

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT
R.S.B.C. 1996, CHAPTER 473

And

Re: FortisBC Energy Inc.
Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and
Necessity for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

OSOYOOS, B.C.
November 7 2012

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

BEFORE:

L. Kelsey,	Commission Chair / Panel Chair
N. MacMurchy,	Panel Member
D. Morton,	Panel Member

VOLUME 2

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1 **CAARS**
2 **OSOYOOS, B.C.**
3 **November 7, 2012**
4 **(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 3:03 P.M.)**
5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated, everybody.
6 Could I ask everybody to make sure they
7 have their cell phone turned off?
8 MR. TYL: I would like to make a recording of my speech.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, you're --
10 MR. TYL: You're responsive.
11 MR. FULTON: Just a minute, Mr. Tyl. In terms of the
12 process here, if you've got questions about process,
13 I'm happy to help you.
14 MR. TYL: Yes, I do.
15 MR. FULTON: Your presentation is going to be recorded.
16 A transcript will be made and it will be available --
17 MR. TYL: Oh, okay, that's fine.
18 MR. FULTON: -- on the website. Okay?
19 MR. TYL: Okay, fine, in that case. Otherwise, because
20 it could be the -- for future legal -- legal.
21 Contribution it could be some --
22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I am going to cover the --
23 MR. TYL: I am stopping it now.
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. I'm going to cover the process
25 we're going to follow here.
26 MR. TYL: Okay.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: And I think you'll find that it will
2 provide for --

3 MR. TYL: So, may I start now?

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: No, you may not, sir.

5 MR. FULTON: No.

6 MR. TYL: Oh, sorry.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

8 MR. TYL: I saw -- I had that question before.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, good afternoon, everyone. I am
10 Commissioner Len Kelsey and I welcome you to this
11 Community Input Session. With me today are
12 Commissioners Norman MacMurchy on my immediate right,
13 and David Morton on my left. We are the Commission
14 Panel designated to hear the FortisBC application for
15 the advanced smart meter infrastructure -- sorry, the
16 Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project.

17 It's my pleasure to introduce several other
18 people to you today, and I ask them to stand when I
19 introduce them, and I know you've probably already met
20 a couple of them. But I don't want to leave anybody
21 out, so I'll start at the beginning and introduce
22 Erica Hamilton, our Commission Secretary. Don
23 Flintoff, who is lead staff on this hearing and a
24 member of the infrastructure regulatory team at the
25 Utilities Commission. Gordon Fulton, Commission
26 counsel. Hal Bemister, our Hearing Officer, and also

1 members of Mr. Bemister's staff who are assisting with
2 the logistics and the transcript for this Community
3 Input Session.

4 Folks, please come in. There is some seats
5 up at the front here, and I invite you to take your
6 seats.

7 We are pleased to be in Osoyoos today to
8 hold this Community Input Session. I'm going to take
9 just a few minutes to explain why this session today
10 is important. The Commission must base its decisions
11 on the evidence before it, nothing more and nothing
12 less. In considering our decision, the Commission
13 must consider, among other things, the public
14 interest. Other issues include, and this is not a
15 complete list, British Columbia's Energy Objectives
16 and applicable sections of the *Clean Energy Act*.

17 Your input today will form part of the
18 evidence the Commission will consider in making its
19 decision. That's why the session today is being
20 transcribed and will be posted as a hearing exhibit.
21 The submissions will form part of the letters of
22 comment submission section of the hearing, and some of
23 you will have already submitted submissions or may do
24 following this session today, and those submissions
25 will be found on that section of the website.

26 The Commission feels that for issues for

1 the nature of this application, it's valuable to allow
2 for in-person input as well as written submissions.
3 So we're convened today to hear your thoughts on this
4 application. Because the submissions we hear today
5 will form part of the record of this proceeding, it's
6 important that we set some processes and rules in
7 place to ensure fairness, efficiency, and relevance.

8 Let me first deal with relevance. This
9 application relates to the advanced metering project
10 in the Fortis service area. We want to hear from
11 those who could be affected by the project. For this
12 reason, we have quite deliberately restricted
13 submissions to residents of the Fortis service area
14 and the several municipal-owned utility areas that
15 receive service from Fortis.

16 Second, fairness. We have deliberately
17 gone through a process of registration and ordering of
18 submissions through Commission counsel. Late requests
19 require leave to participate if they can be
20 accommodated. We expect the presentations to be made
21 in an organized manner and in a civil, respectful
22 tone. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes
23 maximum. There is not a requirement to use the entire
24 time you have been allocated. Everyone who has been
25 accepted to present will be given an opportunity and
26 so I request that there is no interruptions. The

1 Panel may have questions of a presenter at the end of
2 their submissions.

3 **Proceeding Time 3:09 p.m. T2**

4 Third, efficiency. It's helpful if the
5 submissions on a topic are concise. If a prior
6 speaker has covered essentially what you want to say,
7 I encourage you, rather than repeating what people
8 have said before you, to adopt and support what has
9 been said earlier. Now, this suggestion is not meant
10 or intended in any way to fetter your ability to
11 express your concerns. It is merely a suggestion.

12 Another point, because your comments today
13 will be recorded on a transcript, please identify
14 yourself as you begin your presentation, and we ask
15 you to confirm for the record that you are either a
16 direct customer of FortisBC or a customer of a
17 municipal electric utility that takes service from
18 FortisBC.

19 Finally, I want to thank the Commission
20 secretary for her brief presentation prior to our
21 start today, and as she mentioned there will be
22 another one before the start of the evening session.
23 I hope it was helpful to you and I invite you to meet
24 with her or any of the support staff I identified
25 earlier following this session, if you have questions
26 about the Commission and its processes.

1 Mr. Fulton, are there any procedural
2 matters to be dealt with at this stage?

3 MR. FULTON: Yes, I'd like to deal with the leave
4 applications first. I have been contacted by several
5 individuals in the Town of Osoyoos out of time. I am
6 recommending that all of the individuals in the Town
7 of Osoyoos be granted leave to participate. I will
8 name the individuals so that you can make a decision
9 on them collectively for the record. First of all,
10 the Town of Osoyoos --

11 VOICE: Point of order please, can we have that
12 microphone turned on? Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is that mike on? Okay.

14 MR. FULTON: Well, let me begin again, Mr. Chairman. I
15 would like to ask for leave for the following
16 individuals in town to speak. The Town of Osoyoos
17 represented by Michael Ryan, councillor. Flo Winfrey,
18 Orest Gulaga, Agnes Sutherland, and Charlotte
19 Burback. The town and those individuals contacted me
20 out of the time provided by the order that established
21 these sessions, but there is room on the schedule for
22 all of them to speak, and therefore I am seeking leave
23 on their behalf that they be allowed to speak.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Do you anticipate that we will be able
25 to have them speak this afternoon? Or will we be
26 required to move one or more of them into the evening

1 session?

2 MR. FULTON: One of them, Charlotte Burbach is an evening
3 session person, the rest can be accommodated this
4 afternoon.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, well I think if you feel they can
6 be accommodated reasonably, we can run a little over
7 our time. We will certainly provide leave. It is
8 important that we have an opportunity to hear from as
9 many people as possible, so yes.

10 MR. FULTON: And I should have said, Mr. Chairman, that
11 Agnes Sutherland is also an evening person, so --

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

13 MR. FULTON: Thank you. So, with that preliminary
14 business being finalized Mr. Chairman, I'd ask the
15 first speaker Ivo Tyl to go to the microphone please.

16 **SUBMISSION BY MR. IVO TYL:**

17 Thank you. In able to accommodate more
18 speakers, I will not read my contribution, I will
19 speak. Before I will speak, I would like to ask you,
20 aren't you little bit surprised that in Osoyoos is
21 probably I don't know, maybe 25 people here, when in
22 Oliver one week ago, where Oliver has moratorium,
23 there were 160 people. I have explanation for that.

24 You know those public notices, I was
25 surprised that somebody would ask for three days to
26 respond for public notice. In Quebec, for account,

1 there is 21 days able to respond. I believe that you
2 are responsible, that we have very slow attendance in
3 Osoyoos. And I feel sorry about that. I would like
4 to only explain to you what is the reason.

5 Now, myself I am retired professional
6 engineer in geophysical field, therefore I will speak
7 only what is possible to speak in terms of my
8 knowledge. My knowledge about that whole project is
9 just based on my own study, because Fortis didn't
10 forward us with any information in the last year. We
11 are receiving every month one statement, and there is
12 nothing about that. So, this is my point as I would
13 like to start. Therefore, is only from my own study,
14 what I have studied on internet.

15 Economic evaluation of that project. I
16 believe the cost is high, and there is no benefit for
17 Canada. I think it is absolutely, clearly, negative
18 -- this benefit in terms of Canada jobs. This is how
19 I see that economy of this project.

20 **Proceeding Time 3:14 p.m. T03**

21 Now, my biggest concern is about privacy.
22 When Google was going to make pictures of streets, our
23 federal Privacy Commissioner was complaining. I think
24 he should be more complaining about this project.
25 That the whole project is nothing else than absolutely
26 strong invasion of the privacy which could be used by

1 criminal bodies. You know, even Pentagon was hurt by
2 somebody who would be able to go into their report.

3 If this how it is planned, it will indicate
4 absolutely clearly warehouses during winter where they
5 are all empty, how many houses around are empty, how
6 easy is to go there even if moving truck and to take
7 whole house out. The possibility of invasion of the
8 houses by this whole project was expanded, and you
9 would see in the near future if this is implemented
10 somebody would point to that.

11 Now, in terms of -- therefore for me, as a
12 private resident or resident of Canada, this is for me
13 extremely important negative aspect of this project.

14 Now, about the transmission. You know, it
15 is a little bit again -- I don't know who was in front
16 of you to explain on behalf of Fortis what everything
17 in terms of transmission or data will happen. I would
18 like to know who was the person and if it was
19 independent. Because I am unable to be complete
20 expert and you, in terms of energy, you are also not
21 expert in transmitting of digital data.

22 Basically what is happening, that whole
23 project as -- in meshed grid of transmitter into each
24 house is generating such a big field which is probably
25 definitely more than we are all used to. We have our
26 own WiFi and smart phone and so on. Everything is

1 around. We know that. Therefore, this in the sense
2 of inter -- integrate mesh of the transmitter in each
3 house was never tested, was never approved, and that
4 whole project didn't get the proper CSUL certificate
5 and FCC approval. Therefore it is illegal.

6 Now, about the relegation. I already said
7 that we don't even know, and they don't know, people
8 are in -- what happened in the Saltspring Island, on
9 Vancouver Island, people were saying that, you know,
10 Fortis is lying to them, in terms of -- no, they were
11 not lying, they were doing something more? They don't
12 know what they are planning. So, and now about that
13 whole technical effect. Myself, as engineer, I have
14 only one knowledge about that. Problem of night and
15 day grid, needs for providing by a power station was
16 already 50 years in Europe solved in very beautiful
17 technical way. Night, night excess for the grid was
18 put to pump water above [inaudible], and the next day,
19 the morning, they saw that the power to be restored
20 through that process. You can check it on internet,
21 it is everywhere. I check it, I saw it, and I knew
22 about it because I came from the country.

23 So, basically this is what I am speaking
24 about as a resident of Canada, and a resident of
25 Osoyoos town. Now I will speak about my own personal
26 issue. Maybe I should open my --

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me, but you have to sit with
2 the microphone --

3 MR. TYL: Okay, no no. No, I just -- no no, no no.
4 Okay. I just wanted to show you is my pacer here, you
5 know.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: No problem, no problem, it's just
7 you need to --

8 MR. TYL: Okay. But I will not do that. As a person, I
9 will tell you, and I will read this paragraph, because
10 it's very important.

