



NEMA Statement on Extra-Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (ELF-EMF)

It is generally recognized that extra-low frequency (50-60 Hz) electromagnetic fields (ELF-EMF) are present in the environment as a result of the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity in modern society.

The available scientific evidence indicates that public exposure to ELF-EMF is not a cause of long-term chronic adverse health effects, based on the multi-million dollar, 6-year National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) *RAPID* research program. The *RAPID* program's findings, reported to the U.S. Congress in 1999, are supported by several highly respected and independent organizations including the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (1996), the American Physical Society (1995), the World Health Organization (ongoing) and the British National Radiological Protection Board (2001).

NEMA believes that standards for human exposure to ELF-EMF are only warranted if a credible scientific basis can be established for adverse effects. Such a basis has not been established for long-term chronic health effects, e.g., cancer, brain tumors, etc. At the same time, NEMA recognizes that exposure to low frequency magnetic field strengths at levels much greater than typically encountered may cause short-term reactions. Standards that seek to minimize exposure to such field strengths may be warranted.

NEMA recognizes that there are global and political pressures to adopt ELF-EMF regulations and standards. Where standards for exposure to ELF-EMF are warranted, ELF-EMF regulations and standards must comply with rules established by the World Trade Organization for international trade and should be harmonized globally so as to allow the free flow of goods and services across state and national borders.

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