

Office of the Minister
of Health



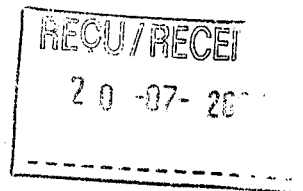
Cabinet du ministre
de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

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Copied to Dr. Jaczek
July 25/05

JUL 13 2005

Mr. Bill Fisch
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1



RECEIVED

JUL 26 2005

**HEALTH SERVICES
REGION OF YORK
NEWMARKET**

Dear Mr. Fisch:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 17, 2004, addressed to the Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health, regarding Hydro One's continuous power corridor expansion and requesting Health Canada to further review the issue and impact of electromagnetic fields (EMFs). I regret the delay in responding.

The issue of EMFs and human health has been and continues to be a matter of priority at Health Canada. Scientists at Health Canada continually review the scientific literature, conduct laboratory research, and have actively participated in the International EMF Project, coordinated by the World Health Organization. This Project was established in 1996 to address the health issues associated with exposure to static and time-varying EMFs in the frequency range 0-300 gigahertz, including power-frequency fields such as those emitted by power lines and household electrical appliances (www.who.int/peh-emf/en).

Based on our observation, concerns over health risks from living near power lines and other sources of EMFs appear to arise as a result of the controversial and contradictory findings in scientific research, especially from epidemiological studies. It is the opinion of Health Canada scientists that the epidemiological evidence to date is not compelling enough to justify a presumption that EMFs in Canadian homes, regardless of proximity to power lines, cause adverse health effects, such as leukemia in children. The bulk of laboratory studies, including the findings of our research, do not substantiate the suggested association between EMFs in living environments and a variety of health issues.

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Canada

As a result of the lack of hard scientific evidence linking EMF exposure to adverse health effects, Health Canada has not developed guidelines regarding the exposure of the general public to EMF from electrical installations and other EMF sources.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Taylor-Lee', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Taylor-Lee
Director of Policy