

What Every Citizen has the Right to Know!

FACTS about Smart Meters

mandated to be installed on your home **without your consent**

BC Hydro started installation July 4, 2011

The Clean Energy Act of May 2010 mandates that BC Hydro replace every meter with a 'Smart Meter' by 2012. Section 17 specifies that installation can be done "without the consent of the owner." There has been no normal process for public input. The Act strips the BC Utilities Commission of the power to review the project. Our government mandated this. Our government can repeal it!

Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from 'Smart Meters' is 24/7 and is a known public health hazard...

- Smart meters have been installed in several US states and in Ontario. Many people are reporting ill health effects soon after these meters appear. Serious problems, including fires and voltage spikes which destroy appliances, have been reported consistently.
- BC Hydro is misleading the public. They claim that the signals will total 1-5 minutes a day. In fact, because the transmissions are milliseconds long, this actually means your meter will transmit more than 13,000 times every day.
- BC Hydro has stated that 20 years' exposure to a Smart Meter is the same as 30 minutes on a cellphone. It appears that BC Hydro is comparing whole body average exposure from Smart Meter radiation to peak exposure to the ear for the cellphone. One needs to compare apples and apples, or whole body exposures to whole body exposures. Comparing the peak dose to the ear from a cell phone, when the rest of the body gets vastly less radiation, with a whole body exposure where all organs get roughly the same dose from a Smart Meter, doesn't seem appropriate. Dr. Daniel Hirsch, UCSC, states: "... the cumulative whole body exposure from a Smart Meter at 3 feet appears to be approximately two orders of magnitude higher than that of a cell phone."
- RF emissions from collector hubs, neighbouring meters and Home Area Network (HAN) add to electromagnetic pollution in homes, neighbourhoods and the natural environment. Hydro has not established or identified the RF exposure from all the wireless devices that will be feeding this "Smart Grid."
- BC Hydro misleads again. They say ITRON meters must be wireless, and you have no option. YET, the makers of ITRON clearly state in their patent and elsewhere that there are other options to radiofrequency, including wired. Go to <http://ow.ly/77ugM> to find evidence of this.
- Smart Meter EMR exposure is non-consensual. Most EMR exposures (i.e. from household or personal wireless devices) are optional. Undemocratically, BC Hydro is mandating a recognized Class 2B Carcinogen be added to your house through an essential service.

Together, it's British Columbians like you and me who have the power to stop this.

A Mayor's Warning

"...the ambient electromagnetic and radio wave fields that will come as a result of having these things at every house running constantly is an unforeseen health risk. For people who are sensitive to electromagnetic radiation, it's going to be a living nightmare." *Mayor Lew Tremaine, Fairfax, California*



The World Health Organization/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF/EMF) as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B).

MAY 2011

Health Canada advises reducing our exposure to RF/EMF from cellphones, especially children, and that more research is needed. Oct 2011 (BC Hydro likes to compare Smart Meters to cellphones)

OCT 2011

The Public Health Act of British Columbia Bill 23-2008, Section 83 (1):

A municipality must take action when it learns of something that could be harmful to its residents.

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) voted in favour of "a moratorium on the mandatory installation of wireless smart meters until the major issues and problems identified regarding wireless smart meters are independently assessed and acceptable alternatives can be made available at no added cost to the consumer."

This vote came shortly after Energy Minister Rich Coleman told the municipal government representatives that BC Hydro would be proceeding with Smart Meter installation in B.C., regardless of a vote of opposition.

SEPT 2011

Check with your local mayor and council to see if they voted to protect the public, as more are doing every day.

Work Safe BC, Workers Compensation Act

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

5.57 (1) If a substance identified as any of the following is present in the workplace, the employer must replace it, if practicable, with a material which reduces the risk to workers:
(a) ACGIH A1 or A2, or IARC 1, 2A or 2B carcinogen

1996

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER:

Increased Consumer Hydro Costs.

In Ontario, more than 80% of smart metered homes report significantly higher monthly bills, often more than 50% higher than prior to smart meter installation. In California many report bills doubling and tripling. This is without any change in utilization patterns.

Hydro says there are no plans to introduce time of usage billing but their business plan calls for the infrastructure to be ready for July 2012. See: <http://ow.ly/6WWJc>



Questionable Math.

BC Hydro claims that spending \$1 billion on smart meters will save \$500 million in electricity theft (due to grow-ops) over twenty years – a business case that any grade-schooler would question. We cannot afford a program which has no benefits and most likely no cost recovery potential. The meters will need to be replaced in 20 years, around the same time they have been paid for.

Conservation.

