

# Comments on Industry Canada's Report

Anca Gaston, MA Candidate  
Faculty of Applied Health Sciences  
Brock University

# Industry Canada Report

- Results are as expected
- We were expecting that the antennae operating atop the Union St. water tower are **well within SC 6**
- According to the report, the antennae are operating at
  - 40,000 to 426,000 times below Safety Code 6

# Time-averaged results useless

- The report emphasizes cumulative time-averaged data
- This is meaningless
- Remember the analogy that Dr. Havas used to compare the response of our bodies to radiation to the response of tomatoes to frost
  - It doesn't matter what your average daily temperature is – if it dips below zero in the middle of the night your tomatoes are dead

# A few questions

- How do we know that Rogers did not power down the antennae?
  - Calls can easily and remotely be rerouted to other towers
  - The date of the testing was made public well in advance

# Why should we trust Rogers?

- Remember, Rogers misled a Member of Parliament by writing:

- *“...if there are extraordinary health issues in a community...physicians would contact the Health Unit if they suspected environmental conditions that were adversely affecting their patients...to date we have received no such reports from any physician or Ministry of Health. The Health Unit has therefore completed its investigation and has determined there are no environmental health concerns in the area identified except those stated in the memo to occasional adverse air quality days.”* - Kenneth G. Engelhart, vice president - regulatory

# In response...

- Over the last year, Mr. Currie has presented this council with at least 3 documents from physicians...including one from a specialist in Toronto
- The Health Unit conducted no investigation, in fact, they openly stated that it is outside of their area of expertise to conduct any such investigation.

# As for Industry Canada...

- It is obvious from what you have heard today, as well as from their report, that Industry Canada does not want the facility moved
- Why???
- And – why should we TRUST Industry Canada?

# Why is Industry Canada denying knowledge this issue?

- June 6, 2006: Ron Wheeler from IC denied being aware of any tower being moved due to health concerns.
- Yet:
  - 1997: Antenna removed from elementary school in BC due to health concerns
  - 1998: Tower removed in Calgary due to health concerns
  - 2005 and again in 2006, the Vancouver Parks Board denied Rogers a permit for a 120 foot transmitter based on health concerns of local residents.
  - In March, 2003 the Surrey School Board cancelled a signed contract with Rogers for \$240,000 because of protests by students and local residents based again on health concerns

# Towers denied all over

- The following cities and towns have denied or ordered towers installed in more distant locations because of health concerns:
  - In BC alone: Coquitlam, Vancouver, Surrey, Langley, White Rock, Victoria, Saanich, Summerland, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Point Roberts, Washington, Abbotsford, Salt Spring Island
  - Brandon, Manitoba
- Within the last few months:
  - Charlottetown, PEI and Milton, Ontario

# Industry Canada

- How could Industry Canada not have known?
  - Impossible
- Why did they not tell us of the many instances where proposals were blocked due to public outcry?
- Why do Industry and Health Canada mislead prospective victims of these installations into believing that there is no controversy?

# Industry Canada

- Why does it matter to them – and why are they so intent on protecting a corporation?
- Who are they spokespersons for?
  - The Industry or representatives of the people?

# But...

- Let's assume that Industry Canada *is* correct and levels **are** indeed 426,000 times below Safety Code 6
- There are still *many* studies supporting biological effects at levels MUCH LOWER than 426,000 times below Safety Code 6

# 2.7 million times below SC 6

## Smaller tree growth rings

-Balodis, 1996

*Growth rings are a sign of health – thick growth rings mean good growing conditions while thin rings indicate poor growing conditions.*

## 2 million times below SC 6

Sleep disorders, abnormal blood pressure,  
nervousness, weakness, fatigue, limb pain,  
joint pain, digestive problems,  
fewer schoolchildren promoted

-Altpeter, 1995, 1997

**2.7 million times below SC 6**

Premature aging of pine needles

-Selga, 1996

100 million times below SC 6

Conditioned “avoidance” reflex in rats

-Kositsky, 2001

50 million times below SC 6

Effect on cell growth in yeast

-Grundler, 1992

1000 million times below SC 6

Effects on immune system in mice

-Bundyuk 1994

2000 million times below SC 6

Stimulation of ovulation in chickens

-Kondra, 1970

# Safety Code 6

- According to Health Canada, as long as the radiation emitted doesn't raise the body temperature by 1 degree celsius in six minutes, it's considered safe
- Problems:
  - These are guidelines for short term exposure
  - Citizens living in the vicinity of the Rogers antenna are not being exposed for 6 minutes
    - unless the antennae are moved they will be exposed for 20 or more years.

# Safety Code 6

- An ancient document that has not been updated since 1999
- Unacceptable in as rapidly expanding a field as wireless communication
  - 86.1 million cell phones in use worldwide in 1999
    - According to the *World Almanac and Book of Facts. 2001: 571.*
  - 3 BILLION cell phones in use worldwide today!
    - Publicly announced on June 27, 2007 by Reuters

# Conclusion

- NO amount of radiation is safe.
  - RADIATION means RADIATION!!!
- As councillors, we urge you to join the growing movement that is speaking out against the injustices of Safety Code 6 rather than continuing to hide behind it.