

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* July 30, 1998.

*Time:* 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate contract proposals.

*Place:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders, and Stroke, Federal Building, Rm. 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892-9175.

*Contact Person:* Phillip F. Wiethorn, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch Division of Extramural Activities NINDS, National Institutes of Health, PHS, DHHS, Federal Building, Room 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-9223.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.853, Clinical Research Related to Neurological Disorders; 93.854, Biological Basis Research in the Neurosciences, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

*Dated:* July 28, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98-20553 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Library of Medicine; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Library of Medicine Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* August 28, 1998.

*Time:* 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Double Tree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

*Contact Person:* Sharee Pepper, Scientific Review Administrator, Health Scientist Administrator, Office of Extramural

Programs, National Library of Medicine, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 301, Bethesda, MD 20892.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.879, Medical Library Assistance, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

*Dated:* July 27, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98-20550 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Public Health Service

#### Working Group Report—Assessment of Health Effects From Exposure to Power-Line Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program, DHHS, announce the availability of the Working Group Report for public review and comment for a period beginning August 10 and ending October 9, 1998. Written comments can be sent to the address shown below and oral comments can be presented at any of the three scheduled public meetings discussed below. The working group report and the comments received will provide critical input to the NIEHS in the preparation of a Report to Congress on the potential for human health effects from exposure to EMF resulting from the production and distribution of electricity.

#### Background

The NIEHS/NIH is charged by Congress to prepare and submit an evaluation of the potential human health effects from exposure to extremely low frequency (50-60 Hz) electric and magnetic fields (EMF). To evaluate the quality of the science and the strength of the evidence for the potential human health effects, the NIEHS organized a comprehensive review of the data which included:

(1) Three scientific symposia to discuss and evaluate the quality of the research findings in these study areas: (a) theoretical and *in vitro* research findings; (b) epidemiological results; and (c) *in vivo* experimental and clinical laboratory findings. Symposia participants reviewed the quality and reproducibility of the studies and discussed the degree to which the scientific evidence can support a causal linkage between EMFs and biological

and/or health effects in each of the study areas.

(2) A working group of scientists both within and outside the field of EMF research to ensure cross-disciplinary discussion of experimental findings, broad scientific perspective, and critical review and evaluation of the research data. Several different sources of information were reviewed by the working group including discussion reports from the three symposia; a comprehensive, critical review of the scientific literature; and other pertinent information and experimental data. The working group report draws conclusions on the strength and robustness of the experimental data related to extremely low frequency EMF exposure and its implication for human health and disease etiology.

The Working Group Report Available August 10, 1998

In brief, the panel of experts concluded that electric and magnetic fields like those surrounding electric power lines should be regarded as a "possible human carcinogen." The panel vote 19 to 9 was based largely on epidemiological evidence in the face of animal and other laboratory studies that the panel agreed did not support or refute the population studies. Because of the conflicting studies, eight of the nineteen panel members found the EMF fields not classifiable as to carcinogenicity, while one member of the panel said EMF probably is not carcinogenic to humans.

The working group report will be available August 10 and can be obtained free of charge by contacting by mail: EMF-RAPID Program/LCBRA NIEHS, NIH, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-16, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 or by fax: 919-541-0144, or by e-mail: emf-rapid@niehs.nih.gov. The document will be available in both *hard copy* and *CD-ROM*. Please provide the following information when requesting the report: Name, Mailing Address, and whether you prefer a hard copy or CD-ROM copy of the report.

The report will also be available on the internet and can be accessed from the NIEHS and NTP at [www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/home.htm](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/home.htm).

#### Public Review and Comment Encouraged

In order to fulfill the request from Congress for a report on the potential for human health effects from exposure to EMF resulting from the production and distribution of electricity, the NIEHS will review the working group report and all public comments on the report