



June 26, 2015 – For Immediate Release

## **A COURT TOLD ITRON SMART METERS ARE A FIRE HAZARD.**

**What did ITRON know and when did they know it? They knew these smart meters were dangerous and they knew from the very beginning.**

**We, the taxpayers who fund BC Hydro, demand a refund from ITRON for selling a defective, dangerous device.**

ITRON's smart meters have design flaws that make them fire hazards. These were sold to many places before they were sold to BC Hydro, so ITRON had to have been aware of problems long before the contract was signed.

Failures and fires have occurred in BC. How many no one knows because no one is tracking. BCUC was told through the Clean Energy Act and Direction 4 it had no authority to interfere in the smart meter program in any way. BC Safety Authority has been told to butt out of the smart meter program. And the Provincial Fire Commissioner doesn't track specific causes of fires. So no one knows, except, perhaps BC Hydro and they're not talking.

But now, through sworn testimony in a legal action in Texas obtained by Sharon Noble, Director of the Coalition to Stop Smart Meters, we learn that there have been many incidents of ITRON Openway smart meters -- the same model used by BC Hydro and Fortis BC -- failing and burning, pallets of them, according to one testimonial.

Now is the time, before more homes are damaged, and more lives put at risk, to say this program is a fiasco. **WE WANT THIS PROGRAM ENDED, AND WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK.**

Noble says, "Whenever we purchase something that doesn't work the way it is supposed to, we can return it and expect our money back. These smart meters were purported to be safe, just as safe as the old analogs. But they aren't and now we have proof from a completely independent source – a Texas court. Bill Bennett needs to stop this program, recall the smart meters, demand that analogs be put back in place, and send ITRON the bill."

Certainly ITRON knew long ago that these meters were cheaply made with flaws that could cause the meters to fail catastrophically. They should have warned us – it should not be up to us to have to fight to protect our homes. **WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK.**

Thanks,

**Sharon**

**Power of the People is stronger than the People in Power**

**[www.stopsmartmetersbc.ca](http://www.stopsmartmetersbc.ca)**