

## **Health & Safety Concerns Regarding Digital Utility Meters**

### **1. Utility companies have no basis for claiming that digital utility meters are safe.**

Thousands of independent, non-industry-funded, government and peer-reviewed scientific studies and military documents show that exposure to RF radiation emitted by digital utility meters can cause biological harm.<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Utilities and the NYSPSC claim that RF radiation from digital meters falls within “safe” RF guidelines set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This ignores four important points:**

- No federal agency has ever classified digital utility meters as "safe." The FDA has never measured, tested or established exposure standards for digital meters, despite its authority over all electronic devices that emit radiation.
- In 2019, the FCC admitted that the RF frequencies used in operating all digital utility meters, ranging between 3KHz and 10MHz, can be harmful to humans.<sup>2</sup>
- On August 13, 2021, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit overruled the FCC’s decision not to update its current RF radiation exposure guidelines. In light of new science, the court concluded that the FCC failed to provide a reasoned explanation for the determination that its current guidelines adequately protect against the harmful effects of exposure to RF radiation.<sup>3</sup>
- The FCC has never set safety guidelines for utility meters. The industry and the NYSPSC base their digital meter "safety" claims on flawed testing, conducted in an isolated FCC laboratory that was not equipped to test utility meters. These errors led to distorted test results. Proper testing parameters are essential to determine if there will be electrical problems, electronic equipment failures, fires and/or adverse health effects after digital meters are installed.<sup>4</sup>

### **3. Utilities falsely claim on their websites and verbally, that RF radiation from digital meters falls within “safe” standards set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).**

This is erroneous and misleading. The ANSI standard to which the utilities refer has never pertained to human health or safety.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americansforresponsibletech.org/scientific-studies>

<sup>2</sup> Brief of Children’s Health Defense and Building Biology Institute, *Povasz v. Pennsylvania Utility Commission* – Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Middle District, No. 24 Map 2021, September 14, 2021 (Pages 18 – 19)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fcc.gov/document/dc-circuit-decision-environmental-health-trust-v-fcc>

<sup>4</sup> Isotope Report – Pages 9, 10 and 12 - [Report on Examination of Selected Sources of Electromagnetic Fields at Selected Residences in Hastings-on-Hudson](#),

**4. In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, classified RF radiation as a Class 2B possible carcinogen, along with DDT, engine exhaust and lead.<sup>5</sup>**

Moreover, a growing number of scientists are urging that this classification be changed to a Class 1 carcinogen designation, due to sufficient evidence that RF radiation causes cancer in humans, as well as other illnesses.

**5. In 2016, the National Toxicology Program, an arm of the National Institutes of Health, completed a highly relevant \$30 million toxicology study.**

It concluded that RF radiation causes adverse health effects, including DNA damage and cancer.<sup>6</sup> A similar study by the Ramazzini Institute, which is funded and supported by the U.S., corroborated those results.<sup>7</sup>

**6. American Embassy workers, suffering from “Havana Syndrome,” report the same debilitating health effects as those who have been injured by pulsed RF radiation from digital meters.**

A committee of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine concluded that Havana Syndrome is likely caused by pulsed RF radiation. The committee "found these cases quite concerning, in part because of the plausible role of directed, pulsed radiofrequency energy as a mechanism, but also because of the significant suffering and debility that has occurred in some of these individuals."<sup>8</sup>

Utilities in New York State are deploying metering equipment outfitted with the same kind of pulsed radiation frequencies that adversely affect a growing percentage of the population.

*This document was prepared by the New York Smart Utility Meter Association  
and Americans for Responsible Technology.*

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5504984/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/whatwestudy/topics/cellphones>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.saferemr.com/2018/03/RI-study-on-cell-phone.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/12/new-report-assesses-illnesses-among-us-government-personnel-and-their-families-at-overseas-embassies>