

Medical researcher Sam Milham exposes dirty electricity at June 12 forum

by Art Joyce

Renowned medical researcher and author Sam Milham was in the Slocan Valley as part of an ongoing initiative by Daphne Fields to educate residents about smart meters. Milham is the author of *Dirty Electricity: Electrification and the Diseases of Civilization* and was one of the early researchers exploring the link between close proximity to high-voltage power lines and increased incidence of childhood leukemia. Milham had to cancel some engagements due to his metering equipment being held up at the border. However, he spoke at a private home in Winlaw on May 28. Fields will be hosting an educational forum on smart meters at the Slocan Park Hall, June 12 at 7 pm. Curtis Bennett, an electrician who testified at the BCUC hearings for the Fortis application to install the new meters, will be presenting.

Milham has had a long and distinguished career. He began his medical studies at Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1950, winning the Fuller Chemistry Prize and New York State Medical Scholarship. He decided to pursue medical research rather than practice, studying at Albany Medical College from 1954 to 1958. He interned at the US Public Health Hospital, Boston and later in Rochester, New York, furthering his studies at the prestigious Johns

Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. During the 1960s he went on to work for the New York State Department of Health as an epidemiologist and went on to become Assistant Professor, at the Albany Medical College Department of Pediatrics, among many other distinctions.

"In university I got curious as to why were people getting sick with the same things over and over again," says Milham. "There had to be a common denominator. One of the first things I did was to work in children's hospitals. I thought, if we're going to study cancer we should look at childhood leukemia."

In addition to his research in pediatrics, he compared data from occupational records in New York State. What he noticed was that men who worked in occupations related to electricity also had a higher incidence of leukemia. That led him to do some forensic research as far back as the 1920s, correlating health statistics with the electrification of the grid in each US state. He found a surprising relationship between the introduction of electrification and the rising incidence of leukemia and other cancers. Part of Milham's research involved comparing studies of pregnant women to see what their children were being exposed to *in utero*, and seeing what effects this had on health outcomes after birth.

"I started looking at childhood leukemia and it correlated with the trend of electrification," says Milham. "Today you don't see childhood leukemia in communities that are off the grid. For example Amish communities, which act as great controls for these studies. They also never had any ADHD, asthma, or childhood obesity. It's completely tied to the crap we're exposing kids to."

Milham's research has revealed that 'dirty' electricity, which is generated by AC-DC converters in computers, lights and various other devices, can cause exposure to electrical fields that is cumulative and health damaging over time. The amount of dirty electricity varies depending on the efficiency of the converter. It's not the steady current that causes concern but the 'spikes' and transient currents this switching creates. Milham says the ideal safe electrical system is a 12-volt DC (direct current).

Another contributing factor to dirty electricity is ground current. Milham says utilities in North America, attempting to cut costs by using the earth for grounding instead of higher capacity ground wires on transmission lines, are adding to the problem. According to dirtyelectricity.ca, "ground current can often carry unpredicted high frequencies and, in some cases dangerous voltages into a home

or building and intermingle with its AC power supply." The same can happen with higher band radio frequencies that can be picked up by poorly grounded home electrical systems. We've now increased our exposure by introducing into the home high-frequency devices such as crib monitors, cordless phones, WiFi, smart meters and cell phones. Compact fluorescent bulbs emit high levels of dirty electricity, as do some LEDs. According to the Karolinska Institute's Dr. Olle Johansson, humans are now exposed to up to a billion times more radiation than at any time in our history.

"I've known people who've had to move away from their homes because they got so sick."

EcoSociety opposes heli-ski application

submitted

West Kootenay EcoSociety is asking Front Counter BC to deny an application for heli-skiing tenure near Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. The Nelson-based environmental society explained in a letter to Front Counter BC that the proposed recreation tenure could have significant impacts on caribou, wolverine, and grizzlies as well as sensitive plants, birds, and amphibians.

"There are really three issues here: one is the direct impact to species from increased human contact and noise from helicopters, the second is the impact on the existing recreation experience

Milham's research has not been entirely welcome. At one school in the Palm Springs district where a cancer cluster had developed among staff, he was invited to investigate and suggest remediation strategies. When he filed his recommendations, which had in part to do with reducing exposure to 'dirty electricity,' he was warned off the school premises by a lawyer's letter. A well-documented research paper he wrote on *in utero* exposure to electrical fields was rejected by every major North American medical journal but was finally published in Europe.

For more information on dirty electricity, visit www.sammilham.com or <http://www.dirtyelectricity.ca>.

in and around the park, and the third is the cumulative impact of this proposal on top of all the other impacts in that area," said David Reid, Executive Director. "There's very little area left in this region for the wild to just be wild, and we need to protect that as part of our legacy."

Information on the proposal can be found at arfd.gov.bc.ca, file 4405571.

SMOKEY CREEK SALVAGE
24 HR TOWING
New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work,
Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal
WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539
3453 YEATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN



The evolution of energy

FortisBC will soon be exchanging electricity meters in your area

Advanced meters are just one way we're working to improve the efficiency and reliability of your electricity service.

Benefits of new advanced meters:

- Monthly billing
- Choose your billing date
- Fewer estimates
- Online tools to help you manage your electricity use

For more information, visit fortisbc.com/ami or call 1-866-436-7847.

