

WIRELESS "Smart" Electric and Water Meters installed on your home and business? Is EWEB overlooking radiation, health, security, privacy, hacking, fire danger and future LIABILITY?

PENDING EWEB \$26 MILLION "SMART METER" CONTRACT NEWS BLACK-OUT. EWEB's meter department was unaware of the potentially adverse health effects of wireless meters selected in their first pilot project in 2012, eventually deciding against that mesh system capable of thousands of transmissions a day as meters would chatter to each other after new smart appliances and new masts would have been installed.

Now, EWEB reports that they are unable to provide detailed information* about meter transmissions that would result from a new pilot project to start soon if EWEB Board approves a pending \$26 million contract probably to be decided August 6. (*EWEB may be able to provide this info but only after the new contract is signed per EWEB's public relation staff communication.) Write EWEB at Commissioners@EWEB.org and say you want a MORATORIUM on smart meters!

WHAT IS A "SMART" METER?

Utility companies, electric, water (and gas), may soon replace (or have replaced) mechanical Analog Meters with wireless digital "Smart" Meters which broadcast customer usage via microwave electromagnetic (EM) transmitters. The high-tech meters emit pulses that travel through air – not wires – and can affect biological tissue. Unlike cell phone transmissions, occasional and voluntary, these transmissions are continual and involuntary and cannot be turned off.

Even if a utility allows you to "OPT OUT," keeping your analog glass meter, EM radiation from the neighbors' wireless plastic meters can pass through you. Some sources report that Smart Meter radiation is worse than cell phone radiation. The opt out fee could be \$50-75+ a month. If +/- 25% of ratepayer-owners opt out, however, EWEB may decide to not even activate smart meters?

MORATORIUMS IN OTHER AREAS: In California over 47 cities and counties have taken actions to oppose wireless Smart Meters such as moratoriums including Palo Alto, center of high tech Silicon Valley.

You probably have not heard about EWEB's \$26 million contract. Why has EWEB not pursued the media to publicize it? EWEB is in a period of electricity surplus and economic shortfalls and this new digital technology can be unreliable. Why did staff accelerate a \$26 million contract in front of the new EWEB Board 3.5.2013 when 2 of 5 newly elected (volunteer) board members were in office only three months (1 only 6 months)? Why has there been no in-depth presentation about emerging controversies, pros and cons of this problematic technology, no intensive board work session and no citizen advisory committee or forums to interact with ratepayer-owners? EWEB Board had not discussed smart meters since late 2012 - some members were surprised to see it on the agenda so soon - it passed only 3/2 and will be up for approval or disapproval again August 6.

The public was informed that smart meters were on hold until at least 2015 (Register-Guard, 6.24.12)! The 2012 EWEB Board expressed many concerns and did not think that the new Board should be responsible or LIABLE for actions the former Board would take which led to postponing smart meters. Many ratepayers thought it was a moratorium to be lifted only AFTER health, cyber-security and other concerns were resolved - which they have not been.

PLACEMENT: Many wireless Smart Meters are near bedrooms, kitchens, playrooms, yards. Wireless Smart Meters are being forced on citizens in many areas, exposing millions of humans to pulsed microwave radiation and should immediately be prohibited – Olle Johansson, Associate Professor, Dept. of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute, Sweden, 1/17/11 (Karolinska awards the Nobel Prize in Medicine)

SAFETY

BIOLOGICAL DAMAGE: Animal nervous systems evolved for transmission of electrical signals that control living functions. Radiation of electromagnetic fields into these systems inevitably affects us in as yet unknown ways. But increasingly research on these effects has determined that EM radiation has caused irreversible damage to healthy cells, interference with brain tissue and nerves within brain and body, changes in cell membrane function and calcium metabolism, heart pains (sensitive persons can experience heart attack type symptoms), DNA breakage, headaches, infertility, learning impairment, memory loss, neuro-degenerative conditions, sleep disorders, exacerbation of existing conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis and Alzheimer's, skin tingling and ringing in the ears.

CONSTANT PULSING RADIATION: Wireless meters can constantly emit millisecond-long "chirps" communicating with other meters, appliances and the utility. Wireless Smart Meters emit pulsed radiation, which "is much more harmful," according to Magda Havas, Ph.D., world-class authority on electromagnetic fields, Trent University, Canada <magdahavas.org> and <magdahavas.com>

IMPLANT FUNCTIONING DANGERS: People with "medical implants, particularly metal implants, may be more sensitive to RF exposures. ElectroMagnetic Interference (EMI) with critical care medical equipment and medical implants is a particularly serious threat." ANSI/IEEE standards adapted in 1993 (C95.1-1992). Implants which could become inoperable: pacemakers, defibrillators, heart monitors, metal implants, morphine pumps, deep brain stimulators, insulin delivery and hormone metering. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine recommends "NO Smart Meters on these patients' homes, and that Smart Meters and Collection Meters be removed and placed only at a safe distance." <AAEMonline.org>

