

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reply to comments of Robert F. Smith

(Accepted 27 April 1982)

Dear Sirs:

DR. SMITH'S computation is interesting but we wonder about its practical significance because it simply establishes that very few residences were found with magnetic field strength readings in the upper ranges. In any group of measurements, most will tend to cluster about the mean, and very few will be found at the extreme of the range. In fact, an even stronger negative correlation exists between the median field levels at the control addresses and the number of such addresses ($r = -0.81$, $P < 0.05$).

The power-consumption analysis suggested by Dr. Smith requires the cooperation of the Midlands Electricity Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board (the English power companies).

Unfortunately, based on our experience, this requirement makes the study impossible.

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