

Power Lines – Myths vs. Facts



HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES & CANCERS (1999-2004 Studies)

The Myth:

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

The Facts:

- Through a re-analysis of many studies, Ebi et al. (1999) supported earlier findings for risks of childhood cancers about 2 times the expected for children exposed to EMFs. The authors also indicated that their results do not support suggestions by others that the associations between EMFs and childhood cancers are due to socio-economic status or other neighborhood factors.
- A study of breast cancer in Swedish women living within 300m of high voltage transmission lines was conducted by Forssén et al. (2000). Women below age 50 years at diagnosis had a risk of 1.5 times the expected. Women below age 50 years who had estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer had a risk of 3.2 times the expected.
- A 1997 study in Denmark of workers employed in all utility companies reported a statistically significant link between EMFs and higher risk of all



cancers combined, and of lung cancer (Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination Program [EMFRAPID] 2002).

- A link between brain cancer and EMFs was reported in a 1995 study involving more than 138,000 utility workers at five electric utility corporations in the U.S. (EMFRAPID 2002).
- A link was reported between exposure to EMFs and brain cancer in a broad-ranging study of over 1,600 workers in Sweden in 1993 (EMFRAPID 2002).
- Laboratory studies have shown EMF impacts on skin cancer, the numbers of breast cancer tumors and cancer tumor volume (EMFRAPID 2002).
- A study of women living near a high voltage power line in Norway suggested an association between exposure to magnetic fields and breast cancer (Kliukiene et al. 2004).



For information
on what you can do
go to www.reta.ca

RETA
Responsible Electricity
Transmission for Albertans