

## Lévesque, Claudette

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**De:** Greffe  
**Envoyé:** 25 mai 2012 16:11  
**À:** Lévesque, Claudette  
**Objet:** TR: Request Number R-3788-2012 -- Hydro-Québec's Application Regarding the Provision of Electric Meters That Do Not Emit Radiofrequency Radiation

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**De :** Secrétariat  
**Envoyé :** 25 mai 2012 16:10  
**À :** 'Sharon Déoux'  
**Cc :** Secrétariat; Greffe  
**Objet :** RE: Request Number R-3788-2012 -- Hydro-Québec's Application Regarding the Provision of Electric Meters That Do Not Emit Radiofrequency Radiation

Ms. Déoux,

The Régie de l'énergie acknowledges receipt of your email dated May 25, 2012 and hereby confirms that it will be filed as written observations in our file no R-3788-2012, i.e. Hydro-Québec's request to set a tariff as well as specific terms and conditions for electricity distribution for consumers opting for the installation of meters without frequency-emissions: <http://internet.regie-energie.qc.ca/DEPOT/WebPages/ProjectPhaseDetail.aspx?ProjectID=129&phase=1&Provenance=D>.

Should you wish to stay informed regarding this matter, you may do so, online, by accessing the following page of the Régie's website: <http://internet.regie-energie.qc.ca/Depot/WebPages/ProjectPhaseDetail.aspx?ProjectID=129&phase=1&Provenance=A>

You may also listen to a direct audio recording of the public hearing, scheduled to take place from June 13 to June 22, 2012, through our main web page at: <http://www.regie-energie.qc.ca/> by clicking on the "diffusion en direct" icon.

Best regards,

Véronique Dubois  
Secrétaire de la Régie  
Régie de l'énergie  
(514) 873-3303  
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**De :** Sharon Déoux [<mailto:sdeoux@primus.ca>]  
**Envoyé :** 24 mai 2012 15:27  
**À :** Secrétariat

**Cc :** [chabot.danielle.2@hydro.qc.ca](mailto:chabot.danielle.2@hydro.qc.ca); [ministre@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:ministre@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca); [ministre@msss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:ministre@msss.gouv.qc.ca); [ministre.industrie@ic.gc.ca](mailto:ministre.industrie@ic.gc.ca); [leona.aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca](mailto:leona.aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca); [nycole.turmel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:nycole.turmel@parl.gc.ca)

**Objet :** Request Number R-3788-2012 -- Hydro-Québec's Application Regarding the Provision of Electric Meters That Do Not Emit Radiofrequency Radiation

**Sharon Déoux  
81 Madaire Street  
Gatineau, Québec  
J9H 1R1**

May 24, 2012

Mr. Jean-Paul Théorêt  
Chairman  
Régie de l'énergie du Québec  
800 Place Victoria  
Montréal, Québec  
H3C 1E8

**Re: Hydro-Québec's Application Regarding the Provision of  
Electric Meters That Do Not Emit Radiofrequency Radiation  
Request Number R-3788-2012**

Dear Mr. Théorêt:

I wish to comment on Hydro-Québec's proposal, should the company receive permission from the Régie to install a wireless electric grid in Québec, to allow its customers to choose an electric meter that will not emit radiofrequency radiation. I have several criticisms to make.

Mounting evidence indicates that the radiofrequency radiation emitted by wireless electric meters may not be the only cause of the health problems that people experience after these meters are installed on their homes. The switching-mode power supplies with which wireless electric meters are equipped appear to be a contributing factor. The switching-mode power supply acts as a transformer of sorts which "steps down" the 240-volt alternating current that comes from the power line to the 2 to 10 volts of direct current that power the meter.

These switching-mode power supplies emit millisecond-long bursts of radiation ranging from 4,000 hz to 60,000 hz that are often referred to as high-frequency transients, or dirty electricity. Measurements taken of the emissions of the Landis Gyr meters that Hydro-Québec wishes to install indicate that they emit spikes in the order of 50,000-hz every thirty seconds or so. These spikes are transmitted from the wireless meters to household electric wiring, creating interference with electric and electronic equipment in the home. Research indicates that constant exposure to high-frequency transients has biological effects that may be the main reason why people become electrosensitive when exposed, on a continual basis, to wireless electric meters.

Hydro-Québec's application is silent with regard to the switching-mode power supply and, consequently, there is no assurance that its non-radiofrequency-emitting electric meters will not have a switching-mode power supply.

With regard to the fact that Hydro-Québec proposes to charge a hefty fee for the privilege of protecting oneself from bombardment by harmful radiofrequency radiation and high-frequency transients inside one's home, it is crystal clear that the company is doing everything it can to discourage its customers from refusing a wireless

meter. Hydro-Québec may have provided a raft of rationalizations and justifications in its application, but they are transparent in the extreme, and I will not dignify them with any kind of response.

