



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, August 6, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Polangin, Councilmembers Gardner, Marcos, Truth, and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, Members of the Staff, the Press and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

A. Ms. Anita Moore along with Ms. Linda Simonson-Brown spoke briefly about the installation of BGE Smart Meters in citizens' homes.

B. Ms. Christine Green, Regional Policy Manager of Greater Washington Network Safe Routes to Schools spoke about promoting safer biking and walking routes to schools for children.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-in – Councilmember Gardner moved to appoint Ms. Kay Kane to the Green Team Executive Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

B. Mayor Robinson moved the elevation of alternate member Ismael "Vince" Canales from the Ethics Commission to a full member due to the resignation of member Sam Hutchinson. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

C. Mayor Robinson moved to appoint Ms. Pamela Fleming to the Board of Personnel Appeals for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Polangin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson **MAYOR PRO TEM** Diane M. Polangin

COUNCIL Dennis Brady ♦ Henri Gardner ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Isaac C. Truth ♦ Todd M. Turner **CITY MANAGER** David J. Deutsch

City Hall (301) 262-6200 **FAX** (301) 809-2302 **TDD** (301) 262-5013 **WEB** www.cityofbowie.org

D. Councilmember Marcos moved to appoint Ms. Yolanda Muckle as a member of the Economic Development Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

E. Mayor Robinson swore-in the following members: Yolanda Muckle to the Economic Development Committee, Pamela Fleming to the Board of Personnel Appeals; Roberto Kaje and Sue Livera to the Bowie Green Team Executive Committee for 2-year terms.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Robinson mentioned National Night Out celebration sponsored by the Bowie Police Department that will take place at Allen Pond Park on Tuesday, August 7th from 6-8pm. He also wished a speedy recovery to Councilmember Brady who underwent surgery.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch reported on the following: 1) Completion of project at Church Road Park, Use & Occupancy permit has been received from County and waiting for permit from County Health Department to be able to use. 2) Standard and Poor's, one of three major bond rating agencies, has reaffirmed the City's AAA bond rating. 3) Update on synthetic turf field at Whitmarsh Park, issues have been resolved with contractor, work to begin in mid-March 2013 and should be complete in 90 days. 4) Response received from Public Service Commission in regards to letter submitted from the City about BGE performance during the Derecho storm, several public hearings have been scheduled; closest one for the City will be August 13th in Annapolis, staff will attend and report back to Council.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items A: Approval of minutes from July 9 meeting; B: Approval of Resolution R-59-12 – Amending the Fire Department Equipment Purchase Policy Established by R-25-00; C: Approval of Resolution R-61-12 – Waiving by Two-Thirds Vote the Bidding Requirements of Section 61 of the City Charter, to Allow the City to Enter Into a Contract With Lawmen Supply Company for the Purchase of Weaponry and Associated Accessories for Use by the Bowie Police Department; D: Approval of Resolution R-62-12 – Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 “Purchasing and Contracting” of the Charter of the City of Bowie by a Two-Thirds Vote to Allow for the Rental of Leaf Collection Trucks and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract With Hertz Equipment Rental in the Amount of \$49,080; E: Approval of Resolution R-63-12 - Authorizing the City Manager to Execute An Annexation Agreement With March Hodge Baltimore Holding Company, LLC Establishing the Terms and Conditions Governing the Proposed Annexation of Approximately 9.1634 Acres of Land, Also Known As Lots 6 and 7, Walker Pontiac Subdivision Located on the West Side of US 301 Approximately 1,700 Feet North of Mitchellville Road, Into the Corporate Limits of the City of Bowie; F: Approval of Resolution R-64-12 – Adopting the Sustainable Community Application and Action Plan 2012; G: Approval of Resolution R-67-12 – Accepting Bid Proposal for Contractor Services for An Invasive Species Management Study; H: Approval of Resolution R-68-12 – By Two-Thirds Vote Authorizing the Waiving of Bidding Requirements to Allow For Issuance of a Contract for the Purchase of Large Recycling Carts Through a Howard County Contract for Phase 2 of the Recycling Carts Program; I: Approval of Resolution R-70-12 - Adopting An Annexation Plan for the Annexation of the Bowie Honda Dealership Properties (Lots 6-7 of Walker Pontiac Subdivision), the Bowie Nissan Dealership Property (Parcel B of Mills Subdivision) and Adjacent Parcels, Including Lots 1-3 of Walker Pontiac Subdivision, Parcels 26, 128, 164, 103, 27, 104,

