

Oct. 21st, 2026

Dear US Department of Health and Human Services,

I have been working on issues related to radio frequency exposure, utility and energy policy, and community choice for 16 years as Director of StopSmartMeters.org. In that time, I have seen a terrible impact from under-regulated EMF emitting technologies on people's health, well-being, and ability to freely navigate our world without hitting up against invisible barriers. Please see attached my testimony from 2016 as part of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure hearings, as well as a number of studies showing harm from currently allowable levels of low frequency electric and magnetic fields, RF and dirty electricity.

The testimony goes into more detail about my experiences working with victims of "smart" meters and the need for a sea change — based on caution, prudence and scientific evidence — in how we regulate exposure to Electromagnetic Fields.

The deployment of wireless, microwave-emitting utility meters across the country has had a severely detrimental impact on community health and safety that has neither been properly assessed nor addressed. It's time we learn the lessons from the past to avoid harming additional generations with a preventable toxin.

These studies should inform new policies that are protective of public health, reduce exposures to harmful EMF's and recommend the use of wired connections in place of unnecessary wireless ones.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Josh Hart

Director
StopSmartMeters.org

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BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW)
MEXICO FOR PRIOR APPROVAL OF)
THE ADVANCED METERING)
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT,)
DETERMINATION OF RATEMAKING)
PRINCIPLES AND TREATMENT, AND)
ISSUANCE OF RELATED ACCOUNTING)
ORDERS)**

Case No. 15-00312-UT

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW)
MEXICO,)
)
Applicant)**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

JOSHUA HART

July 15, 2016

Q. Please state your name and address.

A. Joshua Hart, Post Office Box 682 Portola, CA 96122

Q. Briefly state your occupation, educational background and current employment.

A. Currently I am Director of Stop Smart Meters!, an organization fighting the forced deployment of utility meters that harm health, violate civil liberties and endanger public safety. I have worked in the energy industry, as an urban and transportation planner, environmental advocate, and freelance journalist. I obtained my MSc in Transport Planning in the UK at University of West England, Bristol in 2008, and completed research entitled *Driven to Excess*, presenting the social and quality of life impacts of car traffic on local residents. The research was covered in over 100 international media outlets including the *BBC*, the *Guardian*, *Tehran Times*, and the *Daily Mail*. Part of this work included the creation and implementation of a series of surveys and questionnaires.

I have been interviewed by PBS Newshour, as well as hundreds of other local and national news outlets. My writing has appeared in *the Wall Street Journal*, *Surveyor Magazine*, *Walk Magazine*, *Make Magazine*, and Lonely Planet's anthology *Flightless: Incredible Journeys without Leaving the Ground*. Attached as Exhibit A is a copy of my CV.

Q. Briefly describe your professional experience.

A. I have worked for a number of professional health and environmental advocacy organizations, including the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and a UK-based pedestrian advocacy organization called Living Streets. Since 2010, I have been director of California-based Stop Smart Meters! I have studied the relevant literature regarding aspects of the current “smart grid” deployment including studies on RF health and environmental impacts.

Q. Have you authored any papers or journal articles?

A. I carried out a masters dissertation between 2007-2008 at the University of the West of England entitled *Driven to Excess: Impacts of Motor Vehicles on the Quality of Life of Residents of Three Streets in Bristol UK*. A journal article based on the research results was published in June 2011 in Volume 17.2 of *World Transport, Policy and Practice*.¹

Q. Briefly describe your work and experience related to the study of electromagnetic fields and radio frequency (“RF”) waves in the 30 MHz to 300 GHz range, as related to smart meters.

A. As a grassroots journalist and advocate, I have investigated hundreds of cases of reported health and environmental impacts of smart meters. I have also read hundreds of scientific reports on the subject and attended multiple workshops, public forums, and conferences regarding RF, electromagnetic fields, and health.

¹<http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/15513/>

Q. In your role as Director of Stop Smart Meters! have you obtained information confirming that utility customers have been injured by smart meters?

A. Yes. I have personally interviewed, read first person accounts and listened to first and second hand accounts of smart meter victims suffering from a wide range of health effects from mild to severely debilitating. I am familiar with well over twelve hundred such accounts that have been documented. Many of these victims became sick before they knew a smart meter had been installed either on their home or in their neighborhood. Many didn't even know what a smart meter was before they were injured. Some of these people have become so sensitized to RF that they have been forced from their homes because of proximity to area meters and other wireless infrastructure or have been forced to leave their jobs because of RF in the workplace. For many people who have become sensitized to RF, they have remained so even after the removal of the smart meter. It is astoundingly clear that smart meters can cause illness and that lasting sensitivity to RF can result from instantaneous exposure and/or chronic exposure over time.

Q. Have you obtained information about smart meters being implicated in house fires and appliance failures and fires?

A. Yes. Thousands of such fires, explosions, and electrical problems have been reported over the past 6-7 years. We have reported on a number of such fires and electrical faults on StopSmartMeters.org. A series of 26 smart meter fires forced Peco Energy in Pennsylvania to halt their smart meter deployment in August

2012. Hundreds of thousands of smart meters have been recalled, across several US states and Canadian provinces due to fire safety problems.

