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**LAKE WINDS® ENERGY PARK**  
**COMPLAINT RESPONSE / RESOLUTION**

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**Purpose**

According to §17.70.24 of the Mason County Zoning Ordinance, the complaint process established for the Lake Winds Energy Park (LWEP) project is intended to “provide the public with a mechanism to file a complaint with the wind energy system owner and the Zoning Administrator and receive a timely response from the wind energy system owner regarding alleged wind energy system ordinance violations.”

**Issue / Complaint Description**

Submitted by: Daniel Connolly, 1903 W. Kistler Road, Scottville, MI

Dated: January 18, 2013

Received by Consumers Energy: January 19, 2013

Copy Forwarded to Mason County Zoning Administrator: Copied on original submittal by the complainant.

WTG unit(s): Not identified. Possibly WTG #20 and others closest to the Shineldecker property.

**Summary:**

Complainant states that on January 12, 2013 he “was visiting Mr. Shineldecker’s home and after just a few mins. noticed a persistent, uncomfortable throbbing pressure in [his] ears, esp. the right,” that “after some 30 mins, [he] began to feel anxious and unsettled, a little disoriented, and nervous that [he] would fall down,” and that he felt embarrassed when he “had to excuse [him]self and leave.” Complainant further notes that “this also happens at [his] house, but not as severely as [he] experienced it at” Mr. Shineldecker’s house.

**Applicable Ordinance / Special Land Use Provision**

There are no provisions in the Mason County Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance) or LWEP Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) discussing physical effects such as those alleged in the complaint.

**Response / Resolution of Zoning or Special Land Use Related Complaints**

Because neither the Ordinance nor the SLUP contain any provisions that cover the effects alleged in the complaint, the complaint does not involve a potential violation of the Ordinance or SLUP.

**Action Planned for Complaints Not Related to Zoning / Special Land Use Provisions**

Consumers Energy remains committed to complying fully with all requirements of the Ordinance and the SLUP, but no provision in either document discusses effects such as those alleged in the complaint. Consumers Energy is aware that other residents of the project area have complained of physical effects when LWEP turbines are operating, and that some of those individuals believe these effects are caused by sounds related to turbine operations. The Ordinance and SLUP require Consumers Energy to conduct post-operational testing of sound pressure and low-frequency sound within 12 months after System operations begin (see SLUP Part G.18; Ordinance §§ 17.70.17.b.3 and d). Consumers Energy understands that the Mason County Planning Commission intends to interview shortly several independent, third-party contractors who have responded to requests for proposals to provide the required



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post-operational testing, and that the testing is expected to take place sometime during the first half of 2013.

Consumers Energy regrets any concern that LWEP operations may have caused to Mr. Connolly and we continue to make every reasonable effort to minimize LWEP impacts on area residents.

**Date Closed as an Ordinance / Special Land Use Complaint:** 2-11-13

**Consumers Energy Representative:** William A Schoenlein

William A Schoenlein  
Manager Renewable Generation Operations