Reviewer's report

Title: Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance attributed to Electromagnetic Fields (IEI-EMF): A systematic review of identifying criteria.

Version: 2 Date: 5 April 2012

Reviewer: Stacy Eltiti

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
The data presented in figure 3 is unclear and inaccurate. The figure caption says the figure contain data on the prevalence in percent of IEI-EMF. For our study (Eltiti et al., 2002) the figure says the prevalence rate is about 19%; whereas, we reported a prevalence of 4%. The information in this figure should be double-checked and perhaps presented in a table for ease of understanding.

Discretionary Revisions:
I believe the manuscript would benefit from a more detailed description regarding the similarity in both the symptoms experienced as well as the pattern of symptoms between IEI-EMF individuals and control individuals and how this is problematic in creating a diagnostic criterion. For example, previous attempts by Hillert and colleagues (2002) and Eltiti and colleagues (2007) have failed to identify an unique symptom pattern, which is evident in most physiological and psychological illnesses. Often a disorder has a cluster of symptoms that are associated with a given disorder and are thus used as criteria. Given the combination of diversity of symptoms, the ordinariness of the symptoms, and unknown etiology, the only thing that really distinguishes IEI-EMF from control individuals is the causal attribution of their symptoms to EMFs.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.