MOTION

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on May 1, 2012, referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment, in order to hear from speakers.

7.   Opt Out of BC Hydro Wireless Smart Meter Program

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1.   Vancouver residents have raised significant and serious health, privacy, security, safety, cost and other concerns, including infringement of their democratic, civil and human rights, regarding the forced installation of BC Hydro's wireless smart meters on their homes;

2.   Many other British Columbia residents have raised similar concerns, prompting 39 BC Municipal and Local Government Councils (as of April 16, 2012) and the Union of BC Municipalities (2011 Convention) to pass motions calling for a moratorium on mandatory installations of wireless meters and/or an opt-out option for their residents to provide citizens with a choice in accordance with our democratic process;

3.   In May, 2011, the World Health Organization reclassified radio-frequency electromagnetic fields, such as occur with smart meters, as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Smart meter radio-frequency emissions have been reconfirmed as a hazard by Dr. Baan of the International Agency on the Research of Cancer (IARC), Responsible Officer for the RF-EMF reclassification, in correspondence dated March 30, 2012;

4.   Information has not been made readily available to the public on the exact locations within Vancouver of Smart Grid "collector units" or "hubs" where data is received and re-transmitted, as well as locations where meters are concentrated in banks such as apartment blocks, which create the potential for increased radio-frequency emissions at these locations;

5.   Clarifying information has not been made available to the public concerning the Frequency and Duration of radio frequency emissions from wireless smart meters, which would include information on the Message Type (Meter Read Data, Network Management, Time Synch, Mesh Network Message Management) and the Transmission Frequency of all radio-frequency transmissions and messages within a 24 hour period;

6.   Section 83 (1) of the British Columbia Public Health Act states that, if a local government becomes aware of a health hazard or health impediment within its jurisdiction, it must report the health hazard or health impediment to a health officer or take an action which it has authority to take and provide health officers with information the health officers require; and

7.   Smart meters and smart grids can be installed using non-wireless technology, including phone lines, fiber optics, or the Echelon power line technology as used in many European countries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A.   THAT the City of Vancouver request that BC Hydro offer opt out options to Vancouver residents, whether or not a smart meter has already been installed in their home, at no extra costs to the consumers, which options would include analogue meter or smart meter and smart grid technologies which do not emit radio frequency emissions such as used in Italy and other European countries.

B.   THAT the City of Vancouver request that BC Hydro provide the City with all locations of wireless smart meter "collector units" and "hubs", information regarding maximum number of smart meters in "smart meter banks", and data on radio-frequency emissions exposure (including all Message Types and all Transmission Frequencies per 24 hour period of radio frequency emissions), from smart meters, "collector units", "hubs", and multiple smart meter locations.

C.   THAT the City of Vancouver report the concerns and health impacts raised by Vancouver residents regarding the wireless smart meters and wireless smart grid being installed by BC Hydro, as well as information from BC Hydro regarding the wireless smart meter "collector units", "hubs" and multiple smart meter locations, to BC's Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Medical Officer of Vancouver Coastal Health.

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