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**From:** Lori Giesbrecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2014 12:02 PM  
**To:** Commission Secretary BCUC:EX  
**Subject:** Letter regarding Smart Meters and BCUC

To whom this may concern:

My name is Lori Giesbrecht and I am a proud member & supporter of the BC Coalition against Smart Meters!

I am sending this letter in hopes that YOU, the BCUC will understand that YOU are allowing BC Hydro to continue every tactic they can think of in order to force their customers to accept a SMART METER on their homes, some of which VIOLATE the Canadian Charter Of Rights!!

Our core values are: Empathy, Humility, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect, and Resilience. My primary interest is the future of ... our children, our society, and our planet.

-What is the difference between equality and equity? The difference is about the outcome. Treating everybody the same (equality) often does not result in equity (equal outcomes). I mention this because some people will be greatly affected by the \$35/month fee imposed by the BC government and BC Hydro. In some cases, this will double a person's hydro bill. The idea of a ratepayer is that the more electricity you use, the more you pay. In previous years, even though the cost of a meter reading was the same for each customer, some customers paid more while others paid less depending on their usage. With the proposed \$35/month fee, you are penalizing low use customers and rewarding high use customers. That is class discrimination in itself, a violation of the freedom of association (Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms).

-There is enough independent (ie. free of conflict of interest) scientific studies showing somatic and brain effects due to RF radiation. There are people with chronic illness and/or disabilities who are trying to protect their health. It is not unreasonable to fault people for claiming their right to life, liberty, and security of person (Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms). Living without power is NOT an option in today's society. It is essential to life, and the home is essential to the security of person.

-Given recent confirmation that governments, both foreign and domestic, are spying on its law-abiding citizens, it can be assumed that Smart Meters are vehicles to that end. Protection against reasonable search and seizure is stated in Section 8 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms!

These are three areas on which I base my refusal to accept a Smart Meter. A government agency, such as the BC Utilities Commission, has a mandate is to protect the interests of British Columbians in regulating the distribution of utilities in this province, especially when there's a monopoly as with BC Hydro. The BCUC has been ordered through an Order in Council to ignore its mandate. If that Order is unconstitutional, does that make the actions of the BCUC illegal as well? I would think so. Following superior orders (The Nuremberg Defense) is not a valid defense. The BC Utilities Commission has the option of following its original mandate and stay within constitutional law, or if following those Orders rendering them somewhat ineffectual.

That is what I am asking the BC Utilities Commission to do... render those Orders in Council ineffectual. Set a low or no opt-out fee. If Smart Meters are supposed to save BC Hydro so much money, why can't it support those 1% who have resisted being co-opted by BC Hydro and the tyranny of the majority?? Given the low numbers, the robustness of the Smart Grid must be able to accommodate this. Remember back in the 50's and 60's, 85% of people smoked. Were they choosing a healthy lifestyle? Clearly, not. Do not apply the same false argument today.

How can a \$35/month fee (aren't meter readers paid 40 cents for every meter they read? So, where's the other \$34.60 of BC HYDRO'S OP OUT CUSTOMER'S money going???) be justified when basic infrastructure (electricity production and delivery) covers all customers? It is only at the end distribution point (street level) that there is a difference. If there's a Smart Meter for each transformer in a neighborhood, shouldn't that take care of demand loading issues? To insist on a meter on each house is akin to insisting a meter for both phases inside a house...clearly overkill. Three of my neighbours, most of whom have a Smart Meter, share the same transformer as me. I have seen the voltage go up as far

as 130 volts and as low as 115 volts (12% range). Certainly households can withstand a range of voltages without a Smart Grid. It is impossible for one household out of four to have that kind of effect on a neighborhood branch circuit. I assert that for the average household keeping an analog meter does not add to the infrastructure costs, just meter reading costs, for which we already pay in our current rates!!

So an opt-out fee of \$35/month CLEARLY amounts to extortion. Again, if the BC Utilities Commission does not act in a punitive way, then they are complicit in this extortion.

If the justification for Smart Meters is to keep track of electricity theft, then shouldn't that cost be borne by society as a whole? Charging \$35/month is akin to assuming that household is stealing electricity. Having a Smart Meter on the house is akin to having an ankle bracelet on a convict. BC Hydro cannot assume guilt; to do so is not legal and unconscionable. If there are electrical losses to ground, due to faulty distribution network equipment, then that should be included by general infrastructure.

When you make your decision regarding the opt-out fees for keeping the legacy meters, keep in mind the values my school holds dear: Empathy, Humility, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect, and Resilience.

Empathy – Keep in mind those who will be devastatingly affected by a \$35/month fee.

Humility – We still have a lot to learn about the effects of technology. Don't be so bold and paternalistic to say that RF IS safe!!

Integrity – Keep true. Do the right thing.

Respect – Respect the principles of democracy and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms!!

Responsibility – Fulfill your mandate to protect the interest of ALL citizens of British Columbia!

Resilience – Do not be hobbled by the government's Orders in Council. Go forth with courage!!!

Lastly, I encourage you to watch the documentary, Take Back Your Power ([www.takebackyourpower.net](http://www.takebackyourpower.net)). It distills and vets the burgeoning research out there. For you not to do so, is to absolve your responsibility as part of the BC Utilities Commission.