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FIRST SMART METER ARREST IN SAN FRANCISCO AS WOMAN IN GLEN PARK STANDS UP TO PG&E

Further Reports of Illegal PG&E Disconnection Threats from Outraged Bystanders

San Francisco-- Amy O'Hair- a Glen Park resident who has been <u>documenting the strength of the powerful microwave pulses from 'smart' meters in San Francisco</u>- was arrested this morning (Saturday 18-June-2011) for civil disobedience while trying to prevent installation of smart meters in her neighborhood. Though there have been a number of acts of civil disobedience in the Richmond, Marina, and other neighborhoods, this is the first actual arrest of an anti-"smart" meter protester in San Francisco to date. Amy joins a number of other women (including mothers and grandmothers) in <u>Sonoma</u> and <u>Marin</u> Counties who have been arrested over the past year blocking Wellington Energy smart meter installation trucks.

This morning, Ms. O'Hair sat on the hood of an installation truck and refused to move. The police were called and arrested her. She has been taken downtown and booked into County jail where she remains as of 2:30pm. We expect that she will be released later this afternoon around 4 or 5pm.

A bystander at the bus stop across the street cheered her support, and also confirmed in an interview afterwards that PG&E has been threatening herself and other residents with service disconnection for refusing the meters- a move that is not within their legal rights. PG&E has been under fire in recent days for threatening customers in Oakland with disconnection unless they allow the dangerous meters on their homes. "Though the company claims that the threats are isolated to a few renegade employees, there is growing evidence that this is part of a corporate strategy to isolate and intimidate people into accepting the increasingly unpopular DumbMeters." says Joshua Hart, Director of Stop Smart Meters! "PG&E seems to be claiming that they are more of an expert than the World Health Organization when it comes to deciding what is and what isn't harmful to human health. Thousands of people have reported serious health damage in California alone. Enough is enough."

Those opposed to the rollout insist that a monopoly energy company does not have the right to force a device onto people's homes against their will- a device that emits high levels of radiation that the World Health Organization has linked to cancer (pdf press release).

Video of the arrest is available at http://stopsmartmeters.org/2011/06/18/first-smart-meter-arrest-in-sf-this-morning-more-reports-of-illegal-pge-disconnection-threats/ Media is free to use any of this footage as long as StopSmartMeters. Org is credited as the source.

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