

The Warning Signal

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Oireachtas investigates as Ireland awash in microwaves

As Ireland rushes headlong into the brave new world of microwave technology, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Environment, Transport, Culture and Gaeltacht will conduct an investigation into the effects of electromagnetic frequencies on all life forms.

The government probe comes at a time when activists world-wide are expressing concerns that microwave technology causes numerous diseases to animals and humans as well as plants and insects.

The committee's remit includes making recommendations for legislation which could limit the exposure of people to microwave signals used by the communications industry for a wide range of signals. Microwave technology powers the mobile phone industry, is used by An Garda Síochána, radio, television and the internet.

The introduction of the so-called Smart Meter for electricity and water metering for billing purposes is seen as both dangerous to human health as well as being an invasion of privacy the likes of which has never before been achievable.

In addition to emitting the equivalent of up to 10,000 cell phone calls from the outside of a building, the technology has the capability of monitoring the power usage of the building's occupants as well as what and when domestic equipment is being used.

Already washing machines are being marketed which no longer require the old-fashioned belt-driven internal drum. New machines are also using electromagnetism to turn the machine.

Concerns are mounting about the rise in electromagnetic fields in homes where residents are being increasingly exposed to an endless number of electrical appliances - many of them operated by remote such as the those in the Smart Home

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) promises the consumer that there are savings to be made. Opponents claim that the meters are nothing short of a power grab by utility companies in cooperation with government as a system of social control with an unlimited ability to increase prices without recourse for the consumer.

In May 2011 the ESB announced that feasibility tests of the domestic Smart Metering system were successful and that savings to the consumer amount to €20 a month. In October the State of Illinois in the United States passed enabling legislation paving the way for the establishment of a Smart Grid.

Meanwhile California's Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is imposing the Smart Grid amid widespread opposition with people reporting a wide variety of symptoms from sleep interference to more serious problems.

In the Republic of Ireland Smart Meters have been installed by stealth at industrial estates and business park without the public being informed.

Although Smart Grids are being implemented around the world, the greatest concentration is in Western Europe and North America.

Northern Ireland Electricity operates a prepay-

ment keypad metering system with two-way communications for prepayment customers, used for payments and meter readings.

The 200,000 customers can purchase credit online and monitor online energy consumption down to half hour intervals.

(A Smart Meter deployment map is available online at: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115519311058367534348.0000011362ac6d7d21187.>)

The Alliance for Irish Radiation Protection (AIRP) is urging concerned parties to place their observations before the committee as a matter of record. The AIRP is a loose confederation of groups from around the country expressing concerns about the unregulated use of the technology. As an incubation centre for the development of new businesses based on microwave technology, citizens have been exposed without consent to electromagnetic frequencies without being informed of the dangers through the Department of Communications' *Test and Trial* program in violation of the Nuremberg Code which states that the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.

Submissions will be accepted until 15 January 2012 and should be addressed to:

Eugene O'Cuadhlaioich,
Cleireach don Choiste,
Joint Committee on Environment,
Transport, Culture and Gaeltacht,
Houses of the Oireachtas,
Leinster House,

Wanted for questioning

Advisor to Irish government and ESB, Anders Ahlbom, was turfed out of IARC group on conflict of interest accusations

Since 2011-05-22 it has become known that Professor Ahlbom is part owner of a company lobbying for the mobile industry. He was immediately released from his assignment as chairman for the IARC cancer-EMF evaluation committee.

Scientific evaluation committee

ICNIRP Epidemiology (International advisory org.)
SCENIHR (EU advisory organization)
SSI (Rad. Protection Authority's scientific advisory)
SOS (Board of Health and Welfare's expert group EMF)
FAS (Sw council for working life
and social research, advisory group for EMF)

- Orjan Hallberg
Hallberg Independent Research
Chairman

Anders Ahlbom
Anders Ahlbom
Anders Ahlbom
Anders Ahlbom

Anders Ahlbom



Anders Ahlbom was appointed professor of Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden in 1987. He is active at the Institute of Environmental Medicine.