28, 42, Parcel C of Mills Subdivision, Parcels 175, 163, 171, 181, 16, 3, 44, 29, 116, 33, 32, 139 and 143 All Shown on Prince George's County Tax Map 63, Also Including the Southbound Lanes of US 301 and the Median Crossover South of Mount Oak Road, Generally Located on Both Sides of the Southbound Lanes of US 301, Between Mitchellville Road and Mount Oak Road; J: Approval of Resolution R-71-12 – Awarding a Contract for the Removal and Installation of Carpet at the Bowie Senior Center to Carpet Experts, Inc.; K: Approval of Resolution R-72-12 – Awarding a Contract for the Sanding and Refinishing of the Gymnasium Floor at the Bowie Gymnasium; L: Approval of Resolution R-73-12 – Accepting Bid for the Supply and Installation of a Weir Cleaning Device for Clarifier #3 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; M: Approval of Resolution R-74-12 – Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie By a Two-Thirds Vote to Allow for the Installation of Control Link Services at the Whitemarsh Park Football and Multi-Use Field, and the Andy brown and Huston Fields Located at Allen Pond Park and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract With Musco Lighting in the Amount of \$34,405; N: City Position Letter in support of Revised Detailed Site Plan #DSP-93047/04 (Applebee's Restaurant in Bowie Gateway Center); O: Introduction of Ordinance O-11-12 – Repealing Bowie City Code, Chapter 24 "Taxation", Article I "Credit for Senior Citizens" and Enacting Bowie City Code, Chapter 24 "Taxation", Article I "Local Supplement to the State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program" for the Purpose of Establishing A Supplemental Property Tax Credit for City Homeowners, Which Credit is to be Indexed to the State of Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program; P: Approval of letter to Public Service Commission in regards to Derecho storm of June 29th. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Dimensions Healthcare System – Mr. Neil Moore, President and CEO of Dimensions introduced his colleagues joining him tonight during his presentation. Dr. Carnell Cooper, Chief Medical Officer; Mr. John O'Brien, COO and President of Prince Georges Hospital; Dr. Tom Lyons, Chief Emergency Physician at Bowie Health Center; Mr. Mark Arsenault, Vice President of Emergency Services at Dimensions; Ms. Joan McHale, Director of Operations at Bowie Health Center; Ms. Helen Knowles, Manager Administrative Services at Bowie Health Center. Mr. Moore provided an update on Dimensions Healthcare System's current status and outlook for the future. He also discussed their partnership with University of Maryland Medical System. A copy of the presentation is on file at City Hall.

Councilmember Turner asked about the role of Dimensions with the upcoming changes. Mr. Moore explained that regarding to the governance structure; it is till being worked out. Councilmember Turner then asked for a brief explanation about what the expansion of primary care to new residents of Bowie meant. Ms. McHale responded that the Bowie environment is constantly changing and one of the most common responses they receive at health fairs is that it is very difficult to find current doctors that are accepting new patients. Dimensions is looking for ways that will bring in more primary care physicians to the area.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin made a comment to Mr. Moore and his colleagues to consider Bowie as the location for the new hospital.

Councilmember Gardner asked what drove them to lower the bed count from 330 to 278. Mr. Moore stated that studies done have shown that there is a greater need for primary care versus in-patient services, however the new regional medical center will be built to accommodate at least 360 beds.

B. City Transportation Priority List – Mr. Joseph Meinert, City Planning Director, summarized the staff report dated August 2, 2012, a copy which is on file at City Hall. Mr. Meinert reported that the City's highest transportation priorities remain unchanged from previous years; MD Route 450 and MD Route 197 are the two highest priorities for State roads, and with respect to County roadways the City's priority is Church Road. Mr. Meinert then reviewed several other projects the Council feels need emphasis: 1) MD 197 North Median landscaping retrofit, from MD 450 north to Rockledge Elementary School; 2) MD 197 South Median landscaping from US 50 to US 301; 3) WB & A Trail – bridge over the Patuxent River; 4) MD 978 (Hall Road) – roadway widening, curb gutter and sidewalks, west of CSX railroad tracks to MD 214; 5) MD 197/Race Track Road – Opticon device; 6) MD 564 (9th Street) – sidewalk retrofit, east of Maple Avenue; 7) MD 564 traffic calming improvements. He concluded by saying that the City should support the major projects shown in the CIP, including Church Road, Mount Oak/Woodmore Roads, Old Stage Road, Race Track Road, the Bowie Heritage Trail and Public Transit and that a letter will be prepared with these recommendations addressed to the State and County for Council's approval. He then introduced Mr. Tom Harrington, Director of Long Range Planning with Metro that will speak in reference to Metro Planning Initiatives.