11 I had an open heart operation and my heart
12 is now totally dependent on my pacer, clinically
13 checked twice -- in Penticton hospital. When I am
14 traveling by air, which I do, I have special ride to
15 bypass electric check-in gates. Similarly, I wish to
16 have identical protection in my house for any movement
17 on my house with an intimate closeness to electric
18 meter within inches when I go on my path like that,
19 which is -- I think it is concrete. And that's going
20 to take me to here. I also sleeping three metres
21 above of this meter.

22 I will not permit any installation in my
23 house causing me stress and possible harm. In fact,
24 then Fortis could be contributing to my suicide, which
25 is illegal in Canada. That's all -- I make a little
26 bit of a joke. But this is definitely serious, and it

1 is not only me. There are many other people like
2 that.

3 **Proceeding Time 3:20 p.m. T4**

4 Now, I will provide, besides that website,
5 I will provide copies of the submission to Osoyoos
6 Council, where I will request for similar moratorium
7 which is in for Oliver. I will forward this one to my
8 MLA representative, Honourable John Slater, to exam
9 what is real situation in terms of the people who are
10 against it, as I am against it. I will request -- I
11 will forward this to all provincial parties for their
12 positioning in terms of next provincial election which
13 will come very soon, because this might be easily
14 election issue I think. I will try it that it will
15 be. And I will also sending this submission to my MP
16 who will be here in Osoyoos actually by -- next week,
17 where I will be asking that Federal private
18 Commissioner, and Federal Human Rights Commission
19 would exam this issue, because basically what I know,
20 unless somebody will here speak that is for it, I
21 don't know for -- I don't know any person who wants to
22 have it.

23 This is the end of my -- to -- I worry that
24 more people would be able to speak. Thank you very
25 much.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

1 MR. FULTON: Mr. Tyl, do you have a copy of that document
2 that you would like me to mark as an exhibit?

3 MR. TYL: Oh yes, thank you, thank you, sorry. Yes. So,
4 I didn't need to record it, it will be recorded, yes?

5 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Tyl has provided me with a
6 written copy of his submission, and I would ask that
7 that be marked Exhibit E-16.

8 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF IVO TYL MARKED EXHIBIT E-**
9 **16)**

10 MR. FULTON: The next presenter is Rose-Marie Voakes?

11 **SUBMISSION BY MS. ROSE-MARIE VOAKES:**

12 I'd like to thank the Commission for this
13 opportunity to speak. I thought that we lived in a
14 democracy. More and more of our freedoms have been
15 taken away. Big business and government seem to
16 operate on the premise that they know what is best for
17 us. In this instance, I beg to differ. At this time,
18 bullying has been in the forefront of the news.
19 Giving no right of refusal of smart meters is a form
20 of bullying and contra-democratic.

21 In April 2012, Central Main Power in the
22 U.S. was ordered to allow customers who don't want the
23 technology to opt out. We want the same opportunity.

24 One of my chief concerns, same as Mr.
25 Tyl's, with smart meters is privacy. Why should an
26 electric company know when a person cooks, when they

1 wash their clothes or put on their TV, or when they
2 are not at home. There is talk that third parties
3 will have access to this information. Since Microsoft
4 and Google are interested in smart meters, there is
5 potential for even less privacy. For sure hackers
6 will soon use the information to find if people are
7 away for an extended period of time, perfect for a
8 burglar. I read Orwell's 1984. If ever Big Brother
9 is watching us, it is now. I do not have a cell
10 phone, because where I go, and when, is no one's
11 business but my own. Smart meters will be even more
12 intrusive.

13 Smart meters have been used in other
14 countries. For the most part, cost savings have not
15 been realized. When time of use fees are implemented,
16 many have found their bills triple. We are creatures
17 of habit. It takes a very dedicated person to
18 rearrange their lives to take advantage of electrical
19 savings. Apparently it costs at least \$100 per
20 household to install these meters.

21 **Proceeding Time 3:26 p.m. T05**

22 Even if the householder is not directly
23 charged, each one is paying through increased taxes to
24 pay for government rebates to the company. In
25 addition, monthly fees may be tacked on to one's power
26 bill to help pay for the cost of installation. In

1 Chicago, they did a test using 8,000 random
2 households. This test was to show savings. In only 9
3 percent of households did people power down during
4 peak periods. Also, there is planned obsolescence.
5 Whereas meters could last 25 years, suppliers are
6 looking at a three-year turnover. Who will pay for
7 the replacements?

8 The smart meter itself is not the end of
9 the story. In order to properly monitor usage,
10 households will be encouraged to fork over hundreds of
11 dollars to purchase in-home equipment to work with the
12 meters. After that, it is a short period of time
13 before the householder will be encouraged to purchase
14 smart appliances to work with the in-home equipment.
15 Where will it all end? Does the power company really
16 want to save us money? I think not. The financial
17 savings to power companies will be huge. With smart
18 meters they will be able to lay off thousands of meter
19 readers, et cetera, causing an increase in
20 unemployment.

21 A big concern is health. The World Health
22 Organization has classified the radio frequency
23 radiation as possibly carcinogenic. Perhaps the
24 emissions from one meter are low with transmissions
25 every few seconds. However, each meter may have a
26 range of over two miles. This means that all of your

1 neighbours' meters are transmitting through you as
2 well. Pulsed radio frequency, a health concern, will
3 be virtually continuous. Imagine the future for the
4 poor tenant or condo owner whose place is next to the
5 utility room with perhaps 20 metres in close
6 proximity. It was found that when high frequencies on
7 building wires were removed, blood sugar levels,
8 asthma, sleep, headaches, et cetera, improved.

9 Louis Donovan, of Carson, California, says
10 that he suffered heart problems, and he was healthy
11 beforehand, after a smart meter was installed on his
12 home. The problems required hospitalization and later
13 the installation of a pacemaker. He is not the only
14 one who has reported problems with his heart as a
15 result of smart meters being installed. In Santa
16 Cruz, California, PG&E is quietly removing smart
17 meters and replacing them with analog meters in the
18 homes of those who suffer health problems.

19 Our whole ecosystem may be threatened as
20 thousands of bee colonies are becoming disoriented by
21 the radio frequencies of smart meters. They are not
22 gathering pollen, which will bode poorly for the
23 future of the hive. We do not yet know the full
24 extent of the damage done by smart meters to animals
25 and plants.

26 In the Lower Mainland, which has smart

1 meters, erroneous grow-ops have been reported.
2 Elsewhere, poor communication to the power company has
3 resulted in lengthy power disruptions.
4 In conclusion, please have the foresight to
5 stop this installation in Osoyoos. Failing that,
6 please make Fortis provide an opt-out choice with no
7 penalty. Thank you for your time.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Before you leave, could I just ask you
9 to affirm that you're a Fortis customer, or a customer
10 of one of the --

11 MS. VOAKES: You can ask all kinds of people here, but
12 yes.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, I'm asking you. Yes.

14 MS. VOAKES: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

16 **Proceeding Time 3:30 p.m. T06**

17 MR. FULTON: Ms. Voakes has provided me with a written
18 copy of her submission, Mr. Chairman, and if I might
19 ask that that be marked Exhibit E-17.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

21 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION BY MS. ROSE-MARIE VOAKES**
22 **MARKED EXHIBIT E-17)**

23 MR. FULTON: And just to complete the record, I'm not
24 sure that Mr. Tyl spoke to it, but he did advise me
25 that he was a customer of Fortis as well.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

1 MR. FULTON: The next presenter is Michael Ryan, who is a
2 councillor and is speaking on behalf of the Town of
3 Osoyoos.

4 **SUBMISSION BY MR. MICHAEL RYAN:**

5 Yes, my name is Michael Ryan and I am a
6 member of the town council of Osoyoos, and I am also a
7 customer of Fortis. And I'm here representing the
8 town council and the residents of Osoyoos. And I do
9 wish to thank the Commission for deciding to hold this
10 input session in Osoyoos. We're grateful that we have
11 the opportunity to make our voices heard and to have
12 the convenience of having this input session in our
13 own community.

14 **Proceeding Time 3:32 p.m. T07**

15 I've personally followed the progress of
16 this matter of the advanced metering infrastructure,
17 or the AMI, as diligently as I could. I've been
18 present at presentations from both Fortis and B.C.
19 Hydro representatives on the subject, and have visited
20 their booths when attending national, provincial, and
21 regional conferences and conventions of local
22 government organizations.

23 Most recently, on May the 22nd, Fortis
24 representative Mr. Bob Gibney made a presentation on
25 the AMI to the town council in Osoyoos. At that time,
26 he invited council to provide a letter to Fortis

1 expressing our position on this project. We agreed to
2 review his request and respond.

3 When the report on his visit and the
4 discussion with council was reported the next day in
5 our weekly newspaper, the *Osoyoos Times*, the council
6 immediately began to receive letters and emails
7 opposing any endorsement. Within a week, we had
8 received a 78-name petition urging us not to support
9 the AMI project.

10 Council reviewed the issue, including the
11 Fortis presentation and documents and comments from
12 residents and at its open meeting of July the 3rd,
13 council passed a resolution that I'm going to describe
14 to you in a moment, proposed by fellow councilor
15 Rhodes and myself. And it directed our administration
16 to provide Fortis with a letter, which we sent in mid-
17 July, outlining the town council position on this AMI
18 project.

19 The resolution stated:

20 "Given conflicting issues, information and
21 the intensity of technical assessment
22 needed, the installation of advanced
23 metering infrastructure, smart meters, in
24 Osoyoos is best left to the business
25 relationship between Fortis and its
26 customers. However, if a smart metering

1 program is approved, council sees it as
2 essential to provide an opt-out clause and
3 time-of-use program information."

4 Our letter to Fortis went on to state that
5 council's opinion is that the installation of AMI will
6 be reviewed by the B.C. Utilities Commission as part
7 of Fortis's application process, and therefore
8 technical arguments will be addressed at that time by
9 personnel that are knowledgeable in that area.
10 Council also expressed the need to provide people with
11 an option to opt out of the program of any proposed
12 AMI program and include the energy and cost saving
13 linked to a time-of-use pricing system.

14 In summary, our council does not feel it is
15 competent to judge the AMI project on technical
16 grounds or to make a conclusive assessment of the
17 potential health and safety risks. However, we do
18 respect the views of those who have serious
19 reservations and concerns about the potential dangers
20 of the electromagnetic radiation, and our concern to
21 protect their rights. Consequently, we are convinced
22 that an opt-out provision for individual customers is
23 justified, based on the precautionary principle,
24 namely that it is always better to be safe than sorry.

25 There is another adage which also is
26 relevant to this project and this discussion. It is,

1 when it comes to purchasing goods and services, that
2 the customer is always right. In other market
3 transactions people engage in they have a choice. If
4 a customer is unhappy or dissatisfied with a product
5 or service of one company, they can patronize another
6 company, because they have choice. This is not the
7 case with the supply of electric power. Fortis has a
8 captive service area and they are the only game in
9 town. So customers have no choice, unless they are
10 living off the grid.

11 So the Osoyoos council's position is simply
12 this. That Fortis customers must have the opportunity
13 to choose whether or not to participate in this new
14 infrastructure program.

15 We hope that you, the Commissioners, will
16 decide to give our residents and any others who have
17 similar reservations about this technology a choice to
18 opt out of having a smart meter at their premises.
19 And thank you for the opportunity to present the
20 viewpoint of Osoyoos Town Council and many of our
21 residents on the proposed AMI project.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. FULTON: Mr. Ryan has provided me with a written copy
24 of his submission and if I might ask that that be
25 marked Exhibit E-18, please.

