

Subject: California EMF Report  
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The final California EMF Report is released, and is available on the web at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehib/emf/RiskEvaluation/riskeval.html>.

The report was prepared by the California Department of Health Services under contract to the California Public Utilities Commission

The report was 9 years in preparation and cost over \$7 million. It is based upon an extensive review of the literature plus considerable original research. It is particularly significant because it incorporates the dramatic change of the epidemiology of power frequency magnetic fields that began with the British Journal of Cancer study in October 2000. That study and subsequent research showed that the previous research that failed to detect a link between power frequency magnetic fields and serious disease had used incorrect methodologies, and that the application of the correct methodologies to this older research did demonstrate the existence of such a link.

Its conclusions are little changed from the draft report that was dated April 2001, but released in July of that year. In its Executive Summary, the three researchers who conducted the study conclude:

“ To one degree or another, all three of the DHS scientists are inclined to believe that EMFs can cause some degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig’s Disease, and miscarriage.”

Note that the researchers used the word “cause” in this finding. This is a stronger finding than merely identifying a statistical link.

Statistical links can result from unrelated phenomena. By using the term “cause” the research means they believe that power line magnetic fields is the agent that induces the enumerated diseases.

The researchers also found that power frequency magnetic fields do not cause some diseases.

“ They strongly believe that EMFs do not increase the risk of birth defects, or low birth weight.

. They strongly believe that EMFs are not universal carcinogens, since there are a number of cancer types that are not associated with EMF exposure.

. To one degree or another they are inclined to believe that EMFs do not cause an increased risk of breast cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s

Disease, depression, or symptoms attributed by some to a sensitivity to EMFs.”

There are some diseases upon which the researchers could not reach a decision.

“ All three scientists had judgments that were “close to the dividing line between believing and not believing” that EMFs cause some degree of increased risk of suicide, or . For adult leukemia, two of the scientists are “close to the dividing line between believing or not believing” and one was “prone to believe” that EMFs cause some degree of increased risk.”

The researchers believe the degree of risk is significant. “[I]f EMFs do contribute to the cause of these conditions, even the low fractions of attributable cases and the size of accumulated lifetime risk of highly-exposed individuals could be of concern to regulators. Indeed, when deemed a real cause, estimated lifetime risks smaller than these (1/100,000) have triggered regulatory evaluation and, sometimes, actual regulation of chemical agents such as airborne benzene.”

This is an exceedingly important report. It should put to rest the doubts that have heretofore been expressed regarding the dangers of power frequency magnetic fields.

Roger