Mr. Harrington gave a brief update on system ridership in the Bowie area along with top stations used. Metro has embarked in a 30-year regional transit plan to include infrastructure plans for projects that have long development horizons. Some long-range issues that will be addressed are core capacity, access, surface transit corridors, new and emerging markets. Some of Prince George's County 2011 Transit Priorities for Metro are the Purple Line (New Carrollton to Bethesda), WMATA funding, purple line extension to the Largo/Branch Avenue/National Harbor locations, Green/MARC Camden lines (from Greenbelt to BWI), Anacostia/MD 210 corridor transit and possible extensions to the Orange line and the Blue line. Bowie City Transit Priorities include the improvement of transit linkage between Old Bowie Town and Bowie State University, transit service to the Laurel area; extend County bus transit system to the City to provide connections to Upper Marlboro and Greenbelt.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin reiterates that the extension of the Orange line should be a top priority; if it gets built the ridership will be there.

Councilmember Turner would like for staff to include in report a study for potential expansion of WMATA bus service to Bowie corridor.

Councilmember Trough requests staff to really address the Hall Road issue from the State perspective of sidewalks.

C. Resolution R-65-12, Adopting the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Action Plan Fiscal Year 2013 – Mr. Jesse Buggs, Director Office of Grant Development & Administration summarized the staff report dated August 6, 2012, a copy which is on file at City Hall. In response to the analysis and the recommendations, staff proposes the following: 1) to set aside 1% of its FY 2013 CDBG allocation to further fair housing efforts; 2) offer fair housing education free and open to the public during current fiscal year; 3) provide fair housing literature and training to the business community and homeowner associations; 4) require City Department Directors, Assistant Directors and Department of Community Services Property Inspectors to attend fair housing education sessions; 5) forward any fair housing complaints to the HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for evaluation/investigation; 6) confirm the number of available housing units with Prince George's County Department of Housing and Prince George's County Housing Authority 2-4 times per year; 7) monitor County and the State

fair housing training and enforcement activities; 8) coordinate the City's fair housing activities through the City Manager's Office, Office of Grant Development & Administration.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Truth made a motion to adopt Resolution R-65-12 and have staff forward the plan to HUD. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

D. Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-1-12 – Amending Sec. 18A, “Express Powers” of the City Charter to Provide Authority for the City Council to Negotiate and Enter Into Collective Bargaining Agreements With Duly-Authorized Representatives of a Bargaining Unit of Non-Managerial Sworn Officers of the City's Police Department – City Manager David Deutsch stated that this resolution is intended to implement the Council's direction with respect to the process of implementing collective bargaining for the City's police department.

Public Hearing:

1. Mr. Melvin Bergman, attorney representing the Bowie F.O.P, asked Council to include the word “binding” before “collective bargaining” in the resolution.

2. Ms. Rachel Jefferson, President for F.O.P. #140, thanked Council and hope they take into consideration the request made by Mr. Bergman.

City Attorney Levan stated that the Union has not made it identifiable to the City why it is critical for them to have the word included. Her position is that the Charter Amendment Resolution is sufficient as it stands.

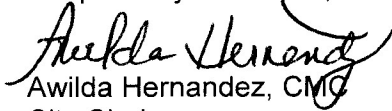
Since there were no more speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin made a motion to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-1-12 as drafted. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously 6-0 (Councilmember Brady absent).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to adjourn the City Council meeting and move to Executive Session as permitted by the Maryland Public Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a)(3)(7) (attached). Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Awilda Hernandez, CMG
City Clerk

**WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Date: 8/6/12 Time: 10:18pm Location: Council Chambers Motion to close meeting made by: DP

