

Hans Karow  
Coalition to Reduce Electropollution (CORE)  
S 2 / C 49, RR # 1  
3075 Hayman Road  
Naramata, BC, V0H 1N0  
E-mail: [hkarow@shaw.ca](mailto:hkarow@shaw.ca)

Ms. Erica Hamilton  
Commission Secretary  
B.C. Utilities Commission  
900 Howe Street, Box 250  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

June 22, 2008

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

**Re:** FortisBC Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project (AMI) Project No. 3698493 CPCN Public Hearing

BCUC's project's website: <http://www.bcuc.com/ApplicationView.aspx?ApplicationId=179>

FortisBC's project web site:

[http://www.fortisbc.com/about\\_us/regulation/cpcn\\_applications/ami\\_project.html](http://www.fortisbc.com/about_us/regulation/cpcn_applications/ami_project.html)

Please accept my intervenor submission.

1. Talking to many people of all walks of life, they find themselves surprised about FortisBC subject project. Some people do not know what BCUC is standing for. Very few know about BCUC as a government regulatory for electricity and gas, asking about also ICBC, they find themselves even much more surprised. People think that the government is looking after the constituents' interest, but is it really? Explaining more about the AMI project, people I contacted ask themselves why? This also with regards of additional RF-radiation exposure.
2. AMI stands for "Advance Metering Infrastructure", as far as I remember a public notice was posted by the Commission only once or twice in a way that the average person's eye and interest is not attracted. Why has the Commission not asked Fortis for more than one or two descriptive reports (more or less in dummy-language) in daily and weekly newspapers also about the wireless communication technology also with referral to studies that demonstrate possible health effects with the applied radiofrequency radiation coming out of the new meter boxes 7/24? Those meter boxes in many cases also being installed behind the bedroom's wall near sleeping persons' head location?
3. Some of my IR#3 are still outstanding, i.e. where the vendor has not been chosen, thus the metering system as well. FortisBC therefore could not provide the specification I requested in my IRs, which is for me very important so I can get a second opinion from my independent EMR experts.
4. I respectfully ask the Commission to not approve yet the subject application until such time Fortis has supplied the missing responses to my outstanding IRs with sufficient time for me to contact the independent experts for their comment.
5. FortisBC has not provided any report about a Canadian pilot study.
6. FortisBC has not provided information as well, whether the Canadian Government has tested this new device also with regards of the radiofrequency emission and any approval with regards of possible harmful medical effects.
7. FortisBC has not sought legal advice, and reported about whether there might be possible legal consequences by installing these meters on private properties, in most cases right to the house

wall. Radiofrequency radiation emitted from these metering device constitute trespass and nuisance where wireless transmission is objected by individuals, be it a landlord or a tenant. If the Commission is approving this metering system at this stage, I will do every thing possible directly and indirectly to inform the general public about the possible legal and medical consequences of this wireless transmitting system.

8. Myself being electro-sensitive, please accept already my objection to the installation of this wireless metering device. For the purpose of installing the AMI system I like to be asked first for a permit to enter my/our property.
9. In the proposed subject project FortisBC has nowhere considered or addressed environmental sensitivity, which recently is becoming more and more of an issue. For example The Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) reported:

*Policy on Environmental Sensitivities*

*Individuals with environmental sensitivities experience a variety of adverse reactions to environmental agents at concentrations well below those that might affect the "average person". This medical condition is a disability and those living with environmental sensitivities are entitled to the protection of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The Canadian Human Rights Commission will receive any inquiry and process any complaint from any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against because of an environmental sensitivity. Like others with a disability, those with environmental sensitivities are*

Source: <http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca>

Furthermore CHRC reported that

*Approximately 3% of Canadians have been diagnosed with environmental sensitivities, and many more are somewhat sensitive to traces of chemicals and/or electromagnetic phenomena in the environment* //snip by Karow//

source: <http://www.weepinitiative.org/Canadian%20Human%20Rights.html>

This CHRC report is dealing with accommodations, thus electromagnetic sensitive residents near power lines have the right that their sensitivity be respected. This issue needs to be dealt with accordingly, i.e. power line corridors need to /can be at safe distances away as suggested in the BioInitiative Report. [http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/docs/section\\_1.pdf](http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/docs/section_1.pdf)

10. With so many projects in construction recently, presently and in the near future ...where are the rate-increase heading too also with the new proposed metering system?

With the forgoing stated, the Commission is respectfully asked to deny the proposed project. The now ongoing recession should not just remain by the general public, but also include the corporations and their shareholders.

What and Why is the rush?

Respectfully submitted

Hans Karow, CORE