
From: Alisa Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 2:58 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Cadieux.MLA, Stephanie LASS:EX; sunletters@vancouver.sun.com; earlyed@cbc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Smartmeters: Right to refuse

Dear Members of the BCUC,

BC Hydro is still pressing us to agree to a fee to keep our analogue meter. As I stated below, they appear to be trying to engineer the appearance of a degree of consent that does not actually exist.

I hope the Commission and our BC government will begin the process of returning Hydro to a public entity that serves us well in providing power as citizens need it, rather than for how much revenue they extract by charging families more if they want to make dinner and keep the house warm at *dinnertime*, instead of at midnight. Rather than imposing an intrusive, undemocratic discipline to power usage, why not treat us like adults, and let us choose to monitor our usage by whatever method we wish, to control our final bill. I would not object to a meter that transmitted my power usage once every 2 months over the telephone line, for instance.

This smartmeter imposition is vast overkill, and one more place where our government risks the honest citizen's right to reasonable privacy, never mind health concerns. It is like enacting a law to force us to eat a kilogram of spinach each per week, because vegetables are good for you.

If Hydro wants to prevent power theft by grow-ops, they should get a warrant and install a smartmeter to monitor the criminals, not everyone else.

Thanks kindly,

Alisa Wilson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alisa Wilson [REDACTED]
Subject: Smartmeters: Right to refuse
Date: 29 November, 2013 2:20:35 PM PST
To: commission.secretary@bcuc.com
Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca, stephanie.cadieaux.mla@leg.bc.ca,
sunletters@vancouver.sun.com, earlyed@cbc.ca

Dear Members of the Commission:

I love a great deal of what new technology bring us, but not without precaution when adopting. At the risk of being labelled a Luddite, I believe this Smartmeter rollout comes with many more potential serious problems than benefits.

BC Hydro appears to me to be stepping far beyond its role as a provider of power to the people of BC. Instead of responding to the needs and preferences of BC citizens first, our BC Government's policy seems to be to allow and even encourage BC Hydro to treat citizen customers as no more than a source of revenue to fund every scheme and project they can imagine to fill pockets other than our own. Ok, some tax revenue does return to the people, but how much gets siphoned off by private interests like this billion dollar Smartmeter contract first? Why can't they just stick to the simple job of filling the needs of the people of BC for the necessary amount of power to run this province? Let resource companies, generously allowed access to the riches of this province pay their own way, for instance!

I just learned that a meter reader working for a private company is paid 30 cents per meter read. Since our meter is only read once every 2 months, and is electronically billed and auto-paid (just an automatic computer program shifting that money around) so how does that translate to \$35 per month to keep our old meter? This is a kind of meter, I might add, that works for decades without problems, and of proven accuracy, unlike the Smartmeter, which is already subject to a higher rate of malfunction, it appears.

And here is a suggestion. Why can't the company reading the gas meter also read the electric meter, if BC Hydro truly wants to save us money?

My primary concern is that there no longer seems to be any respect for the rights of citizens in BC to make choices about exposure to factors that may affect their health, and in this case, specifically the imposition of the Smartmeter without true consent. We have been given a *take it or else* 'choice' by BC Hydro. And surprise, people who are *in no way happy with accepting a meter* are giving in because they simply cannot afford to pay more to keep what should be rightfully theirs to keep without question. This is not worthy behavior from the government we rely on to represent our interests, and it shows BC Hydro to be no better than a bully, rather than a good servant to the people of BC.... the primary reason for the privilege of being allowed to do business in this province.

Personally, I have been drawn into taking a stand because my reading of *independent* scientific literature raises serious doubts about the long term safety of exposure to electromagnetic radiation, and specifically microwave frequencies. The human body is a wonderful, but fragile organism, particularly in the growing child. Our children, and all of us, deserve to be protected by our regulatory authorities from commercial experimentation and mistreatment. In this they seem to be increasingly failing to do so. We must always observe the precautionary principle in adopting new technology.

I am concerned about my children, my growing grandchildren, and my husband, who with an irregular heartbeat, is one of those some scientists think is particularly vulnerable to mal-effects from EMR. To my mind you tamper with our basic human right to maintain our health as we see fit.

Please stop BC Hydro from proceeding with this dictatorial pressure to accept a Smartmeter. They should be required to disregard all 'consent' for Smartmeter installation and/or extra billing received to date, and start afresh, offering a choice *without penalties* for keeping your old meter, or a radio-off Smartmeter. And an apology for these tactics wouldn't go amiss!

As there seems to be no other way to curtail BC Hydro's abuse of citizen rights, I would like to see this case against BC Hydro certified as a class action:

Citizens for Safe Technology Notice of Civil Claim in the Supreme Court of BC July 25, 2013
Smart Meter class action lawsuit demands right of free choice for all B.C.

Sincerely,

Alisa Wilson

