

Presentation to the City of Port Alberni Council meeting: January 23, 2012.
By T. Gowan

While B.C. Hydro is gleefully telling us "Smart Meters will promote conservation, reduce greenhouse gases and give us control of our electricity", what they don't say, is that the "**us**" they are referring to is B.C. Hydro.

Smart Meters have absolutely nothing to do with conservation, as many of us already know. If B.C. Hydro was really concerned about conservation, that 1 billion dollars spent to implement the Smart Meter program, of taxpayer money, could have been better spent on incentives to retrofit houses with triple pane windows, more insulation or more efficient furnaces.

Smart Meters came about from a concept called Technocracy originally proposed in the U.S. in 1932. The philosophy of this concept was that **State control** was the only way to save us from ourselves and our over consumption of limited resources such as energy. Due to time constraints I won't go into the details of this essentially **Dictatorship** concept, but I recommend you Google Technocracy.ca for more information.

In the 1930's technology didn't exist to make Technocracy a reality. The required technology exists today. Smart Meters were introduced to give B.C. Hydro total control over our energy use. Notice B.C. Hydro likes to say it will give us control.

Smart Meters were developed in the United States after secret meetings between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Europe and other participants were brought together to create this new economic order. At the head of these meetings was President Obama. As a result of these meetings all major civilized and uncivilized countries are now installing Smart Meters, and in all cases this is being done with no discussion, debate, or input from the people paying for it, **the taxpayer.**

Mr. Olynyk from B.C. Hydro claims only 1% of customers have requested a delay of installations. Is that a surprise when people are being threatened with having their power cut off if they don't accept a Smart Meter? Is it a surprise when Smart Meters are being installed in many cases when people aren't even home, without their knowledge. Corix installers are tripping over themselves to get these devices installed before people can even understand the implications to democracy they represent. B.C. Hydro wants these devices installed quickly, because they know that **once the Genie is out of the bottle, it's hard to put back in.** They are destroying every analogue meter as soon as they are pulled out whether people are at home or not. In many cases Corix installers, who are not licensed electricians are damaging appliances when the meters are replaced, leaving people in many cases with thousands of dollars in damages and B.C. Hydro assuming no liability. People of course who are not home have no opportunity to shut off their main breaker before the switch. Well folks, the Genie is out of the bottle now. **What we do today will determine whether we have real democracy tomorrow.** But the important thing is " B.C. Hydro is listening". Oh Really?

I guess when Energy Minister Rich Coleman and Premier Christy Clark say, "if you don't want Smart Meters, you can go off the Grid, or leave the Province", that's their definition of listening.

Many people were pleased when Premier Christy Clark reduced B.C. Hydro's requested price increase of 30% over three years down to 17%. With Smart Meters, how long do you think it will be before B.C. Hydro implements **time of use** billing? Imagine how that will go down in the north with our cold winters. Don't be surprised if your electricity prices increase more than 30% in three years with Smart Meters. In fact one of our own Councillors who had an uninvited Smart Meter move to his house had more than a 20% increase in his hydro bill with less usage. In the United States when time of use billing was introduced, many people had more than 40% increases in their hydro bills and some had serious billing errors where they were charged peak rates for power used at off peak times through a programming process I call "**time shifting**", where kilowatts of energy used in off peak hours are shifted to peak hours where the rates are higher. They in many cases got nowhere with the power authority because with "time shifting" only time of use changes, but total consumption still agrees with the meter. Can you imagine the abuses with **time of use** billing?

Many people do not understand the implications of Smart Meters. Since most of us have wireless devices, many people say, "**what's the big deal?**" I won't go into the detail on the issues of RF radiation that these Smart Meters generate. Wendy Mesley of the CBC National stated that 60% of Insurance carriers refuse to insure cell phone manufacturers and other wireless carriers for health lawsuits based on these devices. It's also interesting to note that in the United States U.S. power companies and other providers have been granted immunity from future lawsuits that may arise over health & safety concerns posed by Smart Meters. How convenient. Maybe Mr. Olynyk can tell us if this is the case with B.C. Hydro. Just as a point of interest the upper frequency range of the smart meter happens to be the same EMF frequency range as your microwave oven. Peer reviewed research has shown that DNA damage can be problematic at this wavelength.

