



# What's so smart about 'SmartMeters'?



**The Clean Energy Act** of May 2010 mandates that BC Hydro replace every conventional electric meter with a 'SmartMeter' by 2012.

**Section 17** specifies that installation can be done **"without the consent of the owner."** There will be no process for public input. The Act strips the BC Utilities Commission of the power to review the project.

## Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from 'SmartMeters' is 24/7 – a known Public Health hazard, because....

- **Powerful millisecond-long spikes of pulsed signal EMR are hazardous to health.**
- **'Dirty electricity'- high frequency voltage spikes from the switching power supply – also enters on to the house wiring.**
- **In a meshed 'SmartMeter' network system, EMR is virtually constant as each meter receives and repeats signals on to the grid from nearby homes.**
- **Collector hubs and Home Area Network transmissions add to the electromagnetic pollution in the neighbourhood and in the home.**



## Health Effects

**Surveys** in Canada and Europe show that about 3 % are severely sensitive to electromagnetic radiation (EMR), and another 35 % experience moderate to mild sensitivity. People are getting sick when 'SmartMeters' are connected to their electrical systems, even people who were not sensitive before.

**Symptoms from 'SmartMeters'** reported in Ontario and the U.S. include:

- difficulty sleeping •headache •dizziness •ear pressure and tinnitus
- memory problems •difficulty concentrating •weakness and fatigue •skin burning •agitation •nausea and 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 learning difficulties.

### A Mayor's Warning

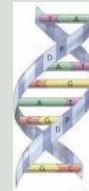
*"...the ambient electromagnetic and radio wave fields that will come as a result of having these things at every house running constantly is an unforeseen health risk.*

*For people who are sensitive to electromagnetic radiation, it's going to be a living nightmare."*

Mayor Lew Tremaine, Fairfax, California



*Children, with thinner skulls and developing nervous systems, are the most vulnerable.*



*"DNA, our precious genetic material, is particularly sensitive to electromagnetic fields. If we are to protect our genetic code, it is critical that we take steps as a society to protect DNA from damage"*

**Martin Blank, PhD,**  
Columbia University, Dept. of Physiology  
and Cellular Biophysics

'SmartMeters' take away the choice to manage EMR in our own homes.



PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS about 'SmartMeters'

## What's so Smart...?

- **Privacy & Security:** Wireless transmissions of personal data, and information about what kind of appliances you own, when you use them and what you are doing at any moment can be intercepted by market researchers, insurance investigators, saboteurs, would-be burglars, etc.
  - InGuardians, a cyber security firm, tested 5 different brands of 'SmartMeters' and found they could all be easily hacked into.
  - In the Netherlands, wirelesses 'SmartMeters' are no longer mandatory since they violate the right to privacy, as guaranteed by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- **Electromagnetic interference:** 'SmartMeters' can interfere with electronics and appliances, as PG&E of California admitted after numerous complaints.
- **Higher utility bills:** A survey by Toronto Hydro confirms that 'SmartMeters' have increased hydro bills for about 80% of consumers, with no real gains in conservation.
- **No public hearings:** Installation is being fast-tracked before the public has a chance to examine the impacts, including the reported health effects.

## ----- People Speaking Up -----



### The U.S.

- Excessive rate increases led to lawsuits in California and Texas.
- Public utility regulators in Hawaii, Maryland, and Indiana have all rejected 'SmartMeter' proposals.
- Westerville, Ohio City Council turned down a federal grant due to strong public opposition to 'SmartMeters'.
- New Mexico Gas is honouring medical waivers.

- Scarborough, Maine has voted for a 'SmartMeter' moratorium because of health concerns. Maine's Governor supports residents' right to opt out.
  - Chattanooga, Tennessee will use FTTH (fiber optic) for their SmartGrid.
  - California Public Utilities Commission has received thousands of health complaints.
- 34 local governments representing 2,242,123 people in California are demanding a halt to the 'SmartMeter' program, following a groundswell of protest over privacy and health concerns.

**Talk to your neighbours.....Safer technology is available. SmartMeters connected by fiber optic, shielded cable or phone lines both protect privacy and avoid harmful radiation.**



2011/04 (#5) **references and more info:**  
 Citizens For Safe Technology [www.citizensforsafetechnology.org](http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org)  
 EM Radiation Health Alliance <http://emrabc.ca>  
 Gulf Islanders For Safe Technology <http://www.gifst.ca>

**Who cares about public health?**

**Who benefits? Who pays?**

### Contacts

- **B.C. Utilities Commission**  
604-660-4700  
[Complaints@bcuc.com](mailto:Complaints@bcuc.com)

### Politicians

- Rich Coleman,  
BC Energy Minister 250-387-5896  
[EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)
- John Horgan, NDP Energy Critic.  
250-391-2801  
[John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca)
- Your MLA
- City council members  
[www.civicinfo.bc.ca/11.asp](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/11.asp)

### Health Agencies

- Perry Kendall,  
Provincial Health Officer  
250-952-1330  
[Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca)
- Your local Environmental Health Officer  
Service BC: 604-660-2421  
1-800-663-7867

### BC Hydro

- 604-505-6317  
778-452-6771  
[SmartMeters@bchydro.com](mailto:SmartMeters@bchydro.com)

### To Do...

- ✓ **Let the government know you don't want a wireless meter.**
- ✓ **Ask elected officials for:**
  - \* **Moratorium** on installation
  - \* **Open Public Consultation**
  - \* **Choice to keep current meter**
  - \* **Safer (wired) meter options.**
- ✓ **Contact** Civil Rights, Consumer Protection, Environmental groups.
- ✓ **Educate local governments.**
- ✓ **Get the media involved.**