

LADWP Position Statement: Electric and Magnetic Fields

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), a municipal electric utility, shares the public's concern about possible adverse health effects from exposure to lower-frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and, in particular, magnetic fields.

Magnetic fields are present where there is electric current- around appliances and powerlines, and in workplaces, schools and homes. Electricity provides us with many comforts, and we depend on and use it every day for our safety, livelihood and enjoyment.

Given the uncertainty of the issue, the medical and scientific communities have been unable to determine that magnetic fields cause health effects or to establish any standard or level of exposure that is known to be either safe or harmful. There is agreement, however, that this is an important issue that should be resolved.

The LADWP is committed to doing all we can to promote a better understanding of the magnetic field issue by sharing balanced information with our customers, fellow employees, and other stakeholders and addressing their concerns. The LADWP also supports and follows magnetic field research so that we can continue to act responsibly.

LADWP Position on Options

While the scientific information to date does not justify expenditures to modify existing facilities, the LADWP applies no-cost and reasonable low-cost steps to minimize the magnetic field exposure from new or upgraded facilities in accordance with the California Public Utilities Commission Decision 93-11-013. These no-cost and low-cost criteria consider the public concern about magnetic fields, the existing scientific information, and prudent utility practices.

To help our customers, employees, and other stakeholders in their understanding of magnetic fields, the LADWP will continue to provide the up-to-date information and to discuss available field management options. Which options, if any, an individual chooses to implement is a personal decision.

LADWP Activities

The LADWP is involved in the following activities to enhance technical knowledge and public understanding of magnetic fields:

Customer Awareness

- Responding to customers' concerns and questions.
- Conducting magnetic field measurements at customers' homes.
- Providing third-party literature to customers.
- Discussing with customers the various sources of magnetic fields in their environment.

Employee Awareness

- Responding to employees' concerns and questions.
- Providing third-party literature to employees.
- Providing presentations on magnetic fields.
- Conducting magnetic field measurements in the LADWP employee work environments.