Power Lines – Myths vs. Facts

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC SAFETY

FACT SHEET

The Myth:

Without 100% proof that electromagnetic fields (EMFs) cause leukemia, other cancers, Alzheimer's disease, depression, suicide, and many other health problems, there is no need to warn or protect the public.

The Facts: The International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (ICEMS),

an association of renowned scientists, medical doctors and engineers involved in EMF and health research, met in Benevento, Italy in 2006. They passed the Benevento Resolution which encourages governments to adopt a framework of guidelines for public and occupational EMF exposure that reflect the Precautionary Principle.

- The Precautionary Principle states when there are indications of possible adverse effects, though they remain uncertain, the risks from doing nothing may be far greater than the risks of taking action to control these exposures. The Precautionary Principle shifts the burden of proof from those suspecting a risk to those who discount it.
- The Benevento Resolution also included

the following resolutions: "More evidence has accumulated suggesting that there are adverse health effects from occupational and public exposures to electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields, at current exposure levels. There is evidence that present sources of funding bias the analysis and interpretation of research findings towards rejection of evidence of possible public health risks. Epi-

demiological (population health and illness) and laboratory studies that show increased risks for cancers and other diseases from occupational exposures to EMF cannot be ignored".



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In 2008, the ICEMS passed a resolution in Venice which included the following statements: "As an outcome. compelled to confirm the existence of nonthermal effects of electromagnetic fields on living matter, which seem to occur at every level of investigation from molecular to

demiological. The....protection standards recommended by international standards organizations, and supported by the World Health Organization, are inadequate."

• It is difficult, if not impossible, to discount statements of caution and recommendations made by the many medical doctors, scientists and engineers who are members of the ICEMS and who are experts on EMFs and their effects on human and animal health.



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