Submitted: Mon, 07/07/2025 - 11:11

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Item 5. Opt-out Program for the Advanced Metering System

Support or oppose recommendations
I am opposed to the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
I am writing today in opposition of the installation of smart metres for every home in our province. Although I recognize the efficiencies that installing these will bring, it would appear that the whole process has not been thought through thoroughly enough especially when it comes to an opt out option that was initially promised. I appreciate the last discussion that took place at the council meeting regarding people with electromagnetic sensitivities and you are right, there needs to be a accommodation for them because this widespread one rule for all will discriminate greatly against them.

I have not had a diagnosis of electromagnetic sensitivities but I have developed Tinnitus (a constant high pitched ringing in both ears) which came out of no where 3 years ago (one of many symptoms of EMF exposure) and know that when I use my cell phone my fingers get prickly and tingle. This is a red flag to me which led me to more research. Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) are everywhere. You cannot go anywhere worldwide now without being bombarded from every device and service pinging off cell towers. Many diagnosed with the sensitivities have been driven to the sanctuary of their homes where they can control how much of this electrical pollution they are near. I as well have taken cautionary steps to minimize my exposure not knowing in the long-term of what the affects these multiple bombardments per day are going to do to my health. Now, I at least have the option to come into my home and call it my sanctuary where I can turn off or not even enable smart devices to minimize the amount of EMF's in my home. A SMART metre installation system would take away my ability to have this freedom to make a choice about my health.

I am very concerned that you are suggesting that even having a transmitter antenna placed further away from the home would only be an option for those with a signed letter from a physician. There are those of us that have a preference for wanting to protect health outcomes that do not want an antenna this close to our living space. This request

obviously will not qualify as a health condition because it is a preference to rather be safe than sorry until more data is collected about EMFs and the impact on human health.

Today I can make all sorts of choices about what I put into my body and what I expose my body to. Installing smart metres on my home and placing transmitters close to my living space will completely take that control away.

I would like to see the scope of those who could opt out or at least have the option to have transmitting antennas placed a certain distance from their living space broadened to enable a choice for people to have some control over the amount of EMs so close to their home.

I absolutely would not support having an antenna in my basement living space 2 feet away from where our rec room is where we enjoy family time together.

I draw your attention to an excellent short paper from the Women's College Hospital in Toronto to get a clearer understanding of what many people are dealing with:

Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Electromagnetic Field Hypersensitivity (EHS) to get a good picture of what people's lives are like that are affected by EMF exposure.

https://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Preliminary-Clinical-Guidelines-for-EHS.pdf

There are many other things that seem to not be well thought through with this proposal that also are concerning including sourcing meters from the volatile USA (tarriffs, volatility and supply chain issues), battery life, and privacy issues (see reports from Ontario below)

“Toronto Is on the Hook for Millions to Replace Failing Water Meter Transmitters.” CBC News, October 21, 2024. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-water-metre-failing-units-1.7356671

“City Advising Residents of Possible Data Breach Related to Water Meter Services | City of Hamilton.” Media Release, August 22, 2022. https://www.hamilton.ca/city-council/news-notices/news-releases/city-advising-residents-possible-data-breach-related-water

Today, I am asking you for an opt out option to be available for people like me, who want to make the best choices for their health as possible.

Thank you,

Lori Bettig

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes

Personal information

First name
Lori

Last name
Bettig