

January 16, 2018

Secretary Kathleen Burgess  
Public Service Commission  
3 Empire Plaza , Albany N.Y.  
12223

Regarding: Case 17-M-0178

Dear Secretary Burgess:

I am writing to support the Deborah Kopalds petition for a rehearing. The DPS needed to have a public hearing before rolling out smart meters further. They did not report the effects of the pilots in Rockland and have not demonstrated that they are safe and save money for consumers or that the charges created won't be very high from opt- outs and/or over-billing. It was an abuse of discretion for the DPS to approve these meters to be rolled out. Furthermore NSTAR Electric and Western Massachusetts Electric Company (collectively, Northeast Utilities), a major utility bloc in New England, had filed a submittal with the Massachusetts Department of Utilities which has stated that there is "no rational basis for smart meters"([http://haltmasmartmeters.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/NSTAR\\_R12-76-Comments-7986-POSTED01172014\\_HIGHLIGHTED.pdf](http://haltmasmartmeters.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/NSTAR_R12-76-Comments-7986-POSTED01172014_HIGHLIGHTED.pdf)) and attached also as exhibit A , which contradicts the claims of utilities who promote purported benefits of smart meters.

Also there has been two recent peer-reviewed scientific studies that have demonstrated physical and biological harm from smart meters ( <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25478801>) & ( <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0891061815000599>), the first one by a medical professional

and the second one done by an eminent researcher who has won many awards for medical research. There are absolutely no peer-reviewed scientific studies that prove no physical and no biological harm to humans from smart meters that have been done to date, although non-medical and not peer-reviewed reports by the wireless Industry claim they are safe. These said industry reports would not meet the federal rules of evidence in a court of law. Furthermore the claim to safety by these smart meter manufacturers is the FCC's "suggested guidelines" . The FCC has no health professionals on their staff and the EPA has stated that the FCC guidelines "do not protect humans from all mechanisms of harm" ([http://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/USEPA\\_Letter.pdf](http://electromagnetichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/USEPA_Letter.pdf)).

Additionally the U.S. Department of Interior has stated the FCC guidelines are not to be trusted because they are "based on the thermal heating principle nearly thirty years out of date and inapplicable today" (<https://www.scribd.com/document/214492116/US-Department-of-the-Interior-to-FCC-Cell-Phone-Tower-Radiation-Harmful-to-Wildlife>). Finally the FCC is not to be trusted as a final word on the safety of smart meters as Harvard Law School Ethics Department has recently published a report that has declared the FCC is a "captured agency" of the wireless industry ([http://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency\\_alster.pdf](http://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency_alster.pdf)).

Please consider the abundant information here and vacate your recent ruling in case 17-M-0178 and rule in favor of Deborah Kopalds petition for a rehearing as certainly this case warrants a public hearing, before considering approving this expanded roll-out. I would like to add that my specific concern is if you begin a

widespread roll-out smart meters in Rockland, Sullivan and Orange counties, it will set a precedent that will affect future decisions on smart meter rollouts in Ulster County and the neighboring counties where I and many other concerned individuals live as demonstrated by the 1,000 + signature petition submitted in case 14-M-0196 . Stop Smart Meters Woodstock NY agrees with Deborah Kopald's demand's that you vacate your recent order and hold a public hearing.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Steve Romine

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