

Massachusetts Timeline of Wireless/Electric Advocacy

My time is limited, but please share if you have an event to add.

	<i>Note: I'm seeking a paper, I believe in the 1990s but possibly earlier, from the director of the Massachusetts public health department on the hazards of non-ionizing radiation that I've lost – if you have a list of former heads, please send this to me.</i>
1997	Boston physicians sign a Petition to Avert Harmful, Public Exposure to Pulsed Microwave Radiation that states: <i>We the undersigned physicians and scientists call upon public health officials to intervene to halt the initiation of communication transmissions employing ground level, horizontally transmitted, pulsed microwaves in Boston. This form of transmission is scheduled to begin June, 1997, by the Sprint Corporation for personal communications systems (PCS). Given the biological plausibility of negative health impacts, particularly to the human nervous system, as well as anecdotal evidence of illness and death from such exposures in cities where transmission has already been implemented, and voluminous medical studies indicating human and ecological harm from microwaves, we urge the suspension of that implementation pending full public notification of its potential hazards and the full review and determination of its safety by the scientific community.</i>
2011	Due to a cancer cluster in his district, state Rep. David Paul Linsky introduces a bill to study power lines and electrical wiring health impacts and continues each following legislative session without success.
2013	Worcester is the ‘lab rat’ for a pilot of ‘smart’ utility meters – health & privacy impacts are ignored despite concerns raised by Halt MA Smart Meters and others. The cost is c. 45 million to trial 15,000 meters.
2013	Because of constituent ‘smart’ meter complaints , state Rep. Thomas Conroy (D) and Sen. James Eldridge sponsor a bill to allow free opt outs, which continues to be submitted in following legislative sessions without success.
2013	The cities of Boston and Philadelphia file in FCC docket 13-84 to say that disability and electromagnetic sensitivity remain unaddressed and that some clearly suffer.
2014	The MA Dept. of Utilities holds hearings to roll out ‘smart’ meters – docket 12-76 . In Boston, detailed testimonies are given of harm, with the EMR Policy Institute submitting c. 20 documents alone, and online many more comments filed of personal harm alongside several expert comments. Industry consultant Peter Valberg, on the side of industry in any toxic tort, is the lone voice in favor, and he alone joins the DPU in a committee to push forward.
2015	Harvard Edmund J Safra Center for Ethics publishes, by fellow Norm Alster: “ Captured Agency: How the Federal Communications Commission is Dominated by the Industries it Presumably Regulates ” highlighting FCC corruption .
2015	3 more bills are introduced in the MA state legislature , by request: 1 physician training (Kirstin Beatty) and 2 wireless health impacts investigation (Kirstin Beatty and Cece Doucette) – legislators eventually develop an alternative bill that may come to vote in 2022, but Beatty

	has concerns and proposes amendments .
2015	Kirstin Beatty and Patricia Burke form a ballot question committee, Citizens for Safer Radiation Technology for an investigative commission bill, but don't get enough signatures.
2015	The Ashland, MA, school committee approves posting 'best practices' in every classroom: turning off unused devices and WiFi, keeping 12" distance from screens, placing mobile devices on solid surfaces, reminding and instructing students, and avoiding laptop use. The Worcester, MA, school committee adopts a similar policy May 2017.
2017	5 new well-intentioned bills are introduced by Senator Cyr, Rep. Carolyn Dykema, and resident Kirstin Beatty (by request). Bills are for point of sale clear warnings, device warning labels, to continue but manage wireless with 'best practices', health insurance coverage of wireless and electricity exposure mitigation in lymphoma and leukemia, and wireless prohibitions on school grounds. Surprisingly, the last moves forward. None pass.
2017	[De]Personalized [computer] learning , where privatized computer software teaches and monitors students at the expense of human teaching, is opposed overwhelmingly by a grassroots vote at the Massachusetts Teachers Association , which votes for documentation of harm, research, and a web page to share findings. Yet, some feel MTA leadership fails to address the issue substantively.
2018	When a cell tower is placed next to his home in a dense community, Robert Strayton's heart reacts badly. He and residents fight in court.
2018	The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition hosts Dr. Devra Davis , who shared a Nobel Prize with Al Gore as part of IPCC scientists and whose work has focused on toxins like cellphones, in a webinar and later creates a student learning modules and in 2021 hosts a related webinar .
c. 2018	Natick and Brockton acquire antennas operating in the 27 Ghz frequency band.
2019	16 well-intentioned bills are filed. Based on local problems, Sen. Keenan and others introduce a bill to require local approval for railway antennas. Through their legislators, Patricia Burke and Pamela Steinberg submit bills to correct false financial reporting of the Worcester smart meter pilot project. Through her legislators, Kirstin Beatty submits 10 bills, such as to map wireless facilities and require hard-wired investments, also cosponsored by Rep. Carlos Gonzalez. Although well-intentioned, advocates are divided on a new wireless investigative commission bill sponsored by Sen. Julian Cyr and Rep. Jack Lewis and the Rep. Carolyn Dykema's best wireless practices bill, the former for fear of whitewash and the latter as it continues to support wireless schools, and so Beatty starts working on amendments in 2019. Further division arise over a H. 383 to plan 5G deployment, which is mistakenly marketed as beneficial.
2019	A public records request is denied to release a MA public health department mitigation fact sheet developed in 2016.
2020	Boston files in FCC docket 19-226 that it "believes the concerns of the public are real and that the Commission has done a disservice to itself, local government, consumers,

	and even the wireless industry ⁸ in failing to understand and respond to the broadly shared mistrust of the safety of RF [wireless] emissions. ”
2021	The Massachusetts Association for Boards of Health includes a legal discussion of blocking cell towers based upon health risks on the last 4 pages of its’ Legal Handbook and Public Health Guidebook for Massachusetts Boards of Health .
2021	After testimony by Dr. Cindy Russell and Dr. David Carpenter, an amended version of a wireless resolution introduced by resident Dr. Lisa Nagy is adopted: <i>“That the Massachusetts Medical Society supports continuing research, including quality epidemiologic studies, by appropriate agencies and entities to produce evidence-based data on the effect(s) of radio frequency radiation on human health. If indicated, study findings should be used to revise and update public health standards for safe limits of human exposure to radio frequency radiation.”</i>
2022	Several Pittsfield residents become very ill when a cell tower is built and turned on in their neighborhood. Courtney Gilardi and others campaign to turn it off by educating local officials, successfully persuading the health board to mandate removal. Verizon wireless sues before the town can take action, and the case is now in court.
2022	Because concrete action to reduce wireless exposures appears stalled and because leadership is suspected of being at fault, focused amendments to hard wire are developed to limit opposition and bypass some blockades. These need courageous sponsors right now, as finding the right time to amend is not easy.