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Title of Paper: Electrical Sensitivity: A 2012 Update

Abstract:

Since beginning my research of near-death states in 1978, I have consistently noticed that a large majority of experiencers (both as part of my study and in general conversation with them) reported becoming more sensitive to electrical and magnetic fields - disturbances, equipment, devices, wrist watches - after their episode. This was true of both children and adults, although adult experiencers had the greater number of puzzling and sometimes serious encounters. I mentioned this in many of my articles over the years, but in 1994, with the publication of my book *Beyond the Light*, I summarized my findings about this phenomenon in the Appendix entitled Research Methodology. Reports flooded in afterward and have continued to this day. I have not updated the rest of my work on this subject, deferring instead to other researchers, specifically a team from the office of Bruce Greyson, M.D. and associates working with Kenneth Ring, Ph.D. Dr. Ring complained that my findings on electrical sensitivity were scattered in far too many places: several of my books, articles, monthly newsletters from my website, talks I have given, and so forth. With this paper I intend to remedy that situation, and include at Dr. Ring's request an extra section that includes some of my own struggles with electrical sensitivity, as I too am a near-death experiencer.

Key Words: electrical sensitivity, meteopathy, electromagnetic fields, biofield/ plasma discharges, electrohypersensitivity.

Paper:

Few paid much attention to my claims in the early 1980s that electrical sensitivity was a common physiological aftereffect of near-death states. Some researchers did note how light bulbs would flicker on and off when an experiencer was near or suddenly pop (e.g., street lights when an experiencer drove by); or how sparkly balls, shimmering particles, or tubes of energy could be seen in photographs of them; or how equipment would malfunction in their presence - things like microphones, car batteries, recorders, computers, television sets, anything electrical. The most commonly reported: wrist watch batteries that suddenly drained out, or experiencers who were drained by them. Yet such observations seldom resulted in broad, extensive studies.

What is Normal and Natural

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First, before we go any further, it is important that we take a look at what is the norm and acknowledge while doing so that the human body regularly acts as a passive antenna, boosting electrical impulses. Our brain, for instance, generates as much energy as a 10-watt light bulb, even when we're sleeping, and our body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring a half-gallon of water to a boil [1]. Some people can actually turn on a light bulb simply by holding it.

In 1985, Robert O. Becker, M.D. stunned the world with his book *The Body Electric: Electromagnetism and The Foundation of Life* [2]. Becker was a surgeon and researcher in electrophysiology and electromedicine, nominated twice for the Nobel Prize for his work on tissue regeneration. Regrettably, his book was heavily criticized by the scientific community of his time; yet his work went on to form the basis of what we currently know about the electrical makeup of the human body.

Some of Becker's discoveries:

- Skin is piezoelectric (turns pressure into electricity) and pyroelectric (turns heat into electricity). Nearly all tissues produce or transmit various kinds of electrical charge (pages 184-185).
- The cells surrounding nerve cells (perineural) are semi-conductive and polarized. These perineural cells surrounding every nerve cell like a sheath compose 90% of the brain. The perineural cell's electrical direct current flows. . . along motor nerves from the spine to the periphery, and along sensory nerves from the periphery back to the spine. There are also direct currents in the spinal column and in the brain due to the presence of these semi-conductive cells (pages 106, 183).
- This direct current system is influenced by external electromagnetic fields. The system is so sensitive as to be impacted by the annual cycle of the earth's magnetic field strength (page 107).
- The back to front direct current in the brain changes with state of consciousness (page 116).
- All brain wave frequencies are in the same range as the earth's low frequency (one to 25 Hertz) electromagnetic pulsations (page 115).

Becker was followed a decade later by another pioneering breakthrough, in the book *Magnetism and Its Effects on the Living System* by Florida scientists Albert Roy Davis and Walter C. Rawls [3]. With this the electrical and magnetic fields of the human body were explored more in-depth, revealing a variety of intensity and polarity between right and left sides of the body, along the spinal column, and the endocrine glands. Their work supported claims about a life force said to reside at the base of the spine (kundalini) and how it can activate glandular centers (chakras) as it rises up the spine once "awakened" during meditative and spiritual states.

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Tremendous work has been done in Russia, specifically by Semyon Kirlian. He developed a high-voltage method of photographing human subjects which produced luminous flares or "fountains" streaking out from the surface of the body. Called Kirlian photography, his method has produced serious research of human electromagnetic fields and how varied moods, actions, and conditions can affect them [4]. K. Korotkov, also of Russia, did Kirlian one better by devising a scientific instrument that can calculate the electro-photographic emission from fingers as a way to measure the "qi" or subtle life energy around the body. His biofield and plasma research is extensive. Most of his papers are now published online [5].

Humans, birds, fish, most insects and animals have built-in magnetic sensors that align with the earth's magnetic field. Known as "magnetoreception," these sensors are iron deposits located in certain cells of nose, beak, eyes, inner ear, and/or other individual cells [6].

Obviously, we humans are electrical and magnetic by nature; our field strengths subject to changes in internal and external environments.

