

Smart Meter Testimony McMillin Hearing 12/2/14, notes taken by Barb Galster

About 100 citizens were scheduled to speak at the hearing on Smart Meters – I was only able to hear the following testimony. The following information is highlights from my notes only and has misspelled names (I could only write down names to the best of my ability after hearing them spoken).

Dee Ann Hilbert - Rochester Hills, RN

Smart meters are a transmitting device, not a meter, they are a recorder of 2 way communication
She listed all communities where smart meters have been banned for the committee record

David Sheldon – Ferndale, head of Michigan Stop Smart Meters

Says that the MPSC has never had a hearing that allowed expert testimony regarding the safety of smart meters and the privacy concerns related to them. He says the only hearing MPSC held was regarding rate charges

Reasons to keep analog meter

1. Once digital meter is installed, all transparency is gone as consumer is not able to read meter themselves
2. Analog meters do no cause any health issues and do not invade privacy

He requests that people be able to keep their analog meter without opt out fees and that opt out plan be extended to apartment buildings and small businesses. For example, electro-sensitive people should not have to fear entering their medical doctors offices if the doctors medical building has a smart meter attached.

He submits for the record the expert testimony of 45 doctors and scientists from all over the world stating that smart meter radiation is harmful

DTE Reps – Bob Sitkauskas– Joe McCormick—DTE AMI Department

- Meters are property of DTE – it is against the law to block access to the meters
- Analogs are “no longer being manufactured”
- Question from McMillin – what is the harm in allowing people to keep analog meters
 - answer – this is a business decision, updated technology,
- In answer to another question DTE rep said that the meter can be moved from the home to another location at homeowners expense.
- McMillin statement – seems that DTE has a monopoly that does not offer customers any options other than their approved smart meter

Abigail Nobel

Testimony – there are important principals in governing

1. to secure citizens rights to life
2. to secure safety in citizens own homes
3. to promote health in the community
4. to do everything possible to secure individual rights to health and happiness

[The role of government should not be primarily to care for corporations such as DTE and Consumers](#)

She requests that smart meter installation be placed on hold pending further study

Dominic and Lillian Cusmano – synopsis of their experience

- Nov 2012 Lillian noticed flu symptoms whenever visiting their second home in Oakland county. Only experienced problems there, the symptoms would stop when residing in primary home.
- Someone mentioned that perhaps a smart meter had been installed on their Oakland county home. Sure enough, 800,000 meters had been installed in N. Oakland county, without any notice or authorization.
- DTE refused to remove smart meter. Customer removed meter and within 1 month DTE took them to court. They have been able to represent selves in court since 2012 since DTE only had “implied consent” to install.
- The DTE Opt Out plan is a sham. It is not an opt-out – it is a modification of the smart meter.
- Currently their case is on appeal in circuit court. Lillian Cusmano now has electro-sensitivity due to the smart meter exposure. She has letters from 2 doctors saying that she should not live in a home with a smart meter. She also has an expert list of scientists who give testimony of smart meter health issues.

Consumers Energy Rep (did not get name)

- These meters represent great potential for technological advances
- She is proud of the Consumers Energy program and highlighted their communication with customers.
- **She was unable to answer Representative [Rose Mary Robinson's](#) question regarding what great advances were in store due to the new technology.**
- The consumers energy meters differ from the DTE meters in that they transmit directly to a cell tower. (DTE meters transmit to a hub and then after collecting all the hub data, the data is sent to a tower)
- In addition Consumers opt out meters do not contain a smart chip – All DTE meters have the chip but the chip is turned off for those in the opt out plan

Karen Spranger – Warren

- States that the MPSC report only looked at expert testimony from those who promote smart meters, that they did not allow public testimony related to concerns regarding smart meters
- Since more and more technology – (smart meters, increasingly powerful cell towers, etc) there is a new form of pollution in the air. It is odorless, you cannot hear or feel it, but that it affects cellular structure and cellular DNA.
- Karen states that a persons home should be free from outside sources of pollution that is forced on people with smart meters.

