



Citizens Energy Task Force ([www.cetf.us](http://www.cetf.us))

Contact: Paula Maccabee: 651- 646-8890

**MEDIA ALERT:** Dec. 15, 2009- For Immediate Release

***HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINE MAGNETIC FIELDS LINKED TO CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA —  
DISTANCE FROM HOMES NEEDED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH.  
- Univ. of New York Public Health Director to Testify on CapX2020 Power Lines-***

ST. PAUL, MN. December 15, 2009 -- A nationally recognized expert on the health impacts of high voltage power lines will be in St. Paul tomorrow to reveal startling connections between the magnetic fields emitted by high voltage lines and human diseases, including childhood leukemia, brain cancer, Alzheimer's disease and ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Dr. David Carpenter--a public health physician trained at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment (State University of New York at Albany) will testify on the human health effects of environmental exposures of electromagnetic fields including those generated by high voltage power lines. His testimony will be presented at the Minn. Public Utilities Commission hearing on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul during the CapX2020 Brookings County – Hampton evidentiary hearings in the Public Utilities Commission hearing room in St. Paul.

“There is powerful scientific evidence indicating a dose-dependent relationship between proximity to power lines and childhood leukemia and between higher levels of magnetic field exposure and childhood leukemia,” said Dr. Carpenter. “Evidence also indicates an association between occupational and residential exposure and cancer in adults as well, particularly leukemia and brain cancer. Risk of Alzheimer's disease and ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) is also related to long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields. It is therefore critical that this evidence be considered before positioning any high voltage lines near homes and businesses and schools where people live, work and children play.” Dr. Carpenter's complete prefiled testimony is available by clicking [here](#).

Citizens Energy Task Force (CETF) is currently appealing the “Certificate of Need” for CapX2020 power lines due to new evidence showing a significant drop in peak energy demand and violation of laws and policies which are designed to protect national wildlife refuge are highlighted in the appeal. [Details on the appeal [available by clicking here](#)]

CETF Attorney Paula Maccabee indicates that this new development regarding magnetic fields and health issues could seriously impact CapX2020. Noted Maccabee, "The public policy consequences of recognizing the health risks of high voltage power lines are significant. Power lines must be located far from homes, schools, hospitals and day care and in some cases may need to be buried underground until the technology is improved to prevent harmful magnetic fields.”

**Following are some of the key points that Dr. Carpenter will share at the MPUC hearing on the Brookings CapX2020 power line:**

- There is definitive scientific evidence that exposure to magnetic fields from power lines greater than 4 milligauss (a level significantly less than what is expected to occur at peak power near this proposed power line) is associated with an elevated risk of childhood leukemia. Some scientific research indicates an elevated risk at levels of 2 milligauss. (A home not near a power line will usually have a level of less than 1 milligauss.)
- Credible scientific evidence links exposure to magnetic fields to cancer in adults as well, particularly leukemia and brain cancer. There is strong scientific evidence that lifetime exposure to magnetic fields above 2 milligauss is associated with an increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases in adults, including Alzheimer's disease and ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

- With many aspects of human toxicology, there is uncertainty as to which mechanisms may be responsible for increased human disease with exposure to power line magnetic fields. However, there is a large body of evidence showing ways in which magnetic fields, including magnetic fields of 60 Hz (the frequency from power lines) affect tissue at a cellular level.
- Some persons may be unusually sensitive to exposure to magnetic fields. A recent study demonstrated that an interaction between genetics and environment that supports biological causation. Children living within 100 meters of a power line who lacked a gene to repair DNA had a 400 percent greater chance of developing leukemia than other children with a similar exposure.

**Based on this scientific information, Dr. Carpenter will make the following public health recommendations:**

- Information should be calculated for high voltage power lines and made publically available regarding the calculated magnetic field strength at various distances. The magnetic fields for the CapX2020 power lines will exceed the levels creating health risks in many locations, particularly over time as more electric power is used.
- High voltage power lines must be routed to prevent power line magnetic fields in homes from exceeding 4 milligauss. Every effort should also be made to avoid long-term exposure to magnetic fields above 2 milligauss.
- In addition to preventing residential exposure to magnetic fields above these levels, Dr. Carpenter will testify that public health precaution suggests that high voltage lines be located as far from homes, schools, playgrounds and child care facilities as is possible. In areas of dense population where routing away from homes and other sensitive uses is not possible, mitigation of magnetic fields by placing lines underground can also reduce human health impacts.

Hp 12/15/09 1:27 PM

Deleted: should be

CapX2020 is a nearly 2 billion dollar project of over 600 miles of high voltage lines (345 Kv). The transmission line would start in Brookings, SD and stretch through South Minneapolis, Rochester, MN and on to La Crosse, WI. A proposal for a connecting line from La Crosse to Madison has also been announced by American Transmission Corporation. [Click to view release](#)

A community educational effort has also been launched in order to inform residents of both MN and WI about the importance of an energy future that involves local, clean renewable energy. Read more at: [www.powerlinetruth.org](http://www.powerlinetruth.org)

**About Dr. David O. Carpenter, MD:**

Dr. Carpenter is a public health physician trained at Harvard Medical School and is the Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the State University of New York at Albany and has co-edited two books on electromagnetic fields and several reviews published in peer-reviewed journals. He has testified before the US Congress and before the President's Cancer Panel last year regarding EMF health effects. Dr. Carpenter will testify on behalf of CETF members and Minnesota residents, Robert and Patricia Johnson on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Minn. Public Utilities Commission regarding CapX2020 High Voltage Power line project, proposed by Xcel Energy.

**-For more information: Attorney Paula Maccabee 651-646-8890**

**-Dr. Carpenter, Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the State University of New**

**York at Albany: (518) 525-2660, 525-2661**

**-CETF Media Contact: Jeremy Chipps: 608-317-5700**

**DETAILS ON HEARINGS:** Wed. Dec. 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM start time/ Utilities represented: Energy Facilities In the Matter of the Route Permit Application by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy for a 345kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, MN, Docket ET-002/TL-08-1474; OES Staff: Scott Ek (651-296-8813); PUC Staff: Michael Kaluzniak (651-201-2257); Administrative Law Judge: Richard Luis. Location: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Large Hearing Room, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN. [map](#)

***Citizens Energy Task Force – is a non-profit grassroots organization of more than 300 citizens from both Wisconsin and Minnesota—and growing fast—who support clean, renewable and sustainable energy. Concerned citizens are encouraged to become members by visiting the website. [www.cetf.us](http://www.cetf.us), (to view media reports about CapX go to: [www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org))***