

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

-----X
:
:
AMI PUBLIC HEARING :
:
-----X

A virtual public hearing was held on September 29,
2020.

A P P E A R A N C E S

	<u>Page</u>
Carla Reid	3
Chuck Brown	4
Damion Lampley	5
Cindy Bachman	13
Zina Carmel Jessup	16
Catherine Catson	17
Laura Simon	20
Theodora Scorato	24
Elizabeth Jeremillo	26
Mia Simon	28
Natalie Roscher	29

1

P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MS. REID: Good evening, on behalf of the men and women of WSSC Water, welcome to this evening's public hearing on our Planned Advance Metering Infrastructure or AMI Project. AMI is technology that measures your water usage and communicates this information wirelessly from a Smart Meter to us. The advantage to you is that AMI will allow you to better manage your water use to help you conserve water and save money. This technology is the latest example of our ongoing efforts to modernize our infrastructure to better serve you. In fact, investing in innovative technologies to enhance customer service has been a priority since 1918, the year we were founded.

Take water mains, for example, the buried pipes that carry our safe, clean water straight to your tap. In 1918 this is what they looked like. Wire pipes wrapped in steel wire, a pretty old and antiquated way of delivering water. So fast forward 102 years, and now we use this. This is zinc coated ductile iron pipe. This is state of the art technology and it's expected to last for more than 100 years.

Now, we didn't get here overnight, it took commitment to invest in technology to better serve our customers and that's exactly what we plan to do with AMI. (Indiscernible) antiquated way of reading meters by

1 investing in modern technology that provides tremendous
2 benefits to you.

3 Before Utility Services Director, Damion Lampley,
4 provides a brief overview on how AMI works, I will ask Chuck
5 Brown, our Director of Communications to detail the outreach
6 efforts for tonight's hearing and provide an overview of how
7 this virtual public hearing will be conducted.

8 Thank you for joining us this evening and thank
9 you for being a WSSC Water customer. Chuck?

10 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much, Carla. Good,
11 well good evening I should say, everyone. Thanks for
12 joining us. I'm pleased to highlight our extensive customer
13 outreach effort to encourage public participation and
14 promote transparency for tonight's meeting.

15 From traditional media, web, social media we used
16 a variety of methods and tools to reach you to hope you guys
17 can join us for tonight's meeting to encourage public
18 participation. An advertisement was published in The
19 Washington Post on September 10th of this year. We've been
20 promoting this meeting heavily on Facebook and Twitter for
21 the past several weeks, including promoting posts on
22 Facebook. We issued two news releases, one on September
23 21st and the other on September 29th for both hearings. The
24 release was posted to our website, Wsscwater.com, and then
25 both releases were also sent out via Constant Contact, the

1 same dates, the 21st and the 29th, to our 1,380 Constant
2 Contact followers.

3 Additionally we purchased radio time on several
4 local radio stations to again amplify the message. They
5 were posted on WTOP, on WMMJ which is Magic FM, WHUR, WLZL
6 and Pandora. Those ads ran from September 21st and they're
7 going to continue through tomorrow. Additionally,
8 information on tonight's hearing was posted on the events
9 section of our website and on the AMI page and finally we e-
10 mailed information to our customer contact list, those folks
11 that have actually contacted us via the AMI project at
12 Wsscwater.com e-mail inbox. We sent everybody that's e-
13 mailed us information on tonight's meeting as well as our
14 online customer feedback community.

15 So with that, I am going to get off the camera and
16 I'm going to share my screen and introduce our Utility
17 Services Director, Damion Lampley, to provide a brief
18 presentation on how AMI works. So Damion, bear with me, as
19 I bring up the presentation.

20 MR. LAMPLEY: Thank you, Chuck. Good evening and
21 welcome. I am Damion Lampley, Director of Utility Services.
22 Tonight I will be providing a brief overview of AMI Advanced
23 Metering Infrastructure, also commonly known as Smart
24 Meters. Next slide.

25 As I get started, I will walk you through how we

1 obtain meter readings today at WSSC Water, additionally, I
2 will share our challenges with meter reading and how
3 modernizing with AMI resolves those challenges and provides
4 tremendous benefits to our customers. I will also detail
5 public feedback, Smart Meters and health, AMI and privacy,
6 opt-out options and next steps for the project. Next slide.

