

# Health Risks caused by High Voltage power lines.

Good evening, my name is Fred Cosandey, I live in the Pojoaque Valley, I am also a scientist and emeritus professor.

In the high voltage power line proposal (Verde Transmission Project), Hunt asserts that affected private land owners, which are those directly under the path of the line, have been contacted. This is a narrow interpretation of the word affected. Actually, a much larger number of private land owner will be directly impacted by living near the proposed high voltage power line.

What I would like to convey here, in this short report, are some of the health risks associated with high voltage power lines and that these health risks extend well beyond the center of the line.

Public concern about the Electro-Magnetic field (EMF) generated by high voltage power lines and cancer was stimulated by a 1979 study in Denver, Colo., that found that a group of children who had died from leukemia and other cancers were two to three times more likely to have lived within 131 feet of a high current, high voltage transmission line<sup>1</sup>.

In 1998, an international panel of experts convened by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences reported that electric and magnetic fields like those surrounding electric power lines should be regarded as a possible **human carcinogen**.

Reported diseases caused by electromagnetic radiation include: Childhood leukemia, possibly brain tumors and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Recent studies of leukemia in children published in 2005<sup>2</sup> and 2007<sup>3</sup> confirm the 1979 Denver study and reported that the cancer risk in children double for those living within 200 ft from the high voltage power with health risks occurring up to 700 ft. **A zero risk distance could be even larger.**

Health risks from high voltage power lines are not limited to children and a recent study published in 2008 in the American Journal of Epidemiology reported an increase in the incidence of Alzheimer's disease in the population living near high voltage power lines<sup>4</sup>. In this study the incidence rate **doubled for those living within 165 ft with a 20% increase to within 650 feet.**

These combined studies clearly reveal that the health risks associated with high voltage power lines extend well beyond the center position of the power line and will affect a large number of the population in proximity of the lines.

For instance, if an exclusion zone of 1600 ft wide is observed in Rio Arriba that is 800 ft wide on both side of the line, there will be at least 540 properties directly affected. Additionally:

Communities living in La Mesilla will be affected by the proposed high voltage power line.

Communities living in Hernandez (along Rt 285) including the Pablo Roybal elementary school will be affected by the high voltage power line.

Communities living along the Jacona - Jaconita border and along Jaconita (Rt 502) including the Pojoaque high school and Pojoaque elementary school will be affected by the proposed high voltage power line.

Because of the close proximity of the proposed 345 KV power line to communities and in view of the associated health risks that this high voltage power line will incur, we ask the BLM to consider the:

## **NO BUILD OPTION**

For more information: <http://www.stopverdeprojectnm.org/>

## References

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