

Updated 4/11/2024

Injured by Smart Meters: Stories from MA and Beyond

Massachusetts

Ken's Story

In January 2019, I finished building a new house. As required by National Grid, this house was outfitted with a broadcasting AMR meter. My sweetheart moved in at that time. We both were able to use electronic devices and WIFI without issue in January. By February, Sweetheart's health started taking a nosedive and we found that she could no longer tolerate any AC electricity, WI-FI or cellphones. Her biology had been permanently altered, becoming reactive to all things electrical.

As we purchased better quality RF measurement tools we could easily see that the AMR meter broadcast a small chirp every 40 seconds, day and night and it could be measured everywhere in the house. Rolling forward to the present day, we now pay a monthly charge to National Grid for a non-broadcasting opt-out meter (thank you NG for making the opt-out possible, at reasonable monthly cost). Sweetheart observes that switching from the broadcasting to the non-broadcasting did offer her a palpable improvement, but it came too late for her since the biological damage was already done. For nearly five years, she has been effectively housebound in a small sanctuary area of the house without AC electricity and meanwhile we have ceased all use of broadcasting devices in the home, to reduce the constant assault of those EMFs on her biology.

We cannot prove the 'smart meter' was the sole causative agent. Yet, there remains a high probability it was a significant contributor due to the coincidental timing of the health mishap we experienced.

These devices have never been tested for long term health compatibility. They have known negative health consequences as reported in numerous venues for more than a decade across the US and the world. I have seen many hundreds of short anecdotes like this one I have written, most much more clearly pointing to the broadcasting meter as the instigator of a health collapse. The Utilities should not be able to mandate that we deploy untested, injurious devices on our homes -- our personal sanctuaries -- without recourse to a state review board to appeal and force a known safer option.

Ken Gartner, 170 Coy Hill Road, Warren MA

Rebecca's Story

Dear MA Legislators,

The following explains how the radio frequency (RF) that is emitted from the utility meters on our homes and also conducts along the house wiring. Start from about 15 minutes for the whole talk on meters or for the explanation specifically on Dirty electric (DE) please go to 17:30. That particular pollutant is especially an issue for me and my sleep.

<https://www.greenstreetnews.org/podcast/episode/90013a19/not-so-smart-meters-with-michele-hertz>

I have a ADA status for my sensitivity to RF/EMF and have been prescribed by 6 medical doctors (MD's) including my doctor of 30+ years that I eliminate all exposures to these radiation sources. Much of my issues involve sleep but I don't want you to think that sleep is my only issue and I must stress that it is the one that effects all parts of my body, including my immune system. It leaves me vulnerable to all kinds of pain and symptoms that I would not have otherwise. Additionally I experience hearing buzzing in my ears, which I find very disturbing - especially at night when all else is relatively quiet. If my sleep continues to be interrupted every night (and sometimes multiple times in the night with little hope to actually get a good night of sleep) as it currently is, I know I will never get true relief and begin to heal. I can't stress enough how much of my life is being stolen, by so many hours of lying in bed awake, feeling dizzy (and therefore vulnerable to falling when I get up) and feeling miserable once I wake and throughout the day.

My meter transmits every 30 seconds - that is what my Acoustemeter that measures RF informs. The meter is opposite the wall where my bathroom vanity is located in my downstairs bathroom, so every time I stand at the bathroom sink I am being bombarded with the microwave radio frequency. I actually take my tooth brush into my kitchen and brush my teeth there, so having this meter where it is, renders my bathroom sink pretty much unusable for me. Btw, those same outside readings can be taken inside the bathroom on that wall as well.

I would urge you to read and review the NH Commission Report on 5G (that turned into a review and report on all radio frequencies, including 2G, 3G and 4G), as their findings and recommendations are worth reviewing periodically. I know they attempt to set a safe distance from radio frequencies but because the utility meters are not tested for how the emissions effect health (biology) there is no clear indication, for us to make decisions about distance. It has been suggested 1600' may be a safe distance but perhaps not for people who have already been overexposed (damaged) and are particularly sensitive, as a result. Additionally distance does not address DE.

The fact that others close by (in the next town) have retained their analog meters and I am not allowed one, when I have access to one, is pure discrimination. As I offered previously to Eversource, I do have an address I can offer for one of those meter installations and I know they use an email to send in their readings.