PETS, WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND INSECTS: Credible evidence exists that bees and birds feel the effects of invisible, and sometimes painful,

electromagnetic fields and microwave radiation from wireless Smart Meters. Decades of science have proved that animals are extremely sensitive to wireless Smart Meter type radiation. Testimonies abound of pets refusing to go indoors, running away, becoming sick or even experiencing early deaths after smart meter installation. Instances of some plants dying after a meter bank was installed exist. <stopsmartmeters.org/2011/08/31/and-what-of-the-animals/>

FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS: Smart Meters can place a new increased burden on existing electrical wiring. Meters produce very short, high intensity wireless emissions (radio frequency bursts) to signal the utility about energy usage. Reports detail that the meters themselves can smolder and catch fire or explode <it may be worse on older homes>. Sage & Associates, Wireless Smart Meters & Potential for Electrical Fires, Jan. 2011. See a compilation of US, Australian, Canadian reports on fires, explosions and burned out appliances due to Smart Meter installation <emfsafetynetwork.org/?page_id=1280>

POWER SURGES: Inevitable power surges can destroy electronics resulting in more damage to wiring and appliances. One model being considered by EWEB has caused over-heating and fires.

SECURITY

HACKING: The smart grid program has been severely criticized by security analysts who claim a digital grid could be easily hacked, compromising the personal data collected. Software commands could be relayed to cause problems for homes or cities. Due to security problems, former CIA Director James Woolsey calls the smart grid really STUPID. <youtube.com/watch?v=MAid1bS8t9U>

David Chalk warns: "Unless we wake up and realize what we're doing, there is 100% certainty of total catastrophic failure of the entire power infrastructure within 3 years." "We're in a state of crisis," "Hacking Expert David Chalk Joins Urgent Call to Halt Smart Grid," 4.2012 <businesswire.com/news/home/20120412005992/en/Hacking-Expert-David-Chalk-Joins-Urgent-Call>

Responding to an article about the FBI's concern about millions of dollars stolen from a utility in 2010 due to smart meter installation+, termed a wave of the future, EWEB admitted: no system is foolproof (email 5.30.13).

PRIVACY: If new smart meters and appliances are activated, a utility could discern the number of people living in a house and their habits. New smart enabled appliances have a 'chip' that can relay information to the meter. Marketing companies or rogues already "harvest" personal information. Utilities claim that they will not sell data to them. But, even if true, anything can be hacked.

POTENTIAL LIABILITY

Could EWEB Board including individual members be assuming uncertain future liability and financial burdens for the utility and themselves due to neglect of emerging concerns today?

INSURANCE COMPANIES are also becoming aware of EM cell phone

cancer risks as one of the world's largest industries is taking the possible risks seriously trying to make sure they are covered if a link to cancer is proven. One insurance company hired an independent Austrian scientist rather than relying on cell phone company funded studies. He discovered cell phone like exposure produced DNA breaks that could cause cancer but that further research is needed.

CBC news (Canada) reports that 60% of underwriters refuse to cover cell phone companies from potential claims from long term cell phone use. Reinsurance company Swiss RE also refuses to cover cell phone companies for potential claims. Cell Phones and Insurance Companies <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYvIHUOniDg>> Also see Disconnect: The Truth about Cell Phone Radiation, What the Industry Is Doing to Hide It, How to Protect ... Devra Davis, Ph.D.

Insurance companies may also refuse to insure liability damage from wireless Smart Meters. If a person is often as near to a Smart Meter in a home or to a series in more dense urban housing environments, the probability of developing cancer could increase.

Based on cell phone studies, the World Health Organization declared cell phone EM radiation a possible Class 2B carcinogen. The absence of health studies on wireless Smart Meter EM effects has left an information vacuum resulting in a widespread experiment on humans (and the natural world) that has already created a new class of EM sensitive refugees making survival difficult in an increasingly wireless world.

BILLING

TIME-OF-DAY BILLING: Utilities claim responsible social engineering by installing wireless Smart Meters so they may avoid peak load outages. Yet, measures could be adopted like public education and energy efficiency that could achieve similar desired objectives. (Publishing peak usage in newspapers or online could alert people to reduce usage.) Time-of-day billing can adversely impact working class families. One woman with five children complained that her bill doubled after time-of-day pricing was adopted. EWEB may initiate this billing system with volunteers, but SMUD in CA plans to make time of use billing mandatory by 2018....

Some persons with wireless smart meters experience higher bills, double billing and/or erratic billing.

MORE INFO

- EMFSafetyNetwork.org
- MicrowaveNews.com
- StopSmartMeters.org
- Bioinitiative.org (A rationale for biologically-based exposure for low-intensity electromagnetic radiation)
- TakeBackYourPower.net (raised \$83,000 for a 90-minute film to be released; donate \$50 for a DVD.)

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