

Are “Smart” Meters Really Smart?

Utilities across the country are installing so-called ‘smart’ meters. As a result, bills are skyrocketing, and people’s health, safety and privacy are being violated. Do we really need wireless smart meters? Decide for yourself:



Do you want an accurate, reasonably priced utility bill?

Utility customers have noticed increases in their bill after a ‘smart’ meter is installed—in some cases hundreds of dollars more than usual. PG&E has admitted some meters are inaccurate. How many others are also defective? Read how one couple had to fight to get their over-billing acknowledged:

<http://tinyurl.com/3gkd8qy>

Do you value civil liberties and the right to privacy?

When a ‘smart’ meter is installed, your utility has access to a treasure trove of information about your electricity usage—with no guarantee of security. Studies have shown the security risks in a wireless ‘smart’ grid. Your information will be used, and may be sold to corporations or to government agencies. Read the interview with the Electronic Frontier Foundation about how ‘smart’ meters violate privacy: <http://tinyurl.com/3zhd6vv>

Do you value your health, and the health of your family and friends?

The radiation from ‘smart’ meters is the same as from cell phones—the World Health Organization declared this radiation to be a Class 2B carcinogen in May 2011. Thousands of people have complained of tinnitus, headaches, nausea, and sleeplessness after a ‘smart’ meter was installed. This is consistent with published studies associating these symptoms with exposure to electromagnetic fields. Smart meters violate already high FCC limits on human exposure to microwave radiation. See <http://bit.ly/gpLQOF>.

Do you care about wildlife and cutting carbon emissions?

Smart meters do not result in energy savings, according to Reuters: <http://bit.ly/gvpYxZ> They may even increase energy consumption. There is also emerging evidence that wireless, non-ionizing radiation (from cell phones, wifi, and ‘smart’ meters) harms wildlife and damages trees. <http://scr.bi/bPT7fE>

Are you concerned about job losses in this anemic economy?

The primary savings PG&E reaps is letting all their meter readers go. That is a massive loss of entry-level jobs in an economy that can ill afford it.

Are you in favor of fire regulations that put the safety of residents first?

A number of electrical fires have been caused by ‘smart’ meters. PG&E’s meters are not UL certified, as is required by electrical code for all electric appliances within the home. Smart meters are potential ignition sources and remove utility personnel from regular visits to neighborhoods. If meter readers had been present in San Bruno, would the gas leak have been detected? Read more about fires and ‘smart’ meters:

http://emfsafetynetwork.org/?page_id=1280 Also, whistleblowers allege unsafe installations:

<http://bit.ly/fEcvPa>

Are you alarmed about the decline of our democracy and informed decision making?

The conversion to ‘smart’ meters is one of the largest technology rollouts in history, and yet virtually no public consultation with ratepayers or local governments was carried out in advance. The CA Public Utilities Commission, an appointed (not elected) body who are meant to regulate utility companies, has ignored popular local opposition and recklessly continues forcing ‘smart’ meters onto the people of CA. <http://bit.ly/gvwbfe>

SPEAK OUT! Spread the word to friends and neighbors, secure your meter if you still have an analog, demand the CPUC and your local government halt this deployment. All CA utility customers now have the right to refuse installment. If you have a ‘smart’ meter, demand removal, or remove it yourself.

As of Sept. 2011, more than 46 cities and counties in CA have demanded a moratorium. Seven have criminalized smart meters. More ways to take action: <http://bit.ly/fGCXve>

More information & ways to take action at <http://stopsmartmeters.org> E-mail: info@stopsmartmeters.org