Seconded by IT, Members voting in favor: IT, JM, DP, GFR, TT,

HG Opposed: _____ Abstaining _____ Absent DB

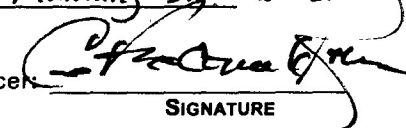
STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION, State Government Article, §10-508(a) (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;
- ☒ (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;
- ☒ (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;
- ☐ (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;
- ☐ (5) To consider the investment of public funds;
- ☐ (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;
- ☒ (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- ☐ (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
- ☐ (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;
- ☐ (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;
- ☐ (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;
- ☐ (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- ☐ (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- ☐ (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- (3) To discuss acquisition of property
- (7) To consult with attorney regarding breach of contract issue
- () _____

Persons attending closed session: Mayor Robinson, Polangin, Marcos, Trouth, Turner
Gardner, CM Deutsch, ASCM Fitzwater, Counsel Levin, Planning Dir. Meinert

This statement is made by G. Frederick Robinson, Presiding Officer 
SIGNATURE

***** FOR USE IN MINUTES OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: *****

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND ACTION(S) TAKEN (IF ANY):

Two potential property acquisitions were discussed.
one breach of contract issue was discussed.

Time closed session adjourned: 10:55

Appendix C

This is Dr. Carpenter's response to the BG&E rhetoric:

21 February 2012

Re: Smart Meters and Baltimore Gas & Electric

Dear Sirs/Madams:

This is concerning potential adverse health effects associated with exposure to radiofrequency (RF) radiation, specifically that from smart meters. I am a public health physician and former Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany. I have been involved in review and analysis of studies on electromagnetic fields, including radiofrequency fields, for many years. I served as the Executive Secretary to the New York State Powerlines Project in the 1980s, and have published several reviews on the subject. In addition I was invited to present to the recent President's Cancer Panel on the subject of powerline and radiofrequency fields and cancer, and the publication that came from that Panel is attached. I have edited two books on effects of EMFs, including RF radiation. I served as the co-editor of the Bioinitiative Report (www.bioinitiative.org), a comprehensive review of the literature on this subject. The public health chapter from this report was subsequently published in a peer reviewed journal. This is a subject which I know well, and one on which I take a public health approach that has as a fundamental principle the need to protect against risk of disease even when one does not have all the information that would be desirable.

There is clear and strong evidence that intensive use of cell phones increases the risk of brain cancer, tumors of the auditory nerve and cancer of the parotid gland, the salivary gland in the cheek by the ear. The evidence for this conclusion is detailed in many publications in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. Smart meters use similar radiofrequency radiation, although the intensity of exposure in the immediate environment is under most circumstances lower than what one gets from holding a cell phone close to your head. The difference between a cell phone and a smart meter environment is that while the cell phone is used only intermittently a smart meter environment is continuous. There is also strong evidence that leukemia rates are increased among people living near to powerful AM radio transmission towers. Because WiFi, radio transmission towers and smart meters all generate similar RF radiation, my conclusion is that if the whole body is exposed, leukemia is the major cancer of concern, while if only the head is exposed as in using a cell phone, one sees increased risk of local cancers, such as brain cancer.

The statement released by BG&E that "Many studies conducted across the country have found that smart meters do not pose a health risk" is totally false. There have been no studies of the health effects of smart meters to my knowledge. The statements about the Food and Drug Administration and World Health Organization are equally untrue. It should be noted that the World Health Organization this past summer declared radiofrequency radiation to be a possible human carcinogen. While it is true that the nature of exposure to RF from smart meters is not significantly different from that coming from other wireless devices, what is important is cumulative, aggregate exposure. My position is that we should practice "prudent avoidance", which is to say reduce unnecessary exposure to the degree possible until the magnitude of risk is fully understood.

My specific concerns about smart meters are as follows:

1. The benefit of the smart meters is entirely to the utilities, and is economic in nature. If they install smart meters they can fire those individuals who at present are employed to go around reading meters. Thus this is a job-killing proposal, and will increase unemployment in a state that already has too much.
2. When a smart meter is installed residents have no choice in the matter or ability to avoid exposure. But every individual has the option to use or not use other personal wireless devices, until more is known about health consequences of chronic RF exposure. There is a major difference between an exposure which an individual chooses to accept and one that is forced on individuals who can do nothing about it.
3. The BG&E letters states "The meter that we will install at customers' homes will transmit for less than 15 minutes each day on average." This is probably true, but is a deceptive statement, because while transmission of data to the utility occurs for short periods of time, the device continuously generates RF radiation that will expose anyone nearby 24/7.
4. The evidence for adverse effects of radiofrequency radiation is currently strong and grows stronger with each new study. Wired meters with shielded cable do not increase exposure. The same benefit to the utility could be achieved by use of a wired connection and this would not increase exposure of residents to excessive RF radiation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important public health concern, and on the general issue of smart meters. Their use is unwise from both a public health point of view, which is where my expertise lies, but and also from a purely short and long-term economic point of view.

