

# Massachusetts 'Smart' Opportunities

## HaltMAsmartmeters.org

### What can you do besides spreading the word?



#### Action Options (see below for detail):

- (1) **URGENT: Attend committee hearing OR send an email. Wed., Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 4, Worcester City Hall**
- (2) Bill H. 2926 comments: Is yours in the paper file? New comments are still being accepted. Also DPU 13-83.
- (3) MA reps and senators – contact to: (1) support H. 2926, (2) object to DPU 13-83 & (3) request 'smart' action
- (4) Federal Bill H.R.2685 - Smart Grid Advancement Act of 2013: contact your federal representative to oppose
- (5) AG Coakley is receiving little 'smart' consumer backlash: send her AMR, 'smart,' health, cost, etc. info
- (6) Email HaltMAsmartMeters@gmail.com with "ADD ME TO MAILING LIST" in 'subject.' Ask others to do so.
- (7) *Take Back Your Power.* commit to purchase a DVD from HMSM and facilitate Massachusetts screenings
- (8) Support Sheffield, MA in their effort to legislate a moratorium on 'smart' meter installation

*Also, Germany announced in August 2013 that they will not be deploying 'smart' meters.*

- (1)
    - ✓ **URGENT: AUG 21ST 4:00 @ CITY HALL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE HEARING – Worcester is the site of National Grid's \$2,973 per meter, 3 new microwave network 'smart' pilot, i.e. Ground Zero for MA 'smart' metering. If we derail the Worcester pilot 'smart' meters will be derailed in MA.**
      - The Public Service & Transportation Committee will hear public testimony "Smart Grid Update"
        - Worcester City Hall, 3rd Floor, 455 Main Street
      - Unique opportunity for Worcester officials to hear the whole truth in response to misinformation National Grid submitted to Worcester officials in July, 2013 regarding requested health, safety and security data. <http://www.env.state.ma.us/dpu/docs/electric/13-83/13-83-Filing-3732.pdf>
    - **Attend the hearing to either speak or sit in solidarity in the gallery.** Bring a friend or two.
      - Worcester residents are especially important: please contact everybody you know in Worcester.
    - **If you cannot attend, please send an email to:**
      - **PalmieriP@worcesterma.gov** and cc: HaltMAsmartMeters@gmail.com (who will submit a paper copy... emails do not always make it into 'the file')
      - For example: "I am concerned about (choose one or many: health, privacy, security, safety, cost, Worcester being treated as second class citizens, etc.) preceded by
        - ✓ "Please place a moratorium on 'smart' meters because" or
        - ✓ "Please investigate 'smart' meters fully, beyond utility and other propaganda because"
      - Or (preferable)... compose your own. Remember, shorter has a better chance of being read.
  - ✓ **WORCESTER ZONING BOARD VARIANCE** hearing regarding National Grid's proposed 90-foot tower on Tory Fort Lane, 70 feet from the Sullivans' home in a residential neighborhood. Monday Sept. 7, 5:30 pm at City Hall
    - This item has been postponed several times.
      - Confirm agenda with the zoning board at 508-799-1198 or <http://haltmasmartmeters.org/worcester/>
  - ✓ **PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING** investigative journalist Dean Starkman recently covered the 'smart' meter issue
    - <http://www.golocalworcester.com/news/worcester-is-front-line-in-war-over-utilities-smart-meters/>
    - <http://www.golocalprov.com/news/rhode-island-braces-for-fight-over-utilities-smart-meters/>
- (2)
    - ✓ **Bill MA H2926\***
      - **Some written testimony is missing from the file. If you submitted written testimony please** check the list transcribed directly from file: [http://haltmasmartmeters.org/home/bill\\_h2926/](http://haltmasmartmeters.org/home/bill_h2926/). Even if you testified orally your paper testimony may be missing.
      - Submit missing testimony to: john.keenan@mahouse.gov & John.Keenan@masenate.gov & christopher.eicher@mahouse.gov with notation that this is a resubmission
      - Comments are still being accepted. If you did not submit yet, email the Chairs of the Telecommunications Committee: john.keenan@mahouse.gov & john.Keenan@masenate.gov
        - Please enlist others to submit, as well
      - Video of testimony: Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/68736324> & Part 2: <https://vimeo.com/68822995>
      - Members of the Joint Committee for Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy need to be contacted from their own constituents concerning Bill H. 2926. Other Massachusetts residents should, as well.
        - For list of towns that they represent see [http://haltmasmartmeters.org/act\\_now/rep\\_senators\\_others/](http://haltmasmartmeters.org/act_now/rep_senators_others/)

\* 'An Act relative to utilities, smart meters, and ratepayers' rights,' sponsored by Tom Conroy and Jamie Eldridge, is before the Joint Committee for Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy.