The entire state of Vermont allows an opt out from an RF meter, at no additional cost to the customer. Hopefully that tells you that there are easy ways to get usage readings

without these digital meters. Meanwhile my house may actually be a hub (collection and transmission point) for my neighbors who live on a knoll behind me and that may be why their LED usage may also have an effect on my middle of the night waking, as they get up in the night to go to work. It is worth mentioning that the components that cause DE (dirty electric or transients on house wiring) the most are RF, switch mode transformers, LED lighting, dimmer switches and some sophisticated electronics (including those in electric heat pumps). I know how to screen the damaging effects of these things by eliminating all except for the RF on the Eversource meter.

Thank you again for **any** help you can provide but I personally absolutely need the meter off of my house!

Best regards,

Rebecca Hull, Amherst, MA

Helena's Story

I have severe electro hypersensitivity. I was living in a Virginia townhouse in October 2010 when I started to have severe symptoms. I couldn't sleep and had nightmares. I became incontinent. I developed ADD and couldn't concentrate much and was in such a brain fog that I couldn't function. As the condition has progressed, I now have painful muscle spasms and back pain and have trouble walking. Moreover, I now suffer from dizziness.

I received a notice from Dominion Energy that they had installed a "smart" meter which coincided with the onset of my symptoms. They didn't disbelieve me when I called them, but told me that I couldn't opt out.

In 2012, my husband and I bought a house in western Massachusetts and, at great expense, renovated it to shield the wiring, after which I was able to sleep again. I felt better until a 3.5 acre solar farm was installed about 1/3 mile from my house (with a little bit of terrain blocking). EMF from that array travels at ground level to our house; we do not know yet how to block it.

Research shows that this electrical exposure can cause headaches, persistent nosebleeds, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, sleep disruption, ADHD symptoms, weakened immune system, and abnormal brain development in the short term.

I hope that we don't have to move again. It would be difficult and burdensome.

- Helena Dinerman, Conway, MA

Mana's Story (as spoken during her testimony)

My name is Mana Washio, and I currently live in Springfield, MA. I became EHS in 2013, when my husband and I lived in Watertown, MA.

While we were on vacation, NSTAR came and installed a bank of infamous Smart Meters. Our bedroom was surrounded by them, and there were also two circuit breaker

panels underneath our bedroom (because we lived on the 1st floor). We also had a WiFi router in our bedroom, without knowing its harm.

Immediately after the Smart Meter installation, I started having piercing headaches, as if someone was inserting an ice pick into my brain. It was SO bad, I could not sleep at all. I also developed all sorts of GI issues, heart palpitation, chest pain, concentration difficulties, and so on.

My symptoms subsided when I went away from my home, and it became worse when I came home. I also felt VERY strong pain standing right in front of the Smart Meters outside, so I knew what was causing the problem.

EHS diagnosis was extremely difficult to attain, because there are VERY few doctors who could diagnose. I was only able to get one in 2022, after moving to RI.

I was a performing musician for many years, but large concert venues where people gather with their cell phones became the hardest place to work. I was forced to completely switch my career, and now I work from home as a Health Coach & a Reiki practitioner. Although I love my current job, I had to start all over and had completely different training before I was able to start making decent salary.

In July 2023, I took the National Board Exam for Health and Wellness Coaching. 3 years ago in 2020, I actually took the same exam but miserably failed, due to the severe short-term memory and vision issues I developed due to the high EMF exposure at the test site. Even though I had requested, I was not given any accommodations I needed. So I forced myself to go into the test center.

This year, I submitted the accommodation request again, along with the formal EHS diagnosis from MD and two supporting letters. I also explained what happened to me 3 years ago. But they did not give me the necessary accommodations right away. My accommodation request was only granted after I wrote the 3rd letter to them, quoting directly from the Department of Justice website, under the "Exams and Courses" section for people with disability. After the approval, I was finally able to bring in a few EMF shielding materials. Thankfully, my short-term memory and vision were intact this time, and I passed the exam.

