

# PROBLEMS WITH “SMART” METERS



September 2012

**No Accountability**  
**No Oversight**  
**No Transparency**  
**Invasion of privacy/cybersecurity**  
**No Public Consultation**  
**Constant microwave radiation**  
**No Choice (Even for medical reasons)**  
**Higher monthly bills**  
**Lack of Democratic Choice and Breach of Civil Rights**

## **CONCERN: Privacy and Data Security**

- Smart meters are surveillance devices. They collect personal detailed data not required for billing purposes. Data shows if anyone is home & what devices you're using. <http://goo.gl/bqgLT>
- Data can be sold to, intercepted or corrupted by third parties. Wireless data transfer is vulnerable to computer hackers. B.C. Hydro or any hacker can disconnect the power supply remotely. <http://goo.gl/72XXh>
- Smart meters allow utilities to control or suspend specific devices: <http://goo.gl/rvtVq>
- The Smart Grid is vulnerable to cyber-attack by terrorists, resulting in complete grid breakdown <http://goo.gl/9ltvC>
- Dr. David Chalk, Cyber Expert, on Smart Grid vulnerability: <http://goo.gl/eoj8L> —“As former CIA director James Woolsey said “It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when” terrorists or hackers bring the entire grid down. We could be in the ‘new dark ages.’ <http://goo.gl/auMe8>

## **CONCERN: Accountability & Lack of Democracy**

- We’re being forced to have a dangerous, invasive wireless transmitter on our homes, not CSA/UL certified or FCC approved.
- The Clean Energy Act, through which these meters were introduced, did not mandate, even mention, “wireless.” This same Act removed the oversight of the BC Utilities Commission—the public watchdog. Therefore, the installation of wireless Smart Meters by BC Hydro and Corix is not subject to any independent oversight, review or monitoring.
- Follow the money: (Corix, Itron) <http://goo.gl/7m1sM> Why are we paying 2-3x’s more per meter than other places? <http://goo.gl/Zn5XK> \$1 billion dollars & counting: The lifespan of Smart Meters is about half of what BC Hydro’s business plan estimates. Data maintenance and increased security were also not accounted for in the business plan.
- BC Hydro is a public utility. Why do they spend millions of public dollars on misleading advertising?
- B.C. Hydro claims wireless Smart Meters only communicate one minute per day. California court documents confirms wireless Smart Meters emit up to 190,000 radiating microwave pulses per day (That’s 2 per second!): <http://goo.gl/oZuzb>

**Myth:** Spending one billion dollars will save us money.

**Truth:** Smart Meters increase bills 80% of the time <http://goo.gl/hSLpp>

Smart meters are primarily designed for **time of use billing** which will increase rates for cooking, heating, cleaning during the day.



[www.facebook.com/StopSmartMetersinBC](http://www.facebook.com/StopSmartMetersinBC)



[www.twitter.com/stopsmrtmeterbc](http://www.twitter.com/stopsmrtmeterbc)

## CONCERN: Fires, Property Damage, Safety

- Smart meter related fires have been reported around the world. A dozen Smart Meter fires have hit the news in BC. Many more are going unreported.
- US utility halts Smart Meter program due to fires. <http://goo.gl/oWZZD>
- BC Hydro blames Smart Meter fires on overloaded wiring - which the analogue meter could handle! Yet electrical experts identify design flaws in Smart Meters <http://goo.gl/K1ZAK>
- Corix installers are non-electricians with ONLY 10 days training.
- BC HYDRO IS FAILING TO ADEQUATELY WARN EVERY CUSTOMER: flickering brightening, dimming lights, overheating appliances or other unusual electrical incidents with a Smart Meter could be indicative of a serious fire risk. Report immediately to BC Hydro services. Call: 1-888-769-3766 <http://goo.gl/dlB1X> and <http://goo.gl/clmFp>
- Interference with medical equipment and security systems <http://goo.gl/Ttyad>
- Residents' appliances destroyed by power surges. Hydro/Corix refuse to accept responsibility <http://goo.gl/p1PWc>
- Explosions reported and various cities <http://goo.gl/fQfKZ>
- So far insurers are covering Smart Meter related damages. However, owners are responsible for deductibles & premium increases, leaving BC Hydro off the hook.