26 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MR. MICHAEL RYAN, TOWN OF**

1 **OSOYOOS MARKED AS EXHIBIT E-18)**

2 **Proceeding Time 3:37 p.m. T8**

3 MR. FULTON: Virginia McQuarrie.

4 **SUBMISSION BY MS. VIRGINIA McQUARRIE:**

5 I wish to thank you for the opportunity to
6 present my feelings about the metering of the --
7 putting -- installation of the smart meters in
8 Osoyoos. Reference above, I would advise that Mr.
9 Knight who's going to represent me at this session.
10 Unfortunately he had a doctor's appointment and
11 advised me late last night that he could not attend,
12 so my presentation is very brief.

13 I did petition in our neighbourhood and
14 submitted the petition to the Town of Osoyoos.
15 Seventy-eight people signed the petition and they were
16 very opposed to the installation of the smart meters.
17 We feel strongly that we live in a democratic system
18 and should have the option of refusing to have smart
19 meters installed on our premises.

20 It is my belief that the electromagnetic
21 pollution from these meters brings about numerous
22 health problems, and I'm really not in the position to
23 be exposed to any more problems than I already have.
24 In the interests of economics, Fortis own both the
25 electric and gas franchises in this area. Recently
26 you had two meter men come to our area, both in

1 separate vehicles, reading the meters. It seems like
2 poor economics, in my opinion, as I feel that one
3 meter man could have read both meters for the gas
4 company and for the electric company.

5 A copy of the petition is attached, and as
6 I said, for health reasons I am strongly opposed to
7 the installation of a smart meter on my premise. We
8 should have the option to be able to opt out if we
9 choose not to have smart meters installed on our
10 property. And that's all I have to say and we are
11 Fortis customers.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

13 MR. FULTON: Ms. McQuarrie has provided me with a written
14 copy of her submission together with a copy of the
15 petition to the mayor and council. If that document
16 may be marked Exhibit E-19.

17 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION BY MS. VIRGINIA MCQUARRIE,**
18 **WITH ATTACHED PETITIONS MARKED EXHIBIT E-19)**

19 MR. FULTON: Vera Turek.

20 MS. TUREK: Yes.

21 **SUBMISSION BY MS. VERA TUREK:**

22 My name is Vera Turek and I am a Fortis
23 customer. I would like to voice my concern for the
24 proposed smart meter installation in our community,
25 and I do not support the installation of smart meters
26 for the following reasons.

1 communications to collectors, routers, and cell
2 towers, which again overlap the radiation over much
3 greater distance. Therefore we are blanketed by
4 dangerous microwave radiation unnecessarily. The
5 amount of compounded radiation is a very scary
6 proposition, especially when you take into account the
7 increase in brain tumours and the other cancers and
8 illnesses that have increased significantly since
9 wireless technology has exploded around the globe.
10 Australia has shown 35 percent increase in brain
11 tumours between year 2000 and 2008 where cell phone
12 use has been exploding since 1990.

13 Will the power companies provide
14 compensation and cover the health care costs? Is this
15 cost included in your profitability calculation or the
16 problem just being ignored and left for someone else
17 to deal with it later?

18 This type of radiation, called EMR
19 radiation, electromagnetic radiation, which is
20 originally developed -- actually it was originally
21 developed as a weapon of war in the 1950s to eliminate
22 and exterminate populations, most of what probably
23 don't know it. How can this same technology be used
24 to blanket the globe and we target are safe? The
25 radiation emitted from smart meters, routers and cell
26 towers seriously interfere with medical devices such

1 as pacemakers and several medical conditions, for
2 example positional, benign positional vertigo,
3 otherwise known as Ménière's disease, the problem in
4 the inner ear, and many many more. And also interfere
5 with our body's ability to heal itself. If we are
6 subjected to such a carcinogen, the health issues
7 resulting from exposure will soon overwhelm our
8 medical system.

9 The existing meters made of metal and glass
10 have worked perfectly well for decades. Why our
11 government would agree to spend almost \$48 million of
12 taxpayers' money in the South Okanagan for something
13 that is unprovable, potentially dangerous, and need to
14 be replaced every couple of years because the
15 radiation destroyed its own component? The taxpayer
16 dollars should be directed to other necessity services
17 that benefit the public. How will our government deal
18 with that outfall of health problems that are
19 guaranteed to plague these communities? Is the public
20 involuntarily being used as guinea pigs because there
21 is a push for convenience?

22 **Proceeding Time 3:47 p.m. T10**

23 Also, many fires have been reported due to
24 installation of smart meters, which are not covered by
25 insurance, nor is the liability for these fires taken
26 by Fortis or B.C. Hydro. What happens to these people

1 who have lost their homes and have no coverage? Is
2 the electrical company compensating them or is it more
3 denial of liability?

4 In conclusion, I feel that citizens should
5 not be forced to be exposed to radiation and
6 electrical muscle stimulation for the purpose of
7 commercial gain. I do not agree with this proposed
8 installation of smart meters and hope that the British
9 Columbia Utility Commission and Fortis take into
10 serious consideration the damage this technology has
11 potential to do. Thank you for the opportunity to let
12 me --

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

14 MR. FULTON: Ms. Turek has provided a copy of her
15 submission in writing to me, and I would ask that that
16 be marked Exhibit E-20.

17 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MS. VERA TUREK MARKED**
18 **EXHIBIT E-20)**

19 MR. FULTON: Paul McCavour.

20 **SUBMISSION BY MR. PAUL McCAVOUR:**

21 Good afternoon, gentlemen. I appreciate
22 the opportunity to appear before this Panel to address
23 FortisBC's plans to implement a smart meter program in
24 my community. I appreciate that my concerns and the
25 concerns of the other speakers today will be heard in
26 a fair and unbiased forum. I will say I may have to

1 interrupt my presentation here because people have
2 spoken on other things, so I won't repeat them. So if
3 I do hesitate it's for that reason.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: If it's more convenient for you, just
5 read your presentation from beginning to end. I don't
6 want to throw you off what you've prepared if trying
7 to synthesize it with what others have said causes
8 some problems for you.

9 MR. McCAVOUR: Okay, well, fair enough, thank you very
10 much.

11 Okay, I join with the hundreds of citizens
12 in the South Okanagan, and hundreds of thousands
13 throughout B.C., Canada, United States and many other
14 countries to protest the implementation of smart
15 meters by our utility provider, FortisBC. Numerous
16 complaints have been lodged with several public
17 utilities in Canada and the United States over safety
18 issues, including meters catching fire as well as
19 privacy concerns and higher energy costs. I know
20 others here will be speaking to the human health and
21 safety issues surrounding smart meters, and those
22 should be serious and concerning for everyone. But I
23 wish to focus on the financial burden that I see will
24 be shifted to FortisBC customers with the smart meter
25 installations.

26 I will, however, ask one question.

1 Considering there is a safer alternative to the
2 wireless technology, millions of smart meters in use
3 in Italy, for example, run on low voltage power lines.
4 So why is FortisBC not investigating this technology?
5 Why install the wireless radiation-emitting smart
6 meters that everyone is worried about when there is an
7 alternative?

8 Now, it seems that the smart meters are
9 just another way customers will be forced to pay more
10 for the same product, in this case electricity. We
11 see the same things happening everywhere. Sizes of
12 orange juice cartons, cereal boxes and just about any
13 food item you can name appear to be the same as they
14 were a year ago, but their contents are being reduced.
15 Bit by bit, product amounts are being reduced while
16 the retail price remains the same. It's called nickel
17 and diming at the expense of customers to boost
18 corporate profits.

19 Another way corporations are making bigger
20 profits is by charging you more for the same amount of
21 product, which I compare to egg grading. The smart
22 meter idea is smart indeed for the utility company.
23 FortisBC gets to supply you the same amount of product
24 but charge you more by grading the electricity
25 depending on the time of day you wish to use it.
26 FortisBC will likely also boost its profits through

1 the elimination of jobs. Meter readers going door to
2 door to check meters can be replaced by the remote
3 monitoring allowed by the smart meters.

4 **Proceeding Time 3:52 p.m. T11**

5 Now, in researching my presentation to you,
6 I read dozens of news reports in print newspapers and
7 online. A Consumers Digest report by William J. Kelly
8 published in January 2011 concludes that the costs of
9 installing the smart meters will ultimately be
10 absorbed by the consumer. Kelly writes that a few of
11 the 35 experts interviewed for his investigative
12 report suggests that smart meter conversion represents
13 little more than a boondoggle that has been foisted on
14 the consumers by the politically influential companies
15 that make the hardware and software required for the
16 smart meter conversion. Mr. Kelly goes on to say that
17 from a consumers' perspective, the potential negative
18 consequences outweigh the benefits in three critical
19 areas. Cost, rate changes, and energy savings.

20 Higher consumer costs includes covering the
21 utility company's costs of installation. Customers
22 may also be hit with the cost of in-home equipment,
23 designed to help them monitor and control energy
24 consumption. Rate changes will be reflected in time
25 of day energy use, with energy rates tiered so that
26 they will have to be higher during peak use times,

1 when most people have no choice but to use power, and
2 lowered during off peak times when energy demands are
3 reduced. The way I see it, once the entire smart
4 meter system has been paid for, essentially by the
5 consumer, paying a high rate for their peak hour
6 usage, from then on the extra money collected will be
7 pure profit. This does not seem fair to the consumer.

8 In his report, Kelly concludes that smart
9 meters may never curtail electricity use, so the
10 supposed energy savings for consumers may never be
11 realized. A smart grid pilot project conducted in
12 Chicago, found that fewer than nine percent of
13 customers exhibited any amount of peak usage
14 reduction, and that the overall amount of reduction
15 was statistically insignificant. The data came from a
16 report by the Electric Power Research Institute. Now,
17 I am sure Fortis and other electric power suppliers
18 are aware of these studies.

19 Kelly adds in the Consumers Digest report
20 that Nancy Brockway, an attorney specializing in
21 electric utility regulation who served on New
22 Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission from 1998 to
23 2003 stated, they should not install smart meters and
24 the smart grid. These changes are very expensive and
25 the benefits have not yet been proven enough to cover
26 the cost. Many states including Hawaii, Vermont,

1 Maine, Connecticut, Maryland, California, Nevada, and
2 Oregon have allowed customers to opt out of smart
3 meter installations, and in November 2011, the Union
4 of British Columbia Municipalities voted in favour of
5 a moratorium to temporarily suspend smart meter
6 installations. So far, according to the organization
7 Citizens for Safe Technology, 59 B.C. municipalities
8 have passed smart meter moratoriums or opt-out clauses
9 on mandatory installation, including Osoyoos, Oliver,
10 and Penticton.

11 In my research for this presentation, I
12 read dozens of complaints from B.C. Hydro customers
13 over higher electricity bills after smart meters were
14 installed on their homes. On March the 6th, 2012, News
15 1130 radio reporter Aaron Locksam interviewed
16 Vancouver homeowner Brad Heugle who stated his
17 electricity bill tripled after a smart meter
18 installation. Heugle explained that his bill shot
19 from usually around \$160 for two months, to one for
20 \$550 for a two month period. And he added he also
21 purchased a more energy efficient washer/dryer during
22 that same period.

23 His complaint echoed many that I read,
24 including people who say they are unplugging every
25 unused device in their homes to cut kilowatt
26 consumption, yet they are still seeing their bill

1 spike. Many retirees and seniors like myself are on
2 fixed incomes, and the prospect of cooking meals and
3 doing laundry late at night in order to cut energy
4 costs is unacceptable. Must we all become nocturnal
5 just to save energy costs?

6 I am among many responsible citizens who
7 understand the need to conserve energy. I purchase
8 energy efficient appliances and bulbs, turn off
9 unnecessary lights, keep my thermostat at reasonable
10 levels, and for at least six months of the year, I dry
11 my clothes outdoors. I would like to see FortisBC and
12 other electric companies start developing solar
13 technologies, whereby people can capture and utilize
14 the sun's power to help run a household. This could
15 further reduce energy costs and consumption, and avoid
16 the smart meter costs and health and safety concerns.

