

**South Delta Secondary School
Parent Advisory Council**

May 29, 2006

TO: COMMISSION SECRETARY
COMMISSION COUNSEL
BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
ALL INTERVENORS AND THEIR SOLICITORS

RE: **BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF THE *UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT*
British Columbia Transmission Corporation
Project No. 3798395/Order No. G-70-05
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application
Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project**

Motion to Open the Record and Introduce New Evidence

We interpret the instructions set out in A-78 as a request for us to formally submit any evidence, which surfaced subsequent to the final date of the evidentiary hearings, to be entered into the record of this hearing. To this end SDSS PAC respectfully submits that the record be reopened and the following 3 pieces of evidence be entered for the commission's consideration.

1. E-mail from Dr. Gunde Ziegelberger, ICNIRP Scientific Secretary, dated April 12, 2006, and included in SDSS PAC Final Argument, para. 36, indicating that ICNIRP guidelines will be revisited before the end of the year. (See Appendix A)
2. Electronic copy of a newspaper article entitled "Experts rule out Houses near Pylons" on the front page of the UK Daily Telegraph, dated April 26, 2006, included in SDSS PAC Reply to Intervener, para. 12, and Appendix A, outlining the proposed legislation in the UK of house distance from power lines as a direct consequences of the findings of the Draper Report (SDSS PAC evidence C41-2) (See Appendix B)
3. Electronic copy of a newspaper article entitled "Pylon cancer fears put 7 bn. pounds blight on house prices" in the UK Daily Telegraph, dated April 29, 2006, following up the article listed above. (See Appendix C)

Although these are new submissions, they are based on recent developments (subsequent to the March date of the closing of the record) of evidence previously submitted by our PAC. (The Draper Report, C41-2, SDSS PAC evidence)

Further we believe that these pieces of evidence are not only relevant but extremely important to the commissions' ruling. We based this on two points:

1. ICNIRP is an international organization that BCTC has deferred to as an expert in the setting of guidelines for exposure to EMFs. ICNIRP's announcement that they are revisiting these guidelines is important to these proceedings.
2. BCTC's own expert Dr. Erdreich placed significant weight on the validity of findings in research based on the subsequent actions of regulatory bodies.

Dr. Erdreich: *It was my decision to leave out this report and also the fact their report did not change anything in the California handling of electric and magnetic fields. (T. 27, p. 5145, lines 2-14)*

The proposed legislation of the UK government and consequent serious impacts on existing housing, as illustrated in the newspaper articles submitted above, add considerable weight to the findings of the Draper report which we entered into evidence at the start of the proceedings.

As requested we are circulating this to all interveners and hearing participants.

Respectfully,

B. Kudzin
South Delta Parent Advisory Council

APPENDIX A

To: hans karow
Subject: Re: EMF exposure guidelines

Dear Mr. Karow,

thanks for contacting ICNIRP regarding your health concerns.

1. Yes, ICNIRP has began the process to revise the exposure guidelines for static and also for low frequency fields. As you might be aware, ICNIRP's guidelines for limiting exposure to fields up to 300 GHz are based on the scientific knowledge of the years 1997/1998. Research has been going on since then and ICNIRP has issued an in depth review of the scientific evidence concerning the relevance of low frequency electric and magnetic fields for human health (2003). The WHO is going to publish an Environmental Health Criteria Document on this topic in 2006. In view of new resaerch data and their reviews, **the ICNIRP guidelines will be revisited**. The process will not be finalized before the end of the year.

2. and 3. I could not open the ppt. presentation by Dr. Havas, but according to the title I suggest, that it deals with the inconsistency between the known biophysical effects of low frequency fields and the results from experimental studies on one hand, and the epidemiologic results on childhood leukaemia on the other hand. Also this apparent conflict will be addressed during the revision process.

I hope, I could provide you with the information you have been looking for.

Sincerely,
Gunde Ziegelberger

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APPENDIX B

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah Stevens
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2006 11:19 PM
To: Bernadette Kudzin
Subject: more pylons

I am not sure if you will STILL be interested in this, it is on the front page of the Daily Telegraph today in the UK.

Experts rule out houses near pylons
By Nic Fleming, Medical Correspondent
(Filed: 26/04/2006)

Homes should not be built near overhead power lines because of possible links with childhood leukaemia, Government-appointed experts are expected to conclude.

They are likely to recommend a change in planning guidelines so that new homes cannot be built either within 230ft of power lines or in a location that exposes inhabitants to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) of a certain strength.

A report by Dr Gerald Draper, of the Oxford childhood cancer research group, published two years ago, suggested that children under 15 living near high-voltage power cables may have double the risk of getting leukaemia. The seven-year study was commissioned by the Department of Health.

