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REPORT BY THE U.S.


General Accounting Office

Efforts By The Environmental Protection Agency To Protect The Public From Environmental Nonionizing Radiation Exposures

The subject of nonionizing radiation has become a national concern because the population is receiving measurable exposures to the radiation. The health effects of such exposures even at low levels are controversial.

Currently, there is no official U.S. environmental public health standard for exposure to nonionizing radiation sources, because U.S. research programs have not yet developed sufficient data to establish standards for microwave and other nonionizing frequencies.

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for eliminating or reducing potentially harmful health effects by limiting exposures from radiation sources. This report discusses Agency activities to (1) evaluate the need for protection standards and (2) establish such standards where necessary.



209 *Thanks*

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