Yours sincerely,

David Carpenter

Smart meters will cost you money, the plans showed:

- Utilities want customers to pay for smart meter costs. Costs for the smart grid in Maryland are forecasted to be over \$1 billion dollars.
- Discarding of existing meters – still in good working condition and valued at over \$100 Million -- to be paid for by the customer.
- A utility-sponsored study showed overall household energy savings of less than 1% since smart meters are not providing real-time energy usage data. This 1% is far below the savings needed to cover smart meter costs to be charged to the ratepayer.
- No provisions to provide ratepayers with an in-home real-time energy monitoring device which is key to significantly lowering the ratepayer energy bill. A pilot study showed an average of 9% savings, with up to 27% savings potential with these devices.
- Utilities want Time-of-use rates – these would cause higher rates during hot weather. Businesses stay at home moms, retirees, and telecommuters will have higher bills year round.

Consumer Digest estimated costs of \$2,300 per household. (Consumer Digest – Why Smart Meters Might Be a Dumb Idea.)

There are Attorney Generals filing objections against Smart Meter deployment on the sole position that ratepayers in their states would never see any real savings or benefits.

Smart Meters have already cost us a lot of money through taxes we pay:

The Department of Energy (DOE) gave \$4.5 Billion in grants for Smart Grid, of which a significant portion went directly to the utility companies. In Maryland, PEPCO and BGE received \$305 Million from the DOE: our tax dollars were given to these Utilities whose overriding purpose is to bring wealth to their stockholders.

Smart people save on energy costs, not smart meters.

What is a 'Smart Meter'?

What a smart meter does:

- Measures how much electricity you use and then sends hourly meter read data to BGE.
- Uses microwave radio frequency radiation to transmit this information.
- Allows the utility to send radio frequency radiation to your meter to remotely start or stop service.

In the next two sections ask yourself if the benefits claimed (section 1) are worth the costs to you (section 2)

Why your utility wants you to have one:

- To repair outages more rapidly
- To save on the cost of meter readers
- To turn off your power remotely if you are late paying your bill
- To help you become more aware of how and when you are using electricity in the hope that this will encourage you to conserve energy
- To reward you for shifting some of your consumption to off-peak hours – or in the future, possibly penalize you if you don't change your consumption habits
- To be able to turn off appliances in your home during periods of peak consumption – such as your washer, dryer, dish washer etc. Programs of this sort would presumably be 'voluntary' and so you would be given some relief from the jacked up rates if you agreed to participate (rebates)

Note that the benefits claimed above are mostly benefits to the utility which may or may not pass savings on to us. (The cost of the smart grid that rate payers are financing through taxes and eventual rates increases, is so extraordinary that chances are we will never see any of these savings) Note also that nothing prevents us from conserving energy now. Common sense tells us to turn off appliances and lights when they are not needed. Do we need a computer display to show us that we left the TV on in a room where nobody is watching? Keep in mind also that the federal government, through the 'stimulus' passed in 2009, has made it very profitable for the utilities to blanket the nation with these meters.

AND there is no law mandating the installation.

Why you may not want to have one on your home

- You may not want your utility, marketing companies, hackers, and possibly would-be burglars to know everything that goes on inside your home. You have a right to privacy about when you are at home, when you are asleep, when you preparing meals, how many showers you take in a day, when you watch TV, and when you are using your computer.
- You may not want to expose yourself, your children or the elderly, 24/7 to electromagnetic radiation when the possible health effects of such exposure are still being hotly debated among experts in the health sciences. Yes, most of us use microwave ovens and cell phones, but these exposures are for brief periods and they are ***voluntary***.
- You may not want to give up your right to decide what appliances you will use and when you will use them.
- You may not want to see your monthly electric bill skyrocket – as has so often been the case where these meters have been installed.

