



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
400 NORTH STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17120

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

October 21, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD:

RE: Francis and Michele Hriadil, Complainants
v.
Duquesne Light Company, Respondent
Docket Number C-2016-2571726

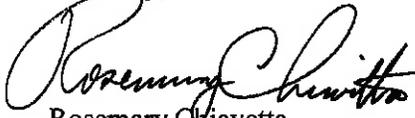
On October 3, 2016, the Complainants in the above captioned case filed their formal complaint and accompanying documents with the Secretary of the Commission. The Complainants also sent a copy of this material to the Office of Governor Tom Wolf, who forwarded it to the Commission. The complaint and documents were served by the Commission upon the Respondent, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne) on October 17, 2016, at the above docket number, in accordance with Section 702 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code. Duquesne has until November 7, 2016 to file an answer or other responsive pleading to the complaint pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 5.61.

In the interim, before the complaint was processed and served by the Secretary, the Commission's Office of Communications sent the Complainants the enclosed letter dated October 13, 2016 (PUC Communications Letter).

Since this matter is now pending before the Commission, and due to the statutory prohibition on ex-parte communications at 66 Pa. C.S. Section 334(c) in contested proceedings, please be advised that I am serving under cover of this Secretarial Letter, a copy of the PUC Communications Letter upon all Parties of Record. The complaint and accompanying documents sent by the Complainant to Governor Wolf's Office is currently on the record of the case. Furthermore, this Secretarial Letter and the PUC Communications Letter will be placed on the above docket number.

The Complainants are further advised that any filings they make must also be served upon the Respondent in accordance with 52 Pa. Code Sections 1.57 and 1.58.

Sincerely,


Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary of the Commission

CC: All Parties of Record
Office of Governor Tom Wolf



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

October 13, 2016

Mr. Francis Hriadil
331 Shady Ridge Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146-7510

Dear Mr. Hriadil:

In response to your recent correspondence and phone calls, Governor Tom Wolf's office asked the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to further address your concerns with smart meter deployment in Pennsylvania, including an electric customer's inability to decline smart meter installation and the right of an electric distribution company (EDC), i.e. Duquesne Light, to access its equipment, including new smart or advanced metering equipment.

The Pennsylvania Legislature required the deployment of smart meters under Act 129 of 2008. In doing so, the Legislature made a policy decision that Pennsylvania's largest electric utilities and their customers would benefit from smart meters. The PUC supports this decision because of the advantages smart meters can bring to the state by empowering customers to take control of their electricity usage, reducing outage times, saving customers money, and increasing overall system reliability.

The PUC understands that some customers have concerns about smart meters. These reservations generally fall into two categories: (1) privacy concerns; and (2) health-related concerns, which you have raised in your letters and phone calls. In our role as the state agency overseeing smart meter deployment, the PUC takes these issues very seriously. However, upon examination, the PUC does not believe these concerns should stand in the way of widespread smart meter deployment in Pennsylvania.

With respect to health and safety concerns, the PUC acknowledges that smart meters do emit small amounts of radio frequencies (RF). However, the amount emitted by smart meters is well within the limit set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for RF exposure, and is well below the level of RFs emitted by other commonly used devices, such as cell phones and microwave ovens. The smart meters in Pennsylvania must meet the safety and reliability standards established by the FCC, and the PUC remains confident that these standards are sufficient to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvania's electric customers.

As far as a customer's ability to refuse a smart meter, you correctly point out that current Pennsylvania law does not provide for a customer "opt out" of their utility's smart meter program. Rep. Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland and Somerset) again has introduced legislation to amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) that would partially repeal Act 129 and allow consumers to opt out of having smart meter technology installed at their premises during a mandated 15-year period. This legislation is one of three bills in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and is similar to laws recently passed in Maine, Nevada and California. In the Pennsylvania Senate, state Sen. Don White (R-Armstrong, Butler, Indiana and Westmoreland) has introduced Senate Bill 366 that deals with opt out as well. To date, none of these bills has passed the General Assembly, and Pennsylvania still has no opt-out provision for electric customers wishing not to participate in their utility's smart meter program.

In supporting universal deployment of smart meters, the PUC maintains that an EDC has the right to access its equipment as part of its mandated mission to ensure reliable service to homes and businesses within its service territory. Duquesne Light and the other major EDCs that fall under Act 129 are in various stages of deploying smart meters in their respective service territories, all in an effort to ensure full compliance with the law while maintaining the highest standards of electric reliability and customer service through advanced metering.