## CONCERN: Radiation, Health

- In May 2011, World Health Organization classified Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields as Type 2B Possible Carcinogen to Humans, in the same category as Lead, DDT and HIV virus:
- Oct 4, 2011 Health Canada issued a new warning urging parents to reduce children's exposure to radiofrequency: <http://goo.gl/fnsr0>
- Comparing constant exposure to this complex modulated radiation with the sun, with non-radiating devices such as AM radios, or even with short-term voluntary exposures such as cell phones is disingenuous & misleading. <http://goo.gl/Fv0Eu> & <http://goo.gl/DNlKk>
- These microwave meters emit short, sharp intermittent pulse-modulated signals, which are very strong at their peak level. Research shows that prolonged exposure to these pulsing signals shock our cells, causing leakage in the cell walls. Other serious biological effects include breaches of the blood brain barrier, DNA damage and changes in the brain, heart, thyroid, fertility, eyes, and immunity. <http://goo.gl/UVaFL> and <http://goo.gl/ijyPZ>

- The mesh network system chosen by BC Hydro blankets neighbourhoods in a new layer of radiation. Signals bounce back and forth meter-to-meter as well as to and from powerful transmitting collectors, which may be within metres of homes. <http://goo.gl/6Va7l>
- High frequency transients ("dirty electricity") injected onto the house wiring by Microwave meters is also a known health hazard.
- U.S. Nuclear expert Daniel Hirsch: the cumulative radiation by Smart Meters is at least 100x more powerful than cell phones: <http://goo.gl/l3Kqv>
- Smart Meter Press Advisory: The American Academy of Environmental Medicine: <http://goo.gl/Vps2F>
- US Utilities Commissions have received tens of thousands of Smart Meter health complaints. If you experience negative health reactions to Smart Meter installation, contact your MLA and [coordinator1@stopsmarmetersbc.ca](mailto:coordinator1@stopsmarmetersbc.ca)
- Health experts have criticized Prov. Med. Officer Dr. Perry Kendall's failure to respond to scientific evidence. <http://goo.gl/eWSBX> & <http://goo.gl/2mRwT>

## ACTION: How to Refuse Smart Meters

Go to "Printables" @ [www.stopsmarmetersbc.ca](http://www.stopsmarmetersbc.ca) or "Smart Meter Action Kit" @ [www.citizensforsafetechnology.org](http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org) to find refusal letters, signage, info flyers & examples of what BC citizens are doing to protect their meters.

**For Instructions for Multi-Family Dwellings:** <http://goo.gl/l3VFn>

**Demand Removal of a Smart Meter:** See template letter and insist your MLA help you. It is our government officials' responsibility to protect their constituents. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**Spread the Word:** Share this message with friends and mailing lists to alert the public. Provide flyer links found under "printables" from our website or Citizens for Safe Technology's.

**Share & retweet** Smart Meter concerns & information by email, twitter, facebook. Write to newspapers.

**Sign up for daily updates** [coordinator@stopsmarmetersbc.ca](mailto:coordinator@stopsmarmetersbc.ca)

**Pre-register for the Citizens Initiative** to stop the mandatory installation of Smart Meters in BC [www.stopsmarmeters.ca](http://www.stopsmarmeters.ca)

**Sign the Petition to the Legislature** and encourage others to sign at: [www.citizensforsafetechnology.org](http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org)

## LEGAL ACTIONS:

54+ City Councils in B.C., as well as the Union of B.C. Municipalities have voted in favour of a moratorium/optout program on wireless Smart Meters. Please write City Council, MLAs and copy to the Press.

A tort is being submitted charging that the Smart Meter program is infringing upon our civil rights to live in homes free from invasion. <http://goo.gl/NzPV8>

Legal action is before the Court of Appeal charging that BC Hydro has gone beyond what is required to satisfy the Clean Energy Act. The CEA does not give Hydro the right to install wireless transmitters on our homes.

A Class Action has been approved by the BC Human Rights Tribunal requesting B.C. Hydro accommodate those who are advised by their physicians not to be exposed to wireless Smart Meters. <http://goo.gl/K3j3m>

WE NEED YOUR HELP. GET INVOLVED. DONATE TO OUR LEGAL FUND: <http://goo.gl/wWN0i>