

Teresa Tenbrink



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From: SharonRobert Goodale <sharonrobert@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBorns-Web
Cc: Bob/Sharon Goodale
Subject: APS proposal to charge fees for "opting out" of "smart meters"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 21, 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission
 Commissioner Wing
 1200 West Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007-2995

ORIGINAL

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

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RE: Proposed "opt out" fee for non installation of Smart Meters and ongoing monthly "opt out" charge for meter reading.

After reading in our local newspaper about a proposed fee that APS has petitioned the ACC to adopt regarding a fee for "opting out" for not having a "smart meter" installed and then a potential ongoing monthly fee to read the meter, my wife and I wish to express our displeasure with this proposal by APS.

We elected to install solar back in 2007 to help with our monthly electric bills and we felt it was the right thing to do ecologically. APS did provide a rebate against the roughly \$28,000 the system cost but even with that included we will not see a reasonable ROI timeframe on that investment. And now we are potentially looking at a \$75.00 fee to opt out and a monthly fee of possibly \$30.00 to allow APS to read my current meter. This will negate any savings I have managed to accrue since I have calculated that I have saved approximately \$2700 during the period I have been utilizing solar and helping APS out with their commitment to renewable energy sources. Going forward, if this fee is implemented I will wipe out that savings in a little over 7 years.

Worst yet, I spoke with some APS meter readers, that happen to be in our neighborhood this week, about the smart meters and how they relate to solar installations. I was quite surprised to learn that for these type of installations two "smart meters" will be installed in order to obtain the data from the household usage and the solar panel generation. So I hope that doesn't mean potentially a \$60.00/month due to two meters being required for solar installations as well as the \$150.00 fee to "opt out".

The fact that there may not be whole communities who wish to opt out will necessitate APS having to "still provide" for meter readers but they are collecting a meter reading fee currently and have been able to support that activity with the current cost each month per household. There are obviously costs associated with this activity but I certainly cannot believe in the scale that APS is proposing. I have to imagine that they are able to write off a good portion of the "smart meter" activity as R&D and a cost of doing business.

We have also not been informed directly of any of the "smart meter" activity by APS like some other communities have had done. We did not get any postal communications nor a door hanger to be notified of the swap out of meters. The only postal communication I received was a letter a couple of days after I called to "opt out" with the statement "Thank you for contacting APS. We are happy to enclose the information you

requested". I did not ask for any information but what was provided was a two page document titled "Automated Meters: Myth vs. Fact".

We feel that this is nothing more than corporate greed and a scare tactic on APS's part and are hopeful the ACC will agree and deny this proposal that APS is requesting.

Thank you,
Robert/Sharon Goodale
865 S. Alta Mesa Drive
Cornville, AZ 86325-5278
Phone: 928-274-5915
Email: sharonrobert@msn.com



Judge Kenneth A. Johns • Mrs. Diana S. Johns
P.O. Box 20812 • Sedona, AZ. 86341-0812 • Tel: (928) 284-0668

February 7, 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioners Wing
1200 West Washington
Phoenix AZ 85007-2996

Attn: Bob Stump, Chairman
Bob Burns, Commissioner
Brenda Burns, Commissioner
Gary Pierce, Commissioner
Susan Bitter Smith, Commissioner ✓

Dear Commissioners:

I have recently learned of the Arizona Public Service plan to install "smart meters" in the Sedona area. Being the owner of two homes, south of Sedona in the Village of Oak Creek, I became curious, and began looking into this plan.

What I found is disturbing for a number of reasons, which I will elaborate upon.

1. Not wanting these new meters, I do not have the option of shopping around, and hiring a different power supplying entity.
2. If I refuse these meters, I have been told that APS wants \$30. per month, per property to retain the existing meters, plus a \$75., per property, initial fee. This reeks of a black-mail style tactic to me. I have learned that a Judge, involved in some manner, has called the proposed plan extortion.
3. I understand that these new meters give a controlling entity surgical precision abilities to manipulate the power coming into our homes, i.e. areas, individual homes, and times of day power could be curtailed.
4. I must wonder what people are to do that must have health aids that require power, and that have pets requiring power to survive, etc.
5. I am also wondering about the health concerns that have been voiced regarding the emissions coming from these new meters.

I have written to APS asking that these meters not be installed on my properties, and I got a call from a pleasant representative. I voiced to her my opposition to these meters, even relating to her that I felt I was being black-

mailed into submitting to this plan, based on the exorbitant fees being proposed by APS.

