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**From:** Mark de Bruijn [debruijn@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:54 PM  
**To:** Commission Secretary BCUC:EX  
**Cc:** stopsmartmetersbc  
**Subject:** Online Registration

Dear BCUC,

This email is to request that I be registered as an intervener in BC Hydro's application for approval of their so-called Smart Meters Choices Program, and to outline my reasons for doing so.

I have been a BC resident since 1982, and am a homeowner. I have lived at my current residence for the past 13 years. I have been a BC Hydro customer for the past 20 years, and to my knowledge have never been in arrears with my account.

My interest in these proceedings is based in a number of concerns that I have with the entire smart meter program, concerns that are shared by many people both in BC and in many other localities in North America, Europe and Australia where similar programs are being arbitrarily forced on people without their consent or agreement, often against their wishes. Furthermore, I specifically object to the notion that anyone be charged for wishing to keep their analogue meter, and for refusing to allow Hydro technicians onto my property for the purpose of replacing my existing analogue with a digital meter with wireless capability.

Here are my main concerns with this program.

1.) Above all, wi-fi, and RF technologies in general, are increasingly being shown to have potentially serious and debilitating health effects, both on humans and on other organisms (birds, insects, plants). There is a plethora of solid science-based work being done by independent researchers who have no financial ties to industry, which increasingly is shedding light on the physiological and cellular mechanisms by which living systems are disrupted by these sources of radiation. A cursory scan of the internet will bring up hundreds of these reports. Here is an [overview of some of the many health problems](#) coming to light, and this is an [excellent bibliography](#) of many more such studies (click on the "Read More" link at the bottom of this webpage). The [2012 Bioinitiative Report](#) (compiled by a team of dozens of scientists, and which was a follow-up to the first such report in 2007) references and discusses thousands of studies linking RF (radio frequency) and EMF (electromagnetic field) exposure to cancer, Alzheimer's disease, DNA damage, immune system dysfunction, cellular damage and tissue reduction. Note that all these references have no ties to the energy and telecommunications industries, are independently funded, and are therefore more credible than most of the industry-funded research often cited by industry and government to substantiate their claims that this technology is harmless below thermal-inducing intensities.

Presently, the World Health Organization has classified RF as a class 2b (possible) carcinogen. Many scientists believe that at the next WHO review this radiation will be declared a 2a (probable) or a 1 (definite) cancer causing agent. Will these meters then have to be recalled, and the so-called smart grid revert to analogue technology? Who will pay for this? With this likely prospect, it seems completely foolhardy to proceed with the current "smart" plan, and arrogant and extortionist to charge customers who don't want to participate for what are increasingly valid and credible health concerns, a "fee" to stay safe from these dangerous devices.

Furthermore, is Hydro prepared for the potential onslaught of law suits from people whose health has been compromised by their reckless pursuit of this technology and their heavy-handed tactics to deceive, coerce and intimidate unsuspecting people into having it installed? How is it justifiable that those who know of these dangers, and who want to take responsibility for the health and safety of their families, should be charged for doing so?

2.) The cost-to-benefit of these meters is highly questionable from a number of angles, all of which seriously call into question the efficacy, fairness and morality of charging people not wanting to participate what amounts to a special tax.

Firstly, BC Hydro's smart meters reportedly cost \$550 each (which is the highest unit cost I have heard among utility companies deploying similar meters), as compared to \$50 for an analogue meter. Why are customers who receive these expensive meters not being charged for them, but those who don't want them are expected to pay \$420 per year to keep a safe, reliable, inexpensive meter they already have?

Next, like virtually any computer driven device, the software for these meters (and possibly the hardware, i.e., the meters themselves) will need many upgrades as smart technology advances (see [this report from the Smart Grid News](#)). This has not been factored into the overall costs of this already billion dollar caper. Who will pay for this? Again, it is unconscionable that non-participants are being charged extra, while the users of these meters are charged nothing. Any so-called extra costs that Hydro claims it will incur to keep the tried and true analogue system running to service the "holdouts" must surely be dwarfed by the potentially enormous costs of the "smart grid" and its meters.