17 **Proceeding Time 3:57 p.m. T12**

18 I urge the British Columbia Utilities
19 Commission to deny FortisBC implementation of its
20 smart meter program in this area, and encourage
21 FortisBC to seek out a safer and less costly
22 alternative for the consumer. After all, necessity is
23 the mother of invention.

24 Thank you very much. My name is Paul
25 McCavour. I'm a FortisBC customer and I have a copy
26 to pass on.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCavour has provided me
3 with a written copy of his submission. If that could
4 be marked Exhibit E-21.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

6 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MR. PAUL McCAVOUR MARKED**
7 **EXHIBIT E-21)**

8 MR. FULTON: Flo Winfrey.

9 **SUBMISSION BY MS. FLORENCE WINFREY:**

10 Members of the Commission, thank you for
11 this opportunity to speak out in public. It's one of
12 our freedoms. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.
13 May I introduce myself. My name is Florence Winfrey.
14 I live in Olalla. I am retired registered nurse with
15 45 years of experience and I raised six kids as well.
16 We also raised -- we've also operated a small
17 restaurant, so I know the business side of things as
18 well.

19 Recently I've become more and more
20 interested in this smart meter infiltration into our
21 society. The very fact that the World Health
22 Organization has been ignored, their warnings of the
23 electromagnetic fields being dangerous to the health
24 and welfare of all people, particularly all children
25 and those with compromised immune systems, as well as
26 the elderly. WHO compares these EMFs to Class B

1 carcinogens such as DDT and asbestos contaminations.
2 In fact the truth regarding biological effects of RF
3 radiation has been heavily suppressed, with all means
4 possible except criminal ones, states Professor Franz
5 Adlkofer, who is the coordinator of European
6 Communities Reflex Report.

7 In my opinion, this B.C. Utilities
8 Commission is ignoring their own mission statement, to
9 ensure that ratepayers receive safe energy services.
10 The power companies, FortisBC and B.C. Hydro, are
11 perpetuating continuous misinformation about the safe
12 application and the safe operation of these smart
13 meters. There is a growing roar of objection to this
14 misinformation from reliable, very well educated
15 people as well as consumers of the electric power.
16 Many of this population are suffering ill health from
17 EMF equipment and fixtures. So why do we need to put
18 it in our home?

19 FortisBC stated in a letter to me that, oh,
20 significant financial savings to customers over the
21 life of the project will be realized. The writer must
22 have been singing from the wrong song sheet, so to
23 speak, and did not hear the problems Ontario people
24 were having. Ontario sources complain of a much
25 higher electrical billing since smart meters were
26 installed. Also high billing for off-peak usage. For

1 instance somebody was up at 2:00 and used their washer
2 and dryer and it was totally higher than when they had
3 used it during the day. That's kind of funny, isn't
4 it?

5 Fortis also states immediate detection of
6 power outages, therefore allowing for more effective
7 restoration of electricity to customers. My goodness
8 we're doing just fine with this, it doesn't seem that
9 we need a smart meter for that. Electrical theft does
10 cause considerable problems and safety risks, but why
11 should all consumers be treated as potential
12 criminals? Very few wish to steal electrical power
13 and wouldn't know how even if they wanted to. Can't
14 this monitoring be done through the accounting and
15 billing departments as well as the meter reading staff
16 observation of vacant buildings if we can keep them?
17 It is time for Hydro and Fortis to become accountable
18 to the public. Please use investigating techniques
19 before implicating anyone or all of us.

20 Fortis and Hydro, has it not occurred to
21 you that by connecting all of the consumers together
22 in a grid, that this alone could become an excellent
23 opportunity for a mass terrorist attack or a simple
24 criminal text pass. You know hackers get into
25 everything, for goodness sake.

26 **Proceeding Time 4:02 p.m. T13**

1 Just by recording personal activity in the
2 homes, real criminals could plan to have home
3 invasions or robberies. Have you planned for this now
4 sitting duck EMF consumer to be protected? I don't
5 think so. In my opinion, we seem to be facing more
6 criminality from within these organizations than from
7 the occasional electrical theft.

8 This brings me more into the discussion of
9 privacy issue, which has been totally ignored in my
10 opinion by all the corporations worldwide pushing for
11 the use of these smart meters. The use of these smart
12 meters by Fortis and B.C. Hydro poses considerable
13 risk to privacy. Now, I got this out of Britain.
14 This states an EU Data Watchdog, BBC News Technology.

15 "We are so close to losing the freedom of
16 tranquil peace and privacy in our homes.
17 The European Data Protection Supervisor
18 voices concern over the potential
19 intrusiveness of these smart meters that can
20 track everything that family members do in
21 the privacy of the sanctity of the home that
22 we cherish. Remember, information gathered
23 through these smart meters can have high
24 commercial value. Marketing firms would
25 like to know consumers' sleeping patterns,
26 foods that are being consumed, devices or

1 tools that are being used by everybody."

2 Why are we under attack? Well, why not?
3 Why not indeed? Globally we Canadians appear to be a
4 wealthy, apathetic and ignorant to the possibility of
5 domination of our democracy, freedom and personal
6 privacy. We appear to be cash cows waiting to be
7 milked. Once our personal privacy becomes a
8 marketable entity, the next reason that comes to mind
9 is, of course money, and control of our lives and all
10 that we have fought for and hold dear.

11 We are approaching Remembrance Day. This
12 is the day we honour those who laid down their lives
13 for us to have these freedoms. In my opinion --
14 excuse me. In my opinion both Fortis and B.C. Hydro
15 are top-heavy and expensive executives whose stipends
16 could possibly be choking the company. So perhaps the
17 Utilities Commission could recommend that these
18 expensive people be retired immediately and told to
19 take their devilish meters with them. We do not need
20 either of them. In my opinion these so-called smart
21 meters are tantamount to old Gestapo tactics, only
22 this time it is technological spying into our freedom
23 and precious privacy. In other words if smart meters
24 aren't put off the market, I see ongoing and further
25 degradation of our democracy and a promotion of
26 possible police state with corporate control.

1 This opinion is not mine alone. We must
2 stand up and stop smart meters immediately. Our media
3 seems to be stifled. Everybody, use your computer and
4 Google, social media, et cetera. Get educated. In my
5 opinion knowledge will keep us free and is a force for
6 maintaining our freedom. There is strength in
7 numbers. Stand up and be counted. I am only one
8 voice crying out in the forest of corporate greed.
9 There are other voices clamouring to be heard. Thank
10 you very much.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

12 MR. FULTON: Mrs. Winfrey has provided me with a copy of
13 her submission and I'll ask that that be marked
14 Exhibit P-22.

15 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MS. FLORENCE WINFREY**
16 **MARKED EXHIBIT P-22)**

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Fulton, I don't recall that Ms.
18 Winfrey confirmed that --

19 MS. WINFREY: Yes, I'm a Fortis customer.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

21 MR. FULTON: Thank you. The next speaker is Orest
22 Gulaga.

23 **SUBMISSION BY MR. OREST GULAGA:**

24 My name is Orest Gulaga and I live in
25 Oliver, B.C. and I'm a Fortis customer. Unfortunately
26 you are not coming to Oliver. We had a very nice

1 500 smart meters, because that's what's going to
2 happen in my area where I live. I live in a small
3 community of Gallagher Lake. It's a trailer court and
4 a lot of smaller homes. So when you stack all these
5 homes together and they are 500 meters that are going
6 to be sending electromagnetic radiation all within
7 this two mile radius, it's bombarding me, it's
8 bombarding my wife.

9 Now, my wife is hard of hearing so we have
10 instruments that are wireless. We have a doorbell
11 that rings and she has a little instrument, a receiver
12 on her belt and when the doorbell rings, then she can
13 recognize it because it vibrates and she's knows it's
14 the doorbell. We have one close to a fire alarm so
15 that if the fire alarm ever went off, she can't hear
16 it but is she has this receiver by the pillow, it will
17 vibrate and it will wake her up.

18 So those are choices that we made where we
19 said okay, it's wireless technology and it is sending
20 the same kind of signal, but we made that choice. And
21 there is some benefit to us. What Fortis is proposing
22 on the other hand, they showed me no benefits for me.
23 They had an opportunity to convince me that what they
24 were offering was safe, and they failed.

25 If an organization is trying to convince
26 its clients or its customers to go in a certain

1 direction, surely you need to do your homework or why
2 are you in the business of providing this service? I
3 would question their corporate citizenship. What are
4 they really about when they don't care about those
5 kinds of basic concerns that I and others brought to
6 this information meeting? And nor have I seen any
7 follow-up response to those kinds of questions.

8 And even here today, the concerns that I've
9 heard, you know I've seen those on the internet, and
10 yet I have never seen anything from Fortis that says
11 "No, that's really not true. Here's a study that
12 showed otherwise in terms of cost. Here's a study
13 that showed otherwise in terms of health concerns."
14 None of that. They have no evidence, yet they
15 continue to speak their piece. We at least have
16 anecdotal evidence. We have experience to share and
17 say there are the concerns we have. Obviously
18 somebody is concerned if the World Health Organization
19 is concerned.

20 **Proceeding Time 4:12 p.m. T15**

21 Obviously when I install a microwave oven
22 in my house, they tell me not to stand too close.
23 They tell me about cell phones, don't put it too close
24 to your ear. They give me some information so I can
25 protect myself. Fortis, on the other hand, doesn't
26 care about that. Doesn't tell me how to protect

1 myself. And you were there, you had an opportunity,
2 and you failed. And so did you, you were there, and
3 four others of your people were there, and you all
4 failed miserably to show why this is a good thing for
5 me, and how you are protecting my health, or how you
6 are improving my well being. So what kind of
7 corporate citizen are you? And as your -- and as the
8 representative of that corporation, I would be
9 thoroughly embarrassed.

10 My concern is, as many others here, we have
11 no evidence that it is safe. We haven't been shown
12 that it is. Fortis had a responsibility to show that.
13 If you are going to introduce something like this, you
14 have a responsibility. It's not up to us to prove to
15 you that it is not going to work, the proof will be 10
16 years from now maybe when our health starts to fail
17 and we show signs of that. But right now it's really
18 up to them to prove to us that it is safe, and they
19 have failed to do that.

20 If they are going to implement any kind of
21 new meter, I would recommend that you as a Commission
22 make a precautionary decision as I have heard it
23 called here before. They have a choice, they can go
24 back to the old analog meter and stay with that. It
25 has proven to be safe. There is wire. There is also
26 a digital new digital smart meter. The only

1 difference is it is wired. It is just like my router
2 on my computer. I can have it wirelessly connected to
3 my TV to play Netflix, or I can wire it. And because
4 I wire it, it's safer. So why can't they do that?
5 They will get the same information, and as corporate
6 citizens they can still continue to fire whatever --
7 they said 18 of their meter readers, so they will
8 still meet their corporate objectives of firing
9 people, and they will meet their corporate objective
10 of installing digital meters where the information
11 will be fed into their main computer, and they will
12 have all the same information that they have now.
13 Except they won't be bombarding us with radiation for
14 which they have no proof that it's safe or it's
15 secure.

16 So, that's my recommendation, I thank you
17 for your time. I don't have any notes.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you sir.