7 Since 1918, WSSC Water has been delivering safe,
8 clean water to homes and businesses in Prince George's and
9 Montgomery counties. But before our clean water pours into
10 your tap, it passed through a meter to determine consumption
11 and use. And for 102 years, the vast majority of our meter
12 reads, 96 percent, have been collected by walking door to
13 door and with approximately 492,000 meters in our service
14 area, that's a lot of walking. On average, our meter
15 readers walk approximately 10 miles each day collecting
16 readings via touchpad mounted on the outside of a house or
17 by simply getting on their hands and knees to look into a
18 meter pit. A small percentage of our meters, about 4
19 percent, are read using drive-by technology called AMR or
20 Automatic Meter Reading. Next slide.

21 Let's face it, meter reading is a tough job.
22 Walking all those miles in the heat, rain, snow and cold
23 takes its toll and because it's such a physically demanding
24 job, we experience a high turnover rate for meter readers.
25 In fact, in the last five years we've experienced a 50

1 percent turnover rate. That's required us to hire more than
2 93 meter readers. This high turnover rate means staff
3 spends countless hours training new meter readers again and
4 again and again. Staff fatigue plus an ever revolving door
5 of new meter readers leads to errors and delays.

6 Additionally, because we maintain several
7 different types of meters, we have to maintain different
8 equipment such as handheld devices, antennas, laptops and
9 receivers to support meter reading. This leads to costly
10 maintenance and repairs of these different systems, and
11 aging infrastructure in our meter services group is another
12 operational challenge for us, 63 percent of WSSC Water
13 meters are 15 years or older.

14 Currently, the average age of a residential meter
15 in our service area is just over 17 years and with an
16 expected life of 15 to 20 years per meter, we see some
17 degradation in these older units which requires one of our
18 meter mechanics to drive out and address the issue in the
19 field. Speaking about driving, that's another challenge we
20 face. Each year WSSC Water crews are dispatched more than
21 200,000 times to address meter related issues. There's a
22 huge environmental and cost impact associated with driving
23 all these miles. Next slide.

24 As our General Manager mentioned, AMI is a part of
25 our ongoing efforts to modernize and better serve our

1 customers. The project is currently in the planning phase.
2 AMI allows meters to communicate usage wirelessly using
3 radio or cellular technology and consist of several
4 components. The water meter, an in-code or register with a
5 built in low frequency small radio or cellular transmitter.
6 Data such as meter characteristics, system pressure, water
7 temperature, chlorine residuals and consumption is encrypted
8 and transmitted to WSSC Water. Customers then have the
9 benefit of having their real time water usage at their
10 fingertips through a customer portal allowing them to better
11 manage their water use, to protect against high bills.

12 To get a better idea of AMI and how it works and
13 the benefits of this technology, we put together this short
14 video.

15 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

16 MR. LAMPLEY: As mentioned in the video, AMI
17 offers you, the customer, key benefits all centered around
18 giving you more information to better manage your water use
19 and save money. Implementing AMI will allow WSSC Water to
20 move to monthly billing, providing you with smaller and more
21 frequent bills for easier budgeting. Implementing AMI also
22 helps us reduce as many bills caused by meter reading
23 errors. And just like you may have home plumbing leaks, we
24 also have leaks in our massive distribution system that AMI
25 can help us locate to prevent water loss. One key benefit

1 of AMI is the water quality capabilities it provide us.
2 Because AMI can track system pressure, we will get alerts if
3 the system pressure drops due to a large break, allowing us
4 to quickly address the issue so we can maintain adequate
5 pressure and prevent contaminants from entering the water
6 supply. I already mentioned the environmental benefits of
7 AMI helping to decrease our carbon foot print, but I want to
8 go back to highlight the second bullet on the right hand
9 column because there seems to be a lot of confusion when we
10 talk about reducing meter staff field visits.

11 AMI will not result in any job loss. All existing
12 meter readers will be retrained to help fill gaps in other
13 parts of the organization and I'm sure there will be some
14 meter readers who will work to support the new AMI system.
15 Next slide.

16 Because we value transparency and public feedback,
17 WSSC Water has done extensive public research to ensure
18 customers know about the project and have opportunities to
19 provide input. We've had several commission meetings where
20 AMI has been on the agenda, each meeting provides an
21 opportunity for public comment. We have also sent
22 information on AMI to every customer via our newsletter and
23 have discussed the project at various community events. We
24 post project information on social media and have developed
25 a webpage on the project which details public feedback

1 received and provides a link where you can e-mail us
2 questions at amiproject@wsscwater.com.

3 Most of the feedback we've received has focused on
4 health concerns related to radiofrequency used to
5 communicate water usage information. AMI water meters
6 operate off of the same radiofrequency as other commonly
7 used devices including cell phones, Wi-Fi, TV remotes,
8 Bluetooth and microwave ovens. Next slide.

