

Dear North Carolina Utilities Commissioners,

I have read the Agenda for the Staff Conference scheduled for this Tuesday (1/22/19) at 10:00 A.M. I see that the Public Staff is planning to recommend that the North Carolina Utilities Commission approve DEP's Revised Meter Related Optional Programs (E-2 Sub 834) as it stands.

Public Staff has underestimated and understated the importance of the option for an actual electromechanical analog meter to the Duke customers who wrote to the Commission.

Of the 74 letters the NCUC received since 10/15/18 on DEPs Docket E-2 Sub 834, 67 of them (90%) asked for ANALOG meters specifically. Of those, **a full 53 (72% of the total 74) asked for analog meters as opposed explicitly to the transmissions-off smart meter** as their opt-out option.

Given that DEPs proposal is based on E-7 Sub 1115, and for that reason Public Staff compares the two plans and considers the Commissioners Orders from Docket E-7 Sub 1115, it would have also been appropriate for Public Staff's discovery and review to have included public comments in that Docket as well.

On Docket E-7 Sub 1115, reviewing only the letters the Commission received since mid-April of 2018, there were 130 comments stating that they wanted an analog option. Of those, **97 were very clear that they wanted this option instead of the "transmissions-off" AMI meter** being offered by Duke as the only opt-out option. Of the remaining 33, we can assume that at least some of those had the very same thing in mind when they asked for an analog meter.

Whether or not Public Staff makes this recommendation, please require Duke Energy to allow an actual electromechanical analog option as long as one is available to the customer, even if they purchase it themselves. There truly are plenty of refurbished meters available online. Many electrosensitive people already own one and are eager for Duke to allow them to use them. Also Duke has access to them, as evidenced by the fact that they are still removing them from people's homes.

While it would be simpler to just approve DEPs opt-out without this change, which naturally has implications for DEC customers as well, it is nevertheless the right thing to require that Duke allow true analog meters.

There are real people who are Duke Energy customers being made sick by the “radio-off” AMI opt-out meter. Here is a case in point:

<https://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=cf31964b-b642-44dc-bc9f-f17c07669824>

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ellen S Whitaker