It took the courage of Swedish writer and journalist Mona Nilsson to expose the connection of Prof. Ahlbom to private enterprise and leading advisor to governments and the EU with his PR firm, Gunnar Ahlbom AB. His works recently appeared in the British Medical Journal, the world's foremost medical journal.

How can one man serve two masters - big business and science? See pg. 2

How Anders Ahlbom is important to industry & the people of Ireland

The following is an excerpt from EirGrid's "Information on Electric and Magnetic Fields" circulated in North Dublin in October. The leaflet contains misleading or contentious science.

Several theoretical explanations of mechanisms have been proposed and it seems that more than one mechanism may exist. But such explanations are speculative and no comprehensive theory has been proposed which may be confirmed by laboratory experiment. Laboratory studies have also failed to establish any mechanism whereby ELF EMFs could cause any form of ill-health effect. Despite extensive research scientists have been unable to determine a biophysical mechanism by which ELF EMF could cause cancer. EirGrid and other national and international bodies are continuing to monitor research developments and to keep society fully informed.

Independent international medical and scientific bodies are continuing to review and monitor the possibility of health effects from exposure to extremely low-frequency electric and magnetic fields. The findings of these bodies carry considerable weight, as they reflect the judgements of groups of experts rather than the views of individuals.

International Agency for Research on Cancer*

In 2001, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which is an agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), classified ELF magnetic fields as 'possibly carcinogenic' on the basis of 'inadequate' epidemiological evidence for most types of cancer and 'inadequate' evidence in animals, but 'limited' epidemiological evidence for childhood leukemia. It was noted that no plausible biological explanation of the association can be obtained from experiments with animals or from cellular and molecular studies. IARC said that the evidence on ELF electric fields was 'inadequate'.

WHO EMF Task Group

In October 2005, the WHO convened an international panel of experts to form the EMF Task Group. The EMF Task Group's main objective was to review the scientific literature on the biological effects of exposure to ELF fields in order to assess any health risks from exposure to these fields and to use this health risk assessment to make recommendations to national authorities on health protection programs. The group published an Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) monograph of its findings in June 2007.

The Task Group concluded that there are no substantive health issues related to ELF electric fields at levels generally encountered by members of the public. The monograph recommended that policymakers should establish guidelines for ELF field exposure for both the general public and workers. It stated that the best source of guidance for exposure levels are the international guidelines and cites the guidelines from the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

* **NOTE: In May, 2011 the International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC) admitted that electromagnetic frequencies are a potential Class 2B after Anders Ahlbom, and advisor to the EirGrid, the ESB and the Dept. of the Environment, was removed from the reporting panel. Sources indicate that IARC has no legal remit. It is not affiliated with the World Health Organisation (W.H.O.)**

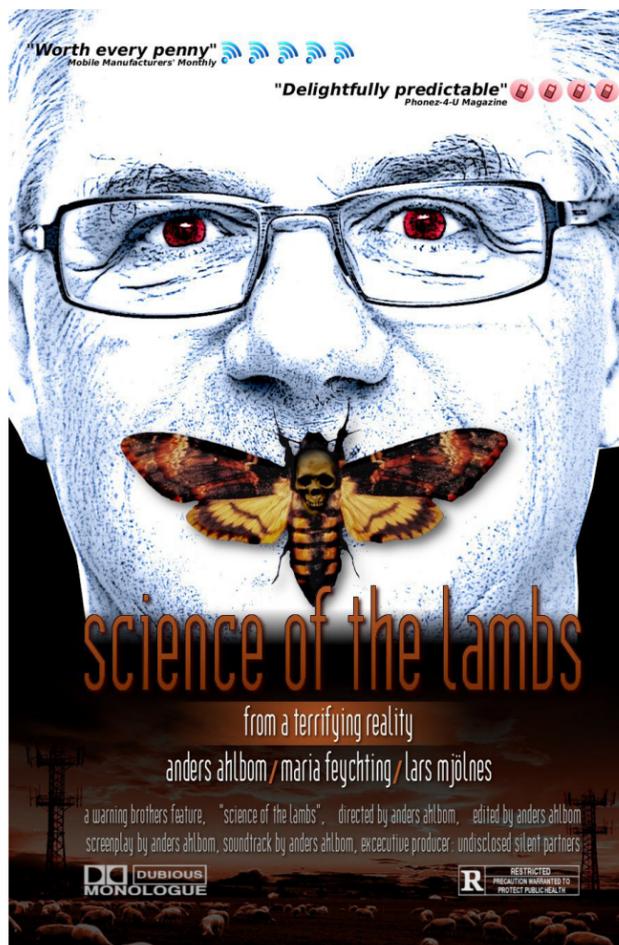
What one writer learned helped open wider debate on microwaves

