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## Put on your tinfoil helmets, the smart meters are coming!

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The stonework on the Pacific Gas & Electric Company building on Market Street in San Francisco's Financial District.

9

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- [KPCC: Molly Peterson](#)
- [StopSmartMeters.org](#)
- [Pasadena Department of Water and Power](#)

"Smart meters" have already been installed by utilities across the country, but Pacific Gas & Electric Company is meeting fierce opposition from homeowners, politicians, city officials and environmentalists who don't want their old meters replaced in some areas of California. This unlikely coalition is vociferously rejecting the installation of automated metering devices, saying that they violate property rights and emit unhealthy pulses of electromagnetic radiation. But according to the California Council on Science and Technology, the nonprofit and nonpartisan group that advises our state government on technology, smart meters emit radio signals that meet the federal government's safety criteria for cell phones and microwaves.

PG&E is standing firm in its decision to continue smart meter installation and refuses to honor the moratoriums on meters that have been imposed by several cities, saying that the smart meter program is under the authority of the California Public Utilities Commission, not local governments. The company is, however, offering an alternative meter plan that allows customers to keep their old meters, if they pay a monthly fee for visits from a technician.

8 million of the low-power smart meters have been put in service since last summer, but it is unclear how long the rest will take. Are these claims against smart meters well-founded? And will the current opposition pose a threat to nation-wide efforts to create an electrical smart grid for more efficient energy use?

### Guests:

**Molly Peterson**, KPCC's environment reporter

**Joshua Hart**, director of StopSmartMeters.Org

**Eric Klinkner**, assistant general manager for Pasadena Department of Water and Power

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## Events

## COMEDY CONGRESS, HOSTED BY PATT MORRISON



Wednesday, July 6, 2011  
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

THIS EVENT IS CURRENTLY AT CAPACITY. Please email Forum Coordinator Jenny Smith at [jsmith@scpr.org](mailto:jsmith@scpr.org) to be added to the waitlist.

Live from the Crawford Family Forum!

Come on Washington, quit making it so easy. We in the world of satire like a challenge; we enjoy making fun of the ... [» More info](#)

## Comments

michael from Orange

9 hours, 51 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

Oh boy another conspiracy theory in the making. Mr. Hart sounds like a fringe case. Sort of like all those people who freak out about electromagnetic radiation from power lines or the all those parents who blame their kid's autism on child immunization products. This guy should be worried more about hackers and security issues or accuracy issues than any supposed adverse health effects. People like this are always impeding progress for the rest of us far too often for questionable reasons

John

9 hours, 42 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

Amazing.....Klinkner LIED on the air!!

There is no law that mandates the replacement of a working meter...the meter at my shop is more than 40 years old.

If my meter gets replaced at the bill jumps like some of the callers, I'll just block it's ability to send and recieved signals.

Joe Pardee

9 hours, 19 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

In all the discussions about smart meters I have heard over the last few years no one has actually explained clearly their purpose and use. A couple of years ago, before there was any discussion about these being put in I was at a meeting about a new retail product designed by an electrical engineer from North Carolina. He told us that we had to watch for these new "smart meters" because our electric bills were going to go up. These meters measure electrical usage in 15 minute increments and the billing can be adjusted to change the billing rate in these billing increments. They can charge more for diffrent times of the day. Therefore your bill is going to be more if you use air conditioning in the middle of the day as oposed to at night. The smart part is twofold. Your are supposed to be able to monitor your electrical usage on your computer but the other part of this is the electric company is going to raise your rates during prime usage times and reduce your rate at off hours. This is going to allow you to control your usage if you can actually figure out the system but in the long run it is more than likely going t o increase your electric bill.

RobertWilliams

8 hours, 33 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

SMART METERS LINKED TO CANCER.

Utilities and Health Departments based previous safety claims on World Health Organization (WHO).

But June 2011, WHO says Wireless Smart Meter radiation is linked to CANCER (possible human carcinogen – same as Lead, DDT, etc), and that means it also damages bodies & brains (including children's) in many ways, other than cancer.

1. WIRELESS SMART METERS – 100 TIMES MORE RADIATION THAN CELL PHONES.

Video Interview: Nuclear Scientist, Daniel Hirsch, (5 minutes).  
<http://stopsmartmeters.org/2011/04/20/daniel-hirsch-on-ccsts-fuzzy-math/>

2. WIRELESS SMART METERS – CANCER, NERVOUS SYSTEM DAMAGE, ADVERSE REPRODUCTION AFFECTS.

Video Interview: Dr. Carpenter, New York Public Health Department, Dean of Public Health, (2 minutes).  
<http://emfsafetynetwork.org/?p=3946>

3. THE KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM (the University that gives the Nobel Prizes) ISSUES GLOBAL HEALTH WARNING AGAINST WIRELESS SMART METERS.

2-page Press Release:  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/48148346/Karolinska-Institute-Press-Release>

RobertWilliams

8 hours, 29 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)



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MISREPRESENTATIONS OF WIRELESS SMART METERS.

1. The utility information generated by Wireless smart meters is NOT real-time and it is NOT formatted for customer use so it does NOT assist customers to use less energy or lower their utility bills. The information only assists the Utility Company to bill customers and shut off customer power remotely.
2. In countries where Wireless smart meters are being installed, energy use is NOT decreasing, customer UTILITY BILLS ARE INCREASING, there are problems with SECURITY, HACKING, ELECTRICAL FIRES & ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE.
3. The Utility companies are salivating over eliminating the jobs of the full-time-with-benefit meter reader employees and replacing them with phone operators in India and the Philippines who read scripts to customers over the phone for \$4 per day with-NO-Benefits. And the savings are NOT passed on to customers.
4. Wireless smart meters are NOT mandated by the US Federal Energy Program, as California's PG&E pretends.
5. 42 Cities & Counties in California have taken positions AGAINST Wireless smart meters and 13 have passed Ordinances prohibiting Wireless meter installation.
6. The tin foil hats may not understand the science 100%, but they ended up being correct that the Wireless radiation is damaging and I owe them an apology for picking on them initially.

ALSO: every appliance has or will have its own electronic signature, so yes, Wireless smart meters will give your exact activity information to the utility company and the government will have access to every move you make in your home. Existing analog meters only provide total usage and therefore protect your privacy.

High-tech home robbers (and HIGH-TECH CHILD MOLESTERS) will also hack this information and know exactly your habits and when you are not home (and WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE HOME).

Ann Erdman, PIO, City of Pasadena

6 hours, 50 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

John confused two separate points that Eric Klinkner made during the conversation.

He said that federal law requires utilities to consider smart metering and advanced rates; and that Pasadena Water and Power has replaced old electromechanical meters with Automatic Meter Read (AMR) meters as part of a routine replacement program over the past 10 years.

It is important to note as well, as stated by Mr. Klinkner, that Pasadena Water and Power is NOT planning on installing smart meters in the near future.

Jane Brockman

3 hours, 33 minutes ago

[Link to this comment](#)

>according to the California Council on Science and Technology, the nonprofit and nonpartisan group that advises our state government on technology, smart meters emit radio signals that meet the federal government's safety criteria for cell phones and microwaves.

Right! The federal gov't. has helped the cell phone companies tremendously--you have a 3 times better chance of getting a brain tumor than if you didn't use a cell phone, but you only get the tumor in the part of the brain where you hold the phone. No one knows the long term results of being bombarded day and night by these EMFs. We have WIFI, and now smart meters? Not if I can help it!

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