

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."

Mark 14:8a

Smart Meters, Radiation and Sky-Rocketing Power Bills! Dangerous Digital Meters *Covertly* Replacing Analog Meters

Who waived the Environmental Impact Study on Smart Meters in California, when the peak density of smart meters is 2,000 times higher than minimal federal health standards?

Editor's Request: Bring back my "dumb" meter and do it NOW!

Smart meters have radio frequency (RF) features that remotely read and control power use, making "meter men" obsolete. Smart meters, also, have the capacity to monitor, regulate and ration *when* electricity is used, *which* household appliances *do or do not receive power* and the length of a shut-down, without consumer permission, knowledge or warning from the utility.

State of Georgia. While 21 states have authorized their state utility commission to install smart meters, the NCSL reports that Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Indiana have "no clear authority" to do so. However, each of them began transitioning from analog meters to smart meters in 2008 – the year Georgia Power began switching to smart meters for 400,000 utility customers and continuing such installations throughout Georgia over the next three years, ending in 2011.

Marietta. A stimulus matching-funds Recovery Act grant of \$16,893,836 was awarded Cobb Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) to "deploy 190,000 smart meters, covering 100 percent of the utility's customer base; implement communication infrastructure and load control switches, using state-of-the-art interoperable systems, servers, and data management technologies."

Atlanta. The Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia received \$12,267,350 of Recovery Act stimulus funds to "install information technology and smart grid upgrades throughout the system including on substations, routers, and network terminal units, to reduce peak demand and system maintenance costs."

Tucker. The Georgia System Operations Corporation, Inc. received a grant of \$6,456,501 from the Recovery Act to "upgrade computer systems to instantaneously and automatically communicate information about disruptions or changes in flow on the grid, enhancing reliability and security of the grid; and to use digital controls to manage and modify electricity demand."

McCaysville. Tri State Electric Membership Corporation received a \$1,138,060 matching grant to "install more than 15,000 smart meters to enable consumers to make use of dynamic pricing options. Expand line monitoring for improved outage detection across the service area. Will also benefit customers in TN."

Smart meters – The Latest in Bio-Hazard Technology

ACTION – (a) Online, download and read *Just Say No to Big Brother's Smart Meters*, by Orlean Koehle. It is a 113-page expose of radiation emissions by electromagnetic wireless radio waves (Wi-Fi) that connect various devices to the Internet. The booklet is not copyrighted and can be accessed by title *via* a search engine.

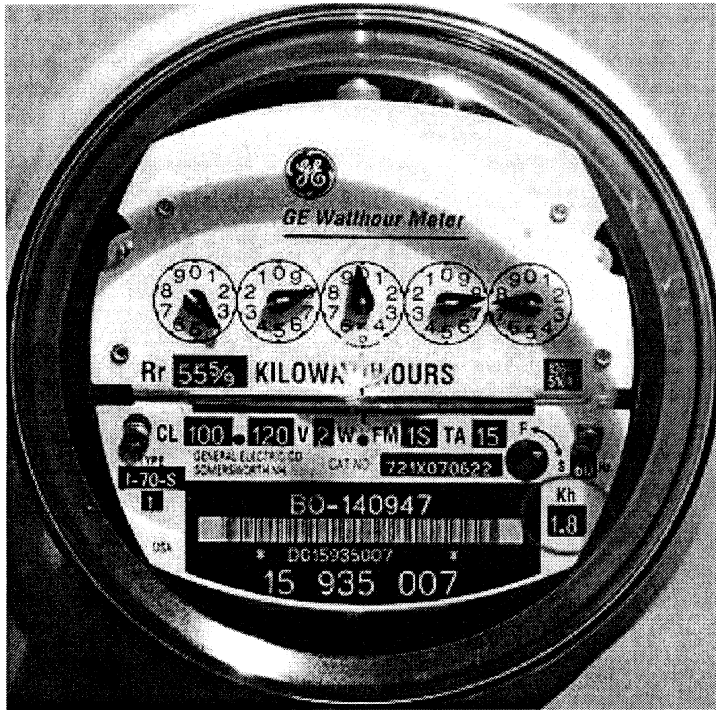
(b) Ask PSC (see list on page 4) to stop the installation of smart meters in Georgia until the radiation threat is removed. Georgia Power's goal: complete installation of 2.2 million smart meters in Georgia by 2011.

(c) Ask state legislators to introduce/sponsor/cosponsor bills to prohibit smart meters until they are harmless.

