

Private Members' Business

from the effects of these lines. There has to be an impact there. We know the signals are there and if it impacts on animals certainly it must impact on humans as well.

The list is really impressive. Often the argument that high voltage lines are responsible is dismissed.

A report of the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning in 1980 states:

As in the case of nuclear radiation there is controversy as to whether there is a safe "threshold" level below which there is no physiological effect of whether the effects of exposure up to any level no matter how low are cumulative over a person's lifetime. Until these questions are answered by research, reasonable steps should be taken to avoid the unnecessary exposure of individuals to electro-magnetic fields from transmission lines.

That was a royal commission which made that statement. I believe that the motion before us today ties right in with that recommendation.

Two case studies of the Denver, Colorado area, conducted by Nancy Wertheimer and Edward Leeper found a possible association between chronic exposure to magnetic fields created by high voltage transmission lines and the incidence of childhood leukaemia and adult concerns in 1979 and 1982.

A study in Denver by David A. Savitz, using a completely different set of cases, shows the apparent connection between childhood cancer and exposure.

Thus a growing number of studies suggest that long-term exposure to power line frequency magnetic fields may promote cancer and may accelerate the development of existing cancer cells.

Biophysicist Andrew Marino of Louisiana State University would not live in a house near an overhead power line. The chances of getting sick, he said, are just too great.

A Maryland study of 951 men who died of brain tumours between 1969 and 1982 turned up a high proportion of electricians, utility linesmen and electronic technicians. Fifty of the men, compared to the scientifically expected 18, died of two supposedly rare tumour types.

A civil court in Texas recently ordered a utility company that has complied with all existing state laws to shut down a new double circuit 345,000 volt transmission line

and pay \$25 million in damages, holding that the company had acted with callous disregard for the safety, health and well-being of the children in the building 60 metres from that particular line.

In Russia they do not allow these lines within a half mile of built up areas. Andrew A. Merio, Ph.D., Louisiana State University, puts the figure at 1,700 feet for 500,000 volt lines and 800 feet for a 230 volt line. Ontario Hydro states the sphere of influence for the 500,000 volt line is 246 feet.

According to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office spokesperson, to date electro-magnetic radiation has not been considered in their review, although he cautioned that to date no federal transmission project where FEDR has taken place has been near a populated area.

One of my concerns in this whole issue is a proposed line that will run across my constituency. It was originally planned to go through the villages of Alvinston, Inwood, Oil City and Brigden. The line is there already carrying 230,000 volts, but they plan to upgrade that line to a 550,000 volt line. I would hope that we will have studies done by this House in time to put the minds of those citizens at rest before that line is constructed.

One of the things that really bothers me is the fact that this will tie in, not only with the Bruce Nuclear Station and the big transmission lines that come out of that, but will also tie in with the Lambton generating station along the St. Clair River on the west side of Lambton County. That in turn is tied in with the electrical grid of the State of Michigan.

• (1750)

Consequently, we may very well be putting the lives of our citizens at risk in order to tie into a grid that will allow us to export power to another country. This is not acceptable. It is not acceptable to build these lines in close proximity even to our own communities if the power is to be used within Canada.

I am delighted that my colleague has seen fit to bring in this motion that I wholeheartedly support today. I know that he will have the support of the people in my constituency as well. I want to congratulate him on his effort.