 1:20pm to 5:20pm at the Westin Nova Scotia, Halifax.
- The workshop was well received and provided a review of the FCM-RAC Proximity Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations.

[http://www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/guidelines/2013\\_05\\_29\\_Guidelines\\_NewDevelopment\\_E.pdf](http://www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/guidelines/2013_05_29_Guidelines_NewDevelopment_E.pdf)

*Alberta Update Submitted by Jack Davis*

There is very little to report from Alberta at this time:

- Noise concerns from Drilling and Servicing operations are very low due to the fact that the drill count is sitting at 5% utilization rate throughout the province.
- The provincial government is working on the framework for increasing 'green energy' initiatives and the phasing out of coal-fired power plants.
- Gathering some insight into how comprehensive sound levels sound surveys are conducted and reviewed from a compliance perspective in other jurisdictions (specific to wind farms) is of interest in light of potential future 'green energy' initiatives to be rolled out by the Federal and provincial governments.
- In Alberta, there are a number wind farms that have been approved that have not yet been built. After a number of approval time extensions (e.g. four years) it is recognised that the dynamics of a study area change that may impact the approval conditions of the wind farm. (e.g. encroaching housing developments).
- It would be interesting to understand how other jurisdictions deal with such changing dynamics when an approval has been extended over a period of time.