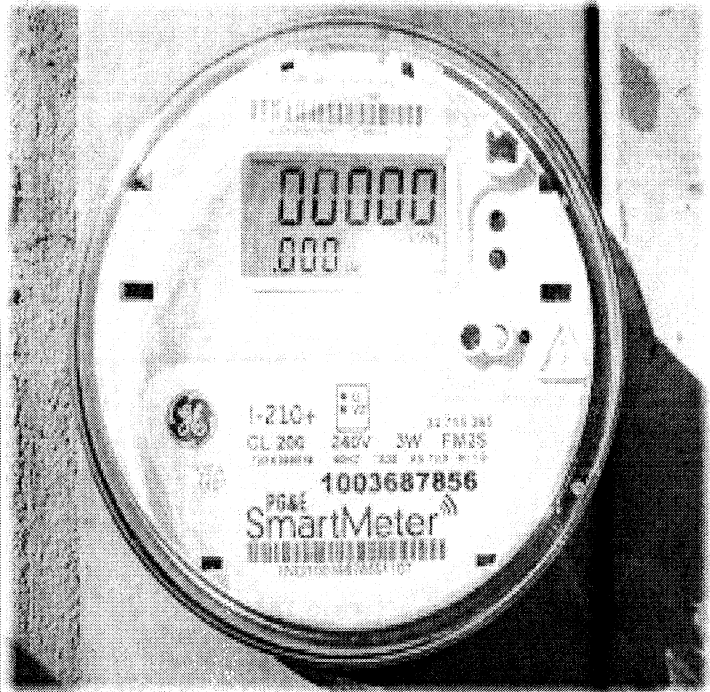
February 4, 2010

Which do you have – an analog meter or a smart meter?

The Old Analog Meter



The New Digital (Smart) Meter



Two States and 22 Cities in California Reject SmartMeters

Maryland Public Service Commission denied deployment of smart meters June 21, 2010.

Hawaii's Public Utility Commission refused to allow a Smart Grid system in that state.

California. Over 22 cities and three counties launched formal objections to mandatory deployment of smart meters.

Sanford, Maine was the third community in Maine to pass a resolution asking Central Maine Power Co. to delay SmartMeter (sic) installation until residents have more information.

Watsonville, CA passed, as an emergency measure, a 12-month moratorium, August 19, 2010, after finding "a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare.

Fairfax, CA adopted a 12-month moratorium as an urgency measure for "significant health questions concerning increased electromagnetic frequency radiation."

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), since November 2010, has been under investigation by the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Division of Ratepayer Advocated DRA for alleged public health hazards from "toxic soup" caused by SmartMeters.

Westerville, Ohio, one of 100 areas scheduled to get federal grants, turned down the \$4.2 million and three other bills, citing government-mandated energy use reduction, unknown future costs and house fires.

Marin County, CA. After 100 residents showed up at the meeting January 4, 2011, Marin County enacted a 12-month moratorium on smart meters, although some 5.5 million had been installed. Cited were privacy and health issues and interference with radio reception. Especially affected were emergency radios. Two women were arrested for blocking a SmartMeter truck in Inverness.

Energy Policy Explained by the President

“Under my plan of a Cap N Trade System, electricity would necessarily ‘SKYROCKET,’ even regardless of what I say about whether coal is good or bad, because I am capping greenhouse gases, coal power plants, natural gas, you name it, whatever the plants were, whatever the industry was, they would have to retrofit their operations, that will cost money, they will pass that money on to consumers.”

– President Barack Obama

Smart Meters and Federal Law: The Energy Policy Act of 2005

Federal law does *not* mandate utilities to install smart meters in homes, but it *does* mandate utilities to “offer” and install them “upon customer request.”

Do you have a smart¹ meter? If so, was it installed *after* you requested a time-based electric rate schedule? If that sequence was not followed, you are *not required* to allow a smart meter to be installed (Energy Policy Act of 2005 Sec. 1252) and your analog meter should continue recording electricity consumption at your location. The law *does not mandate* customer acceptance.

Sec. 1252. SMART METERING requires each electric utility to offer and, upon request, provide each customer with time-based rate schedules for different time periods and cost variances to enable customers to manage their energy use and cost. Each customer requesting a time-based rate must be provided with a time-based meter capable of enabling the utility to offer and the customer to receive such rate.

California Consumers Warn of Smart Meter Health Effects

“We need to listen to those who have EMF sensitivity. They are like the canaries in the coal mine, warning us about what lies ahead for all of us. Please support a public hearing on smart meters.”

– Claudia Vick, California Consumer

S.A., San Clemente CA. “The very first symptom was my husband and I noticed that both of our ears were ringing. (The meter was located directly outside of our bedroom wall behind our headboard.) Waking up feeling heavy crushing pressure on our chests, rapid heart palpitations, waking up at night at the precise same time for weeks (like 1:23 a.m.), emotions unstable, constant agitation, red bumps, rashes, and thermal burns on face, strained speech, difficulty speaking or loss of words, poor memory, painful inflammation of ear canals due to cell phones, (especially blackberries and I-phones, within 150 feet from me), deck phones, Wi-Fi, electrified outlets, refrigerators, and other electromagnetic fields.”

