



Electromagnetic Fields - EMF

What is EMF?

“EMF” is an abbreviation for “electric and magnetic fields,” or “electromagnetic field,” and sometimes as shorthand for “magnetic field.” EMFs are created wherever electricity is present. Common sources of EMF in our daily environments include electrical wiring in homes, offices, stores and public buildings such as schools and hospitals, home appliances, office and business equipment, as well as overhead and underground power lines. Common exposures to EMF from household sources can exceed those created by power lines.

Body of Evidence

A large amount of scientific research has been conducted on EMF by independent governmental and health authorities in response to concerns about possible health effects from exposure to electric power facilities. EMF studies have been done on leukemia, breast cancer, brain cancer, DNA damage, cancer clusters, birth defects, immune system damage, nervous system damage, Alzheimer’s, ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), Parkinson’s disease, high blood pressure, heart disease, sleep disruption, and a number of other diseases and conditions. EMF may be one of the most studied exposures. In fact, more than 2,900 studies have been performed since the 1970s, costing more than \$490 million.

These reviews, including those conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) do not show that exposure to electric power EMF causes or contributes to adverse health effects.

Childhood Leukemia: Concerns are often raised by the public about the issue of Childhood Leukemia because of the positive statistical association calculated from the pooled analysis of epidemiological studies of Childhood Leukemia. But as the World Health Organization points out (2007) the analysis was “weakened by methodological problems” and the WHO task force pointed out that “virtually all of the laboratory evidence and the mechanistic evidence fail to support” the association.

BioInitiative Report: The BioInitiative Report, written in 2007, is often cited by individuals or groups making the claim that powerline fields are harmful to health. The report contends that EMF is linked to a wide variety of diseases and conditions. However, a number of independent health agencies have reviewed the report and concluded that it was compiled with the selective use of scientific data and should be viewed as an advocacy piece for a particular view rather than an objective analysis of the available science.

What ITC is Doing

ITC will conform to any applicable standard in any jurisdiction in which we operate. However, there are no federal standards or regulations governing the electric and/or magnetic field levels associated with transmission or distribution lines. Based on laboratory evidence, some scientific-consensus agencies have provided guidelines for acceptable, continuous-exposure of the general public to powerline magnetic-field levels. The magnetic field levels produced by our lines are far below these safety guidelines.

About ITC:

ITC is investing in a 21st century power grid to improve reliability, expand access to markets, lower the overall cost of delivered energy and allow new generating resources to interconnect to our transmission systems.



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