19 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the list of
20 speakers who had previously identified themselves to
21 me as wanting to speak at this session. There are
22 others who could not be here this afternoon and will
23 be coming this evening. So, I have no other speakers
24 on my list.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you. I am wondering
26 whether there would be some value, and I know some

1 people came in after the brief presentation that the
2 Commission secretary gave, and I know that that was
3 disrupted somewhat because people were coming in and
4 getting settled while that was going on, and I
5 appreciate we are going to do that presentation again
6 just immediately prior to the evening session. But,
7 for the convenience of people who are here, I am
8 wondering if there is interest in having that
9 presentation made again now for their benefit. Is
10 that something that people would be interested in?

11 Okay, and I apologize, Ms. Hamilton, I
12 didn't give you fair warning on this, but I know that
13 you know your stuff, so you'll be able to handle that.

14 Okay, I think we'll do that then, and the
15 intention of that session is to give you just a sense
16 of who the Utilities Commission is, what it does, and
17 how our work relates to this particular application
18 that is before us. We will just give a few minutes
19 for those people that want to leave can leave, and
20 then assuming there are still folks here, we can have
21 Ms. Hamilton do that. Thank you.

22 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 4:17 P.M.)**

23 **(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 4:36 P.M.)** **T16**

24 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, there's one individual who
25 would like to make a presentation who did not make a
26 presentation before we broke earlier, and his name is

1 Dal Zita, Z-I-T-A. First name is spelled D-A-L. And
2 so Mr. Zita.

3 MR. ZITA: Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: You're welcome. I think that's on.

5 **SUBMISSION BY MR. DAL ZITA:**

6 Gentlemen, thank you for your kindness,
7 it's exceptional. I will be very very brief. I've
8 seen many many meetings laid out and I've never seen
9 in my life so many unhappy, distressed and alarmed
10 people. That's the human factor we are dealing with
11 here. Practically everybody is against smart meter.
12 Why is that? Because we have a smart people against
13 smart meter basically. That's what it amounts to.

14 I will not repeat anything what was already
15 said here except one thing, which is kind of escaping
16 our horizon, and our smart lawmakers a hundred years
17 back when they created law for utility companies, and
18 I've seen it in the federal law, provincial law,
19 territorial law, you say to provide safe, reliable,
20 efficient and so on so on power. Now, we are
21 forgetting because of the forest, the tree. Safe
22 usually is the first word in mandate to any utility.
23 First word. I believe only one territory has it. A
24 reliable -- excuse me, reliable interrupted, not
25 interrupted, safe and so on so forth.

26 But the point is we should start right

1 right from the square one to provide safe power
2 supply, and this is part of the safe power supply, you
3 know. This is really more than we can bite or take.
4 That's basically what it amounts to.

5 And secondly, which is beyond this type of
6 little contribution, I highly appreciate blue collar
7 workers in Fortis Generation and mainly Transmission
8 Department. They are real heroes. I mean real
9 Hollywood heroes. So there are good people in Fortis,
10 don't forget that. Thank you very kindly.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

12 MR. FULTON: Mr. Zita, you don't have a written copy of
13 your submission?

14 MR. ZITA: No. But again, I can write it for you.

15 MR. FULTON: Well, that's fine. You can file it, send it
16 in to the Commission Secretary if you like. Okay?
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ZITA: Thank you very kindly.

19 MR. FULTON: That concludes the submissions then until
20 6:00, Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.

22 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 4:40 P.M.)**

23 **(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 6:03 P.M.)**

T17

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated.

25 Well, good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
26 I'm Commissioner Len Kelsey and I welcome you to this

1 Community Input Session. With me today are
2 Commissioners Norman MacMurchy on my immediate right,
3 and David Morton on my left. We are the Commission
4 panel designated to hear the FortisBC application for
5 the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project.

6 It's my pleasure to formally introduce
7 several other people to you today, and I'll ask them
8 to stand when I introduce them. You've already met a
9 couple of them, but so I don't leave anybody out I'll
10 introduce them again. First of all Erica Hamilton,
11 our Commission Secretary. Don Flintoff, lead staff on
12 this hearing and a member of the infrastructure
13 regulatory team. Mr. Gordon Fulton, Commission
14 Counsel. Hal Bemister, our Hearing Officer, and also
15 members of Mr. Bemister's staff who are assisting us
16 with the logistics of the Community Input Sessions and
17 also preparing the transcript, which I'll mention more
18 about later.

19 We're pleased to be in Osoyoos today to
20 hold this Community Input Session. I'm going to take
21 just a few minutes to explain why this session today
22 is important. The Commission must base its decision
23 on the evidence before it, nothing more and nothing
24 less. In considering our decision, the Commission
25 must consider, among other things, the public
26 interest. Other issues include, and this isn't a

1 complete list, the British Columbia Energy Objectives
2 and applicable sections of the *Clean Energy Act*. Your
3 input today will form part of the evidence the
4 Commission will consider in making its decision.
5 That's why the session today is being transcribed and
6 the transcription will be posted as a hearing exhibit.
7 The submissions will form part of the letter of
8 comments submission section of the hearing, and some
9 of you have or will submit letters of comment which
10 are also found in this section.

11 The Commission feels that for issues for
12 the nature of this application, it's valuable to allow
13 for in-person input as well as written submissions.
14 So we're convened today to hear your thoughts on this
15 application. Because the submissions we hear today
16 form part of the record of this proceeding, it is
17 important that we set some rules and processes to
18 ensure fairness, efficiency, and relevance.

19 First dealing with relevance, this
20 application relates to the Advanced Metering Project
21 in the Fortis service area. We want to hear from
22 those who could be affected by the project, and for
23 this reason we have quite deliberately restricted
24 submissions to residents of the Fortis service area
25 and the several municipal-owned utility areas that
26 receive service from Fortis.

1 Second, fairness. We have deliberately
2 gone through a process of registration and ordering of
3 the submissions through Commission counsel. Late
4 requests require leave to participate if they can be
5 accommodated. We expect the presentations to be made
6 in an organized manner and in a civil tone.
7 Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes maximum.
8 However, there is not a requirement to use the entire
9 time you've been allocated. Everyone who has been
10 accepted to present will be given an opportunity, so I
11 request that there be no interruptions. The
12 Commission Panel may, however, have questions of a
13 presenter at the end of their session.

14 Third, efficiency. It's helpful if the
15 submission is on topic and concise. If a prior
16 speaker has covered essentially what you want to say,
17 I encourage you rather than repeating what people have
18 said before you, that you adopt and support what they
19 have said earlier. Now, this suggestion isn't meant
20 in any way to fetter your opportunity to make your
21 thoughts known. So it's only a suggestion. It's
22 important that we get your thoughts on the record.

23 Another point and it has to do with being
24 on the record, because your comment today will be
25 recorded on a transcript, please identify yourself as
26 you begin your presentation and confirm for the record

1 allowed to address the Commission Panel.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you. The schedule tonight
3 can certain accommodate them and I think it's
4 important that everybody have an opportunity to
5 present their thoughts. So we'll certainly
6 accommodate that.

7 MR. FULTON: Thank you. The last matter that I would
8 like to raise is to ask the speakers when they make
9 their presentation, if they would either sit at the
10 chair before the mike or they can stand behind the
11 table but in front of the mike so that the court
12 reporter can pick up what you're saying. If you move
13 away from the mike, not everything may get picked up
14 and it's really important to us and to the process
15 that the record be accurate.

16 So with that comment then, Mr. Chairman, I
17 will call upon the first speaker who is Judy Nicholas.

18 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. JUDY NICHOLAS:**

19 I'd like to thank the Commission for giving
20 us this opportunity. It's a delight to be here and to
21 see everybody in person and have an opportunity to say
22 what we would like to say. I have a problem, I don't
23 see a clock anywhere.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: I have one here, so I'll signal you if
25 you're beginning to run a little late.

26 MS. NICHOLAS: I wish I had brought one.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's fine.

2 MR. FULTON: Well I can leave Ms. Nicholas with my watch.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can you? The first time I've ever seen
4 a lawyer leave a watch with somebody. Normally --

5 MS. NICHOLAS: He trusts me. It's a nice watch too.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- you leave your watch with a lawyer.

7 MS. NICHOLAS: So my name is Judy Nicholas and I live in
8 Oliver, B.C. and I am a direct customer of Fortis, and
9 in my professional career I worked as a medical lab
10 technologist in a hospital laboratory for 20 years.
11 As so, I was trained to be analytical, accurate and
12 objective.

13 So I'm speaking you today because I am
14 asking you to deny Fortis their application to install
15 the radiating smart meters in our home environment.
16 There would be a constant high level of wireless
17 pulsed microwave radiation that is know by independent
18 experts to be harmful to the body.

19 From my experience and observations, I
20 would like you understand how the body can react
21 easily and quickly to a high level of electromagnetic
22 radiation in any environment, either in the workplace
23 or in our home. While working in the hospital
24 laboratory I had the opportunity to become an expert
25 on the condition called "electrical sensitivity", as
26 day by day for six months I became electrically

1 sensitive. Only people who have developed electrical
2 sensitivity, which I will here fore call ES, can know
3 this condition so closely and intimately. In a sense,
4 I was a human lab specimen.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:13 p.m. T19**

6 So I want you to understand that medical
7 labs are one of the highest electrical magnetic work
8 environments. This environment would be similar now
9 to the wireless radiating smart meter environment.
10 The hospital lab where I worked was one large room
11 containing 85 fluorescent lights, some of them mounted
12 only 11 inches from our hands, face and eyes above our
13 work benches. These lights have a very high
14 electromagnetic field at this close range to the head.
15 There were also 35 machines with computer screens and
16 printers, and several large refrigerators all in one
17 room.

18 I was healthy until I had a case of
19 infectious mononucleosis, which is a bad viral
20 infection. After four weeks off sick I returned to
21 work. I was still in the acute period of my illness.
22 My body was working hard to fight the mono virus and
23 so had a hard time -- oops, wrong page. And so was
24 compromised. It could no longer protect itself from
25 the high EMF environment. The body can't fight two
26 big fights at one time.

1 When the body is healthy it can withstand
2 quite a bit of abuse and will show no obvious reaction
3 to the electrical magnetic environment. But once the
4 body becomes compromised, either acutely or long term,
5 a person's body begins to react and the body begins to
6 suffer, the organs begin to suffer. The longer the
7 exposure and the higher the EMR readings of that
8 environment, the greater the opportunity for a person
9 to become reactive to the things in the environment
10 even if they are compromised with a severe cold or a
11 flu. So it can be any viral infection can compromise
12 a person, especially the worse they are.

13 In my case it was the lab environment.
14 Some people might be beauticians, office workers, or
15 hydro linemen. They all have high electrical
16 environments.

17 After three weeks back in my work
18 environment, I experienced insomnia and could only
19 sleep for four hours a night. These symptoms were
20 caused because my endocrine system was being affected
21 by the high levels of EMFs in my workplace. This is
22 what caused the insomnia, the fact that my endocrine
23 system, the pineal gland was being suppressed by the
24 high electrical environments and only because I was
25 compromised. This was quickly followed with headaches
26 and a tingling sensation over the entire surface of my

1 body. This was my brain and nervous system reacting
2 to the high electromagnetic fields in the lab. These
3 and other symptoms progressed over the next five
4 months until I was quite ill. The tingling sensation
5 I experienced in the first month over my entire body
6 became a burning sensation similar to a sunburn that
7 never stopped. I became weaker, I lost weight, and I
8 began to feel quite progressively ill. The longer I
9 was in this environment the worse my symptoms became.
10 My doctors could find no diagnosis and I did not
11 suspect that my symptoms were a reaction to my work
12 environment. It took me an entire six months before I
13 became aware that my workplace environment was the
14 cause of my illness.

15 This said that approximately 3 percent of
16 the population is moderately to severely electrically
17 sensitive and have become aware of the cause. I would
18 estimate that 35 percent of the population is slight
19 to moderately sensitive, but their symptoms are not
20 severe enough for them to know why they have insomnia
21 or headaches, which were my first two of many
22 symptoms. Insomnia seems to be a bit of a problem in
23 our society these days.