Electrohypersensitivity

Our *external*, physical environment is now exploding in amperage spikes: from smart meters, mobile phones, Wi-fi broadband, circuit breaker boxes, power supplies to computers and appliances, treadmills and exercise equipment, cell phone towers, substations, commercial radio and TV transmissions, hair dryers/ blenders/other high amperage home appliances. The result is a rise in the numbers of people within the general population who have become "electrical sensitives," and are called that, to indicate those who are sensitive to and sometimes unable to handle the current barrage of incoherent electromagnetic pollution. The article "An Electromagnetic Storm," which appeared in a 1989 Newsweek Magazine, contained this cryptic statement: "Scientists are only beginning to fathom the body's exquisite sensitivity to electromagnetic energy" [7].

As of the year 2012, the situation has worsened beyond the ability of medicine and science to account for or treat in a meaningful way. Both Spain and Sweden now recognize extreme cases of electrical sensitivity, or "electrohypersensitivity," as a disability. There is a movement in California to alert the American Medical Association about this and get electrohypersensitivity accepted as a diagnosable condition in the United States [8]. Near-death researchers and near-death experiencers need to know this, as the term "electrical sensitivity" applies to a broader range of people today than it once did.

Still Another Kind of Electrical Sensitive

The distinct energetics of *internal* environments call for a terminology linked more with that of: *the inner self or ISH (inner self helper/observer self)* – that core organizing energy said to undergird and stabilize personality development; and/or Electrical Sensitivity, Page 4

the higher self, soul, or spirit – that spiritual part of us said to be forever linked to the presence of Deity. Tradition has it that as we become aware of higher realities (“the spiritual”), positive changes begin to occur in mood, health, intelligence, intuitive abilities, memory, creativity, and what is referred to in religious tenets as “the virtues” (more honest, loving, patient, joyful, compassionate, generous, service minded, peaceful).

People can be born gifted with intuitive and psychic abilities, spiritual and otherworldly awareness, unusual characteristics/sensitivities (including allergies), that can set them apart. And these differences can expand overtime or devolve, depending on personal choices, usages, and beliefs. Individuals can also be “flipped” or suddenly shifted into a life of unusual sensitivities and awarenesses beyond what is deemed “normal” by a shock, an accident, a blow to the head or spine, various types of abuse and addiction, the death of a loved one. What turns around one’s internal environment and sense of self decidedly towards the spiritual is a “transformation of consciousness.” There are many types of these deeply intense transformational states: *the more turbulent* – religious conversions, near-death experiences, baptisms of “The Holy Spirit,” shamanic rituals, kundalini breakthroughs, sudden awakenings, being hit by lightning; and *the more tranquil* – the steady application of spiritual disciplines, “mountain-top” experiences, the numinous, meditation and prayer, vision quests, mindfulness techniques, even just the desire to be a better person. All of these transformational states can occur in an instant or be spread out over a lifetime. Aftereffects alter a person psychologically and physiologically. The more intense, the greater the change. Electrical sensitivity is one of the typical components to the pattern of aftereffects.

While conversing with several dozen intuitives and professional psychics in an online “meetup” last month, I asked if any were sensitive to electrical fields. About half said yes, noting that as they became better at what they did, they also became more sensitive to the electronic/digital world. None were near-death experiencers. Katie said that the more intuitive she became, the more sensitive she was to electricity in any form. Ellen noted that magnets “screw up” people who are strongly clairvoyant (gifted with inner seeing). These people as a group avoid exposure to MRIs (magnetic resonance equipment), Pet Scans (positron emission tomography), and suffer headaches and poor sleep if they live near cell phone towers or major transmission lines. According to Laura: “Yes, electrical things do tend to act a bit flooy around me. I’m always the one with the ‘possessed pc’ or a TV set that turns on or off by itself with me around.” Joey, a professional dowser, found that “power spots” (outdoor places of strong energy) are drawn to those environments where people live in accordance with spiritual laws, an indication to him that a person’s consciousness is capable of redesigning nature to fit changes in vibration. I mention this recent online discussion because the responses I received were typical of what I have received since the mid-1960s.

A case from recent history involves the Swiss physicist and Nobel laureate Wolfgang Pauli. Experimental equipment was widely known to fail in his presence. Electrical Sensitivity, Atwater, Page 5

Dr. Pauli delighted in this phenomenon, which later became known as the "Pauli effect." All kinds of breakdowns occurred in technical equipment, experimental apparatus, and machines. Otto Stern is said to have forbidden Wolfgang Pauli to enter his institute, in order to prevent such malfunctions. As one friend of Dr. Pauli said about him shortly after one such incident: "He senses the mischief already before as a disagreeable tension, and when the anticipated misfortune then actually hits – another one! – he feels strangely liberated and lightened" [9].

Electrical Sensitivity with Near-Death Experiencers

"Electrical sensitivity" is also a term near-death researchers use to refer to those experiencers whose energy, and the energy field around them, seems to affect or somehow influence electrical and/or electronic equipment. Interference caused by an experiencer's energy can and sometimes does lead to malfunctions, breakage, and other unusual reactions that cannot be rationally explained.