I hope my experience will open up the opportunity for other EHS individuals to take the exam with necessary accommodations. We need such accommodations in public spaces, so that we could function normally. None of us wanted to become EHS, but EHS was forced upon us. And I strongly believe that every single person with disability needs to be treated equally.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

Mana Washio, Springfield, MA

Tais's Story

When smart meters began being installed in Everett I began feeling sick, with the unsettling feeling that the ground under my feet was not fully sustaining me. I felt oozy, dizzy and with a nausea like feeling. Other symptoms have emerged and on an off and basis like headache, cramps, muscle spasms, tingling numbness, very cold hand or finger tips, and sudden exhaustion. A specially painful experience I had once was when I felt like there were hundreds of sharp burning needles on my arms, upper back and shoulders.

Thank you for offering to help with the issue of smart meters
Warm regards,

Tais Howard LAC, MAOM
Everett, MA

Smart Meter Fires

<https://stopsmartmeters.org/2013/06/21/when-smart-meters-kill-the-story-of-larry-nikkel-details-emerge-of-vacaville-ca-smart-meter-fire-death/>

<http://emfsafetynetwork.org/smart-meters/smart-meter-fires-and-explosions/>

Smart Meter and Wireless Exposure Injuries from around the US

From: <https://www.emfanalysis.com/about/>

My name is Jeromy Johnson. I am an engineer, author and EMF consultant. The purpose of this website is to help you quickly reduce the man-made EMF pollution in your life and to help people who have already had their health negatively affected by electromagnetic fields (EMF). I had to learn this the hard way and my hope is that you will learn from my experience.

In 2011, I was on top of the world. Healthy, happy and active with a successful career in Silicon Valley. As a civil engineer and as a manager at a large Silicon Valley firm, I was around multiple computers, Wi-Fi and cell phones nearly 24/7 for over a decade without feeling any ill effects. That all changed when I returned from summer vacation that year.

Within days of being back in my San Francisco home, I began to experience headaches, heart palpitations, tinnitus and insomnia. I had never experienced any of this before. Oddly, the symptoms diminished when I left home. After a week of this, I mentioned the situation to a friend at work and she said the exact same thing happened to her husband when a wireless "smart" meter was installed on their home.

I went home that evening and found that during the summer, the utility company had installed a bank of [wireless "smart" meters](#) directly below my bedroom.

Could this really be the source of my unusual symptoms? The wireless “smart” meters were the only thing that had changed at my home of five years.

Realizing the Harm of EMF Pollution

After some research, the truth became more clear. [Thousands of people](#) were experiencing the exact same thing once wireless “smart” meters were installed on their home. I also learned that biologists and medical doctors have said these symptoms are precisely what one should expect when humans are over-exposed to microwave radiation and electrical pollution (that which is emitted from Wi-Fi, cell phones, cell towers, wireless “smart” meters and improperly installed electrical wiring).

What exactly was going on? How could I not have been aware of this?

I asked our utility company immediately and repeatedly, but it took four months for PG&E to remove the “smart” meters (yes, that same PG&E from the film “Erin Brockovich”). During that time, my health continued to deteriorate, so I temporarily moved to a town without smart meters. However, the damage to my body had already been done.

After 10+ years of using wireless technology with no worries and no problems at all, I could now feel when I was near a cell phone tower. I experienced a headache when attempting to use my cell phone (I used to rely on my smart phone). Soon after using WiFi, I had a headache that would last all day. Even using a computer became painful. Being in a city became very difficult. I began spending a lot of time in nature where my symptoms would subside within hours.

I had become what medical doctors call [electrically sensitive](#), a condition that currently affects 3-5% of the population and affects me to this day. For decades, the military and other countries have called this condition “microwave sickness.” I still experience symptoms and take many steps to avoid wireless technology and electrical pollution. If I do not take precautions, I can have an exposure that will take me days or even weeks to recover from.

However, I have learned how to manage this and am able to provide help to many people around the world who are experiencing the exact same thing. Judging from the thousands of responses this website receives each year, electrical sensitivity is growing exponentially as wireless technology and electrical pollution increases throughout our communities.

This situation has forced me to find solutions that actually work. And, that is what this website and [my book](#) are about – providing [solutions and education](#) so that your family is protected from EMF pollution. During the past twelve years, I have spent well over 10,000 hours researching and working on this issue. This includes testing countless mitigation strategies, shielding products and methods to reduce my EMF exposures and electrical sensitivity symptoms. Only the best and most effective solutions that I have personally vetted are recommended throughout this website and in my consultations. I

have now consulted with thousands of individuals and families and understand what it takes to help you navigate this complex issue.

