

## **Petition for a One Year Moratorium on the Installation of Smart Meters and Related Infrastructure in Charlemont, MA**

**To see if the town will vote to declare** a one year moratorium on the rollout of “smart meters” or other wireless utility meters. This moratorium includes the installation of wireless repeaters on phone poles designed to connect utility meters to each other.

The primary purpose of the one year moratorium is to allow town and state officials as well as concerned citizens the opportunity to explore the possibility of connecting the “smart grid” through the town’s existing fiber to the home network as has been accomplished successfully in Chattanooga, TN.

Using the town’s existing fiber to the home network to transmit data from our electric meters rather than wirelessly connecting smart meters to each other will:

- save electricity
- reduce the likelihood of hacking, surveillance and data interception
- reduce fire risk<sup>1</sup>
- reduce the risk of high voltage surges to residents appliances<sup>2</sup>
- reduce exposure of flora and fauna to microwave radiation, the impacts of which have not been evaluated by the FCC or any other federal agency<sup>3</sup>
- reduce exposure of children to microwave radiation, the impacts of which have not been evaluated by the FCC or any other federal agency<sup>4</sup>

The other purpose of the one year moratorium is to allow National Grid to collaborate with ratepayers who are part of the disability community and specifically those who have been injured by microwave radiation exposure and protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act the opportunity to designate specific sections of roadway to be connected through a wired network using analog, non-emitting meters so that they may continue to enjoy their property without being injured further.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[The Discovery and Science of Smart Meter Fires](#); Jim Brown, CCAI-CFI, Dr. Robert Armstrong, PhD P.E., Dr. Vytenis Babrauskas, PhD

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jdfor2024.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Summary-of-Evidence-on-Smart-Meter-Fires.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wildlifeandwireless.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/in-historic-decision-federal-court-finds-fcc-failed-to-explain-why-it-ignored-scientific-evidence-showing-harm-from-wireless-radiation/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/resources-on-electromagnetic-sensitivity-and-accommodations/>

## **SNAPSHOT OF THE PROBLEM**

- In 2015, hundreds of smart meters exploded after a truck hit a utility pole in Stockton, CA leading to 80 house fires.<sup>6</sup>
- *August, 2021*: The U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit determined the FCC failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its determination that its current guidelines adequately protect against harmful effects of exposure to radiofrequency radiation.
- Hundreds of people have been permanently disabled, joining the ranks of those diagnosed with microwave sickness or “electrical sensitivity” following the smart meter rollout in other states with no legal remedy, no accommodations and nowhere safe to live<sup>78</sup>
- Non-industry funded studies of smart meters have shown that they do not save energy given that emitting wireless radiation is energy intensive. They do, however, provide utilities a significant financial return on their investment by selling consumer data to third parties.<sup>9</sup>
- “There is no doubt that smart and digital meters create pulsed RF emissions and these emissions, from the smart meters’ antennas and the RF created by the SMPS, both enter the house’s electric system. The result is that the entire house is transformed into a radiating RF antenna.” - Erik F. Anderson, Professional Engineer, Engineer Report Submitted to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Middle District, RE: No. 34 MAP 2021, Povacz, M, et al. v. PUC

Complete references and background available at [hilltownhealth.org/smartmeter](http://hilltownhealth.org/smartmeter)

***If adopted, the town clerk is directed to communicate this moratorium to local, state and national elected officials.***

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/stockton-smart-meters-explode-after-truck-causes-power-surge/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21793784/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ehtrust.org/educate-yourself/health-risks-posed-by-smartmeters/>

<sup>9</sup> [Getting Smarter About the Smart Grid](http://gettingsmarteraboutthesmartgrid.org), National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy, Timothy Schoechle, PhD ([gettingsmarteraboutthesmartgrid.org](http://gettingsmarteraboutthesmartgrid.org))

**One Year Smart Meter Moratorium**

NAME/ADDRESS/EMAIL

SIGNATURE