Those in the general population who have electrical sensitivity as a trait specific to them often report having many allergies as well, along with a high incidence of psychic phenomena, "healing gifts," unstable or intense emotions, and unusual sensitivities to light and sound. Similarities between these people and those who overload from the amperage spikes in our newly digitized world AND what happens to many who undergo an intense, transformative event, need to be acknowledged. The near-death experience is hardly a stand-alone cause for an anomaly that is broadly present in today's society.

Regardless of this, however, there are differences peculiar to near-death states that makes research of electrical sensitivity with near-death experiencers significant. These are:

- A large, worldwide experiencer base (conservatively estimated at between 4 to 5% of the general population).
- Experiencer reports from non-industrialized countries as well as from the hi-tech, modernized Western nations.
- Range of ages when episode occurs: pre-birth states, during birth trauma, toddlers, kids of any age, teens, adults, senior citizens [10].
- Education, race, employment, sex, religion, ethnicity, state of health, age, lifestyle, environment – none of these are causative or even notable.
- A pattern of physiological aftereffects far more extensive than what is found with other types of people reporting electrical sensitivity.
- The consistency of onset – always after cessation of vital signs, or the threat or fear of dying, or a life event akin to dying (symbolic or literal).

On pages 268-271 of my 1994 book, *Beyond the Light* [11], I detailed the results of a questionnaire I had used to explore the phenomenon of electrical sensitivity in cases of near-death episodes. Of around 3,000 cases I had explored by then, I asked 100 if they would fill out the questionnaire. Forty-six agreed. The questionnaire itself was never meant to establish electrical sensitivity as one of the physiological aftereffects. I had already done that, with 73% of my research base reporting it. What I wanted to know was how it spread out: what types of electrical sensitivity might these people be experiencing and how pervasive it was. Anything I forgot to ask about, respondents let me know, and in no uncertain terms! These people were rarin' to go, almost as if they had been holding this kind of information back for a long time. They seemed quite excited that, at last, someone cared enough to ask.

My two-page questionnaire is reproduced on the next two pages. Notice the "vagueness of frequency" I headed each column with: (F) Frequently, (O) Often, (W) Once in a While, (S) Seldom, and (N) Never. I did this on purpose because I was looking for subjective values. In other words, I wanted to have some sense of how this phenomenon affected experiencers, what they felt about it, what meaning it had for them. For instance, one person had a computer monitor blow up only once and in her presence (hence she checked "S" for Seldom); yet to her this was such an impossible event that it made a tremendous impression on her, which she noted in the remarks. The fact that I even asked the question, made her think about it and reflect on any possible connection the explosion might have had to her energy field. The more she thought the more she remembered how this type of thing was actually happening rather frequently, only at different times with different equipment. She was one of many who reacted this way. Thus, on many of the questions, you could easily add up the first four columns (F, O, W, S) for a more revealing picture of what was really going on.

As an example, take question 40. The spread looks rather thin. But reread the question: Do people/beings disappear/appear when you are around? That's an incredible thing to have happen to anyone at any time, whether frequently or just once. If you do the percentage by adding up the first four columns, you get an unbelievable 54%. Reconsider question 25: Do you receive images on television channels that don't exist? Once again, if you add up the first four columns you get 33%. Certainly not a very high figure until you stop and think. How can anyone receive images on television channels that don't even exist?

I designed the questionnaire to make people think. By being somewhat vague about how often, yet probing on what might be entailed, I opened the door for my respondents to make connections they would not have made otherwise. The questionnaire was also designed to overwhelm people and elicit a "Whoa!" It pushes at the margins of what society deems "normal," so experiencers would have no other choice but to sit down and reflect deeply, analyze, and think things through.

NEAR-DEATH AFTEREFFECTS - ELECTRICAL SENSITIVITY

QUESTIONNAIRE

Fill out and return to the Central Desk at the Conference, or mail to P. M. H. Atwater, P. O. Box 7691, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7691. Thank you in advance for filling out this questionnaire!!!!!!

YOUR EXPERIENCE (Check Yes or No)

1. Did you have a near-death experience?
2. Did you have an experience like near-death?
3. Regardless of NDE or Like an NDE, did you see or experience a bright, all-pervading, radiant Light?
4. Were you in or near the Light?
5. Did you merge with or go into the Light?
6. Did your experience happen in a light-filled world?
7. Did light predominate in your experience?
8. Did you see, meet, or converse with beings of light?
9. Estimate what percentage of your experience involved light or was in light or was light-filled? (give %)

Yes	No
41 did	
21 did	
37	
35	
24	
27	
30	
30	

50% or above predominated%

PHYSICAL AFTEREFFECTS (Check proper column: F=Frequently, O=Fairly Often, W=Once in Awhile, S=Seldom, N=Never.

