

Threatt, Linnetta

**From:** smtprelay  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2018 1:06 PM  
**To:** Statements  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Jackie Dobrinska

OFFICIAL COPY

## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Jackie Dobrinska

### Email

jldobrinska@gmail.com

### Docket

E-2, Sub 834

### Message

Dear NC Utility Commissioners: Thank you for your work in negotiating for the past few years with Duke Energy Carolinas to obtain a medical opt-out for "smart" meters. It is reassuring that the new filing by Duke Energy Progress also includes the opt-out. Unfortunately, there are a number of significant problems with this filing, as well as the DEC's, that would adversely affect the health and safety of North Carolinians, including the following: 1. At the end of the new filing, DEP states, the "Company reserves the right to suspend and/or terminate any or all of these meter-related programs at any time if providing the requested program is not feasible." In other words, DEP can opt-out of this opt-out program any time, leaving all North Carolinians exposed 24/7 to pulsed radio-frequency radiation from AMI meter in our homes without our consent. This would cause thousands of DEP customers to be forced to either go off the grid if possible, or leave our homes, businesses, and seek new housing in other states with smart-meter out-opt programs. No utility company should have such power. 2. Radio-frequency radiation (RFR) increases our risk of cancer. "Clear evidence of carcinogenic activity" was the verdict from an 11-member expert panel in March 2018 about the NC-based National Toxicology Program's (NTP's) gold-standard animal study of cell phone radiation - the same wireless radiation emitted by smart meters. A "clear evidence" classification is the strongest ranking used by the NTP and its umbrella organization, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). <https://ehtrust.org/national-toxicology-program-peer-review-report-from-cell-phone-radiofrequency-radiation-study-peer-review-march-26-28-2018/> In 2011, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified RFR as a possible carcinogen, following careful evaluation of more than 100 studies. Given NTP's findings, along with other recent studies, IARC is expected to reclassify RFR in 2019 as "carcinogenic" or "probably carcinogenic" to humans. Please see the following peer-reviewed article by Dr. Anthony Miller, et al, which concludes, "When considered with recent animal experimental evidence, the recent epidemiological studies strengthen and support the conclusion that RFR should be categorized as carcinogenic to humans (IARC Group 1)." AB Miller, LL Morgan, I Udasin, DL Davis, Cancer epidemiology update, following the 2011 IARC evaluation of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (Monograph 102), Environmental Research, Volume 167, November 2018,

Oct 22 2018

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935118303475> 3. Long-term exposure to “smart” meters has been associated with the following symptoms: sleep disturbances, anxiety, irritability, headaches, ringing in the ears, concentration difficulties, fatigue, dizziness, vision problems, heart palpitations, nerve and joint pain, nausea, and nose bleeds. These symptoms are especially pronounced when the meters are installed outside of bedrooms. See this study by Ronald Powell, Ph.D., Harvard-educated physicist, retired from the National Science Institute, Executive Office of the President, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology: Ranking electricity meters for risk to health, privacy, and cyber security. <https://www.scribd.com/document/289782183/Ranking-Electricity-Meters-for-Risk-to-Health-Privacy-and-Cyber-Security> 4. More than 10,000 peer-reviewed, published studies show many other health effects of long-term exposure to RFR, including increased oxidative stress, altered intra-cellular signaling, damage to cell membrane, free radical production, and leakage of the blood-brain barrier, leading to a host of health problems, including: impaired immune function, DNA damage, impaired melatonin production, cardiac irregularities, infertility, prenatal abnormalities, ADD, autism, neurodegenerative diseases, depression, and electrosensitivity, which causes a cascade of symptoms of the nervous system that can impair sleep, cognition, mood, and the freedom to live and work where one desires. The studies that show these many health effects can be found at the following reliable websites: · Physicians for Safe Technology: <https://mdsafetech.org/science/> · Environmental Health Trust’s science section: <https://ehtrust.org/science/research-on-wireless-health-effects/> · BioInitiative.org: See “Summary to the public” and sections of interest. · The EMF Portal from Aachen University in Germany: <https://www.emf-portal.org/en> 5. Analogue meters do not carry these health risks. Fifteen U.S. states currently have opt-out programs with analogue options. I would happily pay the cost of an analogue meter and an electrician’s service call to install one (estimated at \$150). And I would gladly buy the same for my neighbors on a fixed income. 6. The requirement for a notarized MD letter has been a significant logistical challenge for at least 50 NC residents who have contacted volunteers of SafeTechKidsNC.org. We have found that the majority of NC medical doctors do not have notaries in their office. Indeed, NC is the only state requiring an MD’s letter. 7. The “radio-off” promise for the opt-out meter is uncertain at best in its health effects, particularly following a report this week by one Charlotte resident who gave up his current meter for the “radio-off” opt-out meter and is suffering intolerable effects. The majority of those opting out do not have the expensive equipment to measure their utility meter for elevated levels of RFR, magnetic fields, and “dirty electricity” – common with AMI meters. In summary, please consider the following: · declining DEP’s request to suspend its opt-out program in the future · cutting the notary requirement for the MD letter · and adding an analogue option – even at the customer’s expense North Carolina’s children deserve a healthy future. They rely on us to make good decisions for their health that are not based on profit, but on independent science conducted without conflicts of interest. Please consider public health’s Precautionary Principle in your decision making: When there is not scientific consensus, but considerable evidence of harm, it is better to be safe than sorry. Thank you, Jackie Dobrinska

---

E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized state official.