

Zachary C. Casper

Ms Michelle Groves
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 520
Melbourne, VIC 3001

**RE: Review of the “Advanced Metering Infrastructure”
program of smart meters**

Public submissions invited on AER draft, deadline 9 September 2011

Dear Ms Groves,

After reading this, I see the authors of this AER draft have missed the *most important issues and problems* associated with the smart meters, whether by ignorance or by intent. The Australian Energy Regulator only acknowledges the issue of cost recovery – “money” – not a mention of the most important issues. This only deals with pricing, times of use, savings to the public (which don’t actually exist), and forcing people to use less electricity while being charged far more for it.

If the Liberal Government honestly wanted the true opinion of the Victorian public, then a letter of notification of this public submission *should have been* posted to every household and business due to receive a smart meter. That did not happen, and this media release was not widely distributed, therefore the vast majority of the Victorian public do not know of its existence. I only found out about it by a friend who came across it by chance in a newspaper article. Therefore, this response will be *by no means a true indication* of the amount of anger that exists amongst the Victorian public over this disastrous smart meter program. If the Victoria Government wanted to introduce such a flawed system, then a citizen’s / residents referendum *should have been undertaken* well before its implementation. A thorough and comprehensive look into its many problems should have been carried out. This was obviously not done, and now look at the disastrous mess this government is in, including the “responsible authorities” leave themselves wide open to litigation.

The entire smart meter roll out program *IS the problem*, and it needs to be *completely abandoned*. The Energy Regulator document *misses that point* and instead asks the public to comment on *hypothetical issues* of possibilities when the smart meter is operating. Another area of great confusion (which is certainly no accident) concerns when the smart meter is first installed and operates similar to the old analogue meter. It is at a later date when the upgrade of microwave radiation in the air is increased from

3G towers to 4G - often by the means of extra radiation emitting antennas on street power poles - that the pulsed high frequency microwave radiation is then turned on from the power company to the smart meters, to operate through homes and properties. That is when people are becoming very sick and sometimes forced to flee their homes.

As shown on Channel 9's "A Current Affairs" program on Tuesday, 26 May 2011 and Channel 7's "Today Tonight" programs, two examples of this in Melbourne suburbs are Glenyce and Ian Murray of McLeod, and Peggy and Drew Beltsiis of Seaford. Even the plants formerly growing near their smart meters have died. The microwave readings from the smart meters were so high that the spectrum analyzer meter used by David Mould, (the Victorian distributor for YShield Products from Germany) to measure the microwave radiation levels *had to be turned off* or the machine could have been damaged!! There are many others suffering from this microwave radiation who do not wish to be interviewed on TV programs.

In the United States, "*Smart meter refugees*" is the name given to people who have had to flee their homes due to smart meters pulsing microwave radiation through their homes and properties at frequent intervals

The World Health Organisation of the United Nations has finally admitted microwave mobile radiation may cause adverse health effects in humans. On 31 May 2011 the International Agency for Research on Cancer, classified radiofrequency radiation as '*possible carcinogenic to humans*'. This followed a week-long meeting in Lyon, France of radiation experts from 14 countries, who heard about the increased risk of glioma brain tumors that have been associated with mobile phone use. Director of the IARC (a working group committee of the WHO) Christopher Wild said 'given the potential consequences for public health of this classification and findings, it is important that additional research be conducted into the long term, heavy use of mobile phones'. Dr Wild said 'it is important to take pragmatic measures to reduce exposure such as hands-free devices or texting'. This classification made by the IARC of the WHO is the same as was previously applied to magnetic fields from electrical sources of more than 4 milliGauss (mG) referred to as electromagnetic radiation.

The smart meter grid requires the installation of 4G (fourth generation) wireless networks. There will be up to 2 million extra devices on the Energy Australia Network alone, which are in addition to the multiple telecommunications networks, paging services, Wi-Fi networks and other broadcast services already in existence. This microwave radiation has been associated with brain tumors, genetic damage, cancers, and changes to the body consistent with ill health at levels of radiation far below international standards. Many scientific studies have linked these levels of microwave radiation with initially getting depression, irritability, sleep problems, memory and concentration problems, and headaches before more serious side effects eventually occur.

Utility companies claim that emissions comply with international standards, but international standards do not protect against the sort of radiation emitted and pulsed out by this equipment. They do not protect against cumulative, non heating, long-term effects, nor do they make allowance for individual susceptibility. If you somehow consider the possibility that people will not notice this, and will be able to carry on their day to day lives normally without adverse health effects, then you are sadly mistaken, very naive, and have a lot to learn on this subject in what is becoming a very short period of time for you.

