



Naperville Asks Smart Questions
About Smart Meters

Press Conference 12/30/11 (Compliant Only)

Thank you for joining us this afternoon. My name is Tom Glass. I am a Board Member of Naperville Smart Meter Awareness.

This morning, Naperville Smart Meter Awareness filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief in United States Federal Court. We are seeking a stay of the installation of smart meters in Naperville, Illinois, which is set to begin next week, until reasonable safeguards are in place and a common sense alternative option for customers is made available.

The Illinois Attorney General is currently investigating the City of Naperville for what we believe to be clear violations of the Open Meetings Act. The Open Meetings Act is designed to prohibit secret deliberations and action on matters which, due to their potential impact on the public, should be discussed in public forum. Violations of this Act are a serious offense and calls into question all decisions made on the Naperville Smart Grid Initiative.

For more than a year and a half, members of the community and Naperville Smart Meter Awareness have engaged our City Council members, our City Manager and Utility Board regarding concerns about the wireless smart meter deployment. Response to the community by the some members of the Naperville City Council has been a mixture of blatant disregard to the casual dismissal of reasonable requests, including the repeated request to enact a 12-month extension on the project as afforded in the Department of Energy grant..

The City of Naperville's mandated installation of smart meters on the homes, businesses, schools and churches in our community constitutes a violation of our Constitutional rights and has the potential to cause irreparable harm to members of our community. The bottom line - Naperville utility customers have the right to decide what technology they wish to be attached to their personal property.

California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan, Nevada, Washington DC, Maine, Vermont, and British Columbia have instituted moratoriums, launched investigations, or allowed for reasonable alternative options for their customers as result of public pushback. Naperville City Council members, our City Manager and Utility Board have shown utter disregard to lessons learned in other states.

Let me be clear, the decision to file our federal Complaint was made with significant deliberation and forethought. We are proud to call the City of Naperville our home. And we agree with our Mayor who boasts how progressive a community Naperville is - full of educated and intelligent people who choose to raise their families or conduct business here.

However, due to the lack of good faith collaboration by the Naperville City Council members, the specific statements by the City Manager and Council members clarifying that residents would be given no reasonable choice in this matter, and the urging by our own Naperville residents, Naperville Smart Meter Awareness has taken this necessary action

Again, we thank you for being here today. We'll now take questions.