However, while the research found a statistical association, it did not establish a causal link and other scientists were sceptical of the findings.

Two reports containing recommendations on the proximity of power lines to both new and existing houses, as well as advice on electrical wiring in the home, will now be presented in June.

They are being drawn up by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (Sage), an advisory group set up by ministers in October 2004, following the publication of Dr Draper's research.

The group includes representatives of the Department of Health, the National Grid, the Health Protection Agency, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Academics from Bristol University and Nottingham Trent are also members, as well as a number of campaigners from groups committed to highlighting what they believe are the potential dangers of EMFs. Alasdair Philips, of the consumer group Powerwatch and a member of Sage, said that a large majority of those drawing up the reports was in favour of recommending precautionary advice.

"The link between childhood leukaemia and power lines is accepted pretty much worldwide.

"There is almost certainly going to be some precautionary guidance coming out of the report in June.

"There is a lot of agreement that we need to offer more precautionary advice on the siting of new house - 90 per cent of the advisory group agree with this line.

APPENDIX C

The Daily Telegraph

Pylon cancer fears put pounds 7bn blight on house prices

The Daily Telegraph

Saturday, April 29, 2006

Page: 00

Section: News

Byline: Nic Fleming Medical Correspondent

UP TO pounds 7 billion will be wiped off property values if the Government accepts the advice of experts that homes should no longer be built near overhead power lines because of possible links with childhood leukaemia.

About 130,000 houses could lose between 10 per cent and a quarter of their re-sale price if ministers take the advice of a committee set up by the Department of Health.

A draft of a report by the committee, seen by The Daily Telegraph, states that building houses within 230ft of high voltage power lines and 115ft of lower voltage lines should be banned.

The confidential document, written by John Swanson, the scientific adviser to the National Grid, considers the option of compulsorily buying all 75,000 homes in England and Wales that are affected.

But a more recent paper, written last month, sets out the group's preferred option - an end to the building of houses near overhead lines and a ban on new power lines being built near existing homes.

The draft report acknowledges that implementing this as a policy could wipe a quarter off the value of 25,000 homes within 230ft of 400kv and 275kv overhead transmission lines and some 10 per cent from the value of 55,000 houses within 460ft of them.

It also admits there could be a reduction of 15 per cent in the value of 50,000 homes within 100ft of the lower voltage 132kv power lines.

The documents are the work of the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (Sage). This committee was set up by the DoH in October 2004 following the publication of a report by Dr Gerald Draper, of the Oxford childhood cancer research group.

Dr Draper suggested that children under 15 living near high voltage power lines could have a 69 per cent increased risk of getting leukaemia.

Some scientists pointed out that while the research found a statistical association, it did not establish a causal link and they rejected the findings.

Sage includes representatives of the DoH, the National Grid, the Health Protection Agency, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Academics from the University of Bristol and Nottingham Trent University are also members, as well as a number of campaigners from groups committed to highlighting what they believe are the potential dangers of electromagnetic fields.

Nicholas Ashe, of Property Vision, a leading firm of country house and estate buying agents, said the potential loss of value to properties could be even greater than Sage's working group predicts.

He said: "The higher the value of the house, the greater the impact. We are talking about reductions of up to 50 per cent.

"For the kind of country house we find for clients, the majority of the market would be wiped out and properties could become almost unsaleable.

"It would have the same effect as building a road nearby or the property being under a new flight path."

The draft Sage report, dated last November, acknowledges that power lines already have an impact on property values, with a home in a rural location within 165ft of a National Grid transmission line losing 15 per cent of its value.

It considers potential policy options if the Government were to decide that no one should be allowed to live within 230ft of power lines.

These include the compulsory purchase and demolition of all houses near the lines.

"This section considers the more modest policy of applying this prospectively, ie stopping any new homes from being built near power lines but not doing anything directly with existing homes.

"However one possible consequence of this prospective-only policy is that it nonetheless causes devaluation of existing properties."

The report lists four scenarios for the loss of value caused by the Government adopting Sage's preliminary advice. This amounts to between pounds 3 billion and pounds 7 billion.

The report will be presented to the Government in June along with another report on new advice on electrical wiring within the home.

It states that whether home and landowners could claim compensation from electricity companies will depend partly on the contractual arrangements between the parties, and whether the Government introduces compulsory or voluntary measures.

Whatever happens, it seems likely that the overall costs will ultimately be borne by consumers.

A spokesman for the National Grid said: "We are not going to disclose any details until the firm conclusions of the group are published this summer."

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