9 WSSC Water is an expert in the field of water
10 purification and distribution as well as the safe treatment
11 of wastewater. We are not experts on the topic of
12 radiofrequency emissions which is why we rely on government
13 agencies entrusted to protect the public health and
14 scientific experts who have studied the topic for decades.
15 To date, there is no consistent scientific evidence of
16 health problems caused by exposure to radiofrequency energy
17 emitted by cell phones, Smart Meters or similar devices. In
18 fact, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which is
19 responsible for the collection and analysis of scientific
20 information related to the safety of cell phones and other
21 electronic products states that the current limit of
22 radiofrequency set by the Federal Communications Commission
23 remains acceptable for protecting public health. Groups
24 that have thoroughly researched this issue and have come to
25 similar conclusions include the World Health Organization,

1 American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute and
2 the California Council on Science and Technology.

3 To ensure we had access to the latest information,
4 we commissioned a report by Dr. Leeka Kheifets, Professor of
5 Epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.
6 Her report, which is available on our website, confirmed
7 that other experts have found that exposure to
8 radiofrequency from Smart Meters are neither long enough or
9 strong enough to approach the safety standards set by the
10 Federal Communication Commission. Now we respect that there
11 are different points of view, and we remain open to
12 listening and fully support additional research on this
13 topic. Next slide.

14 Other concerns we have heard focus on privacy.
15 Meter information and usage data is encrypted using industry
16 standard processes before being transmitted to WSSC Water.
17 Personally identifiable information such as name, address,
18 bill account number or credit collection information is not
19 transmitted to or from the meter. Next slide.

20 We've also heard from several customers regarding
21 whether or not we will offer an opt-out option as part of
22 this project for those who may not know an opt-out program
23 would allow customers to decline the installation of AMI
24 equipment at their location, require a manual meter reading
25 of their meter. The various opt-out alternatives listed on

1 the slide. No opt-out customers are required to accept the
2 AMI equipment. Opt-out No Fee, where customers can decide
3 not to receive the AMI equipment without being charged a
4 fee. However, all customers bear the additional cost
5 associated with manual meter reads. Each, and then there's
6 Opt-out for a Fee, where customers can decide not to receive
7 the AMI equipment but are required to pay a fee to cover
8 utility expenses associated with reading their meter, the
9 fee assessed for each reading is perpetuity when opting out.
10 And then lastly, there's Meter Relocation to the Outside.
11 Customers with an inside meter and AMI equipment relocated
12 outside of the home for a fee paid by the customer. About
13 64 percent of our meters are located inside a home or
14 business.

15 We have not yet made a decision on opt-out
16 alternatives, as we continue to carefully evaluate all
17 options. Your feedback tonight on this topic is
18 appreciated. Next slide.

19 So after the public hearings we will summarize
20 public feedback and present management's opt-out
21 recommendations to our Commissioners at their October 21st
22 meeting. Commissioners will then have the opportunity to
23 vote on an opt-out alternative at their November meeting.
24 Around the same November timeframe, the AMI solicitation
25 will be advertised with a contract expected to come before

1 our Commissioners for a vote in October of next year, 2021.
2 In between now and October, we will continue to engage the
3 public and listen to feedback on AMI.

4 That concludes my presentation, now I would turn
5 it over to Chuck to facilitate public feedback. Chuck?

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Damion, I appreciate it.
7 Let me advance to the next slide where we have the call in
8 number and the conference ID number. So hopefully everybody
9 can see that on the screen. So we'd now like to open it up
10 to the public comment period, again as shown the call in
11 number is 240-800-7929, conference ID number is 109697170#.
12 For the record, please state your name and the county you
13 reside in prior to making your comments. Please limit your
14 comments to three minutes. If your testimony is longer than
15 time allows, you may provide a written copy of your
16 testimony to us prior to the close of the public hearing
17 comment period comment period via e-mail or traditional
18 mail, and that public record will remain open until noon on
19 October 12, 2020. Again, there is a call number, there is a
20 conference ID and I'm going to start letting people in, and
21 again you have three minutes to speak, and we'll start with
22 our first caller. Go ahead, can you hear me?

23 MS. BACHMAN: Yes, I can.

24 MR. BROWN: Okay. You have three minutes. Please
25 begin with your name and the county you reside in. Go right

1 ahead.