No energy is conserved by the meter– this is a false premise. It merely reports usage, as does an analog meter. Unless the user is educated on conservation techniques, no reduction in energy consumption will occur. A better investment would be to educate energy reduction strategies with the current safe, efficient analog meter. Invest in products or technology that will further result in reduced energy use, eg. better insulation, more efficient windows and furnaces, or solar panels. These are investments that will generate safe, permanent jobs in our province. All wireless systems actually throw away energy, and are not green solutions.

Invasion of Privacy.

Meters have the built-in option to keep records of personal daily use, recording what appliance is being used and when. Companies in the US have declared these records proprietary information and have sold it to marketing companies, insurers, police and others. Is this information you want shared? See this video on privacy issues: <http://ow.ly/5FUpH>

Security.

Wireless technology is notoriously insecure and can be easily hacked into. Hackers can access private information, determine by usage patterns when homes are unoccupied, or even interfere with the delivery of electricity.

Harmful interference.

Smart meters interfere with household electrical appliances, even medical devices (ie. pacemakers) and home security systems, causing them to malfunction or damaging the appliance itself.

Safety.

Smart meters have exploded and many smart meter-related fires have been reported, most recently a major fire in Santa Rosa, California where several businesses were severely damaged. Several lawsuits are pending in California.

The Hidden Agenda.

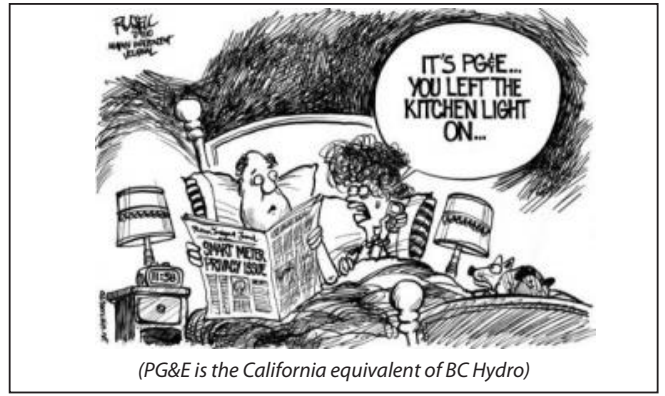
The key reason for smart meters is huge profits for the information and communications technologies sector - IBM, Cisco, General Electric, Oracle, ITRON, etc. The mass installation of Smart meters is designed to benefit corporations, not you. This has nothing to do with conservation and everything to do with corporate profit.

Removal of our Watchdog.

B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC) is the regulatory body with the responsibility to safeguard our interests. Yet the Government's Clean Energy Act (2010) exempts the \$1 billion smart meter program from BCUC's oversight. BCUC was not allowed to fulfill its job of reviewing and approving a business plan. Neither were there public hearings. The MLAs were given no opportunity to debate the program or to review a cost benefit analysis. There is no oversight, no control of this major program. The big question is: Why was this billion dollar project made exempt? (See the Tyee.ca articles on Smart Meters by McMartin/McMillian)

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Health Concerns

Electrohypersensitivity (EHS), originally known as microwave sickness, is receiving international recognition as an emerging public health problem. The Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Americans with Disabilities Act and our Canadian Government now recognize EHS as an Environmental Sensitivity.

Surveys in Canada and Europe show that about 3% of people are severely sensitive to EMR, and another 35% experience moderate to mild sensitivity. This number is increasing steadily as more wireless devices proliferate our environment. **People are getting sick** when 'SmartMeters' are connected to their electrical systems. Symptoms from 'SmartMeters' reported in Ontario & the U.S. include:

- difficulty sleeping/sleep disturbances
- headache
- dizziness
- ear pressure & tinnitus
- brain fog
- memory problems
- difficulty concentrating
- weakness & fatigue
- skin burning
- agitation
- nausea/vomiting
- heart palpitations
- seizures

Increasing scientific evidence shows possible long-term systemic health effects including: cancers, memory impairment, double-strand DNA damage, blood-brain barrier leakage, and more. emrabc.ca

Residents of OUR own neighbourhoods suffer with EHS

TAKE ACTION!

It is urgent that we, as neighbours and parents, all take action to protect our democratic rights for health, costs, security and privacy.

1. Send a Non-Consent Letter and hang "Corix No Trespassing" signs on your meter, front door & front yard! Find templates & instructions at stopsmartmetersbc.ca under "Take Action". Attach signs in Ziploc or plastic sleeve beside meter; do not cover face of meter. Send letter by email and registered mail. Help those without computers by printing letters & signs for them to mail & post.

2. Join the Coalition www.stopsmartmetersbc.ca to get updates. See www.citizensforsafetechnology.org "Smart Meter Action Kit" and sign their on-line petition.

Pre-register for the Petition Initiative Vote www.stopsmartmeters.ca

stopsmartmetersbc.ca

citizensforsafetechnology.org

emrabc.ca