“It started with the aches and pains, the super dry lips and a loud squealing in my right ear. Even my teeth hurt. Then the buzzing sound intermittently mixes with the high pitch squealing noise in my ear followed by extreme exhaustion or fatigue in random parts of the day or evening, to where I couldn’t even stand. The headaches make me feel like I want to die. I can’t sleep until 5 or 6 a.m. and pop back up at 7 a.m. I am nauseous and my ear is in extreme pain. I have feelings as if the ground or furniture is moving or being bumped. I get dizzy and have problems orientating myself when I go from standing to sitting or vice versa.”

Nancy Hoover said smart meters’ RF is a different exposure, much worse than any other Wi-Fi. She does not have a smart meter herself, but is being affected by the one coming from her neighbor. She gets severe headaches. She put a metal wheelbarrow over their smart meter and then did not have the symptoms. But once it was removed she got the headaches again.

¹ Note: Digital clocks operate without “smart” features. So, if analog meters are obsolete, install “dumb” digital meters to be read by meter readers. That would save jobs for meter readers and prevent radiation toxicity from smart meters.

“Smart meters are the atomic bomb of radiation.”

– Scientist Presenting at Commonwealth Club, November 18, 2010

Karen Hudson, Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, a former public school teacher, cancer survivor and very sensitive to the electromagnetic field (EMF), said the truth is coming out – EMF and radio frequency (RF) radiation affect DNA. Pulsed radiation at any strength is worse than a constant frequency and that is the kind given out by smart meters.

Jennifer Delaney of Santa Rosa, California said, “I have spoken to people that say their PG&E bill has gone way up to \$400 and even \$950, after they have had their smart meter installed. I also know of people whose health has been greatly impacted, for example: headaches, nausea, not being able to sleep at night, losing weight. Some have not been able to hold a job; some believe the radiation is leading to cancer. There is a lower sperm count, and it seems to greatly affect autistic children. Smart meters definitely harm people.”

Mary Beth Brangan: “The assertion of safety that PG&E makes is based on the assumption that smart meters comply with FCC guidelines in every case. But FCC guidelines are irrelevant and obsolete. They don’t apply to non-thermal effects – only to what would cook your tissue. But even obsolete and inadequate FCC guidelines are violated in many real life circumstances where there are multiple or banks of meters and where children have access to them.”

Warning from IBEW Members. The September 20, 2010 letter written by 5 union members and a disabled rights activist to the Safety Committee Chairman, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1234, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA, warned PG&E union workers and other electrical companies about the harmful effects of smart meters. The letter can be accessed at [IBEW1245.pdf\(48KB\)](#). Excerpts are as follows:

- Smart meters should be illegal. Even at low frequencies, long-term RF have neurological, immune and DNA affects; cause sleep disturbances, memory loss, learning and cognitive problems; affect concentration, orientation, motor skills, blood pressure and heart rate; lower sperm count, cause miscarriage, chromosome aberrations, and cancer.
- Health complaints from smart meters include headaches, dizziness, fatigue, vertigo, nausea, loss of consciousness, pressure and ringing in the ears, hyper arousal, heart palpitations, rashes irregular menstrual cycles, and sensation to previously tolerated wireless technology.
- Smart meters interfere with the function of RF medical equipment, such as pace makers, baby monitors, household equipment, fire-stopping arc-fault circuit interrupters, caused fires in a vacuum shop and a restaurant, and a smart meter blew up in a business.
- Smart meter programs are fundamentally anti-labor. Once all of them are installed, most installers and meter readers will lose their jobs. PG&E health insurance will no longer be available to cover workers’ long-term health impacts from working with toxic technology.

ACTION – Oppose Smart Meters. (a) Contact Public Service Commissioners below. (Faxes are very effective.)

Toll-free telephone for Public Service Commissioners: 1 800 282-5813; Atlanta, 404 656-4501; PSC fax 404 656-2341

District 1: Doug Everett, term ends 2014; call 404 463-6745, fax 404 463-6699, deverett@psc.state.ga.us

District 2: Tim Echols, term ends 2017, 404 656-4514, Use PSC fax 404 656-2341, techols@psc.state.ga.us

District 3: Chuck Eaton, term ends 2012; call 404 657-2020, fax 404 657-2010, ceaton@psc.state.ga.us

District 4: Lauren McDonald, Jr., Chair, term ends 2014; 404 463-4260, fax 404 463-4262, lmcdonald@psc.state.ga.us

District 5: Stan Wise, term ends 2012; call 404 657-4574, fax 404 657-4576, stanwise@psc.state.ga.us

(b) Ask state legislators to pass a law to prohibit installation of radiation emitting SmartMeters on consumer property.

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