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Threatt, Linnetta

From: Elizabeth Foley Walsh <elizabeth.foley@gmail.com>
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To: Statements
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Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Dear Chairman Finley and NCUC Public Staff,

I am a customer of Duke Energy and would like to express my support for the use of Analog meters only, and for rejection of any type of Smart or wireless meter. A growing body of scientific literature shows that wireless technologies including cell phones and smart meters pose a serious public health threat. Analog meters are the only safe choice for the public.

In March 2018, a national panel of expert peer reviewers in RTP voted to increase the level of confidence in recent findings of a correlation between RF radiation exposure and tumors in rats, stating that there was "*a clear link between the radiofrequency radiation exposure and the male rat heart tissue tumors.*" (Scientists find definitive link). Smart meters operate at cell phone and Wi-Fi frequencies and higher, with "chirped out" constant reports of electrical activity up to 190,000 times per day. Cell phones can be turned off, but the smart meters broadcast 24/7 and cannot be turned off. I feel that the use of smart meters at all is unethical given the health risks and given the absence of longitudinal studies on their health effects. It is also unethical for North Carolina residents to be penalized financially with an "Opt Out fee" for declining to be radiated 365 days/year in their own homes.

The American Cancer Society states that: "Because RF radiation is a possible carcinogen, and smart meters give off RF radiation, it is possible that smart meters could increase cancer risk" (<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/radiation-exposure/smart-meters.html>).

In addition to the health risks posed by their wireless broadcasts, smart meters also produce dirty electricity which then circulates over every wire in the home. Non-communicating smart meters also produce dirty electricity.

I have personally experienced negative health effects since installation of Duke Energy's smart meter on my house in November 2017. The following cluster of symptoms began in mid-to-late December 2017 before I was aware that a smart meter had been placed on our house and for which I sought medical attention from multiple doctors: recurring severe migraines, ringing in my ears, and being awakened in the night with unexplained heart palpitations. At the end of December, I had 3 seizure-type episodes (described as likely partial temporal lobe seizures) in one week. Shortly after that I learned that a new smart meter had been installed a month before by Duke Energy, on the other side of the wall from our bed. My husband and I have rearranged the house to move our bedroom to the far side of the house away from the smart meter, and have put shielding material up on the wall behind the meter in an effort to reduce the health effects. However, I have continued to have a growing list of symptoms over the past five months since smart meter installation, including frequent dizzy spells, profound insomnia, constant buzzing in my ears, odd twitching in my the right lower back, continuing heart palpitations in the night, an occasional tremor in my right hand, as well as forgetfulness and confused thinking which are affecting my performance at work. Duke Energy has replaced our smart meter with what appears to be a different smart meter, but the health effects continue and the replacement meter has been measured on multiple occasions and consistently found to be emitting large wireless spikes approximately twice per minute day and night. Duke Energy refuses to give us an analog meter and has threatened to terminate our service if we tamper with the meter, even though I explained we simply want protection from these health problems.

A precedent for the rejection of smart meter rollout was set in New Mexico last week where the board of the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) denied the application of PNM to use smart meters (http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/briefs/regulators-reject-pnm-plan-to-install-smart-meters/article_80194d57-bf51-56a2-afd0-6a968657811c.html).

In addition, New Hampshire law requires utility companies to have customers "opt in" to smart meters, not the other way around.

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine has adopted a resolution formally opposing the installation of Smart Meters in homes and schools "*based on a scientific assessment of the current medical literature*" and calling for "*immediate preventative public health action*" (https://www.aaemonline.org/emf_rf_position.php).

Finally, smart meters violate citizen privacy by collecting excessive data on households' electrical behavior without their consent, and in some states this personal data is being sold by utility companies. I don't want marketing companies to know when I turn off my bedroom light, turn on my morning lights, etc.

Given the serious health risks and privacy violations posed by smart meters, it is unethical to charge a fee to individuals who wish not to have this technology forced on them. As reputable scientific research increasingly links wireless technologies to cancer and other severe health effects, the fee model for Opting Out increasingly resembles a form of extortion held over citizens in exchange for not showering them with cancer-causing radiation, on their own property.

No citizen of the United States should be poisoned against their will, in their own homes, because they cannot afford to pay off a large corporation.

If it is decided that data transmission must occur, then non-emitting meters can and should be used via ethernet-cabled internet or phone land lines for the protection of the public health. Please protect the rights of North Carolina citizens to freedom from a dangerous and controversial technology.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Foley
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