

From: Prof. Dr. A. Miller
To: bill.smith@edmonton.ca, councillors@edmonton.ca
Subject: Terwillegar Heights Servicing Concept Design Brief
Copies to: sandra.moorhouse@edmonton.ca,
Date sent: Tue, 3 Dec 2002 12:18:24 +0100

The following is extracted from a letter just faxed to the Office of the City Clerk

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

Re: Bylaw # 13235 and application to amend the Terwillegar Heights Servicing Concept Design Brief

I am a Cancer Epidemiologist from Canada currently working in Germany. I was principal investigator of two major studies in Ontario of the cancer inducing effects of Electrical and Magnetic fields, and specifically a case control study in the area of Metropolitan Toronto that found a significant effect of magnetic fields in increasing the risk of leukaemia in children. Based on this and other studies, I have rendered advice on several occasions to planning bodies in Ontario, specifically to avoid placing Schools (and housing developments) close to Power transmission lines.

I understand that advice has been rendered to you by another scientist in Canada, based largely on a study of childhood leukaemia and electrical and magnetic fields conducted in Western Canada and part of Montreal. It is important to recognise that most of the participants in that study came from areas with lower magnetic field exposure than we encountered in Toronto. However, as the pressure for development increases in Western Canada, and if planning decisions are taken that bring schools and other developments close to Power lines, then the exposure situation encountered in Toronto will occur in your city, and similar risks will be seen.

I therefore urge you to take every step possible to ensure that school construction is not close to power lines.

I have to point out that although I understand that the School Board has spent considerable sums on the proposed site, these sums will pale into insignificance compared to the Legal Liability that will accrue to the City, its officers and Councillors, if construction of the school with the exposure levels already documented proceeds. Inevitably, with time, children will be diagnosed with childhood leukaemia in the new school. It will be impossible to defend a claim for damages, if in spite of the warnings received, you authorize construction of the school at the proposed site.

I trust that wiser councils will prevail at your meeting.

I should be pleased to provide more detailed information in defence of my opinion if requested to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony B. Miller, MB, FRCP, FACE
Head, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Centre
Professor Emeritus, Department of Public Health Sciences,
University of Toronto, Canada

A.B.Miller
Division of Clinical Epidemiology
Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum
Im Neuenheimer Feld 280
D - 69120 Heidelberg
Postfach 101949 . 69009 Heidelberg
Germany
Telephone: +49 6221 42 2200/19
Fax: +49 6221 42 2203
email a.miller@dkfz-heidelberg.de