

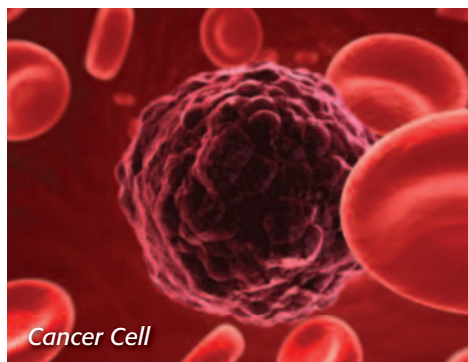
HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES & CANCERS (1982-1991 Studies)

The Myth:

Overhead high voltage power lines and associated electromagnetic fields (EMFs) have no impact on the incidence of cancers.

The Facts:

- Like childhood cancer, adult cancer was found to be associated with high-current electrical lines near the patients' residence (Wertheimer and Leeper 1982). Several patterns in the data indicated that power lines and cancer may be causally linked, including a dose-relationship.
- Canadian high voltage power line workers exposed to EMFs showed a greater than 3-fold increase in incidences of intestinal cancer (Howe and Lindsay 1983).
- Children of fathers in Texas employed in occupations with EMF exposure were at significantly increased risk of contracting neuroblastoma (cancers of the hormone and nervous systems); between 2 and almost 12 times the expected risk (Spitz and Johnson 1985).
- A higher risk for cancer of the urinary organs was reported for Swedish electrical utility workers by Törnqvist et al. (1986). Another Swedish study found that, where visible 200kV power lines were noted, cases of cancers for children 0-18 years of age were twice as likely to occur as in areas where such lines were not visible (Tomenius 1986).
- Speers et al. (1988) found that men employed in occupations associated with EMFs had a higher risk of brain cancer almost 4 times the expected. As well, there was a linear relationship between



Cancer Cell

the probability of EMF exposure and brain cancer.

- The risk of soft tissue sarcomas (connective tissue cancers) in children from Denver Colorado exposed to above-normal EMF levels was 3.3 times the expected, for lymphomas (lymph cancer) 2.2 times the expected, and for leukemia 1.9 times the expected (Savitz et al. 1988).
- Evidence has been accumulating since 1979 that power line EMFs are linked to cancer. Though the electric utility industry denounces this association, there is an international consensus among population health and illness scientists of this association (Becker 1990).
- A significantly higher risk for astrocytomas (brain cancers) of 10.3 times the expected was found among men in Los Angeles County who worked in electricity-related jobs (Mack et al. 1991). There was also a significant increase in tumor incidence with increasing length of employment in this sector.



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