Professor Ahlbom, who is appointed to chair the expert group on epidemiology at the upcoming IARC evaluation of the carcinogenicity of mobile phone radiation, is the co-founder of "Gunnar Ahlbom AB" a Brussels-based lobby firm aiming to assist the telecom industry on EU regulations, public affairs and corporate communications.

Professor Ahlbom created the lobby firm in 2010 together with his brother and sister in law who live in Brussels. The brother, Gunnar Ahlbom, is a telecom lobbyist in Brussels since the early 90's, and was already active in this field in 1998 when Professor Ahlbom participated in the setting of the controversial ICNIRP standards on radiation from different sources of non ionizing radiation like wireless devices and cell towers.

- Anders Ahlbom's link to the Telecom Industry through his brother and their common company is a straight-forward explanation of his systematic denial of health risks, says Mona Nilsson, Swedish author and investigation journalist.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organisation (WHO), and publishes Monographs to identify environmental factors that can increase the risk of human cancer. The preparation of the IARC Monographs on "Non- Ionizing Radiation, Part II: Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields [includes mobile telephones]" will start this week in Lyon, France (24-31 of May). The result of the review is of utmost importance to the telecom industry, which is sending three observers to the meeting: Mays Swicord, CTIA (the wireless association), Joe Elder, the Mobile



Manufacturers Forum (MMF) and Jack Rowley, the GSM Association.

The members of the IARC scientific committee have to submit a declaration of interest. Professor Ahlbom has not reported his involvement in the lobby firm, nor his close family relation to a mobile phone industry lobbyist (Gunnar Ahlbom).²

The IARC has already banned a scientist from the committee. Dr Alexander Lerchl from the German Radiation Protection Board, has