The proposal to charge a one-time fee of \$98.00, and \$17.00 monthly thereafter, speaks for itself in terms of the rapacity and arrogance of Hydro-Québec in this matter. As I mentioned to you in my letter dated September 27, 2011, I am electrosensitive, and I have four meters on the side of my townhouse, which is only seventeen feet wide. Because of my poor state of health, I am also unemployed.

Under the terms of this proposal, it will be necessary for me to ask the three other co-owners in my building to refuse wireless electric meters. I will also have to assume the cost of their refusals since two of my neighbours are on very restricted incomes and the other is unconcerned about whether Landis Gyr meters may be detrimental to my health. According to my calculations, it will cost \$392.00 for the initial refusal fee and \$816.00 a year in monthly fees, which will come to \$1,208.00 for the first year. The total cost of heating and cooling my home for the past year was about \$1,500.00. Do the members of the Régie de l'énergie really believe that it is fair or acceptable to put me in this position?

In addition to the foregoing problems, Hydro-Québec's proposal is inadequate in that it does not include a way for those who will have a repeater or a collector close to their homes to refuse these devices. I foresee that a repeater or a collector will be erected on the post in my backyard.

I would also like to comment on the veracity of the information that Hydro-Québec has provided to the Régie and that it has been disseminating to the public. Hydro-Québec's has repeatedly asserted that the emissions of its wireless meters are well within the guidelines set by the federal government. However, the meters are but one component of a system that includes repeaters, collectors, and the wireless transmission of data from the collectors to Hydro-Québec's computers. The emissions of the data transmission component are not included in the estimate that has been provided to the Régie, and there is reason to believe that the emissions of the entire system *will* surpass Canada's laughably lax electromagnetic radiation limits.

Furthermore, when Hydro-Québec asserts that its wireless electric meters will meet all governing regulatory requirements, it is ignoring situations in which a large number of meters are grouped together in one building or in which multiple meters are located very close to living quarters. For instance, in my case, the distance from the four meters on my wall to where I sit at my dining table is six feet (~ 2.5 meters).

Hydro-Québec is also ignoring situations in which it is not possible to maintain the distance of one meter that wireless electric meter manufacturers says is essential to safety. In order to go from the front of my unit to the back, it is necessary to walk along the side of the building past the four meters. The passageway is so narrow that the distance between my head and the four electric meters is about one foot. My other neighbours have right of way to reach their backyards and are forced to walk past the meters, as well. Measurements of the emissions of meters are always taken from a distance of one meter, which means that my potential exposure and that of my neighbours, should four wireless meters be installed, is unknown. What am I to do? Walk all the way around the building every time I want to go into my backyard, a distance of some 175 feet?

In its propaganda (<http://www.hydroquebec.com/residentiel/nouveau-compteur/index.html>), Hydro-Québec compares the emissions of one wireless meter to those of a microwave oven, a cell phone, and a computer equipped with Wi-Fi. This presentation misrepresents the facts in several ways. As mentioned above, many people are subjected to the emissions of more than one meter; a comparison using only one meter is inapplicable to exposure to multiple meters. Hydro-Québec's self-serving comparison also ignores the emissions of the repeaters, the collectors, and the wireless transmission component of the system, which are considerable. In addition, microwave ovens, cell phones, and computers equipped with Wi-Fi do not have switching-mode power supplies that emit microsecond bursts of high-frequency radiation.

Most misleading of all is the method that has been used to calculate the power density of Hydro-Québec's wireless electric meters. The microsecond-long bursts of radiation from the switching-mode power supply are averaged over a period as long as sixty seconds, which hides the fact that periodic and frequent, extraordinarily high emissions are taking place. It is the difference between being hit on the head with a hammer at intervals and being repeatedly tapped on the cheek by a feather. The tapping might be irritating, but the hammer would quickly cause serious damage.

Not only is the information that has been provided to the Régie distorted and inaccurate, it is also woefully incomplete. You have been given the costs associated with purchasing and installing the wireless meters, the repeaters, and the collectors, but not the cost of the wireless services that will be provided by Rogers. The cost of these services represents a major part of the wireless electric grid that Hydro-Québec is proposing. It is impossible to make a sound decision under such circumstances, and it would be a violation of the Régie's mandate if it attempted to do so.

I thank you for your consideration of my comments, and I trust that the members of the Régie de l'énergie du Québec will have the courage and foresight to come to a fair and equitable decision.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Déoux (Ms.)

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this letter in French.

Don't forget to shut off your cell phone, wireless telephone, and other wireless devices before going to bed at night. And, unplug your Wi-Fi router when it's not in use. Your health and that of those you love may depend upon it.

c.c. Mr. Thierry Vandal, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro-Québec  
Isabelle Courville, Président, Hydro-Québec - Distribution  
Through Danielle Chabot - Media Relations ([chabot.danielle.2@hydro.qc.ca](mailto:chabot.danielle.2@hydro.qc.ca))

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