

BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

JODY MYERS

Complainant

v.

PECO ENERGY COMPANY

Respondent

DOCKET NO. F-2015-2516189

objection

i; a woman require a man or  
woman under oath or affirmation  
to come forth to swear  
Smart meter dont cause fires,  
health risks, radiation expose,  
damaging appliances, privacy Spying,  
bill increase

i require to keep my analog meter

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Jody Myers  
c/o 824 Scholl Rd  
Pottstown  
Pa 19465

## Testimony Regarding Smart Meter Fires

I would like to thank Representative Dave Reed and Kerry Benninghoff for giving me this opportunity to present information on an extremely important issue, smart meter fires.

Smart meters continue to cause fires, home explosions and power surges, causing major destruction to homes, businesses and lives.

This is an example of what happened to a home in Yardley, PA. Mary was initially given a Sensus smart meter in January despite the fact that this smart meter had been recalled two weeks earlier. A few minutes after the smart meter was installed, the homeowner heard an explosion. The lights in her house exploded, her computer exploded, her refrigerator and all other appliances exploded, and the computer surge protector melted onto the floor. As a result of this explosion, her walls and floors needed to be replaced, as well as all the wiring. Her heater needed to be replaced. The microwave and double oven also needed to be replaced.

In February, while Mary's house was being repaired, she was given a Flexall Smart Meter. This smart meter also exploded. As a consequence of this smart meter explosion, she had no electricity to her home, which resulted in basement flooding due to frozen pipes. Tragically, her house sustained major structural damage because of the installation of these smart meters. And this is just one case. There are thirty additional cases.

Electrically initiated fires can be caused by old wiring as well as new wiring.

This and other smart meter fires could have been prevented if the roll-out of smart meters had been discontinued. If the smart meter roll-out continues, more homes and lives will be destroyed, as was the case in California and Canada, where deaths occurred as a result of smart meter fires.

You might think that homeowner's insurance would cover smart meter damage, but that is not the case. Insurance companies consider smart meter technology advanced and therefore will not cover damages if they feel homes are not smart

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meter- compliant. For a home to be smart complaint, the home needs to be completely rewired so that it is compliant with the demands of the smart grid. It is prohibitively expensive for the hard-working public to make their homes smart-compliant.

Houses that are currently up-to-code are no longer considered to be up-to-code by the PUC, electric companies, grid subcontractors and insurance companies once a smart meter is placed in the home because smart meters are built with future technologies in mind and are not built to communicate with existing home technology. Given that the grid modernization technology sphere is dynamic and rapidly evolving, our homes will never be smart meter compliant. It is an unreasonable expectation placed on consumers by the utility companies, PUC, insurance companies and the government to require our homes to be smart compliant.

In addition, when PA adopted the smart grid program, Underwriters Laboratories stated that "the meters are owned by the electric companies, while the consumers own and are responsible for the meter box and consumers are responsible for any damage that results from fires, short circuits and power surges."

This means that all the responsibility is placed on the homeowner. Unfortunately, the government, PUC and electric companies never discussed this responsibility with homeowners. And through HB 2200 and Act 129, citizens are forced to comply with the demands of the grid by accepting a smart meter, without being aware that these smart meters may cause home fires. The electric companies know that they can continue to roll- out smart meters because they will not be responsible for the fires due to smart grid program policies. And the insurances companies know they will not have to pay for fire damages because the smart meter grid program puts all the responsibility on the homeowner.

So who is responsible?

The responsibility lies with every person who does nothing to stop the roll-out of these smart meters. The responsibility for the fires and the devastation caused by smart meters is in your hands.

Unfortunately, the individuals who lack an understanding of smart meters and the smart grid are the same individuals who have the most to lose - the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Well, homeowners do not want to be responsible for the horrific consequences of a smart meter fire, either. We did not ask for these meters and we were not made aware of the consequences of installing these meters. I guarantee that no one would want a smart meter if they knew that they can cause fires and deaths. Also, as stated earlier, homes are not adapted for smart meter technology.

*Smart meters are not UL-Certified. The Underwriters Laboratories has indicated that only consumer products need to be UL-Certified. A smart meter is considered a "utility product," sold only to utility companies, so they are not required to have testing done by Underwriters Laboratories. Therefore, meters have not passed an important safety test by an independent safety expert such as Underwriters Laboratories.*

Tests of smart meter construction specifications in Canada have verified accuracy, but have not guaranteed safe operation over the lifespan of the meter. We can reasonably assume that this is also true for smart meters used in the United States, since Canada uses some of the same meters as the United States.

Electric companies and subcontractors are willfully negligent, reckless and careless for ignoring the requests of citizens to stop putting smart meters in their homes, even though they are well aware that smart meters are continuing to cause fires.