2 MS. BACHMAN: And speak over them?

3 MR. BROWN: You're listening to the computer feed,
4 so just turn down your computer.

5 MS. BACHMAN: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Yes.

7 MS. BACHMAN: Hi, my name is Cindy Bachman
8 (phonetic sp.), I'm a WSSC customer in Potomac, Maryland.
9 Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to
10 the proposed Smart Meter Rollout.

11 On the health study, I, I appreciate very much
12 that WSSC has ordered a health study on the Smart Meters.
13 However, I think it should explain how their study is
14 complete and independent when first it seems to be limited
15 only to science published by public agencies. Second, it
16 relies on, heavily on the FCC standards for its conclusions
17 about health, when the FCC is not a public agency and its
18 standards are decades old. It was also conducted by an
19 industry consultant. The study does note that 60 percent of
20 meters are in basements and 40 are at the property line.
21 And it also says that when considering RF, safety distance
22 is a key factor. Then it comes to a conclusion in the
23 report that the meter distance for WSSC customers appears to
24 be sufficient because most of them are away from where
25 people live.

1 I'd like to hear why WSSC is assuming that 60
2 percent of its customers have unfinished and unlivable space
3 in their basements and that they can make the determination
4 that those distances are safe for their customers.

5 The study also concludes that RF exposures from
6 Smart Meters won't reach FCC safety standards. However, the
7 FCC is not a health agency and its standards are three
8 decades old. Montgomery County filed last year, a lawsuit
9 asking the FCC to reconsider these very outdated standards,
10 and it noted that if the standards were not reconsidered
11 prior to things like 5G rollouts, cell towers, anything
12 that's emitting RF radiation, it could injure citizens of
13 Montgomery County, including sensitive populations like
14 kids, and Montgomery County says, quote, that would be an
15 unconscionable outcome.

16 The county's lawsuit lists numerous health studies
17 on RF emissions and those aren't even considered in WSSC's
18 materials. So I'd like to understand why WSSC believes it's
19 appropriate to expose the general public to health risks
20 that Montgomery County appeared to be uncomfortable with.

21 I have a question also on meter placement. I
22 wondered if WSSC has an ethical responsibility to ensure
23 that all the customers are treated equally whether they rent
24 or own their homes, live in a single-family home or
25 apartment (indiscernible) vary quite a bit. Some people

1 could have them directly in their home on an opposite wall,
2 others could be 100 feet away. I don't know if WSSC would
3 consider moving them, even if they're outside on a wall and
4 I, I understand you guys just said you would move them from
5 inside, but for people who have it directly behind a bedroom
6 wall, they may not want it to be there any longer.

7 MR. BROWN: Ma'am, we're at three minutes, if
8 you'd like to summarize, please, we'd appreciate it.

9 MS. BACHMAN: Okay. I was going to talk about
10 costs and benefits and, and, and say that a few other
11 utilities have decided not to go this route and I, I
12 question whether this, this really is a benefit given our
13 meters currently last about 30 years and the Smart Meters
14 only last about five to seven. But I, I appreciate the
15 chance to give you comments.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you so much. Have a great
17 evening.

18 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. BROWN: Hi, good evening, welcome to --

20 MS. JESSUP: Hi.

21 MR. BROWN: our AMI Public Hearing.

22 MS. JESSUP: Thank you.

23 MR. BROWN: You have, if you want to state your
24 name and the county you reside in, you have three minutes to
25 speak.

1 MS. JESSUP: Okay. Well this is my first time
2 joining a hearing, but I felt strongly so I thought I would
3 get on here and speak up. My name is Zina Carmel Jessup
4 (phonetic sp.), I live in Montgomery County and I oppose the
5 water Smart Meters. We've had a lot of problems with our
6 other Smart Meter trying to get that off our house.

7 My primary concern is for adding further RH
8 emitting devices on and near people's homes without solid
9 evidence of safety. I'm concerned about this project due to
10 the expense for the rate payers, it's a very expensive
11 project and it seems unnecessary. And I'm also concerned
12 about the research used to push this forward that it's
13 outdated and it doesn't really reflect the true costs of
14 what these Smart Meters will do in terms of rate increases,
15 et cetera.

16 So short and sweet, that's what I have to share.
17 I am opposing this action and glad that you took the time to
18 hear from me. Thank you.

19 MR. BROWN: Appreciate it. Thanks so much. Have
20 a great evening. Hi, welcome to the AMI Public Hearing.
21 You have your computer so if you could turn that down and if
22 you want to just --

23 MS. CATSON: Thank you.

24 MR. BROWN: -- sure, if you want to provide us
25 your name and the county you reside in and you have three

1 minutes to speak. Thank you.