Hopefully my experience will save you precious time and resources as you take action for your family.

My Background

I have a bachelor's and master's degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the [South Dakota School of Mines & Technology](#) and worked in the Silicon Valley financial industry for nearly two decades. One of the focuses of my studies was air pollution. Little did I know that I would be revisiting this topic later in life. Even though it is invisible to the naked eye, man-made electromagnetic pollution is one of the most potent and fastest growing sources of air pollution in our world. It may seem invisible to you now, but perceptions shift as humanity evolves. Within our lifetimes, the truth about this toxin will become evident.

Welcome to seeing the world in a completely new way. It may seem overwhelming at first. However, this will pass in time and you will be able to take the necessary actions. Once you do, your children and grandchildren will have a much safer and healthier world in which to live.

My Public Presentations

My TEDx talk has nearly 1.7 million views and has been translated into ten languages. The talk summarizes the wireless issue succinctly and provides [solutions](#) that will help you navigate this complex and fascinating topic (watch at [emfanalysis.com](#))



Cynthia's Story

Open Letter to Southern California Edison and CPUC

On Thursday, January 6th, I called Southern California Edison to inform you I do not want a Smart Meter installed at my residence.

I am disabled with several health conditions that will be adversely affected by the installation of the Smart Meter.

I have very weak adrenal glands that don't produce enough Cortisol. The combination of EMF/RF in the Smart Meters is known to be very damaging to the adrenal glands. The stress from this type of exposure could push me into Addison's disease and possibly result in death.

I have chronic migraines, which could be magnified with the EMF/FM exposure.

I also have EMF sensitivity. EMF sensitivity is an illness caused by exposure to radiation that is discharged from a variety of sources like cell phones, microwaves, cell phone towers, etc. When I am exposed to certain levels of EMF, I experience migraines, heart palpitations, trembling, weakness, hot flashes, increased pulse, pain in my gastrointestinal system, dizziness, inability to concentrate, impaired cognitive functioning and hyper-arousal. I do not even own a cell phone, because I'm incapable of using one.

When I called your office, I was met with hostility, confrontation, intimidation and a complete lack of regard for my position. I was told that I had no choice in the matter and if I do not comply my electricity will be shut off.

Therefore, if a Smart Meter is installed at my home, I will hold you, Corix and the CPUC legally responsible for any and all impairments in my health and consider the following possible charges:

Assault

I have informed you that installation of a Smart Meter will cause me bodily harm and puts my life at risk. If you install a Smart Meter, I will consider this assault and will file charges accordingly.

Manslaughter or Wrongful Death

If I die, then we're talking about manslaughter or wrongful death.

Medical Expenses

If you install a Smart Meter, I will hold you legally responsible for all medical expenses incurred by the Smart Meter to my health.

Trespassing

If you, Corix or anyone on your behalf comes on my property to install a Smart Meter, I will have you arrested for trespassing.

Invasion and Violation of Rights

Last, but not least. This entire procedure is unconstitutional. It is an invasion and violation of my rights. You should not have the right to bathe me with environmental toxins without my permission. You should not have the right to alter my home in any manner without my permission.

I am not willing to play Russian roulette with my life and you should not be permitted to do so either. As someone who lives with five disabling chronic health conditions, there is not room in my life for more suffering that may result from the Smart Meter. You should not have the right to violate and intrude upon what I must do to protect my health.

I should have the right to have electricity service without being forced to put my life and health in danger. I will take any and all measures available to me to be heard on this issue in my community and across the country including the media and the Internet.

For starters, I am using my website which gets more than 70,000 visitors a month, to broadcast all that transpires between me, the CPUC, Corix and Southern California Edison, including your threat to turn off my electricity and your hostile and lackadaisical attitude towards the concerns and rights of the citizens. I will also use Facebook and Twitter. You may want to take a look at the following page on my blog, which I will be updating throughout this process:

<http://www.holistichelp.net/blog/smart-meters-are-hazardous-to-your-health-and-violate-your-rights/>

I am in the process of contacting ABC news, CBS news, NBC news, all the local newspapers, the Internet Radio shows, legislators, City Council, President Obama and anyone else who is willing to listen about your lack of concern for our rights and the threat to turn off my electricity — a woman who is disabled with five chronic health conditions. The lack of electricity would leave me without heat in the middle of winter, not to mention the inability to cook etc.

