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Hams, Broadcast Engineers, and Cancer-Causing Smart Meters

Full disclosure: I am not an epidemiologist. Other than a gut feel, I have no idea how valid my sample sets are. (Not true: my samples are totally invalid; they are strongly biased toward people, mostly males, who spend or spent most of their adult lives in strong RF fields, and there is no control group. I still think my conclusions are interesting.) This rant is about a news release that came in my email this morning. It's from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI, www.epri.com), and it's about RF field measurements on "smart" power meters for residential electricity customers. The release is about a report that says the fields EPRI measured are way below what the FCC allows. EPRI gets support from the electric utilities, and they work closely with them, but I trust them not to lie about test data. The key point about the meters is where they operate in the RF spectrum. The report (An Investigation of Radiofrequency Fields Associated with the Itron Smart Meter 1021126) states: "Mesh network communication among the many meters is provided by a 900 MHz band transceiver RF LAN (local area network). A HAN feature is supported by a 2.4 GHz transceiver." Checking EPRI's site for more information led me to a short piece about the smart grid in muck-raking Mother Jones, which has never been shy about speaking truth to power (or

Power). You can read the article at: <http://motherjones.com/blue-marble/2011/01/will-smart-meters-give-you-cancer>. The answer to the cancer question is, "No." and the rest of the article is a nice clear explanation of the parts of the smart grid that rate-payers might want to know. What I think prompted the EPRI study is the aura of paranoia that I perceive to surround green energy today. It reminds me of Aunt Clara, who used to put Scotch Tape over unused electrical outlets. As an example, one source that I find on the Web is the SIG site for Prius owners (<http://priuschat.com>) that I monitor. (I have a 2010; I don't hyp

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