2 MS. CATSON: Thank you. My name is Catherine
3 Catson (phonetic sp.) and I live in Montgomery County.
4 Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I oppose
5 the AMI Smart Meters. Please do not move forward with the
6 proposal to procure the AMI Smart Meter project. I attest
7 and affirm that the following statements are true, accurate
8 and within my personal knowledge.

9 We depend on WSSC staff to provide unbiased
10 information so Commissioners can make fair decisions. Staff
11 has instead provided misleading information about AMI Smart
12 Meters. The health consultant WSSC is relying on, Dr. Leeka
13 Kheifets is not only paid by wireless companies to testify
14 in their defense, but has also been a long time consultant
15 for Electric Power Research Institute. This is a violation
16 of your mission to be ethical and transparent. There are,
17 as the previous speaker mentioned, there's a wide variety of
18 arrangements of these meters. There are families in low
19 income housing in Montgomery County and Prince George's
20 County that have children living and, and sleeping just on
21 the other side of a wall with banks of meters on it. This
22 is, this is unfair to subject them to this level of untested
23 harm, potential harm from these meters.

24 Additionally there's no consensus among local
25 utilities that AMI Smart Meters even make economic sense.

1 Fairfax Water has rejected them as recently as December 2018
2 and their rates are half of WSSC rates.

3 The deployment of these meters is risky. WSSC has
4 a poor record of containing costs on IT projects, such as
5 the Cornerstone Billing System. And there's no evidence
6 that the implementation of AMI Smart Meters will reduce
7 water rates. In fact, the opposite is true, they will
8 increase water rates. Additionally, the Maryland Public
9 Service Commission has established a statewide policy for
10 investor owned electric utilities that customers may opt-out
11 of AMI Smart Meters. So I don't understand why the opt-out
12 is even being questioned and I don't think it's fair or
13 right that low income and poor families who might have eight
14 of these meters on the other side of their child's wall,
15 want, who can't afford to pay for food, might not be able to
16 get them taken off the wall.

17 Commissioners and the public depend on WSSC staff
18 to provide unbiased information and to make fair decisions.
19 And the economics of the Smart Meter proposal is based on
20 almost a 10-year-old study that has not been updated. We,
21 we need to update that and look at it again. The cost may
22 be even greater than the estimated 100 million dollars. And
23 as proposed, it's bad for the environment. It will result
24 in tens of thousands of iron meter vault lids and working
25 meters entering the waste stream and being replaced by

1 meters that have a much shorter lifespan. Additionally --

2 MR. BROWN: Ma'am, we're at three minutes right
3 now, if you want to wrap up and summarize.

4 MS. CATSON: Okay.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

6 MS. CATSON: Additionally, even though I've heard
7 claims to the opposite, there's no way that getting rid of
8 meter readers will not put more people out of work. We're,
9 we're living in a time of, of unprecedented unemployment.
10 This, this is untenable and it's, it's false to, to say that
11 these, these meters are more cost effective or that they're
12 safe because neither is true. Thank you for your time.

13 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Have a great evening.

14 MS. CATSON: You too.

15 MR. BROWN: Hi, welcome to WSSC Water's AMI Public
16 Hearing. I can tell that you're --

17 MS. LAURA SIMON: Oh yeah, hi, I was calling to
18 testify.

19 MR. BROWN: Sure, your computer sound is up, if
20 you want to turn that down.

21 MS. LAURA SIMON: Yeah. Let's see. Is that
22 better?

23 MR. BROWN: That is perfect. If you want to state
24 your name and the county you reside in and you will have
25 three minutes to speak.

1 MS. LAURA SIMON: Oh, am I starting? Okay.

2 MR. BROWN: Yeah.

3 MS. LAURA SIMON: Okay. My name is Laura Simon, I
4 live in Montgomery County and I'm against the Smart Meters
5 because if oh, and first of all I do really appreciate that
6 you're giving us a lot of opportunity here to give our
7 public comments. So I really thank you all for that.

8 I'm against Smart Meters because if you look
9 closely at the science, we know there is a cancer link. The
10 rate for a childhood cancer is going up. My 2-year-old
11 niece has leukemia, she will survive God willing, but she
12 will be affected for her entire life and will be a higher
13 risk for another type of cancer down the road. Possible
14 side effects from Smart Meters that have been documented are
15 insomnia, headaches, tinnitus, fatigue, cognitive
16 disturbances, abnormal sensations, dizziness and how are we
17 to know for children, especially young children, how can
18 they communicate to us what they are feeling? How can they
19 tell parents and how are parents supposed to know that it
20 might be connected to a Smart Meter? So one, kids can't
21 even articulate, very young children but also how, how would
22 a parent connect it to a Smart Meter?

