

Julie Ostoich 9/27/12

SMUD's website originally stated that **“Smart meters transmit radio signals only once every four hours with each transmission lasting only 5/100ths of a second).”** We now know that this is **FALSE**. PG&E made similar claims about their smart meters and were forced to reveal the truth. In fact, these units send out transmission signals anywhere from 10,000 to 240,000 times per unit daily. Silver Spring Networks, the “system operator” for SMUD smart meters, was contacted to obtain accurate transmission data. SMUD was pressed to conduct similar tests by stopsmartmeters.org/smud demanding the truth.

After SMUD was petitioned for this information repeatedly at several of their board meetings, they finally agreed to conduct tests to determine the accurate count of transmissions. In the mean time, SMUD *changed their website content saying that their smart meters only transmit radio signals once every four* hours to collect data ***for billing purposes***, with each transmission lasting only 5/100ths of a second. At the recent SMUD board meeting on September 20, 2012, SMUD disclosed the truth. They tested all of their meters and found that they transmit pulsed bursts of RF signals 13,000 times on average to 240,000 times maximum per 24-hour period. This is now posted on their website:

<https://www.smud.org/en/residential/customer-service/smart-meters/common-questions.htm>



So, did SMUD know about the number of transmissions and attempted to willfully conceal them or were they ignorant and being deceived like their customers? SMUD expects us to believe they didn’t know this.

Regardless, at the board meeting, SMUD did not refer to the actual number of transmissions. Instead, they massaged the truth by saying that on average, their meters communicate for approximately 60 seconds during every 24-hour period or “duty cycle”. This is like comparing apples and oranges. It isn’t the averaged amount of time that the transmissions add up to that matters. The actual number of transmissions is far more significant. Each signal is a burst of pulsed RF/EMF which has been found to be more damaging and of concern with regard to health impacts. SMUD continues to assert that their smart meter RF fields are “safe”. They base this assertion on outdated FCC guidelines that predate the 2011 findings of World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifying radiofrequency fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

At present, studies continue to confirm the potential hazards from electromagnetic (EMF) and radiofrequency (RF). In a newly-released [study](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22939605?dopt=Abstract) conducted at the Örebro Hospital in Sweden, it was revealed that 10 years of cellphone use resulted in an average **290% increased risk of brain tumor development**. This research is being published in Pathophysiology, The Official Journal of the International Society for Pathophysiology which can also be found on PubMed and at Elsevier.

A single smart meter is reported by SMUD to transmit about the same RF output as a cell-phone or microwave. A bank of them multiplies this tremendously. How can SMUD continue to assert that there is NO credible scientific evidence pointing to health risks from smart meters and claim they are safe?

Non-ionizing radiation signals affect communication channels across cell membranes. RF disrupts communication between human cells, leading to impacts on cell function and health. These effects include neural electrical activity, energy metabolism, neurotransmitter balance, blood-brain barrier permeability, cognitive function, sleep, and various other health effects.  While the FCC has rubber stamped smart meter emission standards as having adequate safety factors, their concern lies mainly with interference with radio and other types of communication. The potential for long-term adverse health effects from various RF energy sources including cell phones and smart meters is yet unknown. Physicians of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) recognize that people are being adversely impacted by EMF and RF fields and are becoming more electromagnetically sensitive. Currently around 3% of the population experience ill health or negative symptoms from EMF and RF.  The AAEM issued this statement regarding WiFi in schools:

***Adverse health effects, such as learning disabilities, altered immune responses, headaches, etc. from wireless radio frequency fields do exist and are well documented in the scientific literature. Safer technology, such as using hard wiring, must be seriously considered in schools for the safety of those susceptible individuals who may be affected by this phenomenon.***

Most disturbing of all regarding SMUD's Opt-Out Policy and Extortion Opt-Out fees is that they intentionally neglected to inform ALL of their customers of this option.  SMUD only notified those customers who had already refused installation of a smart meter.  Many of those who initially refused installation capitulated due to the confiscatory cost of opting out.  PG&E notified ALL of their customers about their Opt-Out policy.  PG&E’s Opt-Out Policy is more affordable, a $75 onetime fee and $10 per month added to their normal bill thereafter vs. SMUD's $127 and $39.40 Opt-Out extortion fees.

There is a growing movement of opposition to smart meters and smart grid technology.  The CPUC is currently being sued over smart meter safety issues.  Increasing numbers of scientists and doctors are speaking up about known and suspected dangers of the pulsed, non-ionizing microwave radiation emitted by smart meters.  I encourage you to attend SMUD board meetings and voice your concerns.  SMUD needs to hear from everyone who has reservations about smart meters. The SMUD board meets every two weeks.  You can find out when they meet at:

<https://www.smud.org/en/about-smud/company-information/board-of-directors/>

More information regarding smart meters can be found at:

<http://stopsmartmeters.org/>

and <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/>