One of the elephants in the room in this whole smart grid fantasy is cyber security, and the growing very real probability of the entire system being hacked and brought down (for an example, [see this report](#)). Experts in cyber security have long been warning of this, and almost every week we hear of yet another corporation or government agency that has had its computer systems hacked and data stolen. Just last week Adobe Systems Inc., a very big software company that one would expect to be fluent in anti-hacking security and quite invulnerable to hackers, [announced a major cybersecurity breach](#). If this can happen to a company like Adobe that is a specialist in this field, how is it possible to believe the bland pronouncements from Hydro that the data (OUR data) that will be collected by the smart grid is safe? Developing security software, and staying on top of hackers, is an enormously expensive and endless game. This has never been openly and honestly discussed by Hydro, nor has it been included in cost projections for their plans. Once again, who is going to pay for this? And why should those not wanting to be part of this insanely expensive project be penalized?

3.) Once a smart meter has been installed, it is impossible to ever turn it off for some relief from 24/7 exposure to its radiation. Yes, I do own and use a cell phone, and I have wireless internet in my home. However, these are choices I have voluntarily made. And, most importantly, I have control over how much I use them. Because I am RF sensitive (exposure of more than an hour or so results in buzzing in my ears, pressure in my head, and insomnia), I only use my wi-fi when I need it (for example, to run my wireless printer which lives in a room some distance from my computer work station), and I mostly use hard-wired internet access. My wireless router is turned off most of the time. The same with my cell phone. It is usually off, and I only use it when its convenience demands it, which is rare. In addition, I have discarded all my cordless phones, and have reverted to an older wired handset for my landline. With a smart meter I would have no such option. How is it reasonable that I be forced to pay a penalty for not wanting to lose control over exposure to the dangers of RF in my own home?

4.) Though BC Hydro and utility companies around the world continue to deny it, there are numerous incidents of house fires that have occurred shortly after a smart meter has been installed, sometimes even before the installed meter has had its wireless feature activated. Often these fires can be seen to have originated at or near the site of the meter; in other cases, they start in appliances or in the wiring of the building. This phenomenon is not yet clearly understood by science, but it appears that the switching power supply which converts household AC current to DC to operate the meter produces spikes of so-called "dirty electricity" which create resonance in other conductors and circuits to which the meter is connected. These resonances amplify the power intensity to levels beyond what the circuitry can tolerate, resulting in overheating and sometimes fire. I do not want to risk my home, which I have worked for many years to own, by having such a device installed. How is it possible I should be charged to insist on this basic right to do what is safe for my home, myself and my family? And how would BC Hydro deal with the potential lawsuits that could arise if the link between smart meters and fires is confirmed? Would all our rates have to go up yet again?

5.) The entire smart meter program was initiated without proper consultation, notification and education of public. It has been carried out with a very arrogant attitude by Hydro and its contractors. Many instances of deception, intimidation and bullying by installers of these meters have been reported. On principle, I most strenuously object to being forced to participate in such an undemocratic, autocratic, and highly disrespectful and insulting program. To be charged a "fee" to exercise my right to not participate in such a dangerous and undemocratic process is preposterous.

To sum up, smart meter technology is fraught with many problems, and presents a lot of unanswered questions. There are many indications that, despite their being "modern", convenient, and highly seductive, devices employing RF in the frequency ranges of wi-fi, cell phones, and smart meters have not yet been proven to be safe, and, in the case of smart meters, secure, and cost effective. With their 24/7 emission of intense millisecond bursts of radiation impinging on the full body every few minutes (cell phones only affect the head region of the body), these devices may prove to be one of the most biologically disruptive inventions yet.

It is unjust, unconscionable, undemocratic and unacceptable that anyone be charged for the right to choose to keep themselves, their family and their premises safe from such unproven and potentially dangerous technology. Unless and until this situation changes, at the very least our governments and their regulatory bodies (read BCUC) should insist upon invoking the precautionary principle in how we as a society proceed with deployment of smart meters. Instead of being charged a so-called opt-out fee, those who chose to have such a smart meter should bear the costs and be charged accordingly. Furthermore, the idea that anyone choosing not to participate in this program be fined for not allowing a Hydro technician onto their property to install a smart meter, despite numerous communications with Hydro informing them of one's refusal, and clearly posting one's property to this effect, reflects a sinister and twisted logic.