23 How are parents supposed to figure this stuff out
24 when the very people we look to, the experts don't seem to
25 be on the up and up? If I check the link and I'm not saying

1 you all, it's a perfectly good link that WSSC that you
2 provided, National Cancer Institute at NIH, but I'm just
3 trying to point out how bizarre it is that if you hear me
4 out on two different NIH sites, the information is so
5 different. So on the National Cancer Institute link at NIH
6 they say studies of animals have not provided any indication
7 that exposure to EMF is associated with cancer. And the few
8 high quality studies in animals have provided no evidence
9 that Wi-Fi is harmful to health.

10 But yet if you look at the NIH study on EMF the 25
11 million dollar toxicology study which parents would have no
12 idea to look o on the NIH study which is probably one of the
13 most high quality studies that you can look at that we have.
14 It says clear evidence that male rats, which are animals,
15 exposed to radiofrequency radiation developed cancerous
16 heart tumors and that there is also some evidence of tumors
17 in the brain and adrenal gland of the exposed male rats.

18 You know, I really feel for you when you're making
19 these decisions because it's so hard to get to the truth.
20 We need to look at the science and not as to the world as
21 we'd like it to be. Children look to us to protect them and
22 we should not allow them to be lab rats, especially for
23 children that cannot articulate what they are feeling. We
24 are at crazy time where a person can be a triathlete one day
25 and then a COVID patient fighting for his or her life the

1 next. We know health is the greatest gift that we have and
2 we can do something about being proactive and protecting
3 children with Smart Meters and we don't know that they are
4 100 percent safe and the science is telling us that it's not
5 safe and we, and we don't know at what amount is not safe.
6 So there's certainly more research that needs to be done on
7 this and --

8 MR. BROWN: Ma'am, we're at three minutes if you
9 want to summarize.

10 MS. LAURA SIMON: Oh, okay. Thank you. So I'm
11 sure that there might be some reasons for moving towards
12 Smart Meters, other, other, other water companies have
13 decided that it doesn't make sense, it's too expensive and
14 I, I hope that you give, I think, I think it's
15 unconscionable not to provide an opt-out and or, and to let
16 customers know that you're installing an RF emitting device
17 that was shown to be, by NIH, carcinogenic. Thanks so much.

18 MR. BROWN: Appreciate your time and I'm glad to
19 hear your niece is doing better. Have a good night.

20 MS. LAURA SIMON: Thanks so much.

21 MR. BROWN: Okay.

22 MS. LAURA SIMON: Bye.

23 MR. BROWN: Bye-bye. Hi, welcome to WSSC Water's
24 AMI Public Hearing. If you want to make sure that your
25 computer is turned down and just state your name and the

1 county you reside in and you have three minutes to speak.

2 MS. SCORATO: Great, can you hear me?

3 MR. BROWN: Oh, I sure can.

4 MS. SCORATO: Okay. Good. This is Theodora
5 Scorato (phonetic sp.) and I live in Montgomery County. We
6 still have a home in Prince George's County and we also have
7 a business in Montgomery County, so we have three WSSC Water
8 bills. And we are, our family is opposed to having an AMI
9 Smart Meter and we hope that this will not move forward
10 because it's just premature based on a lot of everything
11 you've heard, but I'd like to add another piece.

12 As many people, Commissioners know we are engaged
13 in a legal appeal against the federal government right now,
14 the Federal Communications Commission because of their
15 limits they just stated that they didn't need to update
16 them, they were, they were made in 1996, based on 1980
17 research from decades prior actually and we are addressing
18 that with an appeal about the process that that happened.
19 However, what I want to point out and this is in our
20 evidentiary brief which is on line, one of the issues is
21 that there are no limits that were even ever created to
22 protect trees, birds, insects, bees, our pollinators, and
23 I'd like to read to you some information from some
24 scientists who we collaborate with. Biologist Alfonso
25 Balmori (phonetic sp.) has published extensively on impact

1 to wildlife and I'd like to read something that he sent to
2 the FDA, the Food and Drug Administration. I have co-
3 published research entitled Radiofrequency Radiation Injures
4 Trees Around Mobile Phone Base Stations, finding harm to
5 trees near base stations, cell antennas, in a long term
6 field monitoring study in two cities. We measured the
7 radiofrequency radiation levels and found a significant
8 difference between the damaged side facing the cell phone
9 mast and the opposite side.