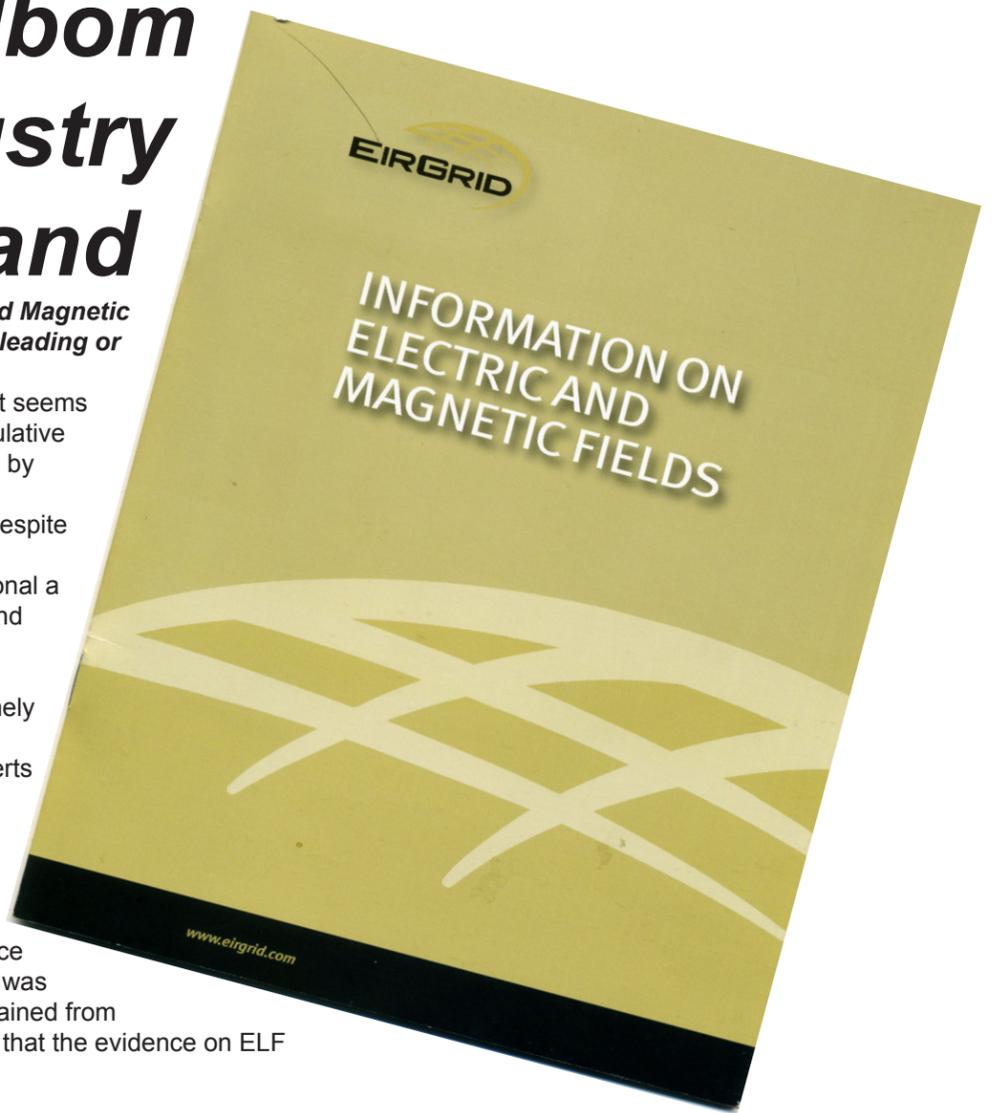
been questioned regarding his relations to the German mobile industry, and was finally not accepted in the committee as "an IARC Monograph is an exercise that demands complete independence from all commercial interests, and from advocates who might be perceived as advancing a pre-conceived position."³

"Industry-loyal scientists have seized the interpretation privilege"

The present revelation doesn't come as a surprise to Mona Nilsson who has been investigating Prof Ahlbom's statements and whereabouts for many years.

1 Preliminary list of participants: <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Meetings/vol102-participants.pdf> 2 Anders Ahlbom interest declaration IARC, received April 2011 3 Letter from IARC to A. Lerchl www.diagnose-funk.ch/downloads/df_bp_who-lerchl_iarc-26oct10.pdf

- The industry-loyal scientists are easy to recognize. They systematically repeat a set of policy messages that counter the results of independent scientists and coincide with the interests of the industry. This is crystal clear in the case of Professor Ahlbom, who has dismissed all studies indicating health risks or biological effects whenever he has chaired an expert panel on this subject. He even denies the results of his own research if it indicates a health risk.⁴ There is no doubt he speaks to the benefit of the industry. Research and contact : Mona Nilsson, investigation journalist, Sweden Author of the books "Mobiltelefonins hälsorisker" (2010) and "Spelet om 3G" (2005)⁵ mona@monanilsson.se Contact in France : Kerstin Stenberg, editor « Mobiltelefonins hälsorisker » international@priartem.fr SMS +33 604 49 68 22



Why Sweden Ireland

It is no small irony that Ireland is protective of the mobile phone industry and it has its roots going back to the location of Ericsson's only research facility outside Sweden in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Ericsson's presence in Ireland goes back to the Haughey era.

