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21 APR 2008

**SUBMISSION ON A RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION
SECTIONS 93(2) & 96 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**



To: Buller District Council
C/- West Coast Regional Council
PO Box 66
Greymouth

Copy to: Meridian Energy Limited
PO Box 2454
Christchurch

APPLICANT: MERIDIAN ENERGY LTD

Closing date for submissions is Wednesday, 23 April 2008

Submitter Details

Name: GRAEME PALMER
(full name)

Address: 196 SCENIC DRIVE, TIRANUI, WAITAKERE CITY
(full postal address)

Correspondence to be sent to the following name and address: (if different to above)

Phone No: 09-817-1583

Fax No: _____

Email: tinpijs@yahoo.com

I/we **support** the application numbers ticketed on the back of this form (tick one)
I/we **oppose** the application numbers ticketed on the back of this form

My/our submission is that: I oppose the application by
(state in summary the nature of your submission. Clearly indicate whether you support or oppose
Meridian Energy
the specific proposal, or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons)
The deforestation for the staging area, the dredging of
the Mokihinui River, the erosion of the river mouth are
irreparable and a tragic loss to the Buller District.
The erection of high voltage transmission lines poses a
health risk to those properties along transmission
corridor - see attached information.

In support of my objection to the erection of transmission lines close to my property boundary and within approximately 100 meters of the cleared house site please accept these references and the attached articles.

Smart, Robin F. (2005) Health Effects of High Transmission Lines

Draper G, Vincent T, Kroll M and Swanson J,(2005), Childhood Cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study, British Medical Journal

Dr Neil Cherry: Evidence that electromagnetic fields from high voltage powerlines and in buildings, are hazardous to human health, especially to young children. (2001) Environmental Management and Design Division, Lincoln University, New Zealand.

'Powerlines cast cancer cloud'. New Zealand Herald, April 24, 2005.

While there are some who may argue that there are no adverse health risks related to high voltage power lines the evidence for this is far from conclusive.

Should the Mokihinui hydro project proceed I would respectfully ask that the power lines passing by my property be buried- an option originally put forward by Meridian Energy and later retracted due to the 'prohibitive' cost.

Power Line Health Facts

...information for the concerned

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The California EMF Project Findings

Note: This is an analysis of the draft report. An analysis forthcoming shortly.

Summary

Magnetic fields **likely cause** childhood and adult leukemia, adult brain cancer, spontaneous abortions, and ALS.

They **possibly cause** childhood brain cancer, female and male breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, suicide, and heart problems.

"Even a slight additional lifetime risk could be of concern to regulators, who already regulate other environmental concerns that convey even lower risks."

Since 1993, the California Department of Health Sciences has led a project California Public Utilities Commission titled "The California EMF Project." million, and is now complete.

As part of this project, the Department of Health Sciences initiated new literature.

Here is our analysis of its findings.

Introduction

The Evaluation does not specifically incorporate studies published after 2000. Research produced after the deadline include the *British Journal*: major previous studies reversed their previous findings, the Washington increase in childhood leukemia, and the German study finding children exposed to magnetic fields are particularly likely to develop childhood leukemia.

Nevertheless, even without these studies, the Evaluation is valuable because of health experts derived after a long period of research.

It evaluates the risks associated with EMF based upon a new measure, which usually have asked if there is an *association* between EMF and various diseases associated without a cause/effect relationship. The association could be when it does not because of study errors. An association might exist but because of confounding factors like pollution or level of income.

The causation standard is more rigorous because it demands the cause there is no evidence of bias, errors, or confounding factors.

Major Findings

- Magnetic fields **likely cause** childhood and adult leukemia, spontaneous abortions, and ALS.
- They **possibly cause** childhood brain cancer, female breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, suicide, and heart problems.
- They are unlikely to universally impact all types of cancer than spontaneous abortions
- There is insufficient information to determine if magnetic fields cause heart problems.

