

PROBLEMS with SMART METERS

Pls don't discard this flyer! Pass it to someone who needs the info!

No Accountability. No Transparency. No Public Consultation. No Proof to back up Data. No Opt-out for Citizens.

- Project "exempted" by Provincial Government - no review or monitoring by BC Utilities Commission, the public watchdog.
- Costs, effectiveness, and safety never independently assessed.
- \$73-million installation contract went to Corix, a company owned by a BC Hydro Director.
- Refused to answer citizens' questions face to face, but spend \$\$\$\$ on massive advertising.
- The Clean Energy Act through which these meters were introduced did not mandate, nor even mention "Wireless".
- Per the Act, consent of owner required for installation in a "Private Dwelling", but BC Hydro now deprives customers of choice.
- BC Hydro claimed Smart Meters only communicate one minute a day. Actual measurements showed radiation spiking every 5 seconds, continually = close to 20,000 spikes of radiofrequency per day. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNrRIFkiHKM>
- BC Centre of Disease Control tested on a single Smart Meter and reported radiation levels 10 to 25 times higher than what BC Hydro states in PR literature. No response from BC Hydro to requests for proof (independent test reports) to substantiate their numbers. Also, NO test has been conducted for multi-meters scenario, such as condos and townhomes.

Privacy and Data Security.

- Smart Meters are Surveillance devices. Collect data of detailed energy consumption in a household.
- Data can be sold to, intercepted or corrupted by 3rd parties. Wireless transfer vulnerable to industrial computer hackers.
- Data shows whether the house is vacant, what kind of activities take place at what time - even which TV program is watched.
- BC's Information and Privacy Commissioner called this "a real issue". Investigation still in progress.
- Tampering of accounts difficult to trace, compared with analogue meters.
- BC Hydro or any hacker can disconnect power supply remotely.

Financial Concerns.

- The Myth: Spending One Billion Dollars will save us money.
- Ontario Energy Board received over 1,700 complaints in April-June 2010 after Smart Meters introduced.
- Ontario quietly approved a new TAX (Smart Meter Service Fees) collecting \$33 million per year from taxpayers.
- California Public Utilities Commission received over 1,200 complaints on over-billing with Smart Meters in 2010.
- Two class-action lawsuits in California and Texas for over-billing by Smart Meters.
- In Richmond, residents' appliances destroyed by power surge and repeated cases of extended power outage due to Smart Meters installation. BC Hydro continues to deny responsibility.
- Interference with medical equipment and security systems.
- Explosions and fires of Smart Meters reported in some cities.
- "Convenient in-home monitoring" advertised by BC Hydro for checking real-time energy consumption is not free. "Optional" monitoring device, programmable thermostats, and energy management software products need to be purchased separately.
- BC Hydro's "solution for customers with medical concerns", e.g. relocating the meter, means customers pay for it.



Radiation and Health Concerns.

- In May 2011, World Health Organization classified Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields as Type 2B Possible Carcinogen to Humans, in the same category as Lead, DDT and HIV virus.
- Thousands of scientific studies have shown even at low level, this type of energy can cause biological effects in humans/animals: DNA damage (cancers/tumours), damage to blood brain barrier, brain function, heart, thyroid, fertility, eyes, immunity and more.
- Oct 4, 2011 Health Canada issued a new warning urging parents to reduce children's exposure to radiofrequency.
- Wireless Smart Meters not only transmit to BC Hydro's collection antennas, the meters send signals to each other every few seconds to form a radiating grid.
- U.S. Nuclear expert Daniel Hirsch: the culmulative radiation by Smart Meters is at last 100x more powerful than cell phones.
- Residents of Condos and townhouses close to electrical rooms subject to radiation from dozens, up to 100 meters, day & night.
- Elderly, children, those with medical conditions or sensitive to radiofrequencies will be under incalculable risks.
- BC's Green Party went public to oppose this so-called "Green" project coz' unacceptable to force this toxin in people's homes.

What YOU can do:

- 21 other City Councils in BC (incl. Langley & Victoria), as well as the BC Union of Municipalities have voted in favour of a moratorium (stop) on wireless smart meters. Richmond Council considering, pls write them to voice your concern.
- **Spread this message** to your friends and mailing list to alert the public. Copy this flyer. Post on Facebook. Write to newspapers.
- Sign the **PETITION** and encourage others to sign at CitizensforSafeTechnology.org They will present petition to the Government.
- BC Hydro is assuming "Implied Consent" on these installations = YOU have to REFUSE if you don't want the meter.
- **If you don't want Smart Meter**, email this "NON-CONSENT" letter to BC Hydro: <http://tinyurl.com/3brf8up> For proof that they have received it: print a copy and mail it by registered mail, keep the receipt for record. Print another copy of the letter, tape it on your meter. Put "NO TRESPASS" sign near meter. (If you use inkjet printer, put the letter in a large ziplog bag for waterproof).
- **If BC Hydro has already installed your meter**, demand for removal with this "REMOVAL" letter: <http://tinyurl.com/43t4gal>
- Form letters, latest news and scientists' reviews available at CitizensforSafeTechnology.org or StopSmartMetersBC.ca
- An initiative is being launched under BC Recall and Initiative Act to stop the mandatory installation of smart meters in British Columbia, similar to the HST campaign. Further announcement will be made in a few weeks.
- Owing to overwhelming opposition from the public, utilities companies in Ontario, Maine and California are offering **choices for customers** now. We can do it, too!!