



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

April 2, 2002

Ms. Janet Newton
The EMR Network
P.O. Box 221
Marshfield, VT 05658

Dear Ms. Newton:

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 2002 regarding the environmental effects of radiofrequency/microwave (RF/MW) radiation on humans and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations for licensed RF transmitters. As you noted in your letter, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related disease and injury. Thus, NIOSH has an interest in this public health issue, but not a specific role in the regulatory aspects of exposure to RF radiation. In addition to conducting research on this topic, we regularly participate in discussions with other federal agencies to evaluate the hazards of occupational exposure to RF radiation.

Over the last decade, RF radiation exposures have become a broader issue due to the drastic increase in wireless telecommunications sources. NIOSH has carefully noted the conclusions of the major scientific review panels published in the last few years to review the RF radiation bioeffects literature, such as those convened by federal health agencies in Canada and the United Kingdom.

In view of these developments for RF radiation exposures, NIOSH will continue its approach of conducting research, monitoring research results worldwide, and assisting other agencies (including the FCC) as requested in the evaluation of health risks from occupational exposure to RF radiation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Rest, Ph.D., M.P.A.
Acting Director