Submission – Laura Toppazzini

Item No. 5 Opt-Out Program for the Advanced Metering System

Submitted: Mon, 07/14/2025 - 22:44

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Item 5 opt out

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments

Dear Mayor Gillingham and Members of the Executive Policy Committee,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Winnipeg to respectfully ask that City staff come back with a report detailing how other municipalities, such as Saskatoon and Kamloops, conduct their Opt-Out Programs for Smart Water Meters. According to the City's own report dated June 27th, the estimated cost of implementing an Opt-Out Program would be minimal, just over a dollar per household annually.

I am deeply disappointed that the Executive Policy Committee voted on July 8 to reject both the recommendation to accommodate residents with disabilities and the Opt-Out Program for the Smart Water Meter (Advanced Metering System) initiative, despite a unanimous recommendation from the Water, Waste, and Environment Committee on June 27 supporting these accommodations.

I strongly urge you to vote against the EPC's recommendation that states, "The City not implement an Opt-Out Program for the Advanced Metering System in order to maximize the full benefits of the AMI technology."

Residents should have the right to choose whether they want a transmitting Smart Water Meter installed on their property, especially those with medical conditions or disabilities that could be negatively impacted by wireless radiation. All citizens of Manitoba should have the right to opt out for the health and safety of their families, or at the very least, to have any transmitting meter relocated to a position outside their home.

I would like to share the perspective of Dr. Paul Héroux, PhD, an Associate Professor in the

Faculty of Medicine at McGill University and Vice-Chair of the International Commission on the Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields. Dr. Héroux has decades of experience in physics, engineering, and public health research, including studies on the health effects of electromagnetic fields.

In his submission to the EPC, Dr. Héroux highlights that scientific safety limits for wireless technology, like smart meters, are inadequate for protecting everyone, especially the estimated three percent of residents who are ElectroHyperSensitive (EHS). He writes:

“Scientific advances are powerful but slow. So, it is not surprising that technological developments such as wireless can race ahead of our understanding of the health impacts of radiation on people.”
Dr. Héroux emphasizes that an Opt-Out Program will not affect the City’s overall smart meter rollout but will make it possible for vulnerable residents to continue living safely on their property without being forced to relocate to avoid wireless radiation. His recent publication further explains these risks: The collision between wireless and biology.

I respectfully ask that you support an Opt-Out Program for the Smart Water Meter initiative. Please ensure that residents with medical conditions or disabilities can be reasonably accommodated without undue barriers. I hope you will reject the EPC’s current recommendation and uphold the public’s right to health, safety, and choice.

Thank you for listening to the voices of concerned residents and experts. Please protect Winnipeggers’ and all Manitobans’ rights to make safe, informed choices for our families and our property.

Sincerely,
Laura
https://www.youtube.com/live/ijm2HxK2JmE (Letter)

Public engagement (optional)

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

Personal information

First name
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Last name
toppazzini