

To whom it may concern:

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According to the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Agency there is far more evidence to implicate electric and magnetic fields with adverse health effects than there is evidence to implicate second hand smoke. Dr. Robert Becker, an expert in the field of electromagnetic fields for over 40 years, warns "EMF's could turn out to be a far worse environmental disaster, affecting far more people, than toxic waste, radiation, or asbestos." The major health concern is a decrease of melatonin in the body due to the energy fields created by high voltage lines. Melatonin is produced in the body by the pineal gland and is a natural anti-cancer agent and antidepressant. In a study on public health risks from our electric distribution system, an association between leukemia, brain, lung, and skin cancer and high voltage lines has been formed. In an area within 400 meters of high voltage lines, a 30% increase of lung cancer and leukemia, and a 60% risk of skin cancer have been speculated. This increase is due to corona ions that are released from the lines that attach themselves to air pollution particles, which are then inhaled into the body. At 300 meters downwind from a power substation, a 90% level of charged aerosols at ground level was measured. Secondly, an increase up to 40% of depression and suicide within 150 meters of a power line has been confirmed. With a decrease in melatonin produced, the human mind slips into a state of depression. Depression then leads to an increased rate of suicide. A study from the United Kingdom suggests 9000 excess cases of depression and 60 excess cases of suicide per year.

I appreciate you taking your time to listen to my concerns with the possible erection of a 138Kv line in my community. With these possible health risks, would you want your kids growing up near this power line?

Sincerely,

Robert W Jonath Kent State University College of Nursing
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