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Washington utilities and transportation commission
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Subject: Request in regards to consumer protection and meter rules.

Hello Ms. Ann Rendahl,

Recently Smart Meters were installed in my neighborhood. After doing some research on the subject, it came to my attention that Smart Meters and other devices that emit radiofrequency radiation (RFR) can potentially cause health issues.

From the moment cellular technology came out, there has been a controversy around potential health risks. Just lately this year two big studies¹ have been published regarding RF radiation near and far range exposure. One study done by US National Toxicology Program the other done by Ramazzini Institute in Italy, both conducted over multiple years and in controlled laboratory conditions. The researchers from these studies state that the findings leave no doubt about the fact that this type of radiation affects the body biology, can cause health issues and should be classified carcinogenic to humans.

In the United States regulations in the matter have not been updated since 'The Telecommunications Act of 1996', allowing population exposure to radiation that elsewhere is considered outlaw. Countries like France, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Finland, and Israel are taking precautions to protect their citizens from the dangers of wireless exposure², applying more strict and advanced regulations. This suggests that we should be more sensitive to the matter despite our old regulations.

Since smart meters emit the same type of radiations tested in the above researches³ and potentially pose similar risks, I find it very concerning that the smart meter technology has been imposed in our homes without proper testing and research to understand short and long terms effects.

1 <https://ehtrust.org/worlds-largest-animal-study-on-cell-tower-radiation-confirms-cancer-link>

2 <https://wirelessaction.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/irradiated.pdf>

3 <http://www.electrosmogprevention.org/public-health-alert/smart-meters-radiation-exposure-up-to-160-times-more-than-cell-phones-hirsch/>
<http://emfsafetynetwork.org/how-radiation-emissions-of-cell-phone-microwave-compare-to-smartmeter/>

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Even more concerning are the numerous reports of people that have developed health issues linked to smart meters⁴. The California Public Utilities Commission has received more than 8,000 complaints about [JUST] PG&E Smart Meters. Statewide, the Commission has received more than 2,000 complaints [during] two months (August 15 - October 15, 2010)⁵. These reports should be seriously considered given the fact that the latest scientific research supports the claim that radiations do affect the body in a negative way.

Additionally, documented reports testify to the damage that specifically smart meters may be doing to our hearts⁶.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) brochure states that smart meters emit less radiation than a cell phone, this is misleading. I used an EMF meter to personally measure three cell phones and five different smart meters. Cell phones measured peaks up to 150 mW/m² (150000 µW/m²) comparing to the meters which measured pulses up to 1800 mW/m² (1800000 µW/m²) every few seconds (10-30 sec.). It is a fact that smart meters are emitting, at a high frequency, pulses of radiation that are much higher than cellphones peaks.

According to the Institute of Building Biology guidelines on RFR⁷, scientific studies indicate biological effects and health problems within 0.1 – 10 µW/m². The suggested limit of radiation in sleeping areas to prevent cellular anomaly is 0.1 µW/m². Smart meters are often installed near bedrooms crossing by far this suggested limit.

There are groups that are at greater risk than others when exposed to wireless radiation, such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, the mentally ill, people with implants and medical devices that can be interfered with by wireless, such as cardiac pacemaker, hearing aids, and insulin pumps⁸. This is a huge segment of the population.

A report by the now former president of the British Association for Science, Sir William Stewart, cited studies showing that **pulse signals** from cell phones could damage DNA and could weaken the blood-brain barrier⁹. Wireless smart meters constantly transmit pulsed signals 24/7, up to 22,500 pulses per day¹⁰.

Smart meters technology “is not” indispensable to provide energy services and it exposes population to unnecessary radiation and health risks. If a

4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9Vp7G23eY0>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvjEk_LDwys

5 <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/efile/CM/126507.pdf>

6 https://www.naturalhealth365.com/smart-meters-emf-2268.html#disqus_thread

7 <http://www.createhealthyhomes.com/richtwerte-2015-englisch.pdf>

8 <http://www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions/>

9 <https://www.greenamerica.org/do-cell-phones-cause-cancer/our-interview-dr-devra-davis-0>

10 <https://www.marinij.com/2011/01/09/marin-voice-smart-to-worry-about-smartmeters/>

radiating antenna is installed near a park, it is a citizen personal choice to visit that park and how frequently to do so. The purchase and the usage of a cellphone is a matter of personal choice as well. This potentially dangerous technology is forced in our private homes “taking away our freedom of choice” and violates our right not to be exposed.

Since smart meters are a potential hazard till proven otherwise, I propose that as a first immediate step before smart meters are stopped, homeowners should be given the “default” option of analog meters at no extra fees, and smart meters installation should occur only after “explicit and informed consent” of the homeowners.

I also recommend we follow the footsteps of Vermont, they passed a bill that **indefinitely prohibits utilities from charging an opt-out fee to customers** who don't want the wireless digital meters¹¹.

In Burien WA, “Seattle city light (SCL)” customers asked to keep their analog meter, and **SCL allowed them to at no extra charges**. On the Eastside **PSE is not allowing analog meters and this should change**.

Because the RFR effect spread across properties, only a community effort will protect our right to a clean environment in our home. I therefore ask to take in consideration the numerous reports and the findings from the latest case studies, to block further installation of smart meters and to remove existing ones.

This is becoming a topic of conversations among our neighborhood and I urge you to reconsider this before it becomes a community issue.

Sincerely,
Yael Shalev.

¹¹ <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2012/Docs/BILLS/S-0214/ACT0170%20Act%20Summary.htm>

Additional References:

<https://smartmeterharm.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/1-analysis-exhibits-12-12.pdf>

<https://theecologist.org/2017/jun/06/smart-meter-radiation-and-health-why-are-we-neglecting-non-toxic-alternatives>

<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId=%7BEE5A5590-3ADE-4573-A0BA-3F4C1C0DB8BB%7D>