Thank you for receiving my thoughts on this matter, and hopefully for taking them into account when considering whether to give final approval to BC Hydro's "choices" program. I sincerely hope you will do the right thing, and keep everything voluntary with no penalty regardless of one's choices.

Lastly, I wish you courage to stand up to pressure from both the government and BC Hydro, and live up to your duties. To quote from your "A Participant's Guide to the BCUC, these include (all emphases are mine):

- Independence and neutrality: The government assigns responsibility for making decisions that involve **the determination of competing rights or social interests to an independent and neutral body so that these decisions can be made in a forum largely insulated from political pressures...**
- Public access: Public access to government departments tends to be informal. Decisions that attract public controversy may require the more structured public participation processes of administrative tribunals **to ensure fair and equal treatment of all affected and interested parties**.

As a tribunal, the Commission must use its discretion to **ensure that the decisions it makes are fair**. The processes it uses to arrive at fair decisions depend, to a great extent, on the nature of the issue before it. "Procedural fairness" may require that a public hearing be held, that there be adequate public notice for such a hearing, that participants be given an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses,

or that the tribunal itself should **issue written reasons when it makes its final decision** on the issue based on the public record. Not all of these elements will always be required to **ensure fairness...**

Overall, **the Commission has a duty to protect the public interest and, particularly, the interests of ratepayers by ensuring that public utilities provide safe and reliable service at a reasonable price...**

Respectfully,

Mark de Bruijn

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**Applications**

- Current Applications
- Archived Applications
- Create Application Profile

**Documents**

- Current Documents
- Submit Document

**Users**

- Current Users
- Registration
- Distributed List

**Others**

- Companies
- Maintain Dropdown Lists
- Maintain Document Types

**Edit User**

Last Name, First; e.g. Smith, John

Name\*:

Professional Designation:

Organization:

Job Title:

Representing:

User Type\*:  Applicant  Interested Party  Intervener  Other

Address\*:

City\*:

Province\*:

Postal Code\*:

Phone\*:

Cell/Pager:

Fax:

Primary Email:

Email 2:

Email 3:

Email 4:

Role\*:

Approved Status:  Approved?  
Only approved users will be allowed to access submit file function.

\* - Required

Copy to:

- 
- 
- 

Change user name and password

User Name\* (No Spaces):

Password\* (No Spaces):

2012 Customer Choice Annual Report  
Active Energy Reconsideration A-1-13  
BC Hydro Application to Amend TS No 74 (GBL)  
BC Hydro Electric Tariff-OATT Price Indices Replacement  
BC Hydro MRS Assessment Report No 6  
BC Hydro OATT Ferc Order 764 Amendments  
BC Hydro PPA - RS 3808, TS No. 2 & 3  
**BC Hydro Smart Meter Choices Program**  
BCUC Generic Cost of Capital ~ Stage 1  
BCUC Generic Cost of Capital ~ Stage 2  
BCUC Proposed Regulatory Framework and Guide for TES Utilities  
Creative Energy Acquisition of Central Heat Distribution  
FEI Biomethane Post Implementation & Program Modification (2012 Biomethane)  
FEI FEVI GSMIP 2013-2016  
FEI Performance Based Ratemaking Revenue Requirements 2014-2018  
FEU Common Rates, Amalgamation, and Rate Design Reconsideration Phase 2  
FEVI 2014 Revenue Requirements and Rates  
FortisBC Inc Purchase of the Utility Assets of the City of Kelowna ~ Phase 2  
FortisBC Inc Stepped and Stand-By Rates for Transmission Voltage Customers  
FortisBC Inc. AMI Radio-Off Meter Option  
FortisBC Inc. Performance Based Ratemaking Revenue Requirements 2014-2018  
ICBC 2013 Revenue Requirements  
PNGNE CNG Virtual Pipeline DC TR CPCN

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