

DOCTORS CAUTION ABOUT CELL TOWER PLACEMENT

From *Network News*, Fall 1997, p. 15., newsletter of The EMR Alliance.

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Excerpted from a letter dated June 13, 1997

I am a physician specializing in the field of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. My training includes special study in such areas as toxicology, radiation exposure, epidemiology and public health.

... I recommend prudent avoidance of microwave and RF (radiofrequency) exposure especially with children as the receivers . . . I strongly urge you to consider the possible health effects of RF exposure in the plans for the construction of towers to receive and transmit RF and microwaves. These towers should be located so as to minimize exposure to people in schools, homes, apartments, offices and factories.

Other alternatives should be considered before advancing in the plans to construct any towers on schools. For example, collocation with other existing towers, building on landfill property, and other non-residential areas are a couple of choices to consider before putting children at risk.

We clearly live in a time of rapid technological advance. With all the advantages that such progress brings, we have also witnessed all too often the adverse human health and environmental effects created by hurried, ill-conceived planning. I ask you to consider all the public health implications of the proposed microwave and RF transmitting towers.

Sheldon Benjamin, M.D.

Chair, Health and Safety Commission
Ward Seven Neighborhood Association
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Testimony before the Zoning & Planning Committee of Newton Board of Alderman
Dated May 15, 1991

I am a neuropsychiatrist and have been following the literature on electromagnetic fields and health risks . . . There has been a steady stream of reports of possible health risks associated with exposure to electromagnetic fields and MW/Rf (microwave/radiofrequency) radiation from power substations, high voltage lines and microwave towers. Most frightening of these are the possible increases in the risk of cancer and childhood leukemia. Although the health risks have not yet been established beyond a shadow of a doubt, the association is strong enough to have many epidemiologists and experts in the field concerned enough to advocate a policy of prudent avoidance. This means constructing only those facilities absolutely necessary to the public safety and constructing these with care to minimize health risks.

... In summary, we feel that cellular biology, animal and human studies show that MW/RF exposure presents a health risk at the power levels of the proposed antenna and even at the power levels of the existing antenna . . . Increased numbers of cancers have been found in populations exposed to less radiation than we are receiving now . . . Our review of the literature on MW/RF exposure has led us to the sobering conclusion that living in close proximity to a source such as the proposed NYNEX/Newton antenna on Waban Hill will increase the risk to ourselves and to our children of developing cancer.

David O. Carpenter, M.D.

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Excerpted from a letter to the Planning Commission and City Council of San Rafael, California
Dated June 13, 1997

In my view, it is totally irresponsible to position a cellular antenna near a site where children spend significant periods of time. While I am not saying that the association between these exposures and childhood cancer is proven beyond any shadow of a doubt, I do see evidence to be suggestive. When children's health is concerned, I strongly feel that our society must be cautious so as not to increase the chances of their developing cancer or other health effects.