(Please mark out that which doesn't apply or add more)

1. Are you more sensitive to light now?
2. Does sunlight bother you?
3. Have you experienced sun-sensitivity (sun stroke, rapid skin burning, dizziness, different skin colorations, or other _____)?
4. Do you wear sunglasses more often now?
5. Does camera and/or video filming light bother you?
6. Do you see lights that have no physical cause?
7. Are you more sensitive to sound/noise levels now?
8. Does certain sounds or noise bother you?
9. Do you avoid places or programs where sound is too loud?
10. Does radio or television bother your ears/hearing?
11. Do other parts of your body hear besides your ears?
12. Do you hear sounds that have no physical cause?
13. Are you able to sense electrical or magnetic fields?
14. Are you able to feel electrical or magnetic fields?
15. Do electrical fields bother you?
16. Do magnetic fields bother you?
17. Are you sensitive to energy fields around hi-tech equipment such as computers, video, television, microwave ovens, or other _____?
18. Are you sensitive to energy fields around regular household appliances such as coffee-maker, stove, frig, mixer, can opener, or other _____?
19. Are you sensitive to energy fields around power lines?
20. Are you sensitive to energy fields around telephone lines?
21. Are you sensitive to energy fields around generators, engines, air conditioners, furnace units, or other _____?
22. Are you sensitive to elevators or escalators in any way?

	F	O	W	S	N
	23	4	7	1	8
	20	8	6	4	7
	13	7	2	13	6
	29	4	0	3	7
	15	6	10	5	10
	9	5	6	5	12
	21	8	2	2	7
	22	8	4	7	3
	25	11	8	1	1
	10	15	13	5	3
	13	7	8	1	15
	6	10	10	6	10
	13	5	8	7	10
	10	8	7	7	12
	8	8	7	6	17
	7	8	8	4	15
	9	4	10	3	14
	5	4	10	6	18
	7	6	11	2	18
	5	4	8	4	21
	5	2	7	5	19
	5	1	5	7	21

Explain:

- | | F | O | W | S | N |
|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| 23. Are you sensitive to modes of travel such as to cars, trucks, buses, trains, airplanes, motorbikes, recreational vehicles, or other _____? Does exhaust bother you more than usual? | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 8 |
| 24. Have you noticed television reception acting strangely in your presence such as channels switching by themselves, raster bars rolling rapidly, lots of "snow," or other _____? | 8 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 14 |
| 25. Do you receive images on channels that don't exist? | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 30 |
| 26. Does strange programming override the channel you are on? | 2 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 28 |
| 27. Have you noticed video equipment acting strangely in your presence such as won't record, fuzzy pictures, raster bars showing, recording wrong channel, or other _____? | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 27 |
| 28. Have you noticed audio recording equipment acting strangely in your presence such as cutting off, blowing fuses, smoking, tape blank after recording, or other _____? | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 25 |
| 29. Do you get strange voices when recording, extra voices? | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 30 |
| 30. Have you noticed computer equipment acting strangely in your presence such as losing imagery, unusual images, connections jumping, memory loss, smoking, blowing fuses, computer screen (monitor) blowing up, or other _____? | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 25 |
| 31. Have you noticed any other equipment acting strangely in your presence, such as projectors, telephones, cash registers, gaming devices, cameras, or other _____? | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 21 |
| 32. Have you noticed light bulbs or yard lights or street lights acting strangely in your presence such as popping, blowing out, diming, becoming brighter, or other _____? | 8 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 21 |
| 33. Have you noticed security systems, electronic locks, or security beams acting strangely in your presence such as becoming ineffective, breaking down, fuse blown, alarms set off quicker, or other _____? | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 28 |
| 34. Have you noticed a force field around your own body, like an additional or enhanced energy shield? | 11 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 17 |
| 35. Have other people commented on a bright glow around you, like an aura or energy field? | 11 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| 36. Have you noticed glass or metal objects behaving strangely in your presence such as glass breaking or popping, stoves turning off or on, metal bending or twisting, hanging lights beginning to move or spin, other _____? | 3 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 27 |
| 37. Have you noticed animals behaving differently around you such as becoming suddenly docile, threatened, attracted, trying to communicate, or other _____? | 13 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 38. Have you noticed children behaving differently around you such as becoming at ease, wanting to snuggle, attracted, threatened, frightened, or other _____? | 15 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 39. Do objects disappear/appear when you are around? | 8 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 18 |
| 40. Do people/beings disappear/appear when you are around? | 8 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 23 |
| 41. Do you have more energy than before? | 10 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| 42. Do you have great sweeps of energy? | 10 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
| 43. Do you have less energy than before? | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 12 |
| 44. Are you easily drained of energy? | 13 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 45. Do you wear a wristwatch? | 21 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 11 |
| 46. Do you use a cellular phone or car phone? | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 34 |
| 47. List any other changes or happenings, or use this space to explain previous answers or make comments: (give your name and address if you would like.) | | | | | |

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At the time I used this questionnaire, the general consensus in the field was that the more exposure an experiencer had to "the light" during his or her episode, the more likely the aftereffect of electrical sensitivity would follow. Of those who filled out this questionnaire, 50% or more claimed that their experience was light-filled. *Yet those whose experience consisted of elements other than light, dealt with the same strength and type of electrical sensitivity afterwards as did the others.* Light, then, and length of exposure to that special light, proved to be insignificant in predictions of electrical sensitivity as an aftereffect. What did make a difference? Intensity. Although the questionnaire only suggested that, intensity proved to be more reliable overall in predicting aftereffects (specifically physiological ones), than the complexity of the experience, length of light exposure, or the types and amounts of elements present. This observation has remained consistent throughout the 33 years I have investigated near-death states.