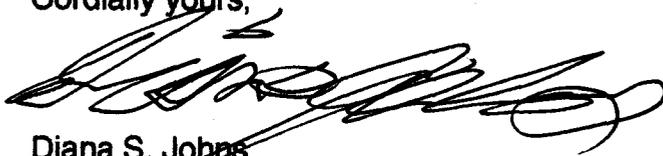
The APS representative went on to relate her company line to me, at which I took exception to a number of the premises she put forward, as follows:

1. After mentioning that I saw the proposed \$75. and \$30. monthly as "back door" fees and/or rate increases, she said APS would have to employ meter readers to read the existing meters, and that the customer would have to pay for this. I quickly related to her that the customers are paying for this service now, and have been for many, many years.
2. She next said APS would still have administrative costs, at which I again related that the customers have been paying for those also, for many, many years.
3. On the subject of health concerns, the representative strongly stated that those were unfounded rumors, and I strongly stated that I have heard such absolutes from governmental and quasi-governmental entities for most of my life, and that many such assertions had been wrong, i.e. telling the public that something was bad for us, or, in some cases, good for us, and finding, years later, that the absolute assertion was in total error.
4. After voicing my concerns about the control these new meters would give APS over our power supply, she said APS would never shut our power down, and that such an occurrence would be "against the law" anyway. I then related to her that I have seen and heard such things before, and somehow laws magically get changed.
5. The representative, a number of times, brought up California as a model for what APS is trying to do here, and that these new meters have worked out quite well for them. I took exception to this, as there have been reports of health concerns related to these new meters, and that California areas/neighborhoods are quite regularly deprived of power.

For many years now, we as individuals, and as a society have been losing our freedoms, both large and small. But, these loses seem to invariably march on, every minute, every hour, every day, every week, every month, every year--one freedom after another. Now, are we to be forced into giving up our ability to control and consume the power we pay for? I truly am asking for an answer to this query.

Finally, the reason I write to you, as Commissioners, is that I understand the decisions that will affect so many citizens rests in your hands. So, I simply ask you to think of all the customers who have no "power" in these very important decisions that affect so many.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana S. Johns", written in a cursive style.

Diana S. Johns
/s

ROBERT E. HANNAY

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February 16, 2014

Bob Stump, Chairman
Arizona Corporation Commission
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Solar Electric Installations in Emergencies.

Dear Mr. Stump:

There are many reports that strong solar flares, an Electro-magnetic Pulse, sabotage or other failures of unprotected and fallible transformers and other components could disable parts or all of the electrical grid. Many solar installations could be usable in such brief or extended emergencies, but now we are told they could not be used at such times.

Arizona Public Service Company and other electric utilities require that all installations have a device that automatically disables solar systems if there is an APS power failure at the site. APS says they require that because surplus power feeding back into their grid from solar installations might shock an employee working on their system. Solar City also says it is desirable because if the systems are prevented from returning unused electricity to the APS grid, solar installations might be damaged by overheating or whatever.

Because of the long lead time involved in replacing large transformers, the many unprotected transformers and other components of the grid, the possibility of substantial disabling of the economy is very real. I urge you not only to do what is possible to prevent such disasters, but to pressure APS and the solar industry to develop and install the necessary technology and modifications to existing solar systems so they would be usable in emergencies. When we contracted to install our system, we were not told that our systems would be disabled when APS failed, so our assumption of having emergency power available was not clarified. A change to the control mechanisms of existing and future solar systems is the logical solution.

Sincerely,


Robert E. Hannay

cc: Bob Burns
Brenda Burns
Gary Pierce
Susan Bitter Smith ✓
Solar City
Bob Robb

February 17, 2014.

Commissioner Susan Bitter Smith
Arizona Corporation Commission,
1300 West Washington,
Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Dear Commissioner Smith:

This is not the America we were born into! We cannot (and hopefully will not) continue to permit government to treat its bosses as *subjects* and *force* them to buy health insurance, certain showerheads, unworkable toilets, and non-incandescent light bulbs. And now, state government is petitioned by APS to *force Arizona citizens to accept* questionably-safe, and probably invasive, Smart Meters; the single mandated alternative being to pay \$75 for the “privilege” of *keeping* its presently-installed old-used meters, and \$30 per meter for a *single monthly visit* by a meter reader. Hey, I’ll drive my own vehicle and take that job – gosh, \$30 per meter ain’t bad.

And all this at a time when most APS customers are struggling just to pay the *current* bills.

During the 1970’s, APS was an admirable utility. It took pride in holding down its rates, and publicly proclaimed its successful cost-cutting methods. Not this bunch of suits. Five seconds after AZ Corporation Commission grants it an increase, APS submits an already-prepared proposal for its next rate increase.

However! Presently there is a growing trend to politically put self-serving politicians and corporations where they belong – out of power. I get around. And, truthfully, I have yet to find a single person who accepts the Smart Meter concept (just two who couldn’t visualize what it is). In two grocery stores, three times in one of them, discussion of this subject was overheard and drew a vocal crowd. I’m betting political and corporate “power people” are about to receive a wakeup call from us “commoners”. Stay tuned.

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to be “smart” and deny, in to-to, this APS alternative proposal. Actually, those who reject Smart Meters represent a reduction in the number of people who will be instituting lawsuits against APS, and possibly *you*, for upcoming questions of security, privacy, accuracy, safety and *health effects* of Smart Meters. Bottom line, kindly *represent us* ratepayers who elect to opt out for health, safety or whatever reasons.

Respectfully,



Robert J. Gossler,
P.O. Box 20489,
Sedona, AZ 86341-0489