

June 30th, 2016

Stop Smart Meters Woodstock NY
P.O. Box 657 Woodstock, NY 12498

Honorable Kathleen Burgess
Secretary of Dept. of Public Service
3 Empire Plaza Albany, NY 12223

Dear Ms. Burgess,

Stop Smart Meters Woodstock New York, a “designated party”, finds it necessary to rebut some of the assertions made by Ken Panza’s letter dated 6/26/2016, as well as some of the assertions of the power “Companies”. Beginning with utilities using AMI infrastructure using two-way communicating smart meters, it should be noted that not all utilities would agree with Mr. Panza’s and the NY “Companies” assessment of AMI infrastructure. Specifically, NSTAR Electric and Western Massachusetts Electric collectively called Northeast Utilities (NU), the largest electric utility in Massachusetts, states that “there is no rational basis for implementation of AMI”. See NU’s submission in attachment and view all the highlighted portions of NU’s submission to the Massachusetts Department of Utilities. NU’s official submission debunks the notion that AMI or smart meters will improve the electric grid and exposes the smart meter myths that seem to be taking a foothold in New York beginning with Governor Cuomo's REV Initiative and Con Edison Corporation request and approval to use two way communicating smart meters in an AMI infrastructure.

NU’s official submission statements, current events, and expert scientists debunk the smart meter myths:

(1) Smart Meters will save customers money.

In reality, the cost of the system is astronomical and customers will bear the immense cost over the long term.

(2) Customers want the system.

In reality, polls show customers could care less.

(3) Smart Meters provide benefits.

In reality, the benefits are small and incremental.

(4) The system is secure.

In reality, the system is a big threat from cyber-attacks.<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIFD1sUTGX8>

(5) They are a “good choice” for the customer.

In reality, there is no evidence of benefits for the customer.

(6) They are needed for grid modernization.

In reality, actually the converse is true; AMI is not needed for grid modernization.

(7) It reduces number of outages.

In reality, this is absolutely not true as AMI will not reduce outages.

(8) It will reduce customer costs.

In reality, there are other options for reducing customer costs.

(9) The implementation costs are justified.

In reality, there is no rational basis that can support the implementation of AMI

infrastructure.

(10) Smart Meters are safe.

In reality, 100,000 smart meters have been recalled in Saskatchewan Canada for starting home fires. Hundreds of smart meters exploded simultaneously in Capitola and Stockton California (<https://takebackyourpower.net/1000s-of-smart-meter-fires-new-whistleblower-court-evidence-video/>) which has never happened with analog meters).

(11) No health risk from smart meters.

In reality, the opposite is true. Smart meters are a danger and potential health risk to the customer base. Review Dr. David Carpenter's letter regarding Smart Meters entitled "Correcting Gross Misinformation", co-signed by 50 international experts in the field of health and electromagnetic radiation exposure. Dr. Carpenter is a Harvard trained MD, is a Public Health Physician and Director of the Institute of Health and Environment at Albany University. He has testified before the President's Panel on Cancer and authored over 300 peer reviewed papers. He is a leading expert in the world on electromagnetic radiation exposure. View link :<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/commit/c510/handouts12/1009-JohnMarler5.pdf>

Regarding accuracy, AMI or smart meters are not that much more accurate than re-manufactured analog meters. Re-manufactured analog meters are 99.98% accurate surpassing ANSI C12 standards which allows for 3% inaccuracy. (See Meter Test attachment.) The difference of accuracy between re-manufactured analog meters and new digital meters is negligible and does not justify the astronomical cost of AMI implementation. Regarding the incident in Woodstock Mr. Panza was referring to which a recent error in a bill involving an analog meter happened; the actual situation was an error by the meter reader, not the analog meter. I personally know the individual who this happened to. The remanufactured analog meters are more accurate than when they were first manufactured and are very close to accuracy of digital meters. There is not much difference between the refurbished analog 99.98% and 100%. The digital meter is somewhere in between.

The Joint Utilities comment has stated "*It contravenes longstanding precedent to allocate costs for specialized utility services to those customers requesting such services. Customers who request a special meter and ongoing in person meter reading should be responsible for the additional costs associated with providing service.*" Analog metering being a "specialty services" is ridiculous. A digital transmitting smart meter is a "special service" and as such should be arranged to opt in and not have already overburdened customers having to opt-out. Analog metering is what has been in place for years and as such is not a "specialty service." We have never had to pay for this so-called "specialty service" before. The "Companies" quote is obvious industry double talk that anyone can see through that takes the time to use some critical thinking. There has been to date no fees for reading analog meters and unless a price hike is approved by the DPS for the companies to charge for meter reading, no charge for reading an analog meter is justified or approved by the DPS.

Re-manufactured analog meters are being used in Nevada, Maine, and California (LA) to name a few. Los Angeles has no fee for having an analog meter. (For Nevada See Smart Meter Opt Out Fact Sheet attachment.) Especially view Item 11, wherein "refurbished analog meters" will be issued to anyone who wants one. Contrary to the Joint Utilities statements there is absolutely no good reason that New York state residents can't be supplied with remanufactured, refurbished analog meters that meet

the Commission's ANSI C12 standards. The Commission has stated to me in a FOIL request that *"the only standard the Commission uses to approve electric utility meters"*. Greed, shortsightedness and risky behavior on the part of the New York utilities taking risks with the health of their customer base and lack of concern over the mountain of recent research that has demonstrated harm from low level microwave exposures from controversial wireless technologies is worrisome. **There are no peer-reviewed studies that the wireless industry can point to that prove chronic electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exposure from any kind of digital meters are safe over a long period of time . Also it has never been determined what the cumulative effect of digital transmitting meters and the opt-out digital meters are with all the multiple electromagnetic radiation emitting devices in the home. The most recent scientific research demonstrates low level EMR has been shown to cause adverse biological effects below controversial FCC standards in the Bioinitiative Report of 2012 (<http://www.bioinitiative.org/rf-color-charts/>). Here are 5,000 more studies demonstrating harm from low-level electromagnetic radiation exposures (<http://www.justproveit.net/studies>).**

Last but not least, there are no studies done by industry or anyone else that proves these wireless transmitting meters or the digital, non-transmitting, opt-out meters, which themselves create voltage transients on home wiring circuits causing adverse health effects, (<http://emfandhealth.com/HavasStetzerWHODirtyElectricityStudies.pdf>) and (<http://sammilham.com/La%20Quinta%20Middle%20school%20teachers'%20cancers.pdf>), are safe for children and pregnant women. Pregnant women and children, incredibly, have not been accounted for in the controversial FCC minimum exposure standards which are only based on a man over 6 foot tall and weighing over 225 lbs. with an eleven pound head. Refer to *Why Children More Absorb More Microwave Radiation than Adults - The Consequences*" (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213879X14000583>) by the leading expert in the world on environmental dangers and toxins, Devra Davis PhD.

When will the Electrical Utilities and Department of Public Service consider the children in all of their grand schemes? The children come first, not last.

Dear Secretary Burgess, please allow New York residents like other named states have re-manufactured/refurbished analog meters that are available and surpass the ANSI C12 standards. Unless there is a specific meter reading price hike approved, let us have the analog meters at no cost like we always have had and with no charge for reading them, 1000 signatures and 3 town municipalities (Woodstock, Kingston and Olive so far) all agree, time tested safe analog meters should be a choice in any New York opt-out program and at no cost and we urge the Commission to approve this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Steve Romine
Stop Smart Meters Woodstock NY