

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

From: Heath, Jack

Sent: April 5, 2006 1:31 PM

To: 'dennis.kelly@york.ca'

Cc: 'suefusco@rogers.com'

Subject: Presentation to Health and EMS Committee

Ms. Sue Fusco at the above email address (905-887-2173) wants to make a presentation to Committee at the meeting in May. She is the Chair of STOP, the group which fought and curtailed the hydro line expansion in Markham and Aurora.

She wants to discuss some of their findings and ask the following questions:

1. I would like to know why York Region Health authorities are not taking intervention action to protect the children being exposed in EMF environments? As a parent I express my objection and disappointment that the implications for the children are not being taken seriously. We have seen mitigation efforts and safety protocols implemented when health officials exercise their authority and immediate action is taken to protect the students from compromised conditions in schools due to outbreaks, mold problems, & safety matters. St. Monica just had a childhood leukemia case last year.
2. I wish to know from the Committee and the Medical Officer of Health what their position is on communicating these risks to the Parents of these schools and what their role is going to be in assisting to engage in a process with affected parties to rectify the existing conditions in the school environments?
3. Why are our children being exposed involuntarily to carcinogenic exposures that could potentially present serious health effects in the future? As Parents we will be forced to consider removing our children from these unsafe environments until acceptable remedial action is taken. It is regrettable and neglectful that the well being of the children is so callously disregarded and the lack of accountability and commitment to address the current conditions exists, despite the efforts of awareness and consultation that has been shared with those in public health by members of the public.
4. The current Federal guidelines are inadequate in protecting the public from EMF exposures since effects have been noted in research studies that health effects are associated to EMF levels much lower than the standard. What policies will York Region implement to protect the public, especially children the most vulnerable segment of society from these environmental exposures? The Precautionary Principle of prudent avoidance is not being applied with respect to planning these schools / neighbourhoods and the science which warrants the precautionary action needs to be incorporated into future planning decisions.
5. What educational programs will be made available to York Region residents to educate them in identifying EMF sources to help reduce personal exposures? According to the Toronto Public Health this is a service they plan on providing. There needs to be commitment and emphasis towards prevention of exposures as a societal and public health benefit.

Thanks.

Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Town of Markham and Region of York