Re: Request for Information (RFI) on Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs), Radiofrequency (RF) Radiation, and Wireless Radiation Exposure, https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2026-19252/request-for-information-electromagnetic-fields-radiofrequency-radiation-and-wireless-radiation [Docket no. HHS-OASH-2026-0397]

To: Victoria Marshall, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

From: Mitchell Berger, (comments made in personal capacity), mazruia@hotmail.com. 9.19.26

Dear Ms. Marshall: In reviewing the above-referenced Request for Information (RFI), I believe the issues raised are complicated and cross agency and Departmental regulatory boundaries. Addressing these topics will require coordination and collaboration not only within the federal government but also with state, local, Tribal, territorial, international, and private-sector stakeholders.[1] One approach to addressing these issues would be to work with Congress to establish and fund the staff and activities of a federal advisory committee and interagency working group focused on the topics raised in the RFI, including health and safety impacts, data sources, risk assessment, research priorities, and regulatory approaches. My comments primarily respond to Question 17 of the RFI, which asks how federal agencies can "improve coordination of EMF and RF radiation research." Please note that the views expressed below are my own as a public health professional and do not represent those of any agency, organization, or other individual(s).

While numerous federal advisory committees exist, as well as many interagency working groups that are not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA),[2] it is not clear that any existing committee has primary responsibility for the health, safety, and special population impacts of non-ionizing radiation sources such as EMF and RF radiation.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS), for example, expressly focuses on radiation protection standards involving ionizing radiation.[3] Similarly, other committees such as EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) could examine EMF/RF issues as part of their broader work but their mandates typically encompass multiple environmental and public health issues rather than EMF/RF specifically.[4]

The need for interagency coordination is also reflected in the RFI itself, which directly identifies three HHS operating divisions (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)) and is coordinated by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH). An interagency working group including these and other relevant agencies could help ensure coordination and collaboration within the

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[1] International scientists call on Congress to hold FCC accountable in light of new scientific analysis on cell tower and wireless radiation health risks, https://www.ntxe-news.com/artman/publish/article_145708.shtml; Electromagnetic Radiation Safety, https://www.saferemr.com/;Scarato T (2025) U.S. policy on wireless technologies and public health protection: regulatory gaps and proposed reforms. Front. Public Health 13:1677583. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2025.1677583

[2] https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/faca-overview

[3] https://www.epa.gov/iscors

[4] https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-health-protection-advisory-committee-chpac

federal government and, more broadly, regarding important health, safety, and environmental impacts of EMF/RF, as well as research and regulatory strategies.

In addition to HHS agencies and offices, I recommend consideration of an interagency committee with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Department of Energy (DOE), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as core members. A larger federal interagency working group could include additional agencies and departments as appropriate and could be authorized to establish subcommittees or working groups that include non-federal agencies, state, local, tribal and territorial governments, international partners, academic institutions, industry, labor, and members of the public. Such a structure could also support the work of a public-facing federal advisory committee.

Although HHS and other departments may have authority under existing law to establish an advisory committee, coordinating with Congress to enact statutory authorization and provide dedicated staffing and funding for both the advisory committee and the interagency working group would help ensure that these entities have the resources needed to fulfill their purposes.

Such an effort would also be consistent with prior federal efforts involving interagency coordination of EMF research and public information.[5] For instance, according to a Congressional Report, the Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Research and Public Information Dissemination (RAPID) program included an Electric and Magnetic Fields Interagency Committee (EMFIAC) led by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH) and Dept. of Energy and composed of representatives from nine federal agencies: the Department of Energy; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Department of Defense; the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the Department of Transportation; the Rural Utilities Service; and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. As explained in the report, "[t]his coordination effort was established by the EPAct [Energy Policy Act of 1992] out of recognition that Federal agencies had been distributing conflicting information. Since its inception, the interagency coordination effort seems to have been effective."

Additionally, "[t]he EPAct also established a National Electric and Magnetic Fields Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Interagency Committee." This advisory committee, led by HHS, included, "10 members, chosen from among experts in possible human health effects of electric and magnetic fields, experts in the measurement and characterization of electric and magnetic fields, experts in the assessment and management of electric and magnetic fields, State regulatory agencies, State health agencies, electric utilities, electric equipment manufacturers, labor unions and the public." [6] This program concluded in 1999[7] with publication

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[5] H. Rept. 105-60 - ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS RESEARCH AND PUBLIC INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, 1997-1998, https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/105th-congress/house-report/60. See also, National Research Council. 1999. Research on Power-Frequency Fields Completed Under the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/9587; 42 U.S.C. §13478. Electric and magnetic fields research and public information dissemination program

[6] 42 U.S.C. §13478. Electric and magnetic fields research and public information dissemination program

[7] https://emf.epri.com/emf-health/health-research/

of a report to Congress and a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (National Research Council) report. With the conclusion of that program, the associated interagency coordination and advisory structures also ended at that time.[8]

A renewed federal coordination effort, established by Congress under the Public Health Service Act, could build upon the experience of the EMF RAPID Program while recognizing that the current technological and regulatory environment is substantially broader. A federally chartered advisory committee, supported by an interagency working group, could provide an ongoing forum for independent scientific and public health input; identify research and data gaps; facilitate coordination among relevant agencies; consider approaches to exposure measurement and health surveillance; and obtain continuing input from state, Tribal, territorial, local, international, academic, industry, labor, and public stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Berger

Mitchell Berger

Digitally signed by Mitchell Berger
DN: cn=Mitchell Berger, c=US, email=mazruia@hotmail.com
Date: 2026.09.19 09:53:57 -04'00'

Note: I am submitting these suggestions in my personal/private capacity. The views expressed are mine only and should not be imputed to other individuals nor to any public or private entity.

[8]https://www.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/health/assets/docs_p_z/report_powerline_electric_mg_predates_508.pdf