With Ericsson in her backyard, Fianna Fail's Mary O'Rourke became the poster girl for the digital world especially after her appointment to the post of Minister for Enterprise and Transport. It was during O'Rourke's tenure that the Tetra signal was installed on the Luas com-

muter system,

It was never explained why a convicted rapist was allowed out of prison wearing only a tag and if it was a test of the Luas - Tetra microwave system's ability to track the movements of individuals.

O'Rourke's two nephews, Brian and Conor Lenihan, followed her example with Brian buying Tetra for An Garda Siochana and Conor slipping quietly into a position with Denis O'Brien's Digicel company.

As recently as June of this year the *Irish Times*

carried the announcement that although employment numbers had decreased in recent years, losing jobs in Athlone and another 300 in Dublin, according to Richard Bruton, Ericsson intended to hire an additional 100 software engineers in Athlone.

In Oct. 2011, Sony bought out Ericsson's mobile phone interests in Sony-Ericsson and the Swedish firm's interest shifted to the broader field of global communications.

Ericsson's global profile is enhanced annually through its sponsorship of the events surrounding the announcement of the Nobel Prize.

Swedish consular office refuses to answer AIRP

Long-time microwave safety campaigner Prof. Olle Johansson was one of three academics victimised after testifying before the Canadian Parliament committee investigating the effects of microwaves on the environment.

The three scientists at the centre of the controversy are Dr. Annie Sasco, Prof. Johansson and Dr. Dimitris Panagopoulos. Dr. Sasco holds a Doctor of Public Health in the Field of Epidemiology degree from Harvard. Johansson is associate professor at the Experimental Dermatology Unit with the Department of Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute as well as serving as professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. Dr. Panagopoulos is a post doctoral fellow with the Department of Cell Biology and Biophysics at the University of Athens.

Following their participation in the Canadian enquiry all three were either demoted or had their offices dismantled.

Dr. Sasco was stripped of her team of researchers and students. Dr. Panagopoulos was reassigned to a windowless space the size of a toilet cubicle and Prof. Johansson was stripped of his office and accused of being a "lousey scientist" by Prof. Martin Ingvar who stands accused of misuse of grant funds.

Of the three embassies contacted by the AIRP on their behalf, only the Swedish consular office has ignored the call to investigate Prof. Johansson's circumstances. Sweden does not have an embassy in Ireland and it's interests are represented by Paul Keane, Swedish Consulate General at the offices of Reddy Charlton McKnight, Solicitors, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin.

Con Colbert of the Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA) said, "The microwave-based communications industry is one of the richest, most powerful economic groups in the world. We are not against their profits but there is a significant effect on human health. The Royal College of Physicians



With the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland predicting that half the population of Ireland will have some form of cancer by the year 2025, Jim Ronan, of Swords, and Con Colbert, Raheny, Dublin delivered questions about the mistreatment of Prof. Olle Johansson at the Karolinska Institute to Sweden's representative in Fitzwilliam Square. Both men have followed the dangers of microwave technology for 20 years. Colbert is a founding member of IERVN and serves as Secretary for the Irish Doctors Environmental Association.

in Ireland predicts that one in two, half the Irish population, will have 'some form of cancer' by the year 2025."

Evidence of the activities of private interests is the trial of next generation mobile broadband technology as reported by the *Irish Times* in June 2010. The headline, "Mobile broadband gathers speed" outlined how Ericsson tested the technology of it's Long Term Evolution (LTE) which delivers high definition television and conferencing at speeds of

up to 80Mbps/sec from laptop computers from the back of a Dublin taxi. According to Microwave news, Ericsson handles 40 percent of all mobile phone calls and has released plans for a more efficient use of the electromagnetic spectrum for Television broadcasting using present cellular transmitters. (See http://www.ericsson.com/news/110506_spectrum_requirements_244188810_c?categoryFilter=conference_papers_1270673222_c&tagsFilter=Wireless+access+networks)

The first provision of the Nuremberg Code is that no scientific experiments should be undertaken without consent. Ericsson violated the code by testing in a live human environment.

