

**COMMENTS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PRACTICES
IN THE USSR AND SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: A POSSIBLE
DILEMMA IN RISK ASSESSMENT OF RF AND MICROWAVE
RADIATION BIOEFFECTS**

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This presentation is an outgrowth of informal discussions that took place at the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) Meeting (on RF/microwave radiation bioeffects), held in 1977 at Airlie House, Va., and at subsequent international gatherings, with concerned scientific officials from the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and others. The discussions concerned occupational safety and health doctrine as it pertains to the setting of RF/microwave radiation standards in those countries. The conclusions arrived at following the discussions help to explain why one so often reads in the Soviet and some East European literature (in contrast to the U.S. literature) references to so many subjective and reversible symptoms (such as neurasthenia), which are attributed to very low exposure to RF energy. It is thought that the conclusions, or at least some of the reasons for the apparent differences, are relevant to the issue of applying cost/benefit analysis to the resolution of the microwave bioeffects "problem."

This paper is not necessarily a contrast between the East and the West, but rather a discussion of general protection philosophy (and differences in that philosophy) at present in use in various locations in the world. Many of the comments would also be valid for Scandinavian countries (particularly Sweden) and West Germany, where the occupational health and safety law, and worker involvement in the development and application of such law, is strong and progressive. It also appears that some of the comments are applicable, but perhaps to a somewhat lesser degree, to Britain and Canada.

It is obvious that there are vast differences in doctrine and philosophy between the USA on one hand and the USSR and most East European countries on the other hand when it comes to human exposure standards for RF and microwave radiation.

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