

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

ORIGINAL



May 27, 2013

Docket Cont

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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Arizona Corporation Commission - Commissioners Wing
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996

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I am writing in regards to my concerns with having a smart meter installed on my house. Let me also state that I am in opposition to any fee being proposed to those to wish to opt-out of having a smart meter.

Critics of the smart meter technology such as the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, cite, among an array of concerns about the smart meters, possible health risks, especially surrounding the emission of pulsed radio-frequency (RF) radiation by the devices. Some people say they suffered adverse effects when a smart meter was installed at their home. And despite the complaints largely being dismissed by proponents of the new system or the special interests profiting from it, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine has called for caution in rolling out smart meters while further studies and investigations are conducted on the potentially harmful effects.

"Multiple studies correlate RF exposure with diseases such as cancer, neurological disease, reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, and electromagnetic hypersensitivity," the academy says on its website about the radiation emitted by smart meters and other devices that use similar technology. "Genotoxic effects from RF exposure, including studies of non-thermal levels of exposure, consistently and specifically show chromosomal instability, altered gene expression, gene mutations, DNA fragmentation and DNA structural breaks."

As the controversial devices continued to be rolled out across the Western world and eventually much of the planet, many opponents and activists say they would be satisfied with an "opt out" allowing them to keep their old meters if they specifically chose to do so.

Officials have gradually started to acknowledge the concerns, and in many states, caution is being exercised, if only for political reasons. In areas where smart meters have already been adopted, opposition is still growing, and it is likely that authorities will eventually be forced to allow citizens to demand removal of the devices from their homes.

Public fears about wireless smart meters are well-founded. They are backed by various medical authorities such as those of the Santa Cruz County (California) Public Health Department. These authorities are worried about the growing number of citizens who say they have developed electrohypersensitivity (EHS), especially since for many of them, the symptoms developed after the installation of such meters (it takes some time for most people to link the two events).

Since the turn of the millennium, people are increasingly affected by ambient microwaves due to the growing popularity of wireless devices such as cell phones and Wi-Fi Internet.

Therefore, the mass deployment of smart grids could expose large chunks of the general population to alarming risk scenarios without their consent. According to seven surveys done in six European countries between 2002 and 2004, about 10% of Europeans have become electrosensitive. The most famous person to publicly reveal her electrosensitivity is Gro Harlem Brundtland, formerly Prime Minister of Norway and retired Director of the World Health Organization (WHO).

While there is no consensus on the origins and mechanisms of EHS, many physicians and other specialists around the world have become aware that EHS symptoms (neurological dermatological, acoustical, etc.) seem to be triggered by exposure to EMF levels well below current international exposure limits, which are established solely on short-term thermal effects (3). Organizations such as the Austrian Medical Association and the American Academy of Environmental Medicine have recognized that the ideal way to treat of EHS is to reduce EMF exposure.

Therefore, caution is warranted because the growing variety of RF/microwave emissions produced by many wireless devices such as smart meters have never been tested for their potential biological effects.

It should be noted that, Australian Associate Professor of neurosurgery Vini G. Khurana reports, adverse neurological effects have been reported in people who sustain close proximity to wireless meters, especially under 10 feet (3 meters).

A wireless smart meter produces radiofrequency microwave radiation with two antennas in approximately the same frequency range (900 MHz to 2.4 GHz) as a typical cell tower. But, depending on how close it is to occupied space within a home, a smart meter can cause much higher RF exposures than cell towers commonly do. If a smart meter is located on a common wall with a bedroom or kitchen rather than a garage wall, for example, the RF exposure can be the same as being within 200 to 600 feet distance of a cell tower with multiple carriers. With both cell towers and smart meters, the entire body is immersed by microwaves that go out in all directions, which increases the risk of overexposure to many sensitive organs such as the eyes and testicles.

I do not feel there has been adequate research done on possible health hazards of smart meters and so I feel all Arizonans should be able to refuse these meters being installed without penalty.

Sincerely,

Stephen and Gloria Rainey