As the main sponsor of events surrounding the awarding of the Karolinska Institute's Nobel Prize Ericsson has allied itself with the world's most highly recognized award for scientific research. With a dominant presence in Sweden and a research presence in Ireland, Trinity College, Dublin honored the Karolinska's President Harriet Wallberg-Henricksson. In November Trinity's Mary Robinson awarded her an honorary doctor of medicine in recognition of her outstanding contributions to medical science.

As head of the Karolinska Institute, Dr. Wallberg-Henricksson is responsible for the treatment of both Profs. Ahobom and Johansson. Her office has not responded to questions by the AIRP.



Professor Harriet Wallberg-Henricksson (second from left) was conferred with an honorary Doctor in Medicine (M.D) degree by Mary Robinson at Trinity College on Nov. 3. She is President of the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm since 2004, one of Europe's leading Research Institutes for Medicine and TCD's partner in the EuroLife Network of European Universities in Life Sciences. She is also a Member of the Nobel Assembly which awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. From 2001 and 2003 she was Secretary General of the Swedish Research Council. Her own research is in the field of diabetes.

Is that a fact?

Hiding behind the Cigre logo, this slide from ESB Networks asserts that Smart Meters are part of our future.

Says who?

Cigre is a non-governmental body called the International Council of Large Electric Systems based in Paris. Irish members are drawn from Engineers Ireland. President is PJ Rudden, Chartered Engineer. Since 2007 he is assisting the Corrib Partners in planning, routing, EIS and construction supervision of the modified Onshore Pipeline Route in Mayo including communications and local stakeholder aspects.

Smart Meter World-wide Map

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115519311058367534348.0000011362ac6d7d21187>



In conclusion

- Smart meters are part of our future
- There are no well tried solutions
- Challenges remains around
 - Technology
 - Standardisation
 - Demand management approach
 - Data volumes
- But...
 - Drivers will only get stronger
- Time is right to begin !

ESB Networks www.esb.ie/esbnetworks

Concern mounts world-wide

From Don Maisch in Australia

Dr. Don Maisch is author of "The Procrustean Approach - An examination of the manipulation of telecommunications standards by political, military, and industrial vested interests at the expense of public health protection".

He says, "...if we assume that decision making within the regulatory framework does not exist without some level of value judgements, then ICNIRP's membership mechanism will tend to reinforce any existing tendencies (or biases) amongst the group. One example of such a bias could be the fundamental tenet of ICNIRP that the only biological hazards from RF exposure are thermal in nature. This tendency is also seen in the various committees that were involved in writing the various versions of the IEEE's C95.1 RF standard as examined in Chapter 3 where RF thermal considerations became an unquestionable guiding principle. With the ICNIRP selection process, scientists who support the possibility of hazardous effects below the standard guidelines would be unlikely to be invited onto an ICNIRP committee."

Why Our Urban Trees are Dying

The U.K.'s Andrew Goldsworthy reports that trees are now dying mysteriously from a variety of diseases in urban areas all over Europe and are also showing abnormal photoperiodic responses. In addition, many have cancer-like growths under the bark (phloem nodules) and the bark may also split so that the underlying tissues become infected. All of these can be explained as being a result of weak radio-frequency radiation from mobile phones, their base stations, WiFi and similar sources of weak non-ionising radiation. But first let us look at how living organisms use electric currents that they generate themselves and which perform vital functions in their normal day-to-day metabolism and growth. We will then go on to see how weak electromagnetic fields can disrupt these and bring about many unwanted biological effects.

<http://www.mastsanity.org/>

From South Africa to Canada

To: Dr. Andrew Michrowski, Canada

Please may you assist me with any information that you may have on the impacts of 4G. We are trying to prepare a second submission to stop it in South Africa – testings here appear to have had impacts on health and environment.

For those that are electrosensitive it has been felt dramatically. A wave of gastro started and pine trees have been dying and have severe burn marks as bad as if they have been in a fire. Strange bird and bee behavior. See my first letter.

I have been monitoring the pines – I have 60 in my own garden. If you wish to see pictures I will send them to you. I have had a tree specialist over and he asked if we had had a fire !