Fires have occurred in the following states and provinces: Michigan, California (a case of one death from a smart meter fire was settled out of court), Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Illinois, Georgia, Vermont, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, District of Columbia, British Columbia, Quebec (where there were 3 deaths before Christmas), and Australia.

Electric companies and subcontractors have clearly been engaging in unfair and deceptive practices.

We believe that electric companies and their subcontractors violated the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. 201-1 et seq., for the following reasons:

1. Failure to notify customers of the fires and hazards caused by smart meters.
2. Engaging in fraudulent and deceptive practices which created consumer confusion and caused citizens to believe that smart meters are safe.

In addition, the PUC and electric companies have failed to comply with HB 2200, amending Title 66 (Public Utilities of Pa Consolidation Statutes). Specifically, they have failed to “insure the health, safety and prosperity of all citizens of this commonwealth” by coercing citizens to accept a smart meter or have their electricity shut off. In addition, the PUC and electric companies are well aware that smart meters cause fires and other physical ailments.

Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club, recently stated that they “simply cannot participate in programs requiring any type of direct load control by the utility for safety reasons”, per Docket No. M-2009-2092655 – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Smart Meter Technology Procurement and Installation Plans.

If it is not safe for a major corporation, then how can it be safe for us? Pennsylvania citizens simply cannot participate in the smart meter roll- out due to safety concerns!

Support to stop smart meter roll- outs includes the following:

Hawaii State Representative Kaniela Ing introduced bill “Expressing support for an immediate moratorium on the installation and promotion of smart meters until they are proven safe to public health and the environment, economy, and security of the state.”

The Governor of Illinois vetoed the smart grid.

The Fairfield, Iowa Water Department proposed to halt implementation of smart water meters and to reimburse citizens for opt-out fees for smart water meters.

Ventura County developed an "opt out" program.

Palo Alto has been installing smart meters since 2009 but recently stopped the installation of smart meters since they had complaints of health problems and increased electric costs. They concluded that it makes no economic or functional sense to install smart meters now. They found that savings were only 1% for residential and ½% for commercial structures.

Solutions to this extremely important problem include:

- Remove the smart meter mandate. Stop the roll-out.
- Remove smart meter charges from our monthly electric bill. We are being forced to pay, through Act 129, to have the electric company roll-out smart meters, which is a serious fire hazard. It is disgraceful that people are being forced to pay for a service that may kill them.
- Manufacturers, subcontractors and the PUC must be held accountable with a mandatory fine of up to \$10,000 per day for a smart meter that is not removed from a home or business after a 3 day recall notification is given to the public.
- The public should be educated about the dangers of smart meter fires.
- There should be no charge for smart meter removal or re-installation of an analog meter.
- A bill should be introduced which establishes the responsibility of electric providers, manufacturers and fire companies to report all smart meter fires. This information should be easily accessible to the public.

In conclusion, we believe that we should not be required to install or pay for a smart meter because the meters represent a serious and potentially deadly fire hazard. Ensuring the safety of the public should be of paramount importance.

# Precautionary principle

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **precautionary principle** or precautionary approach to risk management states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is not harmful, the burden of proof that it is *not* harmful falls on those taking an action.

The principle is used by policy makers to justify discretionary decisions in situations where there is the possibility of harm from making a certain decision (e.g. taking a particular course of action) when extensive scientific knowledge on the matter is lacking. The principle implies that there is a moral responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk. These protections can be relaxed only if further scientific findings emerge that provide sound evidence that no harm will result.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 818 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, KASUNIC, ROBBINS, FOLMER, HUTCHINSON, VULAKOVICH, McILHINNEY, ALLOWAY, WARD, BAKER AND EICHELBERGER, APRIL 4, 2013

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 4, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for duties of  
3 electric distribution companies.  
4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 2807(f)(2)(iii) of Title 66 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 2807. Duties of electric distribution companies.

9 \* \* \*

10 (f) Smart meter technology and time of use rates.--

11 \* \* \*

12 (2) Electric distribution companies shall furnish smart  
13 meter technology as follows:

14 \* \* \*

15 (iii) In accordance with a depreciation schedule not  
16 to exceed 15 years. Customers may opt out of receiving  
17 smart meter technology under this subparagraph by

notifying, in writing, the electric distribution company.

The following shall apply:

(A) The electric distribution company shall provide an opt-out form to consumers upon request and may provide a method for consumers to opt out electronically through the electric distribution company's Internet website.

(B) The commission shall create and regulate a surcharge for consumers who elect to opt out of receiving smart meter technology under this subparagraph. The surcharge may include a one-time fee and a monthly fee reflective of the actual costs incurred by an electric distribution company to install, read, maintain or service the meters of customers who elect to opt out.

\* \* \*

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

20130SB0818PN0857

# Proof of Service

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first class mail

12-28-2015

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
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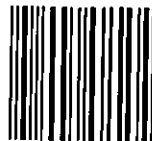


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