The Commission believes that it was the intent of the General Assembly to require all covered electric companies to deploy smart meters system-wide, and to do so in a manner that empowers a customer's ability to control their electricity use, as well as their privacy. Thus, the Commission will continue to ensure that the electric utilities implement the universal installation of smart meter technology in a manner that meets the intent of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your letter and ongoing communications relating to smart meter deployment in our Commonwealth. I have copied Governor Wolf's office along with PUC Chairman Gladys M. Brown on my reply.

Sincerely,

Dave Hixson
PA Public Utility Commission
Office of Communications
dhixson@pa.gov
(717) 787-5722

cc: Office of Governor Tom Wolf
Office of Chairman Gladys M. Brown, PA Public Utility Commission

331 Shady Ridge Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

October 3, 2016

COR-0302540

PUC

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf

I spoke with Kalie in your Office last week, and she suggested that I mail you the details of my concerns.

I am being faced with the imminent forced installation of a Smart Meter on my residence by Duquesne Light, against my consent.

I mailed Campbell Hawkings, V.P. of Customer Care, Duquesne Light Company, 411 Seventh Avenue, MD 6-1; Pittsburgh, PA 15230-1930 a notice indicating that we do not want a Smart Meter installed, and the reasons why we do not. And, I filed a formal complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. I have enclosed a copy of that filing with this letter.

Duquesne Light showed up this morning and is changing the meters to Smart Meters on other residences in the neighborhood, as I write this to you.

I have appealed to the Legislature and the Attorney General's Office to help me to prevent the forced installation of a Smart Meter on my residence. This is what I have sent to them. "Ranking Electricity Meters for Risk to Health, Privacy, and Cyber Security" and "A Message to the Maryland General Assembly The Health Argument for Replacing Wireless Smart Meters with a Safe Metering Technology in Maryland" both by Ronald Powell Ph'd. I have enclosed copies of these documents with this letter.

As you are likely not aware, Dr. Powell is a retired U.S. Government scientist (Ph.D., Applied Physics, Harvard University, 1975). During his Government career, he worked for the Executive Office of the President, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. For those organizations, respectively, he addressed Federal R&D program evaluation, energy policy research, and measurement development in support of the electronics and electrical-equipment industries and the biomedical research community. He currently interacts with other scientists and with doctors around the nation on the impact of the environment – including the radiofrequency (RF) environment – on human health.

Briefly, his analyses assess the technology associated with electrical metering and ranks them in terms of risk to health, privacy, and cyber security. As you might suspect, Smart Meters rank as the worst, of the worst, of the worst, in all 3 categories.

It is replacing a robust, reliable, fully functioning technology with an immature, fragile, and I might add hazardous technology, that compromises the well-being of the residents of Pennsylvania. It also actually weakens the electrical infra-structure of the state, and makes it more, not less, susceptible to hacking, and abuse.

Dr. Powell is a credible independent expert who testified before the Maryland General Assembly, and was in no small measure one of the reasons that Maryland now has an Opt-Out option available to its residents, and many of them are exercising their option to Opt-Out.

I don't understand how anyone can read these documents, and Dr. Powell's compelling testimony before the Maryland General Assembly, and in good conscientious allow the forced Smart Meter installation to continue to happen in Pennsylvania.

There just does not seem to be any sense of urgency on anyone's part to address this danger in a timely manner, while these devices continue to be installed across the state.

People may say, well they don't hear a lot of people bringing this issue up, or complaining. I think that if Pennsylvania residents understood the consequences of all of this they would be beating down the doors of the Legislature, Senate, Attorney General's Office, and the Office of the Governor, demanding that something be done immediately to stop this.

If someone sees a fire starting and reports it, or if someone sees a criminal act happening and reports it, the Fire Department and the Police Department don't just sit there on their chairs waiting until 10 people, or 20 people, or 100 people call it in. No, it only takes one call for them to be there doing their job to protect and serve.

I told my legislators that they are not there to wait until thousands of people call in. They are there as leaders, who have been placed there to protect and serve. I have presented irrefutable evidence, through the reports I have sent to them, and now to you as well. And, there are many other experts, reports, and research substantiating this, that there is a serious danger here, and that it needs to be addressed right away before anymore damage is done.

