

To the State Secretary of Infrastructure and Water Management

Date: April 18, 2018 Your ref: IENM/BSK-2014/62976 E-mail: e.van.rongen@gr.nl
Encl: - Our ref: 1330932-EvR/msj-673-O3 Phone: 070 340 57 30

Subject: Advisory report *Power lines and health part I: childhood cancer*

Dear State Secretary,

I am pleased to offer you the digital version of the advisory report *Power lines and health part 1: childhood cancer*. The report discusses childhood leukaemia and other types of childhood cancer. This report was drafted by the Electromagnetic Fields Committee of the Health Council and reviewed by the Standing Committee on Public Health. The report (which consist of a core document and a background document) can be downloaded from our website: www.healthcouncil.nl. Two other reports will be published in the second quarter of 2019. They will discuss cancer and neurodegenerative diseases in adults.

In this first report, based on an analysis of the epidemiological literature, the Committee finds an association between exposure to magnetic fields generated by overhead power lines and the incidence of childhood leukaemia. These findings are consistent with previous results. Although there are also indications for an increased risk of childhood brain tumours, these are much weaker and have a higher level of uncertainty.

The Committee sees no reason to reconsider the current precautionary policy regarding overhead power lines. The Committee also suggests considering a similar policy regarding underground high-voltage power cables and other sources of long-term exposure to magnetic fields from the electricity grid.

I endorse the conclusions and recommendations from the Committee.

Best regards,

Prof. J.M. Geleijnse,
Vice President