

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (§1252a) provided for the introduction of the time-variant ("smart") system of utility metering by consumer request. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 allowed for removal of deterrents to this new technology. (To ignore our Constitutions?)

The Act of 2005, (§1252b), states: "...each state regulatory authority (the CPUC in California) shall conduct an investigation and issue a decision whether or not it is appropriate for electric utilities to provide and install time-based meters and communications devices for each of their customers....".

But what is appropriate, and who might it be appropriate for? Is the goal to benefit the Consumer, the Nation, the regulatory agencies or the utility corporations?

Across the country utility companies have instigated a blitz of "smart" meter installations without Consumer request and without complete information to Consumers concerning the consequences and invasions of these system installations.

A brochure from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company states "For the first time you will be able to see how you use energy, by the day or hour, up to the previous day." And "In the future, customers will be able to use "smart" meter technology to save money without necessarily using less energy".

The implication is that we have never, even in our minds, connected the flipping of a switch to a light going on, or been able to see our energy usage by walking outside and seeing the little Analog meter wheels spinning. There is little evidence that Energy savings is actually a major function of the "smart" meter.

Could the existing Analog system give us more, or equivalent, energy savings without an expensive changeover, rate structure or the other negative aspects of "smart" system?

What are the real advantages to the "smart" meter, and for whom?

So...

I realize that this is a lot of information to digest in a lot of small words. (That's why these words are now bigger)

But think...

Why does a utility company need to know everything about your home life? It does not.

What will the utility do with your private information? Anything it wants.

Have you read "nineteen eighty-four" by George Orwell? This is now. Or not. You choose.

What can you do?

Call and write, or visit, your utility company and utility commission to say, NO.

Call, write and visit your City Council, County Supervisors and Legislators and say, NO.

Tell everyone you know that NO is good for the United States of America.

You are not alone, let us be SMART and keep our meters Stupid.

No "smart" meters!

author promotes reprints for greater public awareness designed and printed in U.S.A. k31526hslo

"smart" Meter Facts

"smart" or stupid

A simple comparison between:
The "smart" system promoted by utility companies.
vs.
The existing reliable Analog system.

Comparison issues	"smart" Meter	Analog Meter
1. A SPY IN OUR HOMES Gathering unique and detailed information about your family	YES	NO
2. A DATA MINE OF INFORMATION For the study of your life	YES	NO
3. CAN BE MANIPULATED From miles away, and with potentially harmful results	YES	NO
4. EMITS EM RADIATION Thousands of times per day 24/7/365	YES	NO
5. SAVES ENERGY Higher savings function and with comparable action/ cost to consumers of existing systems	NO	—
6. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE Required by law or conforms to direct public request / history	NO	YES
7. SAVES MONEY For the Consumer without coercion, or penalty Includes no additional "fees"	NO	YES
8. IS CONSTITUTIONAL Complies with the Laws of the United States of America	NO	YES

Let us compare the issues with the two metering systems using the opening table. But first, how do the metering systems work?

The Analog System.

For nearly 100 years we have all been able to walk outside and see the little Analog meter wheel spinning. Turn things on - it goes faster, turn them off - slower. Read the highest number below each of the hands on the clock-like dials and you get the current reading. Compare that to past readings to calculate kilowatt-hours used.

The meter is cumulative like the speedometer on your car, it starts at 00001 and goes to 99999 then "rolls over" to 00000 and starts again. It is very simple - the Analog meters count energy usage.

Once a month someone from each utility company visits our homes and businesses to read the meters, this is the basis for the billing procedure.

Each visit has comprised about 5 minutes each, or roughly an hour total in any given year.

The meters are electro-mechanical (gear driven) with little to no emissions, or transmissions, and one must be physically at the meter to repair, replace, adjust, read, or turn it off.

The "smart" Meter System.

The "smart" meter is electromagnetic, this means that it runs through the use of integrated circuits like a computer. Think about how a computer works. The "smart" system can be programmed to do things at certain times, it can gather and store immense amounts of information, and it can give that data back in any way the designers want.

These "advanced metering" systems also have communications capabilities that allow them to talk to others and are talked to by others for status reports, changes in programming and starts or terminations of service. The utility companies could go years without seeing one of these meters but they could talk to them hundreds of times in a day.

A "smart" meter can be doing many things, all the time, and could be talked to or manipulated from 3, or 300, miles away (an unlimited distance actually) and by anyone with the know-how.

COMPARING THE ISSUES (ON FRONT FOLD).

1. The Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue estimates that the personal, and private, data collection potential of this new "smart" technology could be well over 100 times larger than the Internet. With this "spy in the home", "the dramatic increase in the granularity of data available and frequency of collection of household energy consumption means that the smallest detail of household life can be revealed...".

The Analog meter counts.

2. Your private information, gathered by this "smart" system, will be stored and could be analyzed in many ways now, or at any time in the future.

All while the Analog meter counts.

3. The potential for the "smart" system to be a threat to National Security, as SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system failures are highly unpredictable in the world environment, is also very important. A failure of this type of technology can result in a significant National threat. (per the findings of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack, Critical National Infrastructures report, April 2008.) The "smart" system can also be hacked.

The Analog meter is not SCADA, it counts.

4. The "smart" system is thousands of cell phones "on steroids" broadcasting thousands of times a day and night without consumer control. The Electromagnetic Radiation blanket produced by the "smart" system has never been thoroughly tested for health and safety issues. A current lack of definitive evidence of harm, IS NOT proof of safety.

The Analog meter may humm a bit as it counts, but you would have to listen very carefully.

5. It is unclear how the "smart" system may save energy unless it is to shame consumers into changing private habits through others knowledge and discussion of those same private habits.

In the year 2010, the World Bank reported that U.S. consumers lowered their per capita energy use to below 2000 levels, as Analog meters counted.

6. There is no law that says we must have a "smart" meter. The Energy Act of 2005(1252f)

actually states that the benefits "that accrue to those not deploying such technology and devices, but who are part of the same regional electricity entity, shall be recognized". Benefits to not having a "smart" meter!

The Public Utilities Code of California (745d1) states, "Residential customers have the option to not receive service (no "smart" meter) pursuant to time-variant pricing and incur no additional charges as a result of the exercise of that option".

Consumers can say NO to the "smart" system.

The Analog meter has been with us for about 100 years and it works just fine... counting.

7. Utilities would utilize fewer employees and Consumers will absorb the price of the new meters.

If private habits are changed, consumer rates may be lower; otherwise the "smart" rate structure will cost consumers more. Contrary to the voluntary opt-in program (EPA 2005 1252a), the utility demanded "opt-out" fees force punitive extortion upon consumers.

There has been no rebate to consumers for meters that are no longer read by meter readers.

Retaining Analog meters would not cost more, but they account for more consumer security.

8. The United States Constitution, Amendments Four and Fourteen, and the Constitution of California, Article One, Sections One and Thirteen, give us; "the right to be secure in our persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the right to pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy".

The United States Code (Title 18, Section 1951), and the California Penal Code (section 518) define Extortion as: "the acquiring of anything through the use of force or threats", and "induced by a wrongful use of force or fear, or under color of official right". Utilities have NO right to private consumer information, and no right to force these meters on us.

The Analog meter counts, from outside your home, or business. Analog is private, and not a threat.

What is your choice?

What is best for your children, or our country?

Who needs to know YOUR business?

I have some friends that want to visit your home to snoop around.

Give me your address.

NO?