Remarks made by experiencers after filling out the questionnaire established something else: *that thanks to electrical sensitivity, most of the experiencers were now able to operate electronic equipment better and easier than before!* Common were reports of being able to "merge with electronic helpers". . . as if once they became accustomed to this ability, things electrical became an extension of their own faculties and their own mind. Many were able to coach a type of performance from their "electronic helpers" deemed impossible by manufacturer representatives.

A sampling of other remarks:

- ✓ My experience took place when I was still an infant, so all of the things I checked have been with me since I can first remember. I have never felt like I was truly part of this world.
 - ✓ Watches do not keep time for me. But mechanical things seem to work, even for no reason.
 - ✓ Security systems, ultra sonics bother me, also high voltage power lines.
 - ✓ Remember the psychedelic art of the sixties? That kind of art can cause me one beaut of a migraine now.
 - ✓ If I get too close to FM radio frequencies I raise cain with reception.
 - ✓ I feel sounds and hear tastes and smells. I don't have energy to be with people expressing intense feelings, as I often feel their feelings, too. Live more in the present moment.
 - ✓ Start dead car batteries with my energy. But, as the years go by, my energy field has diminished. I lost a lot in order to live in this world.
 - ✓ I called the company hotline about a computer communication software
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problem I was having. I was hot mad. The long-distance trunk knocked out and the dial tone was lost. It took days to fix it. The company couldn't figure out what happened.

- ✓ I touch electrical appliances to make them work. They start up with my energy.
- ✓ Sensitive to medications, caffeine, and Nutri-Sweet. Susceptible to being taken advantage of by harmful people.
- ✓ Metallic objects sometimes fall off tables or pop off shelves in my presence.
- ✓ I am extremely sensitive to odors of any kind and to fabric types.

Experiencers told me over and over again how just talking about their experience seemed to energize them, as if doing it "recharged their batteries." According to Tim: "During my experience I was aware of what I thought was every molecule of my body. I was electrified. Now when I close my eyes and want to go back for just a second, I get 'recharged,' and I immediately feel electricity radiating over my body. Sometimes it starts in one place and other times in another, but it radiates, and I get goose pimples. I have often wished there was a way to 'see' what is happening physiologically when I do this. If I 'go back' for any extended period of time, it's overwhelming. I get emotional. I tear up. But I am refreshed, renewed in a sense – can't explain it any other way."

Meteopathy

I've had a number of unusual "run-ins" with weather that have caused me to look around and see if other near-death experiencers encountered anything similar. While doing this, I discovered a condition called "meteopathy:" a sensitivity to solar flares, barometric pressure changes, atmospheric electromagnetic impacts – in essence earthquakes, tornados, electrical storms, electromagnetic anomalies. There is a paper in Russian by Z. P. Zunnunov [12] that defines meteopathy as "weather sense," the ability to sense the approach of bad weather because of how one feels (sudden headache, limb pains, nausea, change of mood, lethargy, uneasiness, irritability, depression). When weather improves, health improves.

The "meteopathic reactions" those with weather sense report are somewhat similar to those given by near-death experiencers who now deal with electrical sensitivity. We run into the same situation here as researchers, as we do with people who are plagued with electrohypersensitivity. Thus, it is helpful to realize that near-death experiencers are really in a class by themselves, even though some of their aftereffects mimic or are similar to what is classed as "disabilities" or "anomalous behaviors" in the general population.

It is appropriate to mention "plasma discharges." Sometimes referred to as Electrical Sensitivity, Atwater, 11

the fourth state of matter, plasma consists of electrically charged particles. Significant plasma phenomena are conditions/events like lightning, auroras, northern and southern lights, upper atmospheric sprites, solar outbursts. Yet plasma discharges can and do occur on a much smaller scale, specifically around and in the vicinity of underground fissures, crystal deposits or "electrified" crystal (crystals that have absorbed electricity), in graveyards (more notably with recent graves), in crowds of highly energized people, along active "ley lines" (energy lines in nature that can be dowsed and measured by a competent dowser). This more common type of plasma discharge most often appears as orbs, streaks, or tubes of light - like those around crop circles, during ghost investigations, near or superimposed over psychics and mediums, and in photographs. Those who have undergone a transformation of consciousness (no matter how) are famous for attracting plasma events of one kind or another. Most of these are quite visible and often witnessed by others. I suspect changes that occur in the biofield of experiencers attracts or easily associates with electrically charged particles such as plasma events.

Having said this about weather and plasma events, I want to update my investigation of near-death aftereffects to encompass multiples of occurrence.

Updated Research on Electrical Sensitivity from NDEs

I can now say that at least 75% of those who have experienced near-death and near-death-like experiences exhibit electrical sensitivity as an aftereffect. Further research by others may show the figure to be even higher, especially with child experiencers who today are far more involved with electronic devices than they were when I conducted my original survey. This trait is now so pervasive that experiencers make a point of claiming it - almost as if by doing so "proves" their's was a genuine case. Example: read the book, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, by New York Times journalist, Jim Robbins [13].