The evidence for adverse health effects from RF and microwave radiation is currently very strong and growing stronger with each new study, said Dr. David Carpenter from the University at Albany in 2008. Prime Minister Julia Gillard stated on national television news on Monday, 23 May 2011: *We must take notice and act on what the scientific world and the scientists are saying – they are the experts in their field.* She was referring to the climate change report just handed down; however, the extensive scientific research on pulsed microwave radiation is just as compelling, if not more so.

A few examples from the hundreds of peer reviewed scientific studies from around the world showing adverse health effects from telecommunications microwave radiation, which is similar to wireless smart meter radiation:

- (1) **The Seletun Statement.** A meeting held at Seletun in Norway from 17 - 21 November 2009. Scientists urge authorities to take action now based on current scientific evidence for 'potential global health risks'
- (2) **The Porto Alegre Resolution.** Held in Brazil in May 2009. Followed the 'International Workshop on Non-Ionising Radiation, Health and Environment.
- (3) **The Bio-Initiative Report** of August 2007. Was instrumental in the Appeals Court case held in Versailles, France. The verdict was handed down on 4 February 2009 against a telecommunications company, forcing them to have their microwave radiation communications tower dismantled due to public health problems.
- (4) **Abdel-Rassoul Report, Egypt** (2006)
- (5) **Benevento Resolution , Italy** (2006) www.icems.eu/resolution.htm
- (6) **Helsinki Appeal, Finland** (2005)

And there are more studies that could be listed, which for reasons of space, I have not.

There are also serious concerns about privacy regarding smart meters. Thieves could obtain this information through hacking the system, or by bribery. Other remote devices in our homes will be able to be controlled (similar to programming your TV channels) to allow access into remote garage doors, wireless computers, digital TV sets, mobile phones and other appliances. There are already plans to control gas and water usage in the same way. Dr Roger Clarke, Chairman of the Australian Privacy Foundation, said that he was "seriously concerned" about the privacy implications of this technology. "There is little doubt that most designs are highly privacy invasive" he said. Not only will the information collected by the utilities companies provide information about the absence of people from their property, but it will provide patterns of usage that will allow observers to infer much about what is actually going on inside someone's home.

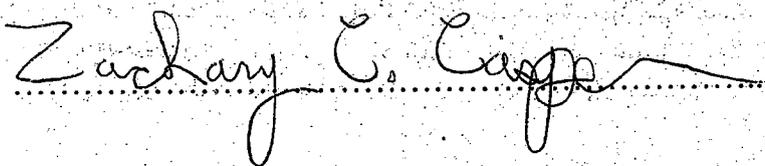
Dr. Clarke expressed astonishment that electrical utilities have not consulted the Privacy Foundation about the installation of this technology, and said that they don't seem to have a basic understanding of the privacy law or privacy considerations of the public. He said this is a serious oversight.

The Victoria Minister of Energy, Hon. Michael O'Brien, stated on Channel 9's "A Current Affairs" program on 31 May 2011 that *"we have spoken to the distribution businesses, we have urged them to ensure that nobody is forced to accept a smart meter at this point in time"*. However, in reality this is still not happening. The Energy Minister also stated in a signed letter to the public that *"since 1 January 2010 all Victorian households (and most businesses) are paying for smart meters through their electricity bills whether or not they have a smart meter installed"*.

In your reply to this submission, I would like to know how much money a smart meter will cost each household, and how much we are paying for the smart meter in each quarterly (three months) bill. Since we are being charged for this smart meter, we own it. It is not a lease, as we have not entered into any agreement or contract with the power companies on this matter. We did not ask or agree to be charged for this, it will be forced on us, and money taken from us under false pretences without our consent.

In Australia, where a democracy is supposed to be law and rule, the people have *the right of choice to say no* and the freedom to decide their own fate. The mandatory installation of smart meters *destroys the values held dear to a democracy* and challenges people's democratic rights. The Government and elected representatives are – or *should be* – public servants. They are encumbered with *duty of care* obligations to act in our best interests, including the health interests of "we the people". Laws that are against the interests of our health are *ultra vires*, or outside the power of the government to enact. With the recent French legal precedent now set, it enables government ministers and the "responsible authorities", to be held accountable and liable, under their oath of office. There are now potentially hundreds of Victorians ready to take legal class action, should this state-wide smart meter installation continue. You may think there has been too much money spent on it to date to scrap it, but that will be nothing compared to the billions of dollars you will be spending if you allow this smart meter roll out to continue to fruition. If by any chance you still underestimate the amount of resolve in the community to refuse these smart meters, then you are sadly mistaken and will inevitably pay the consequences of your flippant disregard.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary C. Cappa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.