10 Our statistical analysis demonstrated that
11 electromagnetic radiation from mobile phones masts was
12 harmful to the trees. The damage usually starts on one side
13 of the tree then extends to the other, the whole tree over
14 time. I also published an experimental study where we
15 exposed eggs and tadpoles of the common frog to the
16 electromagnetic radiation from mobile cell phone antennas
17 located at a distance of 140 meters. The experiment lasted
18 two months from the egg phase to, until an advanced phase of
19 tadpole prior to metamorphosis.

20 In this study, we found the exposed group had
21 altered development and a higher mortality rate in
22 comparison to the unexposed frogs. In addition, my research
23 has documented anthropogenic radiofrequency electromagnetic
24 fields as an emerging threat to wildlife orientation. For
25 example, exposures that are found in the environment in

1 urban areas and your bay stations, may particularly alter
2 the receptor organs to orient in the magnetic field of the
3 earth. So the way that, and this is Theodora adding in, the
4 way that animals orient themselves, I don't know if you know
5 that they, they actually orient themselves according to
6 electromagnetic fields naturally when they don't have other
7 fields running around disorienting them (indiscernible).

8 MR. BROWN: Theodora --

9 MS. SCORATO: Yes?

10 MR. BROWN: -- you're at your three minutes, so if
11 you want to summarize?

12 MS. SCORATO: Okay. So in summary, in light of
13 the fact that there has been no limits ever set to protect
14 our wildlife, how can we put this additional layer of all of
15 these meters into our area without first assuring that these
16 are safe for wildlife and of course for humans as well?
17 Thank you so much.

18 MR. BROWN: Thanks, Theodora. Have a great night.

19 MS. SCORATO: Thanks.

20 MS. JEREMILLO: Hello?

21 MR. BROWN: Hi, welcome to WSSC Water's AMI Public
22 Hearing.

23 MS. JEREMILLO: Yes.

24 MR. BROWN: If you want to turn down your computer
25 sound?

1 MS. JEREMILLO: I did.

2 MR. BROWN: Perfect. So if you want to state your
3 name and the county you reside in and you'll have three
4 minutes to speak.

5 MS. JEREMILLO: Okay. Wonderful. My name is
6 Elizabeth Jeremillo (phonetic sp.) and I'm in Montgomery
7 County in Gaithersburg and I opposed the Smart Meters. I am
8 in total agreement with what all the ladies have shared, no
9 point in me going over the same thing again. I just want to
10 add in addition to that, I think there's enough cancer going
11 on around the world that we don't need to have additional
12 technical or technological whatever you all are using to
13 create more, like the 5G and everything else. I think and
14 it's very sad to see the Washington Sanitary Commission is
15 part of the new world order, because that's exactly what the
16 new world order is doing, trying to force us to do things
17 that we don't want to. Here, you're telling us we can opt-
18 out or we're going to have to pay monthly if we don't want
19 to opt-out. I mean I feel that that's breaking the law with
20 the government, the Constitution freedoms of our decisions
21 to do that.

22 So I am, yes, very upset and sad to see that all
23 the employees for Washington Sanitary Commission are even
24 going to be in favor of it, unless they're all afraid to
25 lose their job if they oppose it. Because I think this is

1 crazy. If you love your loved ones, you would protect them
2 like this lady was saying, who has her little niece that has
3 cancer. You know, I mean these are babies that have cancer
4 and all because of a selfish person who wants to have
5 technology and updated everything. So that's my part that I
6 wanted to share. I opt completely to it. Thank you.

7 MR. BROWN: Appreciate your time. Thank you so
8 much, have a great evening.

9 MS. JEREMILLO: You --

10 MR. BROWN: Hi, welcome to WSSC Water's Public
11 Hearing on our advanced metering infrastructure project.
12 Thanks for turning down your computer sound. If you want to
13 state your name and the county you reside in and you have
14 three minutes to speak.

15 MS. MIA SIMON: Hi, my name is Mia Simon and I
16 reside in Montgomery County and I would like to start by
17 saying that I am a longtime citizen of Montgomery County
18 asking for AMI Smart Meters to be removed from the budget.
19 These meters are a proven health and environmental hazard
20 and I'd rather be safe than sorry, especially when it comes
21 to the health of myself and others.

22 The distinguished Santa Cruz California Board of
23 Supervisors previously declared Smart Water Meters to be
24 unquote health hazards, safety and consumer fraud risks.
25 And their Health Department imposed a moratorium on Smart

1 Meters.

2 Knowing the peer reviewed scientific research
3 previously covered in this meeting showing the adverse
4 health effects of radiofrequency radiation, it would be wise
5 for us to follow the Santa Cruz Health Department's lead.
6 Plus, I'd like to add from an economic perspective there is
7 no consensus that AMI Meters make economic sense.

