

**To:** WUTC Policy Makers for Smart Meter Programs

**Docket #** U-180525

**Title:** Reasons Why Customers Don't Want Smart Meters Installed on Whidbey Island!

**Date:** January 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

We simply DON'T want smart meters on Whidbey Island! Here's why:

The Itron meter company says "When a smart meter is transmitting, the exposure to radio frequency energy at a distance of 20 centimeters (8 inches) from the meter is 0.06 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> at 902 Mhz." Smart meter's 24/7 spiking emissions (the most dangerous kind of emf) can't be turned off. Duration is a key factor in exposure measurement. The strength of the emissions goes readily through the wall behind the meter as well as through windows exposed to it. These are received full-body, over periods of many hours creating cumulative exposures. Smart meters actually radiate emissions 100 times more than does cell phone usage by a typical person.

Strong spikey signals from smart meters can occur as many as 150,000 times per day, as meters coordinate with all others in a neighborhood then periodically send off combined usage data to the company. Numerous peer-reviewed studies reveal toxic effects from emf of the strength of smart meters ranging from fuzzy-mindedness, to DNA breaks, to blood-brain barrier leakage, to brain cancer and more.

Smart meters on Whidbey, even with an opt-out possibility, still subjects a homeowner with a myriad of challenges: dirty electricity from a neighbor's smart meter can pass to other houses through the wires; the outdoors is still blasted with multiple sources of emf from many homes around the "opt-outer", creating a dirty radiating electro smog in- and out-doors. A smart meter program can essentially double the intensity of this smog by filling a neighborhood inside and out with millions of emf signals per day! And if the system is hacked through smart meter vulnerability, my own electricity supply and personal billing data are threatened.

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Experts assert that the switching ability of the smart meters combined with its interconnection with other meters could enable a meter hacker to instantly switch off power to a whole area of a city, wreaking havoc, yes, but even worse, switching all back on at once then causes a power draw at the generators, transformers and lines that could destroy or severely damage them. A long blackout would ensue. Analog machine-type meters don't have any of this vulnerability.

The WUTC must require smart meter installing companies to prepare a review of scientific literature (not just an FCC standard or a pamphlet from a meter company) that explains how the science shows that smart meter radiation at its typical frequency of spiking, its distance from persons, and its high intensity is safe for health of customers. (The whole insurance industry refuses to back the power industry against any lawsuits about emf health effects on customers — kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?)

I won't go into the financial implications of smart meter installations for customers (in all instances I am aware of, customer rates have increased substantially) or dwell on the security issues involved — how smart meters make us all more vulnerable to “taking out the grid” in one fell swoop. And there are many more reasons customers DON'T want smart meters, but — ISN'T THIS ENOUGH, FOR GODSSAKE?!!!!

P.S. If smart meters are to come to Whidbey (— PLEASE — NO!!!!) then customers must be presented with an option to have a non-broadcasting meter, a non-punitive costs-only installment fee for it, no payment for purchase of it (like all other meters in the system), and a costs-only monthly surcharge for any additional expenses incurred by the company reading this meter and recording results. WHY couldn't the meter used be the original functioning analog meter with perhaps 20 extra years still left on its 30-40 year life, or even a purchased new analog meter? The standard opt-out meter in CA is the analog, fully available. The analogs on Whidbey are also not currently read by actual meter readers; a “module” in the meters sends a weekly report of usage to the company through the transmission lines, so one of the reported biggest advantages of the smart meter program, that it saves money on meter readers, is inaccurate.