For more information please visit: www.MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org

Maryland Smart Meter Awareness

Marylandsmartmeterawareness.org

BGE and Pepco are currently installing Smart Meters in all homes, schools, hospitals and businesses within their service area. The new Smart Meters will replace the conventional analog meters currently in use. The utilities are pushing forward with this deployment, despite the many serious concerns about the health effects, privacy issues, threats to national security from cyber-attacks, probable rate increases, and the impact on the ecosystem. Following is a very brief discussion of the main problems that Smart Meters pose. Should you wish more detail on any of these issues, please contact us, and we will be happy to supply them.

On May 24, 2012, the PSC ordered a temporary deferral of smart meter installations, but you must notify your utility (Order No. 84926).

We recommend certified mail so there will be no confusion down the road...and remember to include your account number.

Baltimore Gas & Electric
Smart Grid Deferral
P. O. Box 1475
Baltimore, MD 21203

Pepco
Smart Grid Deferral
701 9th Street NW
Washington DC, 20068

Delmarva Power
Bay Regional Office
2530 N. Salisbury Blvd.
Salisbury, MD 21801

We recommend certified mail so there will be no confusion down the road...and remember to include your account number.

Long Term Health Impacts

Smart Meters place everyone at risk for cancer, neurological disease, and reproductive and developmental impairments according to Dr. Karl Maret, a physician and biomedical engineer from the University of California at Santa Cruz. In the Spring of 2011 The World Health Organization classified the radiation emitted from Smart Meters as a Class 2B carcinogen. In addition, the Karolinska Institute, one of the top ten medical research Institutes in the world and responsible for selecting the Nobel Prize winner in medicine, is urging the halt to the rollout of Smart Meters. David Carpenter, Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment, SUNY Albany, stated that RF radiation from Smart Meters has already been shown to cause cancer and other diseases. Children and the unborn have increased susceptibility due to their thinner skulls and developing brains.

Health Impacts - Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EMH)

The current cumulative effect of microwave radiation from cell phones, WiFi, I-phones, and other "smart" devices, is permeating the atmosphere of cities around the globe with an exposure level 1 trillion times the levels found in nature. The Smart Grid alone will have many-faceted transmitters and receivers throughout our neighborhoods which together will create a mesh network of wireless communications. This will substantially increase everyone's exposure to RF radiation above and beyond the current saturation levels. Where Smart Meters are in place, 3-8% of the population is already severely impacted by EMH (electromagnetic hypersensitivity) and 35% has a moderate sensitivity. These figures are expected to go up as the public is exposed to ever increasing amounts of microwave radiation from Smart Meters and other wireless technologies. In California, where approximately ten million Smart Meters have already been installed, thousands of people have reported immediate health effects including headaches, nausea, heart palpitations, dizziness, ringing in the ears, eye irritation and sleep disturbances. Many people have had to vacate their homes in order to alleviate their symptoms.

Privacy Concerns

Smart Meters are a major invasion of privacy as they transmit our energy use on an on-going basis. Our utilities will know when we are asleep, awake, home or away from home. As part of the Smart Grid, a new generation of "Smart Appliances" is being developed. These appliances will have chips that "talk" to our Smart Meter turning our homes into veritable microwave ovens. The meters will know what electronic appliances (including medical equipment) we have and how often we use them. While some utilities make assurances they will not release any of this data to third parties for marketing purposes, that may change as the value of this data to marketers soars. And there are currently no laws in place to prevent this. Police departments in Texas and Ohio have already obtained Smart Meter information from the utilities to verify alibis of criminal defendants despite the obvious constitutional issues.

Interference with Electronic Devices

RF radiation can interfere with medical devices enough to cause them to stop working. These include, for example, pacemakers, deep brain stimulators (Parkinson's), ventilators, pain pumps, and wireless insulin pumps. The Food and Drug Administration's website warns that RF devices cause interference with many medical devices, such as pacemakers, and these Smart Meters use these same frequencies. RF radiation causes interference with Wi-Fi, radios, cordless phones, baby monitors, and other household devices. In addition, the meters interfere with ground fault circuit interrupters. Smart Meters have also been associated with a number of fires.

Inaccurate Bills for Energy Use

While the utilities try to promote the idea that Smart Meters will save the ratepayers money, many customers have seen their bills skyrocket. Currently, there is a class action suit in California on this issue alone as well as over 5,000 complaints in the Houston area.

