

## Smart meters

Inbox

O'Riley, Christopher <Chris.Oriley@bchydro.com> Sep 28, 2021, 3:04 PM  
(10 hours ago)

to me

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bolin,

Thank you for your September 10, 2021 follow-up email. MLA Shelia Malcolmson has asked me to reply with a copy to her office. I appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions.

As you may be aware, safety standards for both electro-magnetic field (EMF) and radio frequency (RF) exposure are governed by *Health Canada* and documented in [Safety Code 6](#). Safety Code 6 has been adopted as the scientific basis for compliance specifications that govern the use of wireless devices in Canada for products like cell phones, cell towers, broadcast antennas, etc. There are thousands of published studies confirming that RF field intensities below Safety Code 6 are not harmful and no adverse health effects have been scientifically established at levels below these limits. However, you may wish to contact Health Canada at 1-866-225-0709 or [hcinfo.infose@canada.ca](mailto:hcinfo.infose@canada.ca) to discuss your concerns.

As a provincial Crown corporation, the owner and sole shareholder of BC Hydro is the Province of British Columbia. BC Hydro reports to the Provincial Government through the Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation. Government's expectations are expressed through the following legislation and policy:

- *The Hydro and Power Authority Act*
- *The Utilities Commission Act*
- *BC Hydro Public Power Legacy and Heritage Contract Act*
- *The Clean Energy Act*
- CleanBC

The *Hydro and Power Authority Act* gives BC Hydro its mandate to generate, manufacture, conserve, supply, acquire, and dispose of power and related products. This legislation also ensures public ownership of our heritage resources, which include BC Hydro's transmission and distribution systems, and all of our existing generation and storage assets.

As an organization, we take an open and transparent approach to communications. [Our website](#) provides British Columbians access to information, such as our Annual and Quarterly Reports, [Service Plan](#), and Financial Information Act Return.

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is governed by the *Utilities Commission Act* and is responsible for regulating BC's energy utilities and the reliability of the electrical transmission grid.

The BCUC's mission is to ensure that ratepayers receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates from the utilities it regulates, and that shareholders of those utilities are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their invested capital.

The *Utilities Commission Act* gives regulatory power to the BCUC to ensure BC Hydro's customers receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates.

The BCUC's costs are recovered primarily through a levy on the energy utilities and pipelines companies that it regulates.

As you also may be aware and as set out by the provincial government in [section 4 of Direction No. 4 to the BCUC \(Direction No. 4\)](#), the BCUC was prohibited from directly or indirectly preventing BC Hydro from installing, operating or providing services in respect of legacy meters, smart meters, and radio-off meters. Furthermore, section 7 of the [Clean Energy Act](#) exempts BC Hydro's Smart Metering Program from BCUC's regulation under certain sections of the *Utilities Commission Act*.

If you have further questions about the BCUC, we encourage you to visit [their website](#) or contact them directly at 1.800.663.1385 or [commission.secretary@bcuc.com](mailto:commission.secretary@bcuc.com).

If you have any further questions about BC Hydro and our smart meter network, please contact our Customer Metering Team directly at 1.800.409.8199 or [customermetering@bchydro.com](mailto:customermetering@bchydro.com).

Once again, thank you for writing. I trust this information answers your questions.

Sincerely,  
Chris

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Chris O'Riley | President & Chief Executive Officer

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**Smart about power in all we do.**



From: **Ron Bolin**  
Date: Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 10:41 AM  
Subject: Your email to us of Sep 28, 2021  
To: <[Chris.Oriley@bchydro.com](mailto:Chris.Oriley@bchydro.com)>  
Cc: <[sheila.malcolmson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:sheila.malcolmson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>, Bolin

Dear Mr. O'Riley,

Please excuse the delay in responding to your email of Sep 28, 2021. We have unfortunately been involved in circumstances which led to this timing.

I will keep our response brief.

In reply to your comments on Safety Code 6, I draw your attention to the Government of Canada's Fact Sheet- What is Safety Code 6? This document clearly indicates that: "While Health Canada recommends limits for safe human exposure, Health Canada does not regulate the general public's exposure to electromagnetic RF energy." Can you please indicate the way in which BC Hydro assesses its customers' total electromagnetic RF energy exposure as new sources of such energy rapidly increase across nearly all areas of transmission? And can you comment on the variability of exposure limits among individuals?

To your other point I feel we must agree with your comments on the legislative authority which has been granted to BC Hydro as a public corporation, first by the Liberal government of Premiers Campbell and Clark and subsequently sustained by the NDP government of Premier Horgan. However we must continue to argue that no government has the right to cede all the powers granted to it by its citizens to a corporation whether private or public and that it is the duty of the elected representatives of a people to ensure that corporations must above all else thoroughly demonstrate the safety of any product or service which is provided to the public, and not simply demand that the public defend itself.

This response is also being forwarded to our MLA and BC's Minister of Mental Health, Sheila Malcolmson (Attention Darcy Olsen) for her records and comments.

Thanking You for Your Consideration,

Ron and Inge Bolin