So, once again, this letter is to inform you that I oppose the installation of a wireless SmartGrid meter at my home. I do not want to be exposed to the wireless radiofrequency/microwave radiation from the meter, the security and hacking risks, the potential fire hazard from the meter, or the electromagnetic interference with electronics and medical devices, the invasion of privacy – nor do I want any more cell antennas in my neighborhood.

I will not opt-in to the Southern California Edison Company program by installing power transmitters inside my home on my home appliances, to report energy usage to SCE. The California Public Utilities Commission should require SCE to conduct additional economic studies that take into account various percentages of people who will NOT

join this program. SCE has stated that its current 'base case' requires compliance by the public in placing radiofrequency radiation transmitters inside their homes. SCE says the SmartGrid project will cost \$1.6 billion dollars of ratepayer money (for 5 million new wireless meters). This is a waste of ratepayer money if people decline to participate due to health and safety or trespass reasons.

Therefore, I am requesting that you do not shut off my electricity and continue to provide me service with the meter that is currently installed at my residence.

If you do not want to send out a meter reader to read my meter, I will be happy to take a picture of my meter every month and send it to you.

I repeat, I do not consent to the installation of a Smart Meter at the address listed below. Corix, or anyone acting on your behalf does not have my permission to install a Smart Meter at the address listed below.

I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter promptly, as deployment begins on January 18th in my neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Perkins, M.Ed.

Virginia's Story

My name is Virginia Farver and I live in Colorado. I lost a son from GBM Brain Cancer in October of 2008. Rich was attending school at SDSU (San Diego) and planning to go to law school and was applying at different institutions in CA. Rich and three other men at SDSU all worked in the same building (Nasatir Hall) and one room (131) on campus. All four men were diagnosed with brain cancers. Rich being diagnosed raised the red flag for all who worked in this area of campus. Miss Laurel Amtower was diagnosed with GBM, August of 2009 and passed away August of 2010. Mere months for survival. As of 2020 there have been 17 people, many of have died from this campus.

There is a cell tower on campus that is on top of the Communications building on campus called HPWREN (High Performance Wireless Research & Educational Network. The major backbone node to the UCSD Supercomputer Center on campus. So far **HPWREN is MISSION CONTROL for SDG&E**. Other attachments are NASAs MOBLAS 4 laser network, INMARSAT satellite, Many Observatories, Native American

school network, 70 rural fire stations (First Net - SO Cal Alert), highway camera systems, Scripps Oceanography's CODAR Network, SPAWARS, **all** emergency networks in Southern CA, including terrorism. All of the government NITRD Agencies and they connect most federal agencies to the Grid. Some of the grids HPWREN are connected to are PRAGMA, TERA, ABILENE, IRIS PASCAL, BARD, CENIC, SOPAC, ANTELOPE, CALRens2, STARLIGHT, HISEASNET. Many others, but I've noticed all of these grids and the cancer rates throughout CA are predictable. I have attached a picture of this cell tower. Nasatir Hall/room 131 would be located approximately 200' down on the left, in the picture. I took this picture in 2009 while I met with professors off campus for meetings. Please notice the dead tree foliage. Rich, was a TA for professor Nancy Speckmann and I also met with others. The staff in Nasatir Hall asked the Administration to do a toxicology study. They were turned down twice. I, to this day, request a toxicology study. All of these school cancer clusters get 'epidemiological reports' and all investigations cease. Epidemiological studies are just bogus statistical studies. They all deserve toxicology studies. I have also attached one of the 'illegal emissions' docs for HPWREN. It is an easy read page 70-110. There are lots of repeats.

I was the lead plaintiff for the CHD (Children's Health Defense) with Robert Kennedy Jr. The case was a landmark case that should have been all over the news in our great nation. The basic outcome is that industry can no longer claim "Safety with Wireless Devices." This was the 9th Circuit Court out of Washington DC. The FCC is a spectrum allocation agency, not a health agency. The EPA are the ones that should be in charge of all wireless and health effects. All of these school cancer clusters were from wireless overexposures. I've heard from experts we are all now living in more radiation during the day as all of these victims on the campus. Quite frightening, if you ask me.

