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Electric and Magnetic Fields at Three Pulp and Paper Mills

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Extremely low frequency (60 Hz) electric and magnetic field levels were measured at three Canadian pulp and paper mills, using area point-in-time measurements. Most electric field levels were below the limit of detection of 1 V/m (92 of 132 measurements); the highest measured field was 47 V/m. Measured magnetic field strengths ranged from less than the limit of detection (0.125 mG, 2 of 132 measurements) to 706mG, with a median of 1.6 mG. Magnetic field levels were higher in mills that consume more electric power, but worker exposures could not be predicted according to plant power consumption. Overall, electric and magnetic field levels in the three pulp and paper mills were similar to those experienced by the general population. However, maximum magnetic field intensities in some areas were as high as those experienced by electrical workers.

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