

## HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES & CANCERS (1991-1998 Studies)

### **The Myth:**

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

### **The Facts:**

- A study of breast cancer in men whose occupations involved exposure to EMFs found higher risks of 1.8, 2.9 and 6.0 times the expected (Demers et al. 1991). Electric power workers, electricians and telephone linemen experienced the highest risk of 6.0 times the expected. The risk was highest among subjects who were first employed in jobs with exposure before the age of 30 years and who were initially exposed at least 30 years prior to diagnosis.
- Data from the New Zealand Cancer Registry between 1948 and 1988 revealed brain cancer risks of between 4.6 and 8.2 times the expected for individuals employed in the electrical industry (Preston-Martin et al. 1993).
- Thériault et al. (1994) found higher risk of brain cancer almost 2 times the expected for male electric utility workers in Ontario, Quebec and France.



- Increased risks of stomach and lung cancer, as well as of both malignant and benign brain tumors were found among Ontario electric utility workers exposed to EMFs (Miller et al. 1996).
- A review of 20 years of population health and illness research revealed that some studies support a possible relationship between brain cancer and EMF exposure (American Cancer Society 1996).
- In a study of Swedish men, Stenlund and Floderus (1997) revealed a link between magnetic fields, as found near transmission lines, and testicular cancer.
- The 1998 Working Group of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences concluded that exposure to EMFs is a possible human carcinogen.



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