Q. Have you gathered accounts of illness from smart meters and if so please describe how?

A. Yes, Stop Smart Meters! has collected complaints about smart meters related to RF health impacts, fires, overcharging, and other issues since October 2011. We worked with a web professional who volunteered to design and manage the website <http://smartmeterhelp.com>. Results of online surveys came in from all over the country, were entered into a SQL database, and complaints from California periodically forwarded to Governor Jerry Brown, the customer's utility company, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the California Department of Public Health, who set up a special e-mail address to receive smart meter health complaints. More than 1400 written complaints in total were received. A significant percentage were health complaints. The attached declarations (Exhibits B) were received in response to an email request to those complainants who entered an electronic complaint at smartmeterhelp.com.

Q. Are the attached Exhibits B true and accurate copies of the declarations received by Stop Smart Meters! from people who had responded to your online survey?

A. Yes. I have reviewed each of the attached declarations. They are all true and accurate copies of the declarations received by Stop Smart Meters!

Q. Is there anything else you would like the Commission to know?

A. Given the strong peer-reviewed science now linking wireless radiation to disease, and given my own firsthand experience, a policy decision to blanket entire New Mexican communities with smart meters and associated infrastructure poses a serious threat to public health and safety. Particularly relevant are the results of a recent study from the National Toxicology Program² which found significant levels of DNA damage, and brain and heart cancer in rodents exposed to ambient RF— of a similar type to that emitted by wireless utility smart meters. In addition, a 2014 peer-reviewed Australian study³ linked smart meter radiation to a series of symptoms, the most commonly reported being headaches, insomnia, and tinnitus. This is consistent with the smart meter health complaints we have received. In areas of RF safety, privacy, fair and transparent billing practices, national security, efficiency and fire safety, basic electromechanical analog meters remain superior.

Joshua Hart

² <http://biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2016/05/26/055699.full.pdf>

³ Reference: Altern Ther Health Med. 2014; 20(6): pp 28-39.
Author: Federica Lamech, MBBS, a medical practitioner in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss:
COUNTY OF PLUMAS _____)

Joshua Hart, being duly sworn , deposes and states: I have read the foregoing Direct Testimony of Joshua Hart and it is true and correct based on my own personal knowledge and belief.

SIGNED this 11th day of July, 2016.

Joshua Hart

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 11th day of July, 2016.

Notary Public

Attachment A: Joshua Hart CV

Joshua Hart

PO Box 682

Portola CA 96122

joshuahart@baymoon.com

EDUCATION

MSc Transport Planning

June 2008

University of the West of England, Bristol

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Minor in History, June 1998

University of California at Santa Cruz

EMPLOYMENT

Director, Stop Smart Meters! StopSmartMeters.Org July 2010- present

- Educated the public about the health, safety, and privacy impacts of digital “smart” meters, through broadcast, print, and online media
- Provided technical assistance to dozens of groups and individuals opposing the smart grid and organizing locally
- Interpreted the science on biological effects of wireless for the public benefit

Consultant, San Francisco County Transportation Authority May 2006 to August 2007

- Researched environmental impacts of automobiles to inform a proposed shift from auto level of service (LOS) to auto trips generated (ATG) as an environmental review threshold
- Collaborated with colleagues to identify strategies to bring San Francisco’s environmental review processes into line with latest knowledge on environmental impact of automobiles

Program Director, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition January 2003 to April 2005

- Initiated and ran SFBC’s BikeEd Program, based on the League of American Bicyclists BikeEd curriculum, teaching safe cycling skills to thousands of adults

- citywide.
- Organized members and allied community groups to support improvements in the City's bicycle route network, as well as changes in policies to support greater levels of cycling, testifying at dozens of City Hall hearings and meetings.
- Ran publicity campaigns to educate motorists and cyclists on safe roadway sharing

CA Project Coordinator, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy January 2000-June 2002

- Provided in-depth technical assistance to a variety of local advocacy organizations and public agencies around California working on rail-trail conversions
- Gave presentations to elected officials and community groups about the benefits, proper design, and management of public trails and on-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Organized statewide legislative trail advocacy day in Sacramento to support the efforts of dozens of organizations engaged in trail policy development
- Researched and authored Tunnels on Trails, a study of 78 bike/ pedestrian tunnels in the United States (2001) as well as The Mission Creek Bikeway Concept Plan (2002)

Energy Sales Coordinator, Green Mountain Energy June 1999- December 1999

- Negotiated partnerships with retail outlets in San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, and Santa Cruz as part of the California storefront tabling program
- Trained/ managed Field Consultants in sales strategy, environmental policy, and data concerning climate destabilization, energy use, and transport

League Cycling Instructor, League of American Bicyclists June 1998-June 2006

- Underwent intensive teacher's training program (both on and off road) and became accustomed with strategies for teaching the leading US cycling curriculum
- Organized, planned, and taught BikeEd classes to community groups and businesses with an emphasis on the environmental benefits of decreased auto dependence

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Attended Spin Project media training course, which advised on media strategy for charitable organizations San Francisco April 2004
- Extensive experience dealing with television, radio, and print media concerning a

range of cycling, environmental, and climate messages

REFERENCES

Names of referees available on request