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November 29, 2016

Maître Véronique Dubois  
Secretary  
Régie de l'énergie  
800 Victoria Square  
Suite 2.55  
Montréal, Québec  
H4Z 1A2

Dear Maître Dubois:

**Subject: Your File R-3964-2016 – Observations**

Would you kindly add the comments that I have made below to the Régie de l'énergie's file R-3964-2016 under the rubric of "Observations" as I would like to comment on Hydro-Québec's request for permission to have the 181,500 analog electric meters that remain in its possession destroyed.

At the moment, I am living at the above-mentioned address, for which I have requested an electric meter that does not emit radio-frequency radiation, referred to by Hydro-Québec as "non-communicant." After a wait of almost four months, I received the news last week that the new meter will be installed on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Since a non-radio-frequency-emitting meter is digital, as opposed to analog (electromechanical), it will still create harmonics and high-frequency bursts of energy, which are often referred to as "dirty electricity," on the wiring in my home.

Therefore, if I were given the choice, I would prefer by far to have an analog electric meter instead. When I read that Hydro-Québec had requested permission to have its remaining 181,500 analog meters destroyed, I was extremely upset at what I perceive would be a senseless waste of valuable equipment.

I have been diagnosed by my physician, whom I have every reason to believe is a competent practitioner, as being electrosensitive. In order to reduce my exposure to radio-frequency radiation, and the dirty electricity produced by all digital devices, I do not own a cell phone, and never have, and I do not have a microwave oven, Wi-Fi router (I connect to the Internet by telephone line), a cordless telephone, I-Pad or I-Pod, laptop computer, or any other wireless device.

Because of my electrosensitivity, I have no television service of any kind and must restrict the time that I listen to the radio to half an hour, or less, a day. In addition, I can no longer use my telephone answering machine, and I had to have the electronic thermostat that controlled my furnace changed to an analog one, in order to be able to sleep at night. I am restricted by my electromagnetic sensitivity in many other ways as well, such as not being able to shop in stores that offer Wi-Fi service and not being able to travel by intercity bus, train, or airplane. The reward for all my effort is that I am calmer and function better, which is not to say that I enjoy good health.

In order to protect myself from what I perceived to be the threat of Hydro-Québec's so-called Smart Meters, in August 2014, I sold the small townhouse that I owned for twenty-one years because the electric meters for all four units in my building were located on the exterior wall of my unit, which was only 17 feet wide. I did so just in time, as the analog meters were replaced in November 2014. I was concerned about the possible effect that four radio-frequency-emitting, digital electric meters, radiating in such close proximity to me 24 hours a day, might have had on my health.

As part of my efforts to reduce my exposure to radio-frequency radiation, and dirty electricity in particular, I have purchased a Broadband Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Meter, with which to measure the harmonics and high-frequency spikes that parasitize the wiring in my walls. I have found the readings to be very high, which I attribute to Hydro-Quebec's electric meter, since there are no other digital devices in my house.

As an example, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 9:50 p.m., the readings taken in the two wall plugs closest to the electric meter was 98.9 times higher than recommended. In contrast, the readings taken at the wall plugs farthest away from the electric meter were only twice as high. I expect that a non-radio-frequency-emitting electric meter will probably create similarly high levels of dirty electricity.

Somewhat disconcertingly, the EMI meter is able to pick up the broadcasts of a radio station in the wall plugs that are close to the electric meter; so good is the reception that the announcers can often be understood word-for-word. It would appear that my radio-frequency-emitting electric meter performs a second function, that of acting as a broadcast antenna!

I would like to add that I believe the radio-frequency-emitting digital electric meter has increased the constant and extremely unpleasant hissing that I have in my ears. I was able to reduce the hissing to a tolerable level by applying sheets of aluminum foil to the interior of the wall on which the meter is installed. I have also learned that I must severely restrict the amount of time that I spend in the part of my house closest to the electric meter. If not, I suffer severe insomnia the following night.

For these and other reasons not enumerated here, I have been hoping fervently that, eventually, Hydro-Québec would allow some of its customers to have an analog electric meter again. I would be willing to pay whatever cost would be entailed, as I have paid in the past for a non-emitting meter, and will again after the installation of the new meter here in December.

My desire to live free of a digital electric meter is so great that I seriously looked into moving to another province, and even another country, despite the fact that I was born in Québec, have lived here all my life, and am very attached to the Outaouais, where I have lived for the past 29 years. Alas, the plague that is the digital electric meter has spread far and wide, even though these meters are prone to explosion and catching fire and have a dismally short life span.

Please feel free to reply to me in French, as I speak it fluently and read it well. Unfortunately, my written French leaves much to be desired.

In closing, I hereby formally authorize you to save this letter, including my name, address, and e-mail address, in your “Système de dépôt électronique” and to publish it, as is, on the Régie de l’énergie’s web site. In particular, I request that you do so by the end of the working day of November 30<sup>th</sup>, rather than observing your usual waiting period of 48 hours.

I reiterate my request that this letter be added to the “Observations” pertaining to your File Number R-3964-2016.

Sincerely,

Sharon Blanchard Déoux