

HYDRO-QUEBEC

Prudent Management Position

Electric and Magnetic Fields

In the past thirty years, numerous studies have assessed the potential health effects of 60-Hz electric and magnetic fields, including the possible link with cancer. Despite constantly refined research protocols, broad-based epidemiological studies and much more accurate knowledge of exposure levels, the risk has not been confirmed, and so far, no causal link has been established. Some scientists consider, however, it is still possible that children exposed to magnetic fields may be at greater risk of developing cancer.

The results of available scientific studies justify further research to ascertain the existence of presumed health effects, but do not justify the recommendation of systematic preventive measures to reduce the exposure of workers or the general public.

Hydro-Québec acknowledges that this uncertainty could be a concern to its employees, customers and the general public. The matter should be investigated thoroughly by a scientific approach and treated with the greatest transparency.

The company ensures that the design and operation of its equipment respect the health and safety of its employees and the general public.

Hydro-Québec also intends to exercise caution by continuing to contribute to research efforts, being constantly attuned to new knowledge, sharing such knowledge with its partners and the public, and reviewing, as necessary, its electrical equipment design and operation practices.

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