

December 2, 2014

MICHIGAN

**OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE
HEARING**

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- 16) Donna Stenman / Dr. David Brownstein

The Experts, AS PRESENTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

- 17) **Dr. David Carpenter** – Director, Institute for Health and the Environment, Univ. of Albany public health physician and former Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany AND co-editor of the Bioinitiative Report.
- 18) **Dr. Paula Davey** – Doctor of Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Environmental Medicine
- 19) **Dr. Amy Dean** – Past President of the Amer. Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM), and she is a practicing Board Certified Environmental Physician who is presently treating patients who developed health problems after a sm was installed on their homes.
- 20) **Jerry Flynn** - Retired Electronic Warfare and Signals Intelligence Officer with 22 years' experience working with American, international and NATO forces
- 21) **Dr. Magda Havas** - is Associate Professor of Environmental & Resource Studies at **Trent University** where she teaches and does research on the biological effects of environmental contaminants, AND authored a section in the Bioinitiative Report.
- 22) **Dr. Sam Milham** – Retired physician and Epidemiologist, expert in EMF exposure for over 30 years, and has over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- 23) **Dr. Ronald Powell** – is a retired **career US Government Scientist** (PhD., Applied Physics, Harvard University, 1975)
- 24) **David Stetzer** – Has military training and extensive experience with thermography, power-quality analyzers, electrician with a specialized background and experience in electronics.
- 25) **Jeromy Johnson** – MS Civil + Environmental Engineer; Copmments for Michigan w/ CPUC
- 26) **Barrie Trower** – Report and understanding of wi-fi

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Advisor & Source (sourcenewspapers.com)

News

STERLING HEIGHTS: City manager: Concerns about 'smart meters' must be addressed at state level

Thursday, November 27, 2014

By SEAN DELANEY
Source Staff Writer

Concerns raised by residents about the installation of Advance Metering Infrastructure, or smart meters, in Macomb County recently prompted Sterling Heights City Manager Mark Vanderpool to pen a letter to the city's representatives in Lansing, urging them to support amendments to legislation that would allow residents to opt out of the installation without an additional cost.

In the letter, Vanderpool notes that "a number of concerned residents have appealed to the Sterling Heights City Council for support of their efforts to effectuate an alternative to the Opt-Out Program approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission in connection with the AMI installations that are under way (in Macomb County)."

According to Vanderpool, the opt-out program provides residential utility customers with an option of having a non-transmitting digital meter installed at a cost of \$67.20 for the AMI opt-out initial fee plus \$9.80 per month for the opt-out monthly charge.

"Your constituents are requesting an amendment to the AMI Opt-Out Program that affords residential utility customers the right to retain the analog meter technology that is being replaced at no additional cost," Vanderpool wrote in separate letters to Rep. Jeff Farrington, Rep. Henry Yanez and Sen. Tory Rocca.

"Recognizing that such an amendment requires legislative action by the Michigan Legislature or administrative action by the Michigan Public Service Commission, the city of Sterling Heights is respectfully requesting your assistance in this effort."

Unlike traditional electric meters that merely record power use -- and then must be read in person once a month by a meter reader -- smart meters measure consumption in real time. By being networked to computers in electric utilities, the new meters can signal people or their appliances to take certain actions, such as reducing power usage when electricity prices spike.

But the very interactivity that makes smart meters so attractive also makes them vulnerable to hackers, because each meter essentially is a computer connected to a vast network that some argue will be used to monitor residents' activities.

Based on these concerns, the City Council voted in January 2012 to institute a moratorium "until such time that an option to refuse the installation of such meters is given to all residents with or without cause, for any reason whatsoever."

"We debated it at almost every council meeting for the better part of a year," said Mayor Pro Tem Michael Taylor. "We took action by making recommendations to the Michigan Public Service Commission, and unfortunately for some residents they did not follow our recommendations."

As a result, Vanderpool has encouraged residents to address their concerns directly to the city's state legislators, the governor's office and the MPSC.

"The fact is we can write letters and adopt resolutions, but (the City Council) is really not the appropriate venue to address your concerns," he said. "I wish I could say more to appease your concerns, but that is the reality of the situation with smart meters."

Contact Sean Delaney at 586-323-8127 or sean.delaney@advisorsource.com. Follow him on Twitter @sdelaney81 or on Facebook at Sean Delaney. Subscribe to his Tout feed at www.tout.com/u/sdelaney81

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