The book is about David Milarch, a northern Michigan nurseryman with a penchant for hard living, who appeared to have died, experienced a near-death scenario, and then revived with the sudden knowledge of his destiny - to save the DNA of the world's largest, healthiest trees. Unlike other books that personalize an experiencer's story, this book is focused entirely on "mission" and what it can take to fulfill that mission. Only enough is said about Milarch's near-death experience to establish that he had one. In several passages, Milarch mentions his electrical sensitivity as if it were proof of his genuineness. Then, on page 192, there is this revealing passage as told by Robbins after he interviewed Marybeth, Milarch's business partner in their mutual project to save champion tree DNA:

"Marybeth told me that in order to get things done she she has to keep Milarch away from the office equipment because of the apparent changes in his electrical nature caused by his NDE. 'Good God, he locks everything up,' she said. 'I've had Electrical Sensitivity, Atwater, 12

every piece of equipment - computers, scanners, fax machine

- seize up when he's around. Not always – it's worse when he's upset. I have to tell him to calm down.”

On August 26, 2011 I sent out a Special Bulletin from my website to alert people about electrical phenomena that accompanied weather extremes. The bulletin was aimed at near-death experiencers and those like them [14] who had electrical sensitivity - and was sent to 1,000 people. The reason for the Special Bulletin was the rare earthquake that had occurred near Mineral, Virginia, 40 plus miles from my home. I had previously investigated changes in experiencer biofields and the affect that had on the environments they lived in, visited, or were part of; and, conversely, how those items, situations, and environments now affected the experiencer. And I had long noted peculiar alterations with weather extremes. But it took the “extremes” I encountered from that rare, nearby earthquake to inspire me to reanalyze some of my notes, personal experiences, and what I had consistently heard from near-death experiencers across the world (either through e-mails, letters, phone calls, or personal visits).

The replies to that Special Bulletin overwhelmed me. Three hundred actual replies were received, with hundreds more via clips, tweets, and causal comments made during my many travels – each one expressing the same or similar reactions. What initially caught me by surprise, though, were the numbers of experiencers who never made the connection between their electrical sensitivity and the slow degeneration of their spine, joints, and nervous system living close to an electrical substation. These people had spent thousands of dollars on medical tests going from doctor to doctor to find out what was wrong, when, in fact, all they needed to do was move to a different location. One did on the basis of information in that Special Bulletin, and, what had seemed like some mysterious “curse” of ill-health disappeared totally within a month. I harken back to that quote carried in *Newsweek Magazine* by scientist Paul Brodeur - that people like him were only beginning to fathom the human body's exquisite sensitivity to electromagnetic energy. With near-death experiencers and those like them, knowledge about can be crucial.

To quote from that Special Bulletin: “The electrical phenomena that accompanies earthquakes is powerful. Displays tend to be wild and will fill your home, go through you, and ‘dance’ around outdoor areas. Those in a closed space are felt the strongest. You can often hear or feel a ‘buzz,’ maybe many buzzes, like bees flying around. Air brightens, whatever you see becomes brighter, lighter. Instantly, your head tends to turn numb. You lose body coordination. You find it hard to think and may start crying or feel dizzy or feel like falling down. When the quake's movement is through, it's not through with you. Effects continue. With those who are sensitive, these effects may last hours, very probably for days. My assessment of this: the electrical phenomena connected to an earthquake strips you of your electrical field.

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Along with solutions and remedies for reestablishing one's biofield, I also spoke of tornadoes and strong lightning storms. “Electrical phenomena with

tornadoes can center around the lightning strikes that spread out from the spinning vortex. But, what few ever mention are the electrical streaks (sometimes a light blue) that can cover a distance of 10 to 40 miles away from the main cone. Sensitive people can feel these streakers and can be affected by the electrical buzz that crowds air space (strong lightning storms can produce similar effects). If you are within that 10 to 40 mile radius, you can feel some of the same effects as with earthquakes. However, if a number of tornadoes touch down within a short radius (as if together), you could feel a temporary paralysis – especially around the neck, larynx, shoulders, and major joints.”

Not only was I overwhelmed by the replies I received, but I was challenged to enlarge what I had considered to be the range of electrical sensitivity and how it can occur. We in near-death studies tend to focus on wrist watches, computers, appliances, hair dryers, and such – ignoring entirely how near-death experiencers tend to pivot. . . alter their place in and experience of the world around them (some more than others). This can give them both a distinct advantage (better health and performance from equipment) and disadvantage (increasing repair costs, drainage of biofield). I believe education is the answer. The more experiencers know about the physiological aftereffects, the easier it is for them to benefit from any differences they may now have. Weather changes are just as challenging as electronic devices that seemed “possessed.”

Some of My Own Struggles with Electrical Sensitivity

Here are a few encounters of my own.

With security systems. In an effort to procure an employment application for my husband with G. E. Fanuc (maker of robotic equipment for large installations), I drove up to the plant but could not locate a front door to the rolling, campus-like spread of buildings. As I searched for a front door, I saw people exiting to the far left. If people can come out, I reasoned, people can also go in, so I calmly walked through what turned out to be some very peculiar doors. There were two banks with a large space in-between that was filled with numerous light bars or beams. I hesitated at first, then convinced myself that all those rows of light I had to walk through would not harm me. Success. Once inside, I noticed a number of offices, all with detailed schematics plainly visible from computer monitors, and large posters on the walls that read “Wear your badge at all times.” This alarmed me so I started yelling, hoping to explain why I was there and get directions to their employment office. A woman engineer came forward, but before I could say anything, she started shouting: What are you doing here? How did you get in here? Where’s your badge? Why aren’t alarms going off? What’s wrong with our security system? Who are you? I finally calmed her down by saying I was just there to get an employment application for my husband, and if she would kindly direct me to their employment office, I would get what I came for and leave.

