

## **Press Release**

**Friday, June 17, 2011**

### **Vancouver Rally against BC Hydro Smart Meters**

Smart Meters are about to move into every home and business in the province of British Columbia over the next year and many citizens are convinced these new wireless digital meters could cause serious health problems and not necessarily provide the promised financial savings.

A peaceful event called ***“Smart Meters are Stupid” Rally*** will take place on **Wednesday June 22, 2011 at 10 a.m. beginning outside the BC Hydro Building** at 333 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC.

More and more people believe that smart meters are a dumb idea. The increased costs for a modernized grid need not include wireless smart meters and should not include costs to our health, privacy and security.

Before "Smart" Meters, BC Hydro could already pinpoint outages and restore power. Remote shutoff will make it faster and easier for Hydro to cut your power. Meters will consume and waste more electricity with all-day all-night monitoring. Wireless mesh networks threaten health in new ways by exposing you and your family, neighbours and employees to microwave radiation. These "Smart Meters" conflict with safety, causing fires and wireless interference with security systems, surveillance monitors, intercoms and critical care equipment.

"Smart" Meters won't reduce how much energy you use; they will just reduce how much you can afford to use. Rates are already slated to go up 30% in 3 years. The \$1 billion start-up estimate, as well as high maintenance and security costs, will be passed on to consumers. "Smart" Meters will just take more money out of your pocket.

### **Keeping Your Information Secure?**

Similar to online banking systems, the data from these meters is secure and your privacy is protected UNLESS targeted by hackers. Is it likely? Consider recent reports of cyber attacks on major corporations.

Governments are setting aside millions to billions of dollars for cyber security initiatives. Any predictions for the ongoing costs to ratepayers to secure our smart grid?

### **Some Quick Facts About these New "Smart" Meters**

- Automated wireless communication uses microwave radiation that is harmful to health.
- Automatically knows when your power is out. So do you. You don't need to pay for a meter to tell you that.
- Two-way communication between a "Smart" microwave meter and Hydro means no communication with you. The only input you have is your money and your personal information.
- Alarms to deter tampering at the meter won't eliminate meter bypass or hacking.

If your health, personal privacy and finances are important to you, then this rally is important to attend.

### **For further information on this rally or the various concerns about Smart Meters:**

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