24 Doctors of western medicine are mostly
25 guessing the cause of this now legally accepted
26 condition. Many doctors would benefit from more

1 accurate information. Especially since the
2 installation of the radiating smart meters in the B.C.
3 Hydro area, many patients will be developing these
4 symptoms and other symptoms.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:18 p.m. T20**

6 When I went off work after six months of
7 declining illness in the lab, I was very reactive to
8 the computer screens in the lab. I was very reactive
9 to the high electromagnetic fields of the 35
10 analytical machines and printers and reactive to the
11 fluorescent lights. The burning sensation continued
12 even after I left my workplace and it continues to
13 this day.

14 I was seen by specialists, several
15 specialists in Vancouver. One was a Dr. Neeva
16 Hilliard who specializes in occupational medicine and
17 had worked for Workmen's Compensation Board for the
18 previous eight years. As I began to describe the
19 symptoms that I had developed while working in the
20 lab, she said to me, "Oh, we know all about that," and
21 explained to me all about electrical sensitivity. I
22 met with her on two occasions. I asked her if any
23 medical people or researchers would like to interview
24 me about electrical sensitivity. She thought about it
25 and she said, "No, nobody's interested."

26 Her comment to me indicated that Workmen's

1 Compensation Board is aware of the chronic workplace
2 accident but is denying any knowledge when contacted,
3 as my employer contacted them and they denied it. And
4 it's not educating workers how to protect themselves.
5 I told them -- I hold them responsible for the many
6 workers who have become electrically sensitive because
7 they are unaware and not protected. Perhaps some day
8 they will be held responsible in a court of law.

9 Now after 15 years I am still reactive to
10 high electromagnetic fields and fluorescent lights and
11 halogen lights and TV screens. I'm very reactive to
12 the light of my computer screen and can use only it
13 for a few minutes a day. I am reactive to cell towers
14 and to the electrical smog in dense city centres. The
15 most uncomfortable symptom that I struggle with is the
16 constant burning sensation that I feel over my entire
17 body. It is strongest on my arms, my legs and my face
18 and my extremities. This is my peripheral nervous
19 system, which has been badly compromised by
20 electromagnetic radiation and seems to be permanently
21 damaged. I take medication to dull the pain, but it
22 makes my brain less alert. Because my peripheral
23 nervous system is constantly stressed I have less
24 stamina and less physical strength.

25 When I drive through downtown Vancouver or
26 other large cities I can feel the thick, heavy

1 electrical fog. As I drive over the Burrard Street
2 Bridge I feel like I'm driving into a wall of fog. If
3 I spend several days downtown in this environment, and
4 which I have, I go into a relapse of my endocrine
5 system that becomes suppressed by the many
6 electromagnetic radiations and all the many microwave
7 towers and other radiating wireless technology that
8 creates the smog.

9 In the meantime, in the passing years,
10 there is more and more wireless and various
11 electromagnetic things in our environment. I really
12 think now this technology that started about 30 years
13 ago has progressed way beyond what the human body or
14 other human animals can survive. We all are affected,
15 not just electrically sensitive people. We're just
16 the canaries. I think people who are either acutely
17 compromised or chronically compromised will develop
18 some level of electrical sensitivity, or will develop
19 one of the many autoimmune diseases that have
20 increased remarkably in the last 30 years since this
21 technically has really began its big increase. They
22 seem to go together in their height of climbing on the
23 same level.

24 People who are cancer survivors and
25 recovering will be concerned about reoccurrence.
26 People who are compromised with a chronic condition

1 radiating smart meter has to be powerful enough to
2 travel to a collector hub in your neighbourhood, which
3 may be several kilometres away, it will -- it's very
4 powerful and will be radiating the entire
5 neighbourhood as it goes from your house to the
6 collector hub.

7 This means that my home may have many smart
8 meters going through it, radiating through it, maybe
9 15 to 50 radiating through my home and through me
10 every one to three minutes every day. I am concerned
11 about myself. If smart meters go into the Fortis area
12 I will have to sell my house. I will have to find a
13 place where there are no smart meters. Because I
14 definitely will not accept a smart meter. I have to
15 have an analog meter.

16 As people become more and more electrically
17 sensitive because of the smart meter and all the other
18 wireless new things in our life that has changed our
19 environment drastically in 30 years, it could be quite
20 a problem. And I will be quite isolated.

21 A lot of resources and efforts have been
22 done to make life easier for visibly disabled people.
23 It will and should be necessary to spend the same
24 amount of effort and resources to make life easier for
25 the not visibly disabled people who are now and will
26 become challenged by electrically magnetic radiation

1 sensitivities. Yes, our future will be a challenge.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

3 MS. NICHOLAS: Thank you for hearing me.

4 MR. FULTON: And, Ms. Nicholas, if you provide me with
5 the written copy of your submission, I'll have it
6 marked an exhibit.

7 MS. NICHOLAS: I'll give you one that doesn't have my
8 scribbles on it. I did bring one extra one.

9 MR. FULTON: Okay, so if you give it to me, the one that
10 doesn't have your scribbles on it, I'll get it marked
11 right now. And that will mean, Mr. Chairman, that
12 those parts that Ms. Nicholas edited out of her
13 submission because of the time constraint will form
14 part of the written record.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good. Thank you, Mr. Fulton.

16 MS. NICHOLAS: Is it possible that I could rework it and
17 send it later?

18 MR. FULTON: No, I think you should be filing what you
19 spoke to now.

20 MS. NICHOLAS: Okay. I should have it. There is two
21 copies in there.

22 MR. FULTON: Thank you. So, if the written submission
23 might be marked Exhibit E-23.

24 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MS. JUDY NICHOLAS MARKED**
25 **EXHIBIT E-23)**

26 MR. FULTON: The next speaker is Agnes Sutherland.

1 **Proceeding Time 6:28 p.m. T21**

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Now, Mr. Fulton, don't forget to get
3 your watch before somebody takes off with your watch.

4 MR. FULTON: Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Welcome.

6 SUBMISSION BY MS. AGNES SUTHERLAND:

7 Looking at all you gentlemen, I'm almost
8 frightened.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: We won't bite.

10 MS. SUTHERLAND: Do you think we're going to make a dint,
11 we women?

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry?

13 MS. SUTHERLAND: Do you think we women are going to make
14 a dint?

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: We welcome your comments.

16 MS. SUTHERLAND: Oh, I'm not commenting. I mean it.

17 Anyway, first I want to say the smart meter
18 is just not a Canada -- it's not just Canada, it's
19 more and more world-wide, and the world caught by
20 surprise. Now we find it necessary to challenge the
21 health risks the same meters called, when on your
22 name, or the causes of the tower gathering. And I'm
23 -- just why are the companies -- they seem to be
24 unconcerned about this health problem. And like I
25 have a daughter who is very -- has had terrible
26 allergic -- I'm sorry. I'm not doing as well as Judy

1 did.

2 Anyway, allergies. In the middle of the
3 night she's rushed to a hospital. If you have
4 something that's more than -- do these companies need
5 to consider the health of these people, the 35
6 percent? How can you say a percentage? Really,
7 truly, how can you? Because as people age, they pick
8 up this, they pick up that, you know? You might be
9 fine when you're 40, 50, but then after that suddenly
10 life changes. How much is -- how much would this have
11 to do with it?

12 So, anyway, you know, you can't -- we can't
13 think of the smart meter. I know they're using the
14 cell phone idea, that this is imperative, et cetera,
15 et cetera, et cetera. Everybody has a cell phone.
16 Not everybody. Nor do a lot of people have all these
17 little gadgets that you walk around with in your hand,
18 et cetera. No -- and there are a lot of people do not
19 have microwaves and et cetera. So you know, but they
20 don't understand. They don't get the feeling from
21 this, but if you have some of these things in your
22 home, you know you can -- you could pull the plugs.
23 You're not going to use them all day long. You're not
24 going to use a microwave maybe an hour -- maybe not
25 even that. You're not going to use cell phones unless
26 you're foolish.

1 uranium in this valley. And all of this sits on an
2 aquifer underneath us.

3 Does Fortis via B.C. Hydro really think
4 they have the right to install the smart meter and
5 increase even more the health hazards of the people
6 against the realities of special zealous -- this world
7 who does -- who does condemn. You cannot use the
8 world maybe -- you cannot use the word "maybe". There
9 are too many serious ailments among our people. All
10 this new technology may seem wonderful, and is, but
11 can it also not be regressive? Would be interesting
12 to know the companies behind this progressive evil.
13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

15 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, just to make sure that the
16 record is complete, both Ms. Nicholas and Mrs.
17 Sutherland advised me that they were customers of
18 Fortis.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

20 MR. FULTON: And Mrs. Sutherland has provided me with her
21 speaking notes, so if they could be marked Exhibit E-
22 24.

23 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MS. AGNES SUTHERLAND**
24 **MARKED EXHIBIT E-24)**

25 MR. FULTON: The next speaker is Susan Zita.

26 **SUBMISSION BY MS. SUSAN ZITA:**

1 Thank you. I'm a direct customer of
2 Fortis.

3 And I have MS, so I can't write, and so I
4 brought my pad. And everything went wrong with my
5 computer, so I couldn't print anything to come and
6 present. So, sorry.

7 MR. FULTON: So, if you'd like to print off the
8 presentation that's in your computer that you're going
9 to make tonight, and send it in to the Commission
10 secretary, we'll reserve an exhibit number for it.

11 MS. ZITA: Perfect.

12 MR. FULTON: Okay?

13 MS. ZITA: Thank you. I am here tonight because my
14 family and I do not want smart meters to be permitted
15 in our community. From the research I have read and a
16 variety of sources there is no proof that smart meters
17 are safe. I am concerned about the effect that smart
18 meters will have on my health. I have MS, and
19 constantly do what I can to stay healthy. Having
20 additional EMR and EMFs in my community will not have
21 a beneficial effect on my health.

22 I used to have more to say, but it got
23 shrunk because I lost everything. I am concerned that
24 my adolescent child will also be negatively affected
25 by all the radiation that's going to be emitted. I
26 have heard the things in other communities in which --

1 And I'm very concerned about any kind of radiation I
2 am involved with now. I don't carry a cell phone
3 unless I'm in my vehicle, and it's always turned off.
4 I avoid cordless phones and things like that, and I
5 feel strongly that we should not be made to have these
6 new smart meters.

7 I thought we had a choice here. I thought
8 with our *Charter of Rights* we had the right to say no
9 to these kind of meters. And I feel like we're not
10 getting the choice from Fortis. They're saying you
11 have it or you get your power cut off. And I think a
12 lot more should be looked into before these smart
13 meters are allowed, because the more you hear about it
14 the more scary they become. And we're getting
15 inundated with other kinds of EMRs that we didn't use
16 to, and that's all. Thank you for hearing me.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

18 MR. FULTON: Nina Heidtke.

19 **SUBMISSION BY MS. NINA HEIDTKE:**

20 Hi. I just took a few notes on my way
21 here, and I just want to express that I don't agree
22 with smart meters.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could I just interrupt just for a
24 second?

25 MS. HEIDTKE: Yes.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Are you a customer of Fortis or --

1 MS. HEIDTKE: Yes. Anybody in this valley has to be a
2 customer of Fortis.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Thank you.

4 MS. HEIDTKE: Yeah. I live in Rock Creek, they provide
5 power there.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Thank you.