Michele Ureste (West Bloomfield Twp Supervisor)

- This (smart meters) is the most important issue in Lansing – the health and safety of its citizens
- People are already subjected to EMF from utility poles, microwaves, cell phones, wi- fi but to be forced to receive more EMF from smart meters is intrusive and harmful.
- DTE and Consumers are both highly profitable, being a monopoly in MI. Their goal is profit.
- **It is the role of the legislature to protect people's health and safety. It is her opinion that the state should be more concerned about children's health than improved service times the utility companies claim smart meters provide.**

Kathy Warras, Bloomfield Hills resident

- I have lived in my home for 30 years. Came home from Florida last April and all of a sudden could not sleep.
- She was waking up each night around 4AM, then the headaches began. Her physician, Dr. Brownstein (and another, that I did not get name of) said the change could be due to the smart meter installation. She tried the Opt out plan provided by DTE (turn off chip in meter). It took 30 days for DTE to do this. The opt out plan did not improve her symptoms. Now she experiences ringing in the ears and heart palpitations.
- When she leaves her home, her symptoms, stop. She is currently living in a motor home on her property so that she can sleep.
- She requests freedom to have analog meter on her home.

MSPC Rep Mike Byrne

- Confirms that DTE has the right to disconnect power if not allowed access to the meters
- Other discussion regarding previous MSPC hearings.

Georgetta Livingstone – Clarkston

- She has 2 masters degrees and a Phd in engineering.
- States that the MSPC has made all cost effective for DTE, but has abandoned consumers
- After installation of smart meter a rash developed over 90% of her body
- She has measured the EMF being emitted from meter
- She approached DTE many times and was ignored. She finally paid an electrician to install a new analog meter and mailed the smart meter back to DTE by certified mail.
- July 10th DTE removed the analog meter, blocked access to the meter area and shut off her power. She has no water, no toilet, no shower, no heat, no ability to cook. [She has talked to 15-20 lawyers who are afraid to take her case to court \(she feels they do not want to go up against DTE.\)](#)

David Lonier

- States that all radiation is harmful to cells. All tests should be done to test the cumulative effects.

Dick Manisseri – Rochester Hills

- Wonders why a bill exempting Wind turbine companies from future lawsuits related to health could be brought to committee in 2 weeks time, while a bill protecting the health of citizens has been languishing without a hearing.
- He believes that the money contributed to politicians is controlling the legislature not concern for citizens health.

Pam and Andy Wallace

- Pam has become electro-sensitive. She wishes that were not the case but it is – for the rest of her life she will have to deal with chronic illness caused by this sensitivity.
- DTE is not offering people an option for their health and well being. Renowned scientists and medical doctors from around the world have researched the detrimental effects of smart meter radiation. She submitted data for the committee records.

Andy –

- has been a teacher for 20 years. He has monitored the emotional behavior of the students he has worked with over the past 8 years. He has noted a higher level of stress and anxiety as well as heightened aggression. At the same time there has been a negative change in teens attention span. He believes that these changes parallel the increased exposure of the students to EMF and RF exposure.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics children from 0-2 should have no exposure to EMF.
- Children from 3 – 18 should have limited exposure. He believes that more research and protection standards need to be provided for the safety of children. Children are more susceptible to RF energy exposure.
- Children's heads are inches away from smart meters while they are sleeping in their beds. Smart meters are affecting your children, your grandchildren, the future leaders of our country.
- Andy Wallace asks the legislature – who is going to protect us and our children?

Laurie Ebaugh – Milford

- After installation of a smart meter in her home Laurie experienced heart palpitations, insomnia, and ringing in the ears. Medical tests could not determine a medical cause. She tried the DTE opt out plan and did not have any relief of symptoms. She has needed to purchase an expensive EMF shielding canopy to be able to sleep in her own home.
- Her granddaughter's behavior is noticeable more erratic when she visits her grandmother's home where a smart meter has been installed.