

# There is Nothing “Smart” About Wireless Utility Meters



Utility companies are pushing the deployment of so-called “smart” meters as part of the rollout of a nationwide “smart grid.” But this new technology brings with it the potential for health, safety, privacy and security issues that have yet to be addressed.

**Health Concerns:** Wireless radiation (radio frequency radiation [RFR] or microwave radiation) emitted from “smart” utility meters and other personal wireless devices has been classified as a Group 2B carcinogen by the World Health Organization. Chronic exposures at levels far below FCC standards are capable of damaging DNA, impairing normal neurological development, and increasing risk of cancer. Children, the elderly, people with implanted medical devices, or women who are pregnant are particularly vulnerable.

**Privacy Concerns:** Monitoring of personal habits and schedules may not be the intent of utility companies, but personal data will be collected, and given the recent widespread abuse of data by government agencies, national retailers and internet hackers, the easy availability of this data is problematic.

**What are your options?** Some utilities offer an opt-out plan which may require you to pay an additional fee to have your meter read by a human. You can find a sample letter requesting that no smart meter be installed on your property on our web site:  
[grassrootsinfo/cellphonesandwireless.php](http://grassrootsinfo/cellphonesandwireless.php)

Legislation is pending in some states (including New York) to require utility companies to notify customers in advance before installing any smart meter and to offer an opt-out. Call your state representative and ask them to support an opt-out option.

And in communities where smart meters have already been installed, consumer groups are demanding a roll-back. To find out more about smart meters, visit [www.stopsmartmeters.org](http://www.stopsmartmeters.org)

**What's a smart meter?** It replaces your old reliable analog meter and tells the power company when and how you use electricity.

Programmed bursts of microwave radiation from the meter get picked up and transmitted to the power company, providing real-time information about power usage.



**You Have the Right to Opt Out!**  
**Learn more about smart meters and other wireless technologies at**  
[www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)