

Norway

Report on EMF Activities

9th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF

June 2004

General research activities related to EMF health

The ongoing research activity in Norway related to electromagnetic fields and health mainly focus on power lines and cancer. In addition Norway participates in the INTERPHONE-study regarding mobile phones and cancer.

Three articles have been published during the last year:

- Kliukiene J, Tynes T, Andersen A. Residential and occupational exposures to 50-Hz magnetic fields and breast cancer in women: a population-based study. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2004 May 1;159(9):852-61.
- Blaasaas KG, Tynes T, Lie RT. Risk of selected birth defects by maternal residence close to power lines during pregnancy. *Occup Environ Med*. 2004 Feb;61(2):174-6.
- Tynes T, Haldorsen T. Residential and occupational exposure to 50 Hz magnetic fields and hematological cancers in Norway. *Cancer Causes Control*. 2003 Oct;14(8):715-20.

In addition there are a few smaller projects going on at the University of Trondheim and at a hospital in Telemark.

New policies and legislations regarding EMF exposure

The Norwegian Ministry of Health have introduced new regulations regarding use of radiation (Regulations on Radiation Protection and Use of Radiation, Laid down by Royal Decree of 21 November 2003 pursuant to Act No. 36 on Radiation Protection and Use of Radiation sections). Section 26 dealing with exposure levels points out that "All exposure shall be kept as low as practically possible. Relevant guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) shall as a rule be followed provided no national or European standards exist".

Areas of public concern and national responses

Main areas of public concern regard residences close to power lines and mobile phone base stations. Another area of public concern is electromagnetic field hypersensitivity.

New public information activities

Facts sheets regarding electromagnetic fields and mobile phones are made available from the homepage of the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authorities, www.nrpa.no. Plans are also being made for more extensive information regarding possible electromagnetic field hypersensitivity.