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Utter shock was plainly visible on her face. She informed me that there was absolutely no way I could be standing there talking to her without wearing a badge. “Our security system is the finest in the world,” she exclaimed. I had to

demonstrate for her how I had entered before she decided I was just an innocent visitor. She then led me on a journey throughout the plant and upstairs, only to discover that employment applications were at their satellite office downtown, and not at the plant. At no time did I ever set off alarms. I was shown the front doors, which were located on the opposite side of the building (which is why I couldn't find them); the engineer escorted me out. Suddenly, in a triumph of laughter, the woman shouted: "I know why you didn't set off any alarms. You're a mother and mothers can do anything!" With that, she marched back in leaving me puzzled and surprised.

With recording equipment in a studio. In the late eighties, I recorded two audio cassette tapes (that was before the days when CDs were in common use). One was about my research and the other was an early version of "As You Die," an audio presentation designed to talk a dying individual through physical death as it actually occurred and the separation of the soul [15]. The studio was located in a mix of homes and businesses. I was really pumped that day. No ego with this project, I kept saying to myself, only by God's Grace and in accordance with God's Holy Will. To accomplish this, I did what I called "letting God out:" in deep prayer feeling my energy rise to such a level that it felt as if I would explode with joy. When I felt this sensation, I signaled the studio engineer that I was ready. No sooner had I started than there was a loud, audible pop, electricity surged, fuses blew. The engineer was beside himself. Screaming "What happened," he ran out of the studio and into the street to see if anyone else was affected. They were; everyone within a three-block area, including a printer who had just bought all new equipment and was using it for the first time. The printer loudly announced that his equipment cost thousands but he hadn't had time to insure it. Exactly five minutes before the electricity popped, he had heard a voice in his right ear say: "Unplug all your equipment." He did. Then the pop. He was certain that God had spoken to him. Others were not as lucky. Losses were high – things like burned out coffee makers, ruined computers, etc. The incident garnered a small article in the newspaper, as the electrical company was able to trace the power surge to the building where I was and the moment the recording started. No accusations were made, but I was overcome with guilt. Later, I discussed the incident with Bruce Greyson, M.D. and said I was going to the electrical company and admit what I had done. His sage reply: "Are you prepared to pay for everyone's losses?" I was struck with even more guilt than before. I couldn't do that because I didn't have enough money. Bruce then said, "No one will believe you anyway." Forget it, he suggested.

With public events. During the 2001 IANDS Conference held in Seattle, I was the first speaker on the docket before Melvin Morse, M.D. Soon after I began, the overhead lights started to undulate off and on in waves and patterns that increased in intensity. Everyone in the room saw it; some recognized what was Electrical Sensitivity, Atwater, 15

happening. I was so embarrassed. I stopped talking and prayed with all my heart that they stop. Finally they did. No one else experienced anything like that, nor did the lights "misbehave" again. During the 2003 IANDS Conference in Hawaii, I was seated about seven to eight feet from the recording equipment used for Bruce

Greyson's keynote address. Afterward, the tape was blank. Bruce's entire presentation was forever lost. I was "asked" by IANDS after that to never again sit close to recording equipment at their conferences. During a presentation I was giving about the aftereffects of near-death states to the Psychology Class at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, I mentioned electrical sensitivity, the lights popped from a sudden power surge. This only affected the building where I was. This type of thing has happened so often at talks I have given, that I have learned to calm my energy down before I speak. Sometimes that works, and sometimes it doesn't.

Within the Space of a Tornado Swarm. A few years ago I was asked to be one of the keynoters at a conference held in northern North Carolina. About 1,500 attended, which was a miracle considering that a major weather event was in progress about 40 miles from the convention center and growing more serious with every passing minute: a swarm of tornadoes were touching down. Many were killed. The National Guard was called out. Somehow we remained safe where we were; there were many prayers. That afternoon, about ten minutes into the talk I was giving, my ability to form words, even just to breathe, nearly cut off. I was in crisis, unable to talk except slowly and with many breaks. When the stranglehold on my throat and larynx eased, I apologized profusely for my strange performance. People in the audience came up to me afterward, thinking the long pauses were "for effect" – the technique of a clever speaker. From a later news bulletin I learned what had really happened. When I began my talk, a huge tornado had set down an hour away. That tornado almost choked me to death. When I asked around, many others had been adversely affected too, including Dannion Brinkley, a fellow keynoter.

With Recording Drop Outs. I sent my webmaster Steff a recording of a talk I had given to a large group of hypnotherapists. She found many drop outs (blank spaces) that occurred while I was speaking. This seemed odd to her, so she ran a number of tests. "You're going to think I'm daft," said Steff, "but the most marked drop outs on both the video and audio tape were when you seem to become most emotionally vested. Clinical or conversational discussion had virtually no drop outs in them at all." Steff still has on file the sound graphs she made that show the drop outs and when they occurred during my talk [16].