✓ **National Grid's DPU Docket 13-83** is an attempted end-run around Bill 2926, proposing 3 opt-out tariffs each for gas and electric AMR meter customers in Massachusetts. Comments are no longer being accepted by the DPU. Read about the docket and testimony by opening 13-83 here, a new page will open.  
[http://www.env.state.ma.us/DPU\\_FileRoom/frmNewDocketsSP.aspx](http://www.env.state.ma.us/DPU_FileRoom/frmNewDocketsSP.aspx)

(3)  
✓ **State Legislators and local officials need to hear from their constituents.**

- Email (regularly), write, and visit your local reps and ask them to
  - (1) Commit to support or better yet co-sponsor H. 2926
  - (2) Voice objection to National Grid's attempt at an end-run around H. 2926 via DPU 13-83
  - (3) Go on record against 'smart' meters and/or RF-emitting utility meters and their infrastructure
- See HMSM contact resource: [http://haltmasmartmeters.org/act\\_now/rep\\_senators\\_others/](http://haltmasmartmeters.org/act_now/rep_senators_others/)
- Please email HMSM and update us RE: your legislators' stances on 'smart' metering and RF meters.

(4)  
✓ **Federal H.R.2685 - Smart Grid Advancement Act of 2013** mandates 'smart' meters. Liz Barris of CA, mandatoryusmartgridblock@gmail.com, has taken the lead to coordinate a national effort to oppose the bill. Please contact federal senators and reps and tell them to oppose Bill HR2985. It is crucial that your rep and Senators Warren and Markey hear from Massachusetts voters about the 'smart' meter issue.

- Summary: <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/2685>
- Find my federal representative: [http://clerk.house.gov/member\\_info/index.aspx](http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/index.aspx)

(5)  
✓ **Attorney General Martha Coakley needs to hear from Massachusetts residents** concerning health issues and problems with utilities related to this issue. The AG office consistently tells HMSM that they are not hearing from residents i.e. as far as they are concerned, RF and 'smart' meters are non-issues.

- Email the Attorney General at [ago@state.ma.us](mailto:ago@state.ma.us) and follow up with a phone call at (617) 727-2200
- Coakley vehemently opposed the pilot program in Worcester but was rebuffed. Her great 7-page letter is well worth reading <http://magrid.raabassociates.org/events.asp?type=eid&event=100>.
- Coakley intervened on behalf of ratepayers for National Grid's attempt to penalize (\$\$\$) ratepayers for opting out of AMR meters (DPU 13-83). (See above.)

(6)  
✓ **HaltMA smartMeters is working on an efficient method to connect** with the ever-growing list of folks interested in receiving news and action items. If you did not receive this directly from [HaltMA smartMeters@gmail.com](mailto:HaltMA smartMeters@gmail.com) please forward to HMSM and with "Add me to mailing list" in the subject line.

(7)  
✓ **Take Back Your Power**, the long awaited film, by Josh del Sol. The Canadian-produced film will be released in early September. HaltMA smartMeters has a number of irons in the fire for screenings around the state.

- Commit to attending or volunteering at (when the date/time/venue is set) a Worcester area screening.
- Help organize a screening in your area: library, college or your living room, etc.
  - o Commit to attending a screening in your area
- Commit to donating around twenty dollars for a "Take Back Your Power" DVD (HMSM may buy in bulk).
- See [http://haltmasmartmeters.org/home/take\\_back\\_your\\_power\\_film/](http://haltmasmartmeters.org/home/take_back_your_power_film/) for details and trailers, etc.

(8)  
✓ **A town-wide Sheffield MA 'smart' meter moratorium is burgeoning**

- See how you can support their efforts at <http://nomasssmartmeters.wordpress.com/>

✓ **International News: Germany** is not moving forward with 'smart' meters. German's vigilance towards state abuse of power, and Europe's focus on privacy concerns weigh equally with the cost issue, but are under-reported. **The UK** has also slowed down its deployment plans. These are crucial shifts in the worldwide arena.

- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-01/germany-rejects-eu-smart-meter-recommendations-on-cost-concerns.html>
- <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/smart-meters-sluggish-policy-germany-rejects-fast-smart-meter-rollout>
- [http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies\\_Metering/Nein-German-ministry-rejects-smart-meters-5958.html](http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_Metering/Nein-German-ministry-rejects-smart-meters-5958.html)