7 MS. HEIDTKE: I don't have a cordless phone, I don't have
8 a cell phone, I don't use a microwave. I don't want
9 smart meters, I don't want it imposed on my life. I
10 get aggravated by humming lights and transformers and
11 appliances. I hear them and I find them really
12 annoying. I find lots of doctors have said things
13 about, like, the *Frieberg* appeal of 2002. Those --
14 there were obviously some people who thought it was
15 not a very good idea. Other countries have chosen to
16 use other things like fibre optic or shielded wire
17 options. It reminds of me things like the Red Cross
18 blood scandal, or things like Jakob Creutzfeldt
19 disease with the people feeding things to animals that
20 affected their health later. And this is just another
21 one of those things, and I just don't want people
22 going down this crazy road without enough research on
23 it.

24 And I also want to say that I'm sorry that
25 only a few people are here. Because of the location,
26 and nobody can really find it. I know the area and I

1 could barely find the place. And I wish it would have
2 been more central. And that's about it, and thank you
3 for hearing me.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

5 MR. FULTON: The next speaker is Skip Lang -- or Skip
6 King, sorry. Mr. King?

7 **SUBMISSION BY MR. SKIP KING:**

8 Okay. I'm a bit hard of hearing, so I tend
9 to speak a bit loud, so hopefully I won't get feedback
10 from the microphone.

11 I have several points of discussion here,
12 the first of which is health, but I'll pass over that
13 because others have spoken at great length about that.
14 And with respect to --

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me just for a moment, Mr. King.

16 MR. KING: Oh, yes. I'm a Fortis customer.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. The gentleman is taking your
18 photograph here, and I --

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm with the local newspaper.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, yeah. I would appreciate it,
21 sir, if you wouldn't do that. These people have come
22 before us to make a presentation and I think it would
23 only be polite if you were going to take their
24 photograph if you asked the Chair whether that was
25 acceptable, but also perhaps asked the gentleman whose
26 photograph you're taking if it would be acceptable for

1 on the nearby utility pole, and then from there the
2 signal is propagated down the power lines to openly
3 gets to Fortis headquarters.

4 Now, it would seem to me if it can be
5 transmitted down the power lines from the receiver,
6 why couldn't it not equally well be sent by a simple
7 wire from the house meter, which may be digital, if
8 non-transmitting. They can send that up on the same
9 wire that brings the current in.

10 And with respect to extra cost, we
11 currently get television, internet, power, electric
12 power, and what I have here? Yes, telephone. Wires
13 come in to the house, and that doesn't seem to be any
14 extra complication or great expense. So I don't see
15 how Fortis can claim that problem.

16 Fire safety is another situation I've
17 become aware of fairly recently. Some of these
18 meters, I don't know how many, but enough to be a bit
19 of a concern, have apparently caused fires, and this
20 is potentially could lead to increased insurance
21 rates. So, that's a problem. Will Fortis reimburse
22 homeowners if their premiums go up because of these
23 smart meters? Another question.

24 And then there is reliability, accuracy,
25 and durability questions with these smart meters and
26 maybe even the non-transmitting digital is a possible

1 -- comes under that same heading. They apparently
2 have a typical lifetime of about ten years before
3 replacement at the customer cost. And how many people
4 remember ever changing their analog meters? Now, I've
5 never lived in any one place longer than about ten,
6 eleven years, because I've always rented and moved
7 from one city to another. So I can't claim any great
8 residence duration to monitor this, but I've never
9 heard of anybody having to replace their analog meter.
10 So they seem to last forever, just like a typical
11 electric motor. An electric motor lasts for decades
12 compared to, you know, a more gasoline type combustion
13 engine.

14 So, and let me think. Okay, yes. Also,
15 excess usage charges have -- in terms of the accuracy
16 of these meters, there are reports of some people
17 being grossly overcharged, and presumably these are
18 eventually taken care of, but still it's a major
19 concern and inconvenience to the customer, assuming
20 they get reversed.

21 Okay. And last point would be the whole
22 basis for this meter is so that Fortis can monitor it
23 in real time and for conservation purposes the
24 customer can see how their usage is occurring in real
25 time. Now, it seems as though in order to access that
26 information, one has to buy additional equipment, so

1 customer can go out there and he can see exactly what
2 his reading is when he flips a given appliance, or
3 device, on and off. Now, I do that with my analog
4 meter. You can see just how quickly that dial is
5 rotating, or how slowly, so you know that some high
6 power device has kicked in. Or you can go plug it in
7 and then compare before and after. So, you can still
8 get a crude idea of what your consumption is. And
9 absolutely without any digital or wireless device
10 whatsoever.

11 One of the things -- yes. Another thing
12 about Fortis, they make a big deal about this would
13 save gas and meter reader expenses. Well, why don't
14 they be good corporate citizens and supply their meter
15 readers with electric cars. Perhaps they can't afford
16 their own electricity? And this -- they fire those
17 meter readers, that would contribute to more
18 additional local unemployment, although they're
19 probably have other jobs at Fortis. But still, that
20 particular time means they're less employed than they
21 would be if we continue having them read our analog
22 meters.

23 And my final point about preventing theft,
24 such as from grow-ops. Now, it seems to me that
25 Fortis must know how much power is going down a given
26 line, or distribution system, once it leaves the

1 substation. So that they can see if there is any
2 significant usage over a relatively few days, and
3 since these grow-ops operate for weeks and months,
4 they can find out fairly readily if they had that
5 particular internal monitoring system, which they
6 perhaps ought to have in any case. And then after I
7 thought about this, I thought, well, even a
8 transmitting meter wouldn't -- a wireless type meter
9 wouldn't be very helpful because the meter is bypassed
10 in most of these grow-ops. So even if they had a
11 transmitting meter, it wouldn't show up on Fortis's
12 system as coming from that particular location.

13 So, in conclusion, I would say that Fortis
14 should perhaps improve their internal monitoring for
15 electricity use on these various subsections before
16 imposing this system on the rest of us, which may not
17 be nearly as effective as they claim it will be in
18 terms of energy conservation.

19 Okay. That's my rant.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. King.

21 And the gentleman from the press, firstly I
22 am pleased you're here, and I welcome you, but I would
23 ask perhaps when we have a break later you would speak
24 to Mr. King and just get his formal authority -- his
25 formal permission to allow that photograph, if you
26 intend to use it, to be used. Thank you.

1 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. King has provided me with
2 a written copy of his submission. If that might be
3 marked Exhibit E-26.

4 **(HARD COPY OF SUBMISSION OF MR. SKIP KING MARKED**
5 **EXHIBIT E-26)**

6 MR. FULTON: The next speaker is Joan Moffet.

7 MS. MOFFET: Thank you.

8 MR. FULTON: And Ms. Moffet has filed a written
9 submission with the Commission already that she will
10 speak to. That submission has been marked Exhibit E-
11 3, for the record.

12 MS. MOFFET: Yes. With your okay, I'll read it out,
13 among other things.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, that's fine. I don't think Mr.
15 King indicated whether or not he was in the Fortis
16 service area.

17 MR. KING: Yeah, I did.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Did he? Okay, thank you. Please, go
19 ahead.

20 **SUBMISSION BY MS. JOAN MOFFATT:**

21 MS. MOFFET: Thank you. As far as I know, I'm in the
22 Fortis service area, in that I live in Penticton and I
23 live in a condo which has a blanket agreement
24 regarding electricity, and they deal with Fortis. So
25 I don't pay them directly myself. However, I do
26 receive their newsletter on a regular basis.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

2 MS. MOFFET: I will read this out first, and then proceed
3 with further comments.

4 I'm a health professional with 50 years'
5 experience, mostly based in neurology, and a Master's
6 degree. I've written to you that I have more than
7 serious concerns around the use of emitting meters and
8 request that these never be considered for
9 installation. I could have added the word "anywhere".
10 However, we'll just leave it at that.

11 Unfortunately, Fortis and other companies
12 are concerned with modernization to the point of
13 exclusion of safety concerns of not just for the human
14 race, but for all life forms, plants and animals
15 included.

16 **Proceeding Time 6:54 p.m. T27**

17 Any reports of safety or advantage from the
18 biased source must be reviewed by a panel of unbiased
19 scientists for BCUC to give credibility to the
20 information and assurances provided. And that same
21 unbiased group needs to search for and review possible
22 omissions, for which companies are unfortunately well
23 known.

24 Luckily, this is inexpensive for meters, as
25 any high school teacher can provide the appropriate
26 science behind what you're asking. Unbiased,

1 unfortunately, includes checking for any stock or
2 financial association, any board involvement, not only
3 of the scientist's approach but of their family and
4 close associates. Such a check around Fortis
5 disqualifies most Members of Parliament, all
6 employees, of course, and any consultants present or
7 past, among others. And such care is required due to
8 the amoral monetary-seeking practices of unaware
9 denying persons in positions of power. I wish life
10 was not this way. I wish this was not happening in
11 B.C., in Canada, or in the world. Unfortunately, it
12 would be incredibly naïve to deny that.

13 Emitting devices in recent years have moved
14 to using microwave frequencies. The human body cells
15 use microwave frequencies, the range of which is not
16 difficult to ascertain, again, from any Grade 9
17 teacher, but if you need to go to UBC, it would only
18 take a phone call. Grade 9/10 science has taught us,
19 in all western country school curriculums, for at
20 least six decades, definitely including B.C., covers
21 -- it covers basic wave frequency, the behaviours and
22 effects of waves. Thus any high school graduate can
23 understand and any high school science teacher or text
24 can confirm that overlapping and intersecting waves of
25 closely similar frequencies summate or cancel. And
26 that is that they definitely and always interact with

1 change as a result. This applies to air, heat, water
2 waves, all forms of energy and all waves.

3 These principles are used in therapeutic
4 devices such as ultrasound, sonar, to bounce off for
5 diagnosis at a certain frequency. Therapeutic ranges
6 by therapists. The lithotripter to break up kidney
7 stones at destructive ranges. Microwaves within body
8 frequencies are not used as they are dangerous. We
9 are aware of cautions for pacemakers, et cetera.
10 We've heard of this before. Right? Stay away from
11 microwave ovens.

12 The emitting devices of concern here are
13 those under your jurisdiction, of course, the meters.
14 The meters that emit. Emitting meters, whether called
15 smart meters or not, are known as harmful to all life
16 forms in their emissions, and are within or near -- if
17 they are within or near biological frequencies, which
18 they are. They harm by interacting with body
19 physiology. Constant emissions change physiology.
20 Pulsed emissions are like a twitch which can be
21 recovered from for a little while, but then wears out
22 the recovery in only a matter of a few hours. Such as
23 try reading a book under a flashing light.

24 Rapidly alternating currents -- rapidly
25 alternating waves, are like a seizure. These signs of
26 such cellular interference will be soft. Things that

1 will come forward like memory loss, less
2 concentration, sleep problems, rise in cellular errors
3 such as cancers. All nebulous, but definite. You
4 will also note increased benefits from getting away
5 from bio-emissions, such as hiking in the woods,
6 having cabins that are beyond electrically busy area,
7 being in the country instead of the city. The proof
8 is in Grade 10 physics, okay? Human complaints will
9 be far too late.

10 The meters interact with each other, of
11 course, hence the house fires and so on. There have
12 never, and never will be, permission by citizens to
13 harm their bodies. There is no informed permission to
14 penetrate people's bodies over anything. Without
15 informing people thoroughly, as doctors do for
16 treatments and pharmacists do for drugs, of negative
17 effects as well as positive, no penetration should
18 exist. We already have laws against personal
19 invasion. However, we also are aware that many
20 services ask indirect, uninformed permission such as
21 asking to put a WiFi modem in the house. And not
22 having the permission to put the WiFi in there without
23 informing of positive or negative or any possible
24 effects.

25 Wireless technology that radiates into our
26 neighbours and public space, such as the next condo,

1 the next apartment, the next block, is actually
2 already illegal without even uninformed permission,
3 and is definitely harmful as it moves body cells away
4 from normal.

