

Additional Submissions

May 6, 2019

City Council Meeting

Jerry Manegre Presentation to St. Albert City Council
May 6, 2019

My name is Jerry Manegre. My wife Jeanne and I have enjoyed living in St. Albert since 1973.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and thank you in advance for your consideration of the motion later on your agenda.

My remarks today will focus on five considerations in support of the motion before you on the smart water meter opt out provision.

1. AVOIDANCE OF A LAWSUIT

As you are aware, this matter is presently before the Courts as I am contesting the City's actions on several grounds in defence of our water supply.

Litigation is both costly and uncertain as none of those involved have control over the outcome as that is in the hands of the Court. When I was advised that the smart water meter opt out option was being brought before Council, I made arrangements with the City's lawyer to adjourn the hearing indefinitely. This was done to give Council ample time to properly deliberate on this opt out motion without having the time limits, potential litigation risks, and additional costs of litigation occurring while considering the merits of this motion.

If Council decides to approve the opt out provision, it will be possible to avoid the uncertainty of litigation, the costs of litigation, and the conflict with your citizens which is necessarily incidental when matters are decided by litigation rather than by Council itself.

2. HEALTH AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

Jeanne and I and other residents who have contacted me have serious concerns about health and privacy. I won't elaborate on those today and I won't get into their merits. While some may not share those concerns, they are real to us, and have caused us to take legal action to defend our water supply. The opt out capability would respect our concerns.

3. RESPECT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The World Health Organization has declared Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity or EHS to be a recognized disability. Statistics show that about 2 - 3 % of the population experience EHS. Applying that percentage locally, between 1600 and 2,000 St. Albertans may experience EHS and could be concerned with having smart water meters at their residences.

Providing an opt out capability for smart water meters would be comparable to providing ramps into public buildings for those people who suffer from a physical disability.



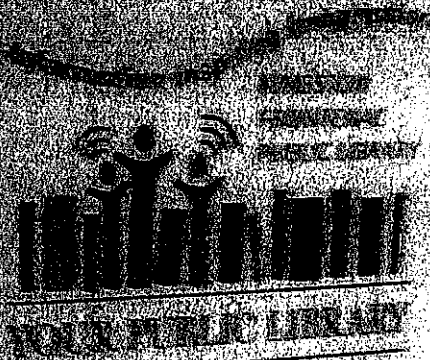
Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) Tip Sheet

Background

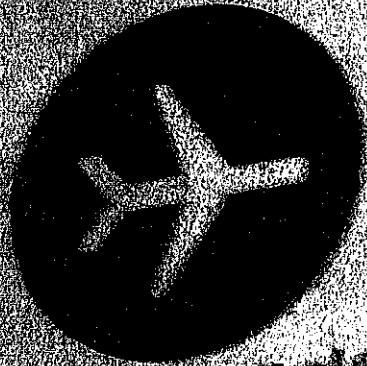
As societies industrialize and the technological revolution continues, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number and diversity of electromagnetic field (EMF) sources. These sources include video display units (VDUs) associated with computers, mobile phones and their base stations. While these devices have made our life richer, safer and easier, they have been accompanied by concerns about possible health risks due to their EMF emissions.

For some time a number of individuals have reported a variety of health problems that they relate to exposure to EMF. While some individuals report mild symptoms and react by avoiding the fields as best they can, others are so severely affected that they cease work and change their entire lifestyle. This reputed sensitivity to EMF has been generally termed "electromagnetic hypersensitivity" or EHS.¹

¹ World Health Organization, **Electromagnetic fields and public health**. Accessed on May 04, 2018 from www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/facts/fs296/en/



Cell Phone in Airplane Mode & Disable WiFi



Due to a patron medical condition
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Airplane Mode and disable WiFi

Good afternoon Mayor Heron, Councillors, and all in attendance today.

I am here to support the motion to implement an opt-out protocol for smart meters in the City of St. Albert. I wish to thank Councillor Hughes, who persevered to bring this forward. Most of the information I have gathered is in relation to the health effects of the radio frequency component of the meters. The infrastructure to operate the meters, and all of our other 'smart' inventions, is huge, and it is, in its entirety, unsafe.

HEALTH

It is my understanding that the health effects of radio frequency radiation have been studied, but have not been widely disclosed, or have been passed off in such a way, through clever wording, that we are led to believe that the amounts our equipment gives off are safe.

For smart meters in particular, surveys have shown that people are suffering headaches, nausea, sleep disturbance, ringing in the ears, fatigue, and memory issues. Longer term effects can include reproductive issues, cancer, and DNA damage.

I have included in the sources and reading material at the bottom of this document, a few quotes from specialists around the world, regarding the dangers of wi-fi in general. We are creating a monster, and some are recognizing the need to not push forward.

In her book, "Sensitive" Tanja Bulatovic describes her journey as an electrohypersensitive person. She could not work, at one point she could not even go for a walk on her street. Tanja was a normal, healthy, creative woman, until she suddenly fell ill. It has only been through extensive, expensive doctor's tests and process of elimination, and much research, experimentation, acceptance, and a very rough road, has she gotten an EHS diagnosis and is learning to cope with her condition.

It is thought that 3% of the world's population has some form of EHS (electrohypersensitivity syndrome). 300 000 people in Sweden alone have been diagnosed with EHS. Sweden now identifies EHS as an illness, and has put measures in place to help its victims. We may not be far behind.

OTHER RISKS:

There is a very real and present issue of security, with the use of smart meters. The monitoring of utility usage in real time is unnecessary, and the personal information of water usage that indicates when a resident is home, or not, is no one's business but the resident. The potential for personal information to be hijacked is too great. This is not freedom as we know it.

There have also been studies and observations, about the effects of RF and EMF frequencies on other forms of life. Damage to trees, bird migration patterns, and bee navigation have all been potentially attributed to these frequencies. As we value St. Albert as our beautiful botanical city, I suggest that the advancement of the smart meter and supporting infrastructures are perilous to the things we value most about where we live.

Because we are generally very comfortable here, it is natural to worry about our economic status, if we were to pull back on our use of these so-called technological advances. I would also like to challenge Council to see a slightly different vision of a "smart city". Is it smart to bathe citizens in pollution, and track their every move? The physical climate is becoming increasingly difficult to work in. We cannot have managers that can't think. We cannot have effective labourers who suffer physical symptoms and have to call in sick. Our children are not going to be able to provide the next generation of stability and make a living for themselves. Some may not be able to have children.

I also would like to put forth that the 'opt-out' option include not only turning off the RF component of the meter, but getting rid of the digital meters and going back to analog. I don't mind a human meter reader in my yard, it means some of the money on my utility bill is going to help someone put food on the table, for his or her children, as they live in a home without an invisible radioactive soup.

There is a great question of liability here as well. Who will be held responsible for endangering the population? It isn't a matter of if, it is when. People are already sick.

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