In Conclusion

As long as I can keep from getting too excited, I am able to deliver talks and make appearances without the embarrassment I felt in the past. I have also learned how to use computers, printers, microphones, and land phones without too much trouble, although I avoid cell phones and the new I-Pads and digital readers. Electrical Sensitivity, Atwater, 16

They are painful to me if I hold them too long. I cannot participate in Facebook or Twitter directly, as the energy pouring forth from the portal to both directly affects my heart and lungs (nor can I be around a WiFi router). My webmaster Steff runs my Facebook/Twitter accounts for me, and reports back if any post needs a reply. Her "go-between" function has enabled me to stay fairly relevant in our fast

changing, digital world. When George Rodonaia was still alive, we learned the hard way never to speak directly to each other via a telephone. The times we had trunk lines dropped and dial tone disappeared for all users in that circuit, sometimes for days, until the problem could be fixed. It was funny at first, until we came to realize the cost to others, then we reverted back to written letters and big hugs whenever we could personally visit.

Electrical sensitivity is quite livable, and a decided advantage in the performance of various types of equipment (my computer, for instance, works in ways beyond its design). To research electrical sensitivity well, I believe it is necessary to: 1) greatly enlarge the venue of interest, and 2) to further educate oneself on human biofields, plasma discharges, and the electrical nature of the human body, our environment, and very possibly that of the human soul. As a reminder, electrical sensitivity is only part of the larger pattern of physiological aftereffects. To tackle the full pattern is the greater challenge.

About the Author. P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D. is one of the original researchers in the field of near-death studies, having begun her work in 1978. She has written 10 books that cover her work; the last, a summary piece, is *Near-Death Experiences: The Rest of The Story*. Her e-mail is atwater@cinemind.com.

Footnotes.

1. Refer to "100 Interesting Facts about the Human Body," located at www.lifsmith.com/Berkeley%20Teaching/humanbody.html.
2. *The Body Electric: Electromagnetism and the Foundation of Life*, Robert O. Becker, M.D., and Gary Selden. New York, NY; William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1985.
3. *Magnetism and Its Effects on the Living System*, Albert Roy Davis, Walter C. Rawls, and Walter C. Rawls, Jr. Austin, TX; Acres, U.S.A., 1996.
4. Refer to Wikipedia on Semyon Davidovich Kirlian: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semyon_Davidovich_Kirlian.
5. A reference to the scientific papers of K. Korotkov, access www.gdv-sale.com/podg/category/articles/articles-prof-kkorotkov.
6. *Discover Magazine*, July 7, 2012 – a blog written by Ed Yong, an award-winning British science writer. His article "New technique identifies magnetic cells in animals by watching them spin" was published in the July 9, 2012 issue of "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" – doi: 10.1073/pnas.1205653109 PNAS July 24, 2012, vol. 109, no. 30, 12022-12027. Refer to <http://www.pnas.org/content/109/30/12922>.

7. *Newsweek Magazine*, 7-10-89, page 77, "An Electromagnetic Storm" by Geoffrey Cowley.
 8. Cynthia Sue Larson, a near-death experiencer, is now actively engaged in getting the American Medical Association to recognize "electrohypersensitivity" as a disability. The two of us have exchanged correspondence on this numerous times (the latest via e-mail 10-2-12). We have also noted how the term "electrical sensitivity" is more broadly applied in the population today than before.
 9. *No Time to be Brief: A Scientific Biography of Wolfgang Pauli*, Charles P. Enz. New York, NY; Oxford University Press, 2002.
 10. For a more in-depth treatment of the youngest near-death experiencers, read *The New Children and Near-Death Experiences*, P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D. Rochester, VT; Bear & Co., 2003.
 11. *Beyond the Light: What Isn't Being Said About the Near-Death Experience*, P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D. New York, NY; Birch Lane Press, 1994. Available today through Transpersonal Publishing, Kill Devil Hills, NC.
 12. Paper, "Basic etiological factors, pathogenetic mechanisms, and clinical forms of meteoropathic reactions," by Z. P. Zunnunov. Published in Russian. Refer to <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12592895>.
 13. *The Man Who Planted Trees: Lost Groves, Champion Trees, and an Urgent Plan to Save the Planet*, Jim Robbins. New York NY; Spiegel & Grau, 2012.
 14. My website address is www.pmhatwater.com. The Special Bulletin of 8-26-11 is now archived and is an extension of the free monthly newsletters I send to subscribers. Anyone can subscribe. There is a place to do so on my website. All addresses are kept private.
 15. "As You Die" (in both CD and DVD formats) has been improved and is available either through my online bookstore at www.pmhatwater.com, or through Focus TV Worldwide, 229 N. Vermont Street, Covington, LA 70433; www.focustvonline.com. I receive no royalties for this humanitarian project.
 16. To contact Steff Wiltse directly, e-mail her at webmaster@cinemind.com and ask her to look up e-mails dated 12-13-08 (11:56 pm) and 12-14-08
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(10:15 pm). These are the ones that discuss the drop outs she found. The former includes a visual presentation of the sound test she conducted.