8 Not only do they need to be changed every eight
9 years, Fairfax Water actually rejected AMI Meters as too
10 costly because as of December 2018. The Fairfax Water rates
11 are half of WSSC's. AMI Meters will kill jobs as meter
12 reader positions will be eliminated. When our health,
13 economy and environment is already under attack we must work
14 to mitigate any other risks we can. Thank you.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you and have a great evening.

16 MS. MIA SIMON: Thank you, you too, goodbye.

17 MR. BROWN: Hi, welcome to WSSC Water's Public
18 Hearing on advance metering infrastructure. If you want to
19 state your name and the county you reside in and you have
20 three minutes to speak.

21 MS. ROSCHER: Hi, this is Natalie Roscher
22 (phonetic sp.) from Montgomery County, Maryland. I wanted
23 to talk about the undisclosed disadvantages of Smart Meters
24 but I, I, I feel the need to address certain things related
25 to the health aspect, although that seems to be a

1 reoccurring theme this night, that was stated by staff. And
2 so I guess I will, I'll reserve my other part maybe for
3 tomorrow or in my written submission. I don't know, yeah,
4 I'm kind of going off script here. So basically it was
5 stated that, you know, they relied on studies from I-Arch
6 (phonetic sp.) and American Cancer Society and I had the
7 privilege of reading the health expert's report, and I also
8 had the privilege of listening to her testimony in February
9 of 2020. And a lot of what she had, what was said has been
10 taken out of context. So in regards to the American Cancer
11 Society, it did acknowledge that radiofrequency has a Class
12 2B carcinogenic rating, possible carcinogenic rating by I-
13 Arch. But she failed to state that in her report, and when
14 you go to the ACS's website where she did quote part of the
15 American Cancer Society, I guess criteria, she, she did not
16 omit the part of the website where they said it is very
17 possible that because Smart Meters transmit radiofrequency
18 and radiofrequency is a known carcinogenic radiofrequency
19 and Smart Meters can be associated with cancer risks.

20 And I also want to point out that you know part of
21 the I-Arch stipulation for it, for it being a Class 2B as
22 opposed to a higher classification is not because there's no
23 consistent science, what the health expert said was that
24 the, the quantity of studies that were examined by I-Arch
25 were not enough to qualify radiofrequency for having a

1 higher rating. And I think that's very important and she
2 also said that radiofrequency was going to be up for
3 reevaluation in a couple of years for I-Arch, and she also
4 stated that she thought the impact was minimal because of
5 distance and the low transmission, the low transmission time
6 and the power emitted. But she also criticized the science
7 that we don't have accessible to us at this point and she
8 even said it was pathetic, that she herself was a scientist
9 and calling for more science. And she pointed out that we
10 were over inundating ourselves with radiofrequency every day
11 and it's coming from our homes and our cars and our
12 appliances and our laptops and our computers and that she, I
13 mean I'm just appalled that her stuff is being taken out of
14 context.

15 MR. BROWN: Natalie, your three minutes is up. Do
16 you want to summarize real quick, please?

17 MS. ROSCHER: Okay. Yeah, I, I would just, I, I
18 really feel since WSSC is about environment, you guys
19 consider yourselves advocates for public health, please do
20 not take the stuff that your quote unquote health expert
21 said out of context and I know you guys are not health
22 experts, but we, we need to stop this misinformation
23 campaign --

24 MR. BROWN: All right. Thank you.

25 MS. ROSCHER: -- regarding (indiscernible) cancer.

1 Thank you so much.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Natalie. Have a good
3 night. All right. Well, thanks everyone for participating.
4 Additional comments for consideration may be submitted in
5 writing to WSSC Water's Communication and Community
6 Relations Office at 14501 Sweitzer Lane, that's Laurel,
7 Maryland 20707, or feel free to e-mail us at
8 amiproject@wsscwater.com by noon on October 12, 2020.

9 Again, I want to thank everyone for participating
10 in tonight's hearing. For those that did participate, we
11 have your comments on record. Please, you don't need to
12 comment tomorrow, allow that time for additional voices to
13 be heard on this matter. But thanks again for taking the
14 time to participate, and the public hearing is now
15 adjourned.

16 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25


Digitally signed by Diane Wilson

ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in the matter of:

AMI PUBLIC HEARING

By:



Diane Wilson, Transcriber