

Add *Glaser*

'73 Report Cites Biological Effects In Radio Project

By George C. Wilson
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Potentially harmful changes in the human body could be caused by the Sanguine communication system the Navy wants to build to communicate with its submarines, according to a scientific report.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) released the report and charged that the Navy suppressed it for two years "because it contains the very first scientific evidence that Sanguine would indeed have an adverse environmental impact."

Sanguine is a Navy communications project that has undergone changes in name, dimension and location. Originally Sanguine was to use 22,000 square miles of Wisconsin (which has 56,154 square miles) for burying antennas to bounce extremely low frequency radio waves off a rock formation to submarines—passing them one-way firing orders in a war.

Now the Navy has offered an above-ground version of the antenna grid called Seafarer, a system expected to cover 2,500 square miles.

Navy Capt. W.C. Cobb, Sanguine project manager, said that although the report had not been generally released, there was no intention to suppress it.

Cobb added that "we do not think that harmful, adverse effects" from Sanguine-type emissions "have been validated."

Navy Capt. Paul E. Tyler, who convened the panel that assessed the Sanguine experiments back in 1973, said he viewed the findings about biological effects on humans "with some concern" but still felt "there is a real question" whether the Sanguine radiation was the cause of such changes as stress indicators increasing in the bloodstream.

Dr. Andrew Marino, a research biophysicist at the Veterans Administration hospital in Syracuse, said the Sanguine report and related findings "raise enormous implications" about how safe communications systems and power lines really are from a public health standpoint.

The report on Sanguine is virtually certain to make the system less welcome than

ever in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan—one of the sites the Navy is eyeing. Public protests already have driven Sanguine out of Wisconsin and prevented the system from getting into Texas.

A big question hanging over Sanguine for the last decade has been whether radiation from the communications system would hurt people, animals, fish or plants.

"For at least the last two years," Nelson complained, "I have asked admirals, who have visited my office about Sanguine, whether there was anything to indicate that the system had an adverse environmental impact and was told there was nothing."

Nelson said he just heard about the 1973 environmental report on Sanguine through a Michigan professor. The 31-page Navy report is entitled "Proceedings of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of Biomedical and Ecological Effects of ELF (extremely low frequency) Radiation."

William T. Ham Jr., chairman of the biophysics department at Virginia Commonwealth University, headed the seven-member panel of scientists that sifted through results of Navy-sponsored experiments, and wrote their assessment of them.

Ham said in an interview yesterday that he was not medically qualified to speak on the findings about the changes the extremely low frequency radiation made in human blood.

Another panel member, Dr. Robert O. Becker from the Veterans Administration hospital surgery department in Syracuse, viewed the experiments as providing "adequate evidence that the biological effects of a Sanguine type system would be considerable."

Specifically, the panel's report said that "the most significant finding" from monitoring eight people who had worked near the Sanguine test site in Wisconsin was "the elevation in triglyceride levels which was found in six of the eight subjects."

A rise in triglyceride—a substance in the blood—is a danger signal, possibly linked to heart disease, specialists said.

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