5 As a health professional, I am aware that
6 there is a risk in all change, and also that all
7 change is not progress. And that at times the risk is
8 the best choice, but notice the word choice there.
9 That's what we have a right to, and what is removed
10 and penalized when bio-frequency wireless technology
11 is imposed on us.

12 Please grant us full constitutional rights
13 to me and all citizens and conscientious
14 responsibility to your own position of power by
15 unbiasing your information and your decisions. This
16 cannot result in other than total refusal of any
17 technology that emits through me, or is within bio-
18 frequencies, or is unsafe in any other manner, as are
19 all emitting meters. There is no reason great enough
20 to jeopardize the health of the populace.

21 **Proceeding Time 7:00 p.m. T28**

22 Now, that was the letter that I sent in.
23 However, a few other little additions to this. We
24 know, for example, that anger has a frequency of 11
25 hertz. Suicide has a frequency of 6.6. Aversion,
26 dislike and moving away from, a frequency of 4.5

1 hertz. We do not know what the range of the frequency
2 around this. At the moment we can find a peak point
3 at which this effect will be created. But that is not
4 going to apply precisely to all people and it is quite
5 likely a range going up from that.

6 There is all kinds of information and
7 knowledge out there, but all that, and all those
8 details, are way above what needs to be used here.
9 Our Grade 10 physics already tells us that waves
10 interact. They summate or they cancel. And that that
11 will happen within us.

12 Unfortunately, I want to add a little
13 biology to this. Cells, if you want to run it, are
14 similar to micro batteries in that they are chemical
15 and electrical. Iron, which we all know is in our
16 blood and our doctors talk about that, we know that
17 iron is magnetic. And that magnetism is involved in
18 anything wireless. We hear about electrolytes in our
19 body. The doctor is always interested in that. And
20 making sure that the electrolytes are what they
21 should. But the different terminology can sometimes
22 confuse us a little bit in that electrolytes are just
23 minerals. They are just tiny little bits of minerals
24 dropped into water so that they are in an ionized
25 state. And if you recall again back to your high
26 school, biology, physics, chemistry, that all ions and

1 all minerals have a charge. Think of the periodic
2 table. And when they have a charge, they also have a
3 bond when they're in the form of an ion, or a
4 molecule, and these are affected by any form of
5 electricity or magnetism in the area. Water is H₂O,
6 it's named after its charge. We don't have to go into
7 heavy technology to face this right smack up.

8 Electro and magnetic are inseparable. Even
9 when electricity is in wires it has a field. And I'm
10 not saying that all fields in the past have been
11 perfectly safe, but we'll not stop there. What we're
12 concerned about tonight is wireless. And wireless
13 penetrates our body. It penetrates water. Within
14 houses, the various modems and goodies that are
15 floating around houses these days, transmit through
16 our water lines. So that a fair amount of the effect
17 that we get is from all the water we drink as well as
18 what happens to our body. In other words, it's
19 happening again and again from the same source. From
20 any wireless sources. Magnetic goodies repulse or
21 attract. We know those basic things about minerals
22 and we have these minerals within our body. Some of
23 them are going to attract and that's going to cause
24 one change. Some will repulse.

25 But it's going to happen. And anyone who
26 happens to have a little bit of a load, as we call it,

1 of heavy metals is most definitely going to have a
2 whole more effects than those who don't.
3 Unfortunately, that includes far too many of us too.

4 The electrolytes in your body, in your
5 bloodstream, and all your cellular fluids, are changed
6 by toxins which includes change of electrical charge.
7 It doesn't just mean bug poo or poisons or other
8 things like that. That too is a form of toxin. It
9 changes not only the charge and the ion itself, but it
10 changes the bond between. And when the bond is
11 changed, we have a different effect. Water within the
12 middle of a glass of water has a different angle to
13 the H₂O bond than water that is at the surface. And
14 that's where we get surface tension. It's as small as
15 that.

16 Look a little bit farther. If we add sort
17 of .01, or .02 microwatts charge to our white blood
18 cells, they will produce various hormones. They might
19 produce cortisone with plus two and adrenalin with
20 minus two. I don't remember the details here. While
21 I understand this field, it's not my field. But I am
22 coming forward and saying the very tiny microwaves and
23 micro charges change the hormones in your body.

24 Let's have a look at the favoured ones,
25 estrogen and testosterone. Estrogen has a molecule
26 with 120 atoms in it, and of course the same number of

1 bonds. Testosterone has 118, or rather testosterone
2 has the same and 118 of the 120 are the same. Look at
3 the difference that happens with a bit of a change in
4 two miserable little ions. Two miserable little
5 aspects, and atoms, including one molecule. The body
6 using electrical charge as a communication and
7 direction mechanism converts our various hormones from
8 one to the other all the time.

9 When we start running small charges through
10 the body in microwaves, then we're interfering with
11 these decisions and we're going to pay in a big way.
12 And this is where you hear some of the information
13 regarding wireless technology influencing and causing
14 sterility. It's in the influence of the hormones.
15 And this is the mechanism behind it. Again, while the
16 mechanism itself may not exactly be Grade 10
17 information, it's easily understood at that level.

18 **Proceeding Time 7:05 p.m. T29**

19 DNA is similar. We have a whole slew of
20 genes, thousands and thousands and millions of them,
21 and each one has a little sleeve. Whether the sleeve
22 stays in place or whether it withdraws is governed by
23 a chemical and electrical charge. Whether the sleeve
24 withdraws or not determines whether this gene will
25 express or not. Which is where we end up with
26 hereditary illnesses and weaknesses.

1 I could go on and on, but there is no point
2 in that. What I really want to go back to is that we
3 have some definite serious problems out here when we
4 deal with wireless technology. The first one I want
5 to go back to is forgiveness. There is a tendency
6 that because there is cell phones and there is this
7 and there is that, and there is modems on your TV and
8 all this nonsense, and computers that are wireless,
9 that it's easy to turn around and say, "Well, these
10 meters don't matter. They're just so small in the
11 pile." But the truth is that it's the pile that
12 doesn't matter. It's the meters that are under your
13 jurisdiction in the home.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Moffet, I'm just going to indicate
15 to you that you're running fairly close to the end of
16 your time, so --

17 MS. MOFFET: Okay.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- if you could sum up for us, that
19 would be helpful, thank you.

20 MS. MOFFET: I will. So, wireless itself would be the
21 second major problem that's in there, and the third
22 one is that it's micro. It's microwaves, it's
23 biological frequencies.

24 We need to be careful of assumptions. You
25 know, such as the assumptions that companies are
26 honest, and that they are complete, and that the

1 information we are given is as good as it gets, or as
2 good as is needed. Sometimes it's easy to assume, for
3 example, that because there are only 30, 40, 50 people
4 at a meeting like this, that this is a small issue.
5 But it's not.

6 That's the end.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

8 MR. FULTON: Would you like me to mark your speaking
9 notes or no?

10 MS. MOFFET: No, I don't think they're readable by anyone
11 but me.

12 MR. FULTON: Okay, thank you. The next speaker is
13 Georgina Delagran.

14 **SUBMISSION BY MS. GEORGINA DELAGRAN:**

15 MS. DELAGRAN: Okay, so, good evening. Yes, my name is
16 Georgia Delagran and I am a Fortis customer.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

18 MS. DELAGRAN: Okay. So I've been concerned for many
19 years about the consequences of long-term exposure to
20 electromagnetic radiation and electromagnetic fields.
21 Because of this concern, I've made a conscious effort
22 to minimize the sources -- the source of EMR and EMFs
23 in my household. I don't have a microwave oven,
24 cordless phone, internet, or any Bluetooth technology.
25 My power line comes underground from a pole that is
26 located several hundred metres from my house. I do

1 not own a cell phone. I will use one on occasion, but
2 I do not own one.

3 I consider smart meters to be an
4 unnecessary and unwanted intrusion into my private
5 domain. I may be able to opt out, lock my meter base,
6 et cetera. However, if smart meters do come into the
7 community and regional district, I will still be
8 bombarded in public and private spaces by the high
9 level EMR and EMFs that they create.

10 I am adding my voice tonight to those that
11 are trying to gain a toe hold on the slippery slope
12 that we are careening down. It is time that we as a
13 society take a stand and put an end to the blatant and
14 callous trade-off of public and environmental health
15 for corporate convenience and wealth. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

17 MR. FULTON: Ms. Delagran has provided me with her notes,
18 Mr. Chairman. The notes do have a crossed-out portion
19 on that is not to be relied on for the purposes of the
20 evidence. She didn't speak to it.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.

22 MR. FULTON: And so if that might be marked Exhibit E-27.

23 **(HARDCOPY OF SUBMISSION OF MS. GEORGINA DELAGRAN**
24 **MARKED EXHIBIT E-27)**

25 MR. FULTON: That concludes the list of the people that
26 you have granted leave for at this point. During the

1 course of the submissions I was passed a note from
2 Marlene Kahl, who wishes to speak. There is space in
3 terms of the schedule, Mr. Chairman. I understand Ms.
4 Kahl is a Fortis customer and so I am seeking leave
5 now to have her make a presentation to the panel.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, certainly.

7 **SUBMISSION BY MS. MARLENE KAHL:**

8 Good evening. I'm not here to say a lot,
9 just to let you know I am very concerned about these
10 smart meters and when I first heard that they might be
11 coming to the Okanagan earlier this summer, I did
12 phone in to Fortis and I was assured at that time that
13 you people were not going to be installing the smart
14 meters, and I said "Please put a mark beside my name
15 anyways." And so I thought I would check two or three
16 months later, and I just gave my name and I told them
17 I was phoning about the smart meter and he said yes.
18 He said I can see you already have a mark beside your
19 name. And I said please make it two.

20 What I'm concerned about is, like, with all
21 these former speakers have been talking about is the
22 dangers of the smart meter.

23 **Proceeding Time 7:11 p.m. T30**

24 I call this forced consumerism. We do not
25 seem to have a choice any more whether we want
26 something or we don't. Like I say, within regards to

1 one's health, I'm also one that I do not have
2 computers, microwaves and all these unnecessary
3 electrical gadgets in my home as well. And you know,
4 I just don't understand why we do not have a choice.
5 And that's what I find very unnerving.

6 And so I just know one time years ago on TV
7 they showed -- like they say, the human cells, they
8 kind of just work very nicely together. And they did
9 an ultrasound on a fetus, and they showed the results
10 on TV of what that ultrasound did on that fetus, and
11 I'm sure you've all heard of the game pick up sticks,
12 where you let them fall and they just fall all over.
13 That's what the cells did. When that ultrasound was
14 put on that little fetus. And so that really does
15 show you how these things work on us.

16 And so I'd just like to thank you for this
17 time to speak to you, and I really do hope that you'll
18 think twice about doing this, and also I would like
19 you to maybe think about giving us a choice whether we
20 would like to have them or not. Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

22 MR. FULTON: Mr. Chairman, that then completes the list
23 of presenters that I have for this evening. What I
24 suggest that we do is, we canvass the room to see if
25 there is anyone else who arrived late who wants to
26 make a presentation.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, certainly.

2 MR. FULTON: And provide them with that opportunity.

3 No respondents, Mr. Chairman.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you. Well, I would like
5 to just take a moment to thank everyone for coming out
6 tonight, and those folks who did make presentations.
7 We appreciate the time and effort you have taken to
8 gather your thoughts, and I know that for certainly
9 some of you, coming up and speaking publicly may not
10 be something that you do on a regular basis, or
11 particularly cherish. But we certainly think it's
12 important that we hear from anybody that has something
13 to contribute to the consideration of this particular
14 matter before us. So thank you very much, from me and
15 on behalf of my colleagues. And again, we appreciate
16 your coming out. Thanks.

17 **(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 7:15 P.M.)**

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