What I am concerned about beyond the obvious health issues are the **privacy and security breeches** that will occur inevitably with these devices. B.C. Hydro, conveniently ignores the interference these wireless devices have with pacemakers, alarm systems, computer routers, and garage door openers, just to name a few. They also omit the fact that these devices cause **arc fault circuit interrupters(AFCI)** to trip. AFCI were made mandatory in 2002. These breakers trip because of the pulses these wireless non CSA approved Smart Meters generate which the AFCI interprets as a line fault. The only solution is to replace AFCI with unapproved breakers thus voiding your house insurance.

We have the right under Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to privacy and security of the person. B.C. Hydro has no authority under the Clean Air Act to put a Transmitting device on private property without the owner's permission. Radio transmitting devices are covered under the Federal Radio Act. The Radio Act has no provision under which a transmitter of any type may be installed on private **property without the consent of the owner.** The Clean Air Act makes no mention of transmitters and neither do the Tariffs that regulate BC Hydro. **They cannot mandate the installation of transmitters, as the province has no**

authority in law to do so. But let's make no mistake here folks, the Federal Government is in bed with the Province on Smart Meters as well.

With Smart Meters B.C. Hydro literally has the power to shut off your electricity with a few keystrokes. Can you imagine what a corrupt government could do with that kind of power and how it could be used to control the people? **I can only imagine the civil liberty abuses that will occur with Smart Meters.** Every Smart Meter has a unique **IP address** that B.C. Hydro can use to identify every structure receiving electricity. But this is just the start. In one to two years, the government will **mandate** that all electrical devices be **Smart Grid** approved.

All electrical devices will have **controller chips** that the Smart Meter can talk to. That means that all electrical devices from ventilators to personal vibrating devices must, by law be Smart Grid compliant. Each device will have a unique controller chip which will tell the Smart Meter what it is, it's make and model, the amount of energy it's using, among many other things. Sounds great doesn't it and B.C. Hydro loves to tell us that we will be able to remotely turn our smart appliances off and on and see how much energy they use. **What B.C. Hydro doesn't tell us, is that they will also be able to turn your smart appliances off and on as well.**

They will have the power to do this and much more, because folks they will be able to see on their computer screen your Smart meter, and every Smart Grid appliance you have. They will be able to see when you turn your TV on or off, when you turn on your personal vibrating device and when you turn it off, or how long you use your computer. This is not science fiction people, this is now reality. Can you imagine how intrusive this will be to our privacy, but how valuable it would be to B.C. Hydro, appliance manufacturers and many other companies? This is the power, Smart Meters will give government literally. **We have to seriously examine the implications of this technology.**

If B.C. Hydro decided to turn off every washing machine in Port Alberni between 1PM and 3PM they could do that easily and the homeowner couldn't override their command. What about Smartphones? If Smart Grid technology was mandated for these devices can you imagine the implications? They could also theoretically listen to your phone conversations, because don't forget these are digital devices, just binary code.

Where are the Courts charged with the duty of protecting our rights under the law, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Even Constitutional experts have all but ignored the threat these devices pose to democracy. Where is the Supreme Court of Canada, that's supposed to be defending our rights under the Charter to privacy and security? Where also is the Media, largely controlled by the Corporate elite, like the Asper's and Murdoch's, just to name a few, that have all but ignored the growing opposition to Smart Meters around the world. I'm sure the conspiracy theorists will have a field day with these questions. There is a place for technology in our society, but there is no place for intrusive devices like Smart Meters in any democratic society. It's time for people to ensure that our elected politicians get the message that **we don't want any device in our home or any appliance that violates our right to privacy and security.**

B.C. Hydro will say that they will never abuse this power but if ever there was a case where the statement "**power tends to corrupt, but absolute power corrupts absolutely**", this is it. We have given up our rights to privacy in many aspects of our lives, but we should never give up our right to privacy in our own home. I am requesting that the City of Port Alberni send a letter on behalf of the Citizens of Port Alberni, requesting a Moratorium on any further installations of Smart Meters until the legal, ethical and health concerns are addressed with full public participation. I also request that B.C. Hydro offer those citizens who have health concerns, or who do not wish to have intrusive devices such as Smart Meters, the opportunity to keep their meter or have an electronic meter without a wireless transmitter, with no penalty. I urge to all to fight this **Legislated Tyranny** to preserve what democracy we still have in this country.