

ORIGINAL

Smart Meter Generic
Investigation
E-00000C-11-0328



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Trisha A. Morgan

From: julie genser [j_genser@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: Docket # E-00000C-11-0328

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Attn: Docket Control

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Docket # E-00000C-11-0328

September 1, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Julie Genser. I'm writing to you regarding APS' plans to replace our existing analog electric meters with Smart Meters. I live in the EI (environmental illness) community located about ten miles outside the town of Snowflake, in the White Mountain area of Arizona. The members of this community all suffer from a disabling neurological disorder that forced us to all leave our homes across the country and travel here to this clean, rural location for refuge. We suffer from a severe intolerance to low levels of chemicals, electromagnetic radiation and other environmental influences. For many of us, having a Smart Meter installed on our home will cause severe harm to our health and has the potential to render us all homeless, as we are especially vulnerable to the low-level EMF's emitted by various types of Smart Meter technology. In fact, one of our EI neighbors in Apache county had a Smart Meter installed on their property many months ago without warning, and even though it was removed within days due to her health condition, she still has not recovered from that exposure. Understandably, none of us wants to suffer long-term or permanent damage to our health from our utility meters.

Most of the members of my community moved here from around the country to build our own custom homes, specially constructed to accommodate our medical condition. Enormous amounts of money and energy has gone into building this community over the past 20 years. It would be a huge financial hardship for many of us, and an impossibility for others, to take our homes off-grid or to build new homes in another region of the state. Due to our unique and severe medical circumstances, I am requesting that the Commission require APS to provide accommodation for our disabled EI community here in Snowflake.

The accommodation we ask for is, simply, to do nothing; the safest option would be to allow us to retain our existing non-communicating meters. We could send APS a monthly postcard with that month's reading, with yearly (or biyearly) APS visits to assure accuracy. Some of us could, alternatively, send in the information via our online APS accounts, and upload photographs of our meter readings. It is my understanding that a mail-in card system is used for rural utility customers in other states.

Retaining our current meters is by far the safest option; as they say, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." A second but much less safe option would be communicating meters that use telephone land lines. However, this option might become obsolete in the near future, as the FCC has begun a push to eliminate land lines from rural areas. Another technology that has been discussed for rural areas is power line communication, but that would be medically catastrophic to me and should never be used for those with a severe intolerance to low levels of electromagnetic radiation, which includes myself and many of the members of my community.

The disability accommodation I and my neighbors are requesting will not create any measurable impact on APS's profitability. Without this accommodation, EI residents like myself will suffer terribly and possibly be made homeless. There are millions of us with this disabling neurological condition around the country and utility companies like APS will need to create an acceptable policy for accommodating this illness, otherwise you will see more and more cities and states rejecting Smart Meter programs from the get go, as they have in Hawaii, Maryland, at least 43 cities in California, and other areas of our country.

Sincerely,
Julie Genser