

Brazil

Report on EMF Activities

10th International Advisory Committee on EMF

June 2005



MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE
SECRETARIA DE VIGILÂNCIA EM SAÚDE
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Edifício Sede,
1º andar, Ala Norte
70.058-900 Brasília/DF
Tel. 315 37 06

The Brazilian Ministry of Health
Secretariat on Health Surveillance
Coordination on Environmental Health Surveillance

Summary on environmental health actions for non ionizing electromagnetic radiation.

Until middle 2003 no coordinated actions was made to build a consistent political base able to support legislation proposal on Environmental Health Surveillance on non ionizing electromagnetic radiation. Most actions about health effects in this area where to promote and participate in scientific and political meetings, seek international development in scientific research and legislation.

Nevertheless, abrupt growth in electrical power distribution and adoption of wireless communication systems, as well as initiative of some municipalities introducing their own legislation led increase pressure for Federal legislation. As an example, National Agency on Telecommunication, wich regulates private activities on telecom in Brazil, issued Resolution number 303 in July 2002, establishing maximum values for exposition limits greatly based on ICNIRP recommendations.

In July 2003, the Brazilian Health Ministry create a Work Group aimed to evaluate and recommend normative rules about human health protection against electromagnetic field for frequencies between 0 and 300 GHz. Final recommendations where, among others, to advise Brazilian Health Ministry to establish maximum values to human exposure, to create a Work Group to impose environmental license restrictions to entrepreneurs that generate or emit electromagnetic radiation, to found epidemiological research, and to make agreement with WHO on its EMF Project.

The most important recommendation made by that Work Group was to create a National Committee on Electromagnetic Fields, under the Republic President Office and coordinate by the Ministry of Health, witch will be in charge for establish dialogue between all of the federal government actors involved with EMF in general, and for built National Policy in EMF.

The Ministry of Health, altogether with other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Energy, and the Ministry of Environment, is launching an effort to organize that policy to enforce government acceptance of health point of view on EMF. They are, in brief: to implement a monitoring system for each municipality, to be able to map territory distribution of exposure, define limit values, as well as locating population distribution by referencing urban features among others. This is aimed to support local and regional decision makers on risk management, especially risk communication and risk assessment and precautionary principle application whereas scientific uncertainty persists.