

C13-35

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. SHADRACK:

MR. SHADRACK: Good morning again, Mr. Chairman and Panel members.

These oral hearings are about security, health, and environment. And what I want to do is make four points from an earlier submission, C13-4.

I am here representing the people of Area D, and in the Kootenay Lake and Lardeau Valley portion of Electoral Area D's OCP bylaw Number 1996, 2009, the following was adopted by the Regional District board on the 29th of April, 2010. At general commercial policies, it says:

"The board supports the right of communities to be informed of any changes to the electromagnetic spectrum by all operators of cell phone towers, WiFi systems, microwave systems, et cetera, that create man-made electromagnetic fields, and also supports the right of communities to propose zoning designations that apply to these operations."

And with permission, I'd like to hand out a document to both Fortis and Commission counsel. It is a protocol that was signed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association on February 28th, and it's entitled "Antenna systems siting protocol

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template".

So, I would ask for leave to file this, but I realize it's late and therefore the Commission may wish to make a decision on it. But I have copies available so that Fortis counsel can look at it, and your own counsel can look at it.

MR. FULTON: I think before it's marked, counsel for Fortis should look at it, Mr. Chairman, and then we can hear if there are submissions. It's unusual to be presenting evidence in the course of an opening statement. The opening statement is to be a summary of the position that a party has.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Would it be reasonable, then, from a procedural point of view, Mr. Fulton, if Fortis were to receive a copy of that now and then comment on its admissibility, having reviewed it?

MR. FULTON: Yes. And so Mr. Shadrack can continue with his submissions, but this document ought not to be marked at this time --

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

MR. FULTON: -- until parties have had a chance to review it.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Do you understand that, Mr. Shadrack?

MR. SHADRACK: Yes. And that's fair. I'm just trying to be helpful. Yeah.

So, my second point is that local

government in this situation end up on the pointy end of the stick around issues, particularly as they relate to land use planning around wireless issues.

On September the 30th, 2011, at the Union of B.C. Municipalities' AGM, the following resolution was passed by a majority of delegates. And here I note that every municipality and local government in British Columbia belongs to UBCM.

"Therefore be it resolved that a moratorium be placed on the mandatory installation of wireless smart meters until the major issues and problems identified regarding wireless smart meters are independently assessed and acceptable alternatives can be made available at no added cost to the consumer."

And the point I want to make here is at the time that that resolution was passed, there was no hearing into the deployment of smart meters in this province. This is the first and probably the only hearing that this Utilities Commission is going to carry out on this issue, I assume.

Proceeding Time 11:22 a.m. T25

Subsequent to that, I note that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Regional District Kootenay-Boundary, Kaslo, Montrose and Osoyoos, and my own board, have passed resolutions. On January 19th of 2012, we invited FortisBC and

Canadian Citizens for Safe Technology to come and make presentations to our board. We listened to each party for 15 minutes and then the following resolution was passed.

"In consideration that FortisBC is the hydro service provider for a significant portion of the RDCK population, we recommend FortisBC proactively engage in public discussion on public potential impacts, AMI program including impacts of the specific technologies considered and that they commit to outline a clear opt-out policy, especially as it relates to health concerns."

And then finally on April 12th of 2012 the following resolution was passed.

"Be it resolved that the Board supports the right of any property owner not to have a smart meter or smart meter adjunct equipment placed on their property without express written consent, especially as it relates to health issues and concerns."

And that resolution was passed by 75 percent of the directors at the Regional District. And so that's why I'm here with an interest in the issues of security, health, and environment, because of the direction that my own citizens who elected me made known when we

adopted the Official Community Plan, and what my
colleagues around the province and my own board have
been doing, though I am only here representing myself
as an individual director on the board.

Thank you very much.