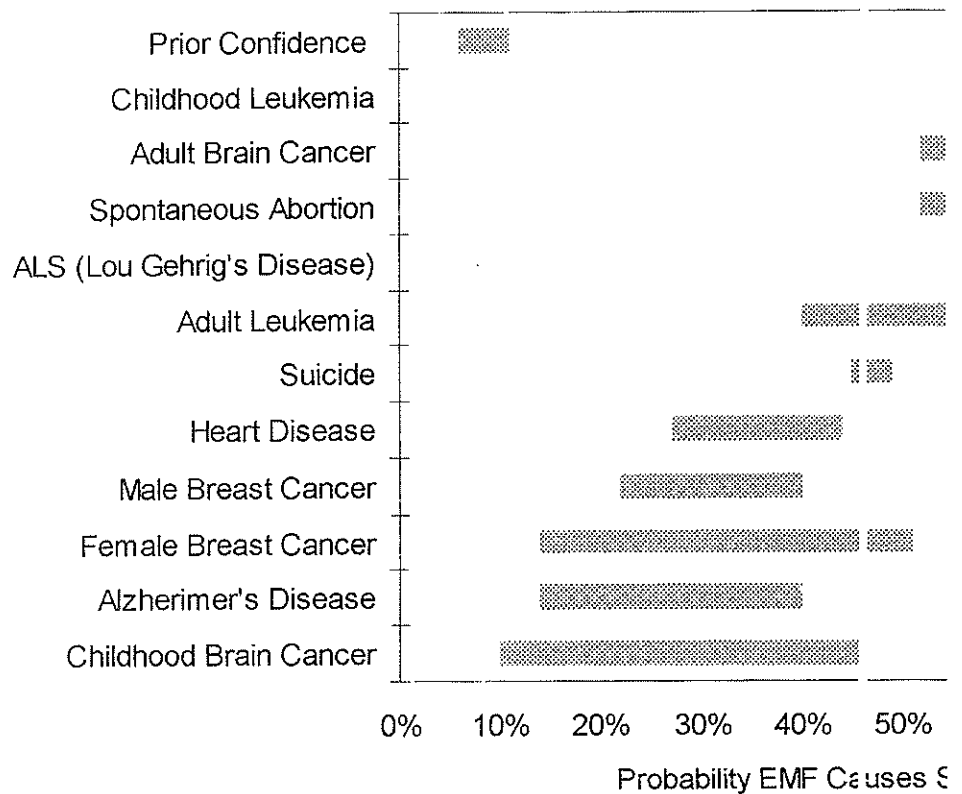
Associated Findings

- Animal studies show that magnetic fields at low intensities affect selective biological organisms.

- The report finds that, with respect to the diseases posed, a slight additional lifetime risk could be of concern to regulatory agencies given the environmental concerns that convey even lower risks.
- The report notes a full mechanistic understanding does not exist. The report goes on to note that the current understanding is initially ... common in harmful agents.
- Once the benchmark 2 to 16 mG intensities of ELF EMF are reached, the risk of disease increases substantially as EMF increases.

Specific Results

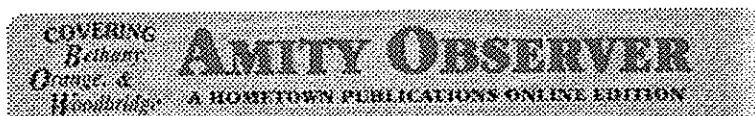
The following graph shows the Project's range of the estimates of probable diseases. "Prior confidence" is the researchers' estimate of the overall confidence in the learning about the recent research results.



The Need for New Studies

- Funding for magnetic field research has declined dramatically in particular, in spite of the utilities industries call for more research on EMF fields by the utilities' research arm, the EPRI, has declined significantly in the years ago.

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Burying power lines may be feasible

Derek DiFronzo, *Staff Writer*

October 20, 2004

ORANGE - An independent review of the proposed 345kV power line upgrade has shown that it may be technically feasible to bury 10 to 20 miles of lines underground.

KEMA Inc., a consultant for the Connecticut Siting Council, released a report on the project last Wednesday in Hartford that produced excitement among political leaders and interest groups.

According to the report, steps can be taken that would make it possible to bury the lines for up to 20 miles along the proposed corridor from Milford to Wallingford.

Although pleased with the report's findings, First Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt remains concerned about the cost of burying the lines and would like to see another study conducted.

"Certainly, this is what we've been calling for all along," Goldblatt said. "It is encouraging news, although we've been warned that the cost of burying lines is much more expensive than going overhead."

The proposed power line project involves running new, high voltage lines from Norwalk to Middletown, which includes parts of Orange.

Goldblatt said a major concern among residents of Orange and surrounding towns has to do with whether the lines will be constructed above-ground or buried underground.

If the lines were above-ground, Goldblatt said, then the lines would require higher electromagnetic field (EMF) levels and higher towers.

Due to safety concerns about high EMF levels, Goldblatt and Woodbridge First Selectman Amey Marrella have called for underground lines.

In May, state legislators approved a bill that required burying the lines underground, or, if they must run above-ground, that there be adequate buffers from schools, houses of worship and residences within 300 feet of the power lines.

Many residents of Orange and Woodbridge have expressed concern about the potential impact of a 300-foot buffer from the lines. According to studies, many homes might have to be removed to conform to the buffer requirement.

State Sen. Win Smith Jr. (R-14) and House Majority Leader James Amann (D-118), both members of Power Lines Underground (PLUG), couldn't have been happier with the results of the independent review.

"This is pure dynamite," Smith said. "What this means is that we were right all along. The power line can be buried. The technology exists to make it possible."

Legislators who represent the communities most affected by the proposed power line project created PLUG earlier this year to ensure compliance with the law signed in May.

Goldblatt said he was pleased with the study but believes another review is

needed to ensure that burying the lines would be technologically feasible.

"I hope this undergrounding will be possible," he said. "Then we can look at potential underground routes through existing streets. If it does go underground, it won't go right away."

Smith said he believes further research would show that it would be technologically possible to bury even more of the lines.

"As it is our intention to protect the health and safety of our constituents," he said, "as well as provide Connecticut residents with sufficient electricity, we will continue to insist that the lines be buried."

Amann also expressed his enthusiasm and thanked the Siting Council for ordering the independent study.