



25 January 2013: Currently in Virginia, as in most localities, the electric company can come on to your property without your permission and change your analogue meter to a radiation emitting smart meter. These meters when installed transmit radiation every few seconds all day long transmitting information to utilities via collector smart meters, then it goes to a utility data collection unit on a telephone pole where it is sent on to a data collection company creating a 3-dimensional microwave radiation

spider web throughout your community. This adds up to hundreds of times more radiation exposure, even at many feet away, than that of cell phones.

Smart meters invade your privacy by matching data with known appliance load signatures. This way they will reveal people's daily schedules, their appliances and electronic equipment and medical equipment. This data may be easily hacked by thieves. The utilities even want us to buy smart-grid-enabled appliances that emit wireless radiation into our living space so they can remotely power down or shut them off. This also gives them more precise usage information. The government will have access to your lifestyle data without the need for a warrant.

Smart meters have caused fires. Fires and explosions associated with smart meters have been reported in California, Vancouver, British Columbia, Texas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Smart meters don't save money. When considering the cost of replacing the our current Automatic Meter Reading(AMR) meters before the end of their useful lives the residential customer savings per ratepayer are projected to be \$11 over 20 years by the Connecticut Attorney General, George Jepsen. With inflation factored, there are no savings. The smart meter useful life is at best half of the current AMR meter. Some residents have complained about much higher bills after their smart meter was installed.

The World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer state that Radio Frequency (RF) electro -magnetic fields (EMF) from non-ionizing radiation-emitting devices such as smart meters are a Class 2-B carcinogen, which means they may cause cancer - the pesticide DDT, leaded gas, and chloroform are also in this category. Documented RF studies also show: single and double strand DNA breakage which is associated with cancer, endocrine disruption, heart arrhythmias, ADD/ADHD and more.

After smart meters have been installed some people experience: Headaches, Muscle spasms, Breathing problems, Insomnia, Heart problems, Nausea, Cognitive problems, Ringing in the ears, Seizures, Dizziness, Memory loss. Some have had to leave their homes to alleviate these health problems.

We are hopeful that we will be able to get the Commerce and Labor Committee to give the VA consumer the right to choose if they want a smart meter or not.