

**From:** Mark de Bruijn [debruijn@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2013 2:19 PM  
**To:** Commission Secretary BCUC:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Intervener Status registration

Dear BCUC,

Some days ago I wrote you (via email) requesting that I be registered as an intervener in BC Hydro's application for opt-out fees for people like me who do not want a smart electric meter installed at our premises. I have not heard from you that my request was accepted.

As I have communicated to you before, I continue to refuse to have one of these unproven, potentially dangerous, and expensive devices placed on my home. I presently have 2 analogues, and if replaced I would be receiving RF emissions from two meters, doubling my exposure to this radiation. If an opt-out fee is approved, I assume I would be charged double the fee, which would be an additional \$70/month on my Hydro bill.

I strongly object to the entire smart meter program for a number of reasons:

1. Their safety concerning effects on the health of humans (and all biological systems) is unproven. A rapidly growing body of evidence from independent (i.e., non-industry funded) research is increasingly casting serious doubt on the efficacy of current so-called safety standards for RF (for example, Health Canada's Safety Code 6).
2. The security of this technology from hacking is not developed, and will be enormously expensive. These costs have not been factored in to BC Hydro's business plan, and will almost certainly end up in radically increased electricity rates as this debt ridden corporation seeks ever greater capital to fund it's schemes. Cyber-threat to highly integrated grids like the so-called smart grid is an enormous concern to many experts, yet has not been addressed by Hydro.
3. My personal data is my PERSONAL data! I continue to believe I live in a democracy which values, supports and protects my basic rights as a human. I do not want my personal life style, habits, and patterns mined by anyone. I do not trust that any such data collected by these smart meters is secure, or will be protected from 3rd party interests who would love to exploit it.
4. Increasingly, smart meters are being implicated in house fires. Base plates are often not readily compatible with these meters. Installers are not properly trained to swap over these meters. And resonant waves of dirty electricity resulted from the switching power supply in each meter (which converts AC to DC to power the meter) can amplify in other electrical conductors and devices in a building, causing overheating, device failure, and fire.
5. The smart meter program is enormously costly. At a reported price of \$550 apiece, totalling some \$900 billion province-wide, this is truly an insane project, designed to replace a system that works extremely well, is fully in place, and is comparatively very inexpensive. Additional costs for this new "smart" grid have never been seriously discussed: software upgrades, meter replacement every 6 or 7 years (compared to 30+ years for analogue meters, costing only about \$50 each), ever increasing collectors (not to mention the fact that already all collectors have already had to be replaced, at an undisclosed cost), and perhaps most significantly, costs of trying to make the grid cyber-secure.
6. The lack of any convincing business plan or rationale for the smart grid. Why do we need it, when the current one works exceedingly well? The reasons put forth by Hydro thus far for this system are thoroughly vague and hollow: finding grow-ops, responding to power outages, being "modern" and up-to-date,

"encouraging" smarter use of power, being "greener", etc. are mostly just smart-sounding buzz words, without any real substance or evidence of actual results.

7. 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, and many instances of 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.

Please check your records and let me know that you have received and accepted my request to be an intervener in this matter.

Furthermore, I strongly urge you to do the right thing, regardless of pressures from the Liberal government, and their attempts to shackle your responsibility as a protector of the rights of BC citizens. If you continue to be persuaded that the smart grid has merit, then at the very least participation in it should be entirely voluntary, without any penalty for choosing to not participate.

Thank you

Respectfully,

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