

## COMMUNITY FORUM ON SMARTMETERS

# Four Questions Eversource Has Not Answered

By Jonathan Mirin, Co-Founder Hilltown Health

*The text below is excerpted from an email exchange with Ryan Earle, Eversource's "Government Affairs" representative for Massachusetts. We were put in touch with Mr. Earle after bringing health, privacy and fire concerns about the smart meter rollout to our state representatives. Originally sent on 12/3/25, none of these questions have been answered. Hilltown Health encourages you to re-ask them and to bring this issue to your local Board of Health (BOH). Your BOH has what is called "plenary power" meaning final jurisdiction over its' domain - in this case to "protect public health" according to the Massachusetts Manual of Laws and Regulations Relating to Boards of Health. They have the right to open an investigation into public health threats likely to increase chronic disease and issue orders to restore safety.*

To: Ryan Earle

. . . Looping in my local delegation as I know they are trying to field questions from constituents as well as Mr. Pizano (nice to e-meet you, Mr. Pizano!) given that some of the changes requested below require sign off from system designers.

I understand you prefer email so here are my next questions:

[You write] . . . "The meters being placed in service by Eversource are not communicating with devices in customers' homes and any such use of that type of function in the future would be up to individual homeowners and on an opt-in basis."

Are you saying that the Itron meters you are installing have only one emitting antenna (either 900 MHZ for the mesh network or a different antenna if that meter is pinging to a cell tower)? If so, are you saying that the Itron meters have only two antennas and

the second antenna (to communicate within the home) is by default turned off and only gets turned on if the customer calls you and requests it?

My second question is trying to understand your reasoning behind not informing ratepayers that opting out is an option in any of the three letters. With the monthly fee, are you still considering someone opting out a financial loss? It seems that if you are having to send trucks out anyway (if you don't decide to join one of the many "read your own meter" programs) that having more opt out fees would be a financial plus. While I don't expect you to inform residents that there are hundreds/thousands of peer reviewed papers showing biological harm from exposure, given that you and the DPU have received that information, it would seem you would want to at least let people know that opting out is an option. The average customer does not know at this point.

Second to last question - would you agree that Itron's recommended safe distance from one of their meters with both (or more) antennas turned on is about 8 inches (that is what I am finding online)? I ask because the classic case of instant life long disability that has been documented in other states generally occurs when someone is sleeping on the other side of a bank of meters which are all turned on at the same time. Would you consider informing ratepayers about this recommended safety distance given the likelihood of children, vulnerable populations, etc. sleeping on the other side of an apartment wall?

Last question: people are concerned about the documented increased dirty electricity inside the home from having a smart meter (even with the wireless turned off). I know you spoke about wanting to streamline the "new system" but if National Grid is providing analog meters and you agree that people with electromagnetic radiation syndrome should not have to choose between being harmed or having their power turned off and in the DPU proceedings (see below plus your own filings) you said you were going to offer a "non-advanced" (ie, analog) meter, why not just give people an analog meter since you have to walk up to the meter anyway?

I know you said that you were too busy with the rollout to have a meeting with the delegation, myself and the DPU but given that there have been meetings anyway, I wonder if you and Mr. Pizano would consider a facilitated meeting to talk through the above? There is a Recorder article coming out so it would be great to say that meaningful talks about how to reap all the important smart grid benefits while minimizing harm and maximizing informed consent is taking place.

Thanks for thinking about all this!

Jon

PS. Can you send me and the delegation the equivalent Eversource maps for Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties to the attached National Grid map showing where the mesh networks are going to go so the delegation can better understand which neighborhoods will be most impacted, etc.? [Note: "mesh networks" refers to installing antennas on phone poles to transmit your personal data from your "smart" meter down your street to a "collector" where the data is eventually transmitted to the utility and shared with "partners."]

*The version of this email with live links and more info is available @ hilltownhealth.org. If you live in a "National Grid" town, smart meters will arrive in 2027. Requests for assistance with public presentations, etc. are welcome at admin@hilltownhealth.org.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Community Dance Troupe Forming In Charlemont



**F**or the joy and happiness of audiences and artists, Piti Theatre is starting a dance troupe. Goals of the troupe include fostering community connection and resilience, expression, creativity, confidence, friendship, artist exchange, and health. Rehearsals will take place on Avery Brook Road in Charlemont. All dance lovers, age 14 and over, interested in joining can find more information online at [www.ptco.org/dancetroupe](http://www.ptco.org/dancetroupe) or by calling 413-625-6569. All levels are welcome. There is no charge for participation, but commitment (after trying it out) is required.

## **Four Questions Eversource has not Answered about Smart Meters**

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