No Demonstrated Savings in Any of the Locations Where Smart Meters Have Been Installed

For those ratepayers where overcharging has not been an issue, there have been no demonstrated savings. Two attorneys general (Illinois and Connecticut) filed objections to their respective utilities' request to install Smart Meters solely because the ratepayers would never see any real savings.

Cyber Security

It is relatively easy to hack into Smart Meters. In other parts of the country, hackers have managed to transfer their energy use to someone else's bill, and some have maliciously turned off appliances remotely. Pacific Gas & Electric has admitted that hacking is going on but will not say how big a problem it is. A representative from BGE noted the company was aware of this possibility and stated that BGE was trying to stay on top of it. But there are no guarantees here.

National Security

Many of Smart Meter components are being manufactured outside the U.S. This can provide unfriendly foreign powers ample opportunity to put malware on these components to be activated at an appropriate time to bring down the electric power grid. The Washington Post just published an article critiquing the utilities for rushing into a technology without taking proper cyber security measures. In late January of this year, our top intelligence chiefs warned Congress that our country was facing a very serious threat from cyber terrorism, and they expressed concern about the ability of our enemies to take down the power grids.

Environmental Impacts

There are numerous studies linking the world-wide, catastrophic collapse of the bee population to RF electromagnetic radiation. Other studies link RF electromagnetic radiation adverse impacts on sentinel species such as song birds, bats and amphibians.

There are other choices for a Smart Grid, for example, fiber optics or phone wires. Maryland Smart Meter Awareness is not opposing a Smart Grid per se. Rather, we are urging both BGE and Pepco to apply the precautionary principle and to call a moratorium on *wireless* Smart Meters until chronic, long term exposure to low levels of RF is proven safe. The least we are asking is for an opt out option so that we can have a choice within our own homes.

Utilities' False Safety Assurances

Utilities claim Smart Meters will only emit x seconds/minutes per day. (Each utility offers a different assurance.) However, this is only true for the transmission of data. In reality, Smart Meters continuously communicate with neighboring meters and data collection points by emitting "chirps and chatter" 24/7. Once our homes are filled with the new generation of Smart Appliances, the meters will be transmitting and receiving even more data in order to track our usage with still greater precision. Utilities claim the radiation from Smart Meters is less than a cell phone. The fact is that according to Dr. Daniel Hirsch, Nuclear Scientist, Univ. of Calif., Santa Cruz, the radiation is at least 100 times the whole body radiation of a cell phone. And we will not have a choice.

To learn more please visit www.marylandsmartmeterawareness.org.

On May 22, following a nearly 12-hour public hearing on whether to allow customers to opt out of the Smart Meter program, the Maryland Public Service Commission ordered that customers can defer installation until it makes its final decision on opting out.

In order to defer the installation of a Smart Meter on your home or business, the PSC's order indicates that you must do so in writing.

Maryland Smart Meter Awareness recommends that you send it certified to your utility:

Baltimore Gas and Electric Smart Grid Deferral, P.O. Box 1475, Baltimore, MD 21203 or to

Pepco Smart Grid Deferral, 701 9th Street NW, Washington DC, 20068 or to

Delmarva Power Deferral, Bay Regional Office, 2530 N. Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury, MD 21801

Your letter should say:

NOTICE OF DEFERRAL OF INSTALLATION OF SMART METERS PER PSC'S ORDER NO. 84926 DATED MAY 24, 2012

I am hereby notifying (write in the name of your utility here) and its agents, that you are not to install a Smart Meter anywhere on my property pursuant to Order No. 84926 issued by the Maryland Public Service Commission on May 24, 2012.

Sign your name and include your account No. and address. In addition you may wish to send a copy via snail mail to David Collins, Executive Secretary, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202-6808.

If you already have a meter installed, the PSC orders that you can write a letter similar to the one above and state that you do not want the Smart Meter that has already been installed. The utility will refrain from activating the radiation or they will replace it with an analog meter.

Go to MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org for more information and a sign that you can post. The utilities say their policy is to send a postcard a few weeks prior to installation, however, on a number of occasions, no such notice was received and people came home to find out that a new meter had been installed on their premises.

Act now!

Maryland Smart Meter Awareness

You may also visit us on Facebook at Maryland Smart Meter Awareness

P.S. If you would like one or more Say NO to Smart Meters bumper stickers, just send your request to info@marylandsmartmeterawareness.org.