Rich (my son) was suffering from daily headaches, nose bleeds, endocrine problems (excessive underarm sweating, which mysteriously went away when he brought him home to CO), FATIGUE, dental/eye problems, and the worst was memory problems. He called me at home one day and I asked how his law school applications were going.

Rich said, "Mom, even if I get into law school, I don't know if I can make it through. Of course, I had all the confidence that he could but he went onto say, "I cannot remember anything...anything." If only parents knew...

The utilities gave us opt-outs but this was never to be an opt-out, but an opt-in. I had police officers at my door for a forced installation. Completely unlawful. We need to make sure the public is aware of these dangers.

Sincerely,

Virginia Farver, Colorado

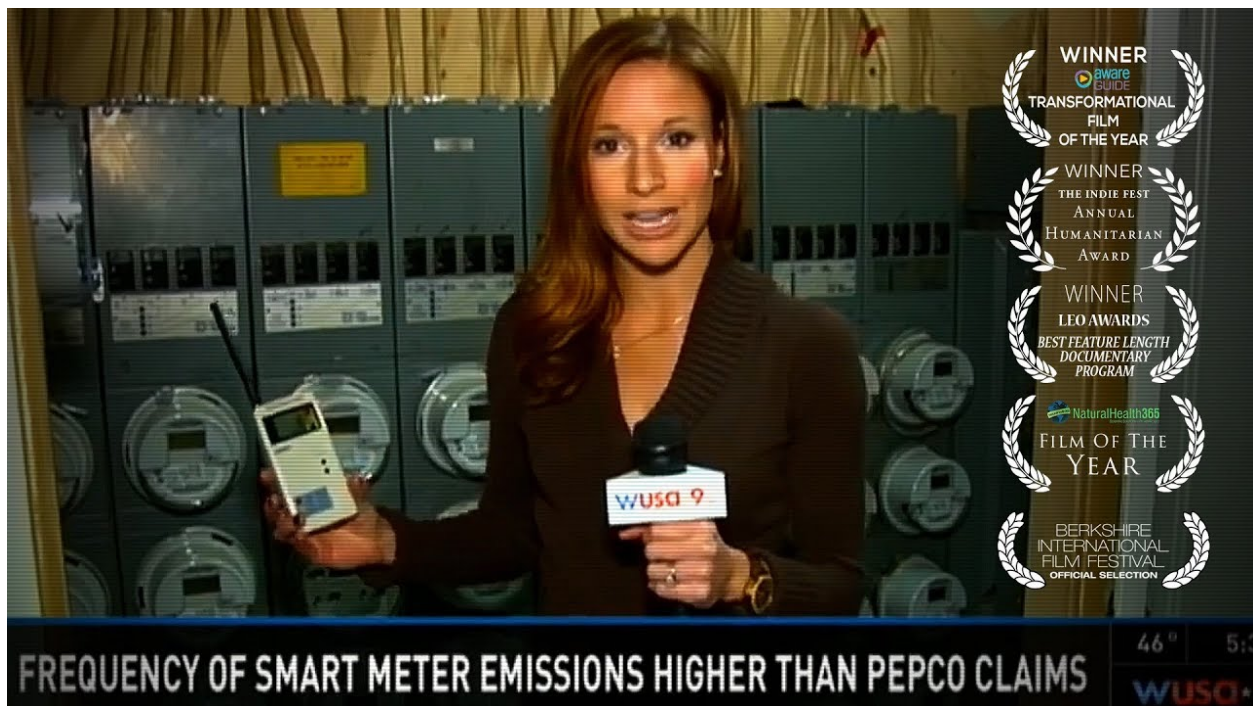
Postscript

Learn more about the issue:

ma4safetech.org

ehtrust.org

Watch the documentary "Take Back Your Power" which is available for free on youtube.



Please vote S. 2152 out of committee and give MA residents the right to a no fee opt out for smart meters, ensuring every MA resident who needs to reduce their exposure to pulsed microwave radiation the ability to do so - not just those with disposable income.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Mirin

Co-Founder, [Hilltown Health](#)

Charlemont, MA