The levels have increase dramatically in my own house since this submission. It appears a problem to monitor who and where as the industry is using frequency hopping and the frequencies they each use are not public.

Your knowledge in monitoring and testing seems vast and we would appreciate your input – we may ask you to come to South Africa in the near future if you are available.

Kind regards, Tracey-Lee

<http://www.emrrfsa.org/>

Denmark tumours up by 40%

Tumours in brain and nervous system are increasing in Denmark according to the latest report from Danish Cancer Registry reports Mona Nilsson. The increase is seen both in men and women. Among men the number of brain tumours have increased by 40% between 2001 and 2010 (per 100 000 inhabitants, age standardised) and among women by 29%. In real numbers it is 268 more cases per year among men and 227 among women that are diagnosed with a tumour in brain or central nervous system.

'Sick' meters in New York

Michele Hertz was sick, and she had no idea why.

Hertz, 54, who lives on Euclid Avenue in Hastings, began experiencing myriad health problems since 2009, shortly after a new digital reading meter was installed on her house that June. Con Edison began replacing analog meters with digital Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) devices in 2007. The meters collect diagnostic and usage data from residences and businesses.

Before digital meters were installed, Con Edison workers had to walk to and read a meter on a building. With the new equipment, an employee can gather information without ever leaving his vehicle. As a result, meter-reading becomes a less involved, more efficient, and cost-effective process.

Now, concern that AMRs and Smart Meters — which allow for two-way communication of data that can be accessed remotely by an energy or water company — might cause serious health problems is slowly growing across the country.

http://www.rivertownsenetenterprise.net/Rivertowns_Enterprise/ENTERPRISE_NEWS_121611.html

Louisiana recognises sensitivity

Doctors from the Department of Neurology, LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport, Louisiana, USA have concluded that electrosensitivity can be caused

by exposure to electromagnetic fields in a study released in December 2011. Doctors concluded: "In a double-blinded EMF provocation procedure specifically designed to minimize unintentional sensory cues, the subject developed temporal pain, headache, muscle twitching, and skipped heartbeats within 100 s after initiation of EMF exposure ($p < .05$). The symptoms were caused primarily by field transitions (off-on, on-off) rather than the presence of the field, as assessed by comparing the frequency and severity of the effects of pulsed and continuous fields in relation to sham exposure. The subject had no conscious perception of the field as judged by her inability to report its presence more often than in the sham control. Discussion: The subject demonstrated statistically reliable somatic reactions in response to exposure to subliminal EMFs under conditions that reasonably excluded a causative role for psychological processes. Conclusion: EMF hypersensitivity can occur as a bona fide environmentally inducible neurological syndrome.

Open revolt in California

"Here in California, where Stop Smart Meters! is based and where the movement began last year, it has been a momentous year. While we are truly sickened by the thousands and thousands of reports of smart meter related health damage, overcharging, and safety violations, we do hold out hope. A growing public awareness, ordinary people taking direct action to protect their communities, a change in tone in media coverage, and (limited) policy progress signals that the public has had enough of this program and is now in open revolt."

Joshua Hart

StopSmartMeters.org

Burns recorded in Germany

Christine Aschermann concludes her research with the following: "Over the past couple of years, the annual reports of the health care insurance companies (e.g. DAK 2010) regularly state that mental health disorders are on the increase; the insurance company for technicians and technologists recorded a 40% increase over the past 10 years (TK 2010). In my opinion, many cases of electromagnetic hypersensitivity are disguised as psychiatric but also orthopedic diagnoses (pain syndrome). These individuals are often not able to work anymore and frequently they are not even able to lead a normal life in their home environment; they are at risk to lose friends and family. Social exclusion is another risk. Since physicians in agreement with the WHO assign the cause to an individual psychological problem, the socio-political significance of rapidly increasing electrosensitivity is diffused.

Due to the level of electromagnetic pollution in Germany, individual solutions are almost impossible. For true prevention, intervention strategies by the government are required."