Other states have recognized this and acted on this. Other Attorneys General and Governors have acted on this. Namely, in Michigan, Connecticut, and Illinois to name a few.

We are elderly, living on a fixed budget and with the onset of a number of chronic conditions. We cannot afford to have a new environmental factor introduced that will worsen those conditions, and create new problems. I have also enclosed a statement by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine warning about these devices. I have enclosed a copy of their 3 page statement with this letter. These devices are being installed with no regard to the health or medical conditions of the people living in a residence. It is simply a misguided and poorly applied blanket change-out.

The sole justification that was made for the use of these devices is to reduce costs and conserve energy. This "benefit" has not materialized in other communities that have implemented this type of program, leading to the shutdown and rollback of those programs.

In terms of "economic benefits", Palo Alto, for example, has been installing Smart Meters since 2009 but 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.

The Attorneys General of three states have come out and opposed Wireless Smart Meters specifically because they find that the costs outweigh any claimed financial benefits to the customers.

Are Pennsylvania residents any less valuable than the residents of these other states?

Do physics, chemistry, and biochemistry operate any differently in Pennsylvania than in these other states, countries, and communities?

Are the serious warnings of the WHO, AAEM, and experts around the world simply to be ignored?

Do not the proven health risks alone, in good conscience, not give you pause to at least allow freedom of choice?

Please review the material that I have enclosed, and help us.

There just does not seem to be any sense of urgency on anyone's part to address this danger in a timely manner, while these devices continue to be installed across the state.

People may say, well they don't hear a lot of people bringing this issue up, or complaining. I think that if Pennsylvania residents understood the consequences of all of this they would be beating down the doors of the Legislature, Senate, Attorney General's Office, and the Office of the Governor, demanding that something be done immediately to stop this.

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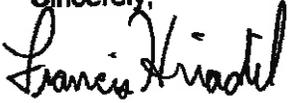
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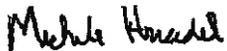
I am appealing to you to do the following two things:

1. First, please intercede immediately to assist us in stopping a Smart Meter from being installed on our residence.
2. Second, please intercede to protect all of the residents in Pennsylvania, as Attorneys General and Governors in other states have done, were the legislatures have failed to do their duty, and provide all residents with an Opt-Out option, at a minimum, if not the complete shutdown and roll-back of this program, as other localities have done.

Sincerely,



Francis Hriadil



Michele Hriadil.

As it happens Governor Wolf, I too am an Alumnus of M.I.T. And, I was there in graduate school in the Dept. of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and working at Draper Labs, when you were there. Unfortunately, the fates being what they are, we never had the occasion to meet. Anyway, please look into this matter. Anyone with any semblance of a technical background can see what is happening and what is at stake here. The evidence can no longer be ignored or dismissed. It is a compelling indictment of this horrible ill-advised and hazardous program. Thank you.

Enclosures:

1. Formal Complaint to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
2. Ranking Electricity Meters for Risk to Health, Privacy, and Cyber Security, by Ronald Powell Ph'd
3. "A Message to the Maryland General Assembly The Health Argument for Replacing Wireless Smart Meters with a Safe Metering Technology in Maryland", by Ronald Powell Ph'd
4. American Academy of Environmental Medicine Recommendations Regarding Electromagnetic and Radiofrequency Exposure.

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Formal Complaint

*Filing this form begins a legal proceeding and you will be a party to the case.
If you do not wish to be a party to the case, consider filing an informal complaint.*

To complete this form, please type or print legibly in ink.

1. Customer (Complainant) Information

Provide your name, mailing address, county, telephone number(s), e-mail address and utility account number. It is your responsibility to update the Commission with any changes to your address and to where you want documents mailed to you.

Name Michele Hriadil, Francis Hriadil

Street/P.O. Box 331 Shady Ridge Drive Apt #

City Monroeville State PA Zip 15146-7510

County Allegheny

Telephone Number(s) Where We Can Contact You During the Day:

(412) 824-5453 (home) (412) 779-3314 (mobile)

E-mail Address (optional): hriadil@attglobal.net

Utility Account Number (from your bill) (account no. redacted from this copy)

If your complaint involves utility service provided to a different address or in a different name than your mailing address, please list this information below.

Name n/a

Street/P.O. Box

City State Zip

2. Name of Utility or Company (Respondent)

Provide the full name of the utility or company about which you are complaining. The name of your utility or company is on your bill.

Duquesne Light Company