Why Smart Meters Are A VERY Bad Idea & What You Can Do To Avoid Them

To learn why smart meters are dangerous and controversial, go here: http://nhne-pulse.org-smart-meters/ This informative page includes videos, articles, news reports, studies, and other credible smart meter references. This page also contains a special section for residents of Sedona, including links to "opt out" forms, local videos, news reports, and related materials.

http://nhne-pulse.org-smart-meters/

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APS - Arizona Public Services
P.O. Box 53933, Sta. 3200
Phoenix, AZ 85072-3933

Date: ___________________________ Your Account No: ___________________________

Your Name: __________________________________________

Your Address: __________________________________________

NOTICE OF NO CONSENT TO INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATED SMART METERS

Dear APS and all agents, officers, employees, contractors and interested parties,

By this letter, I am hereby notifying APS that I am denying it consent to install any automated meters on my property. I intend to keep my existing non-transmitting analog meter at this location. We understand that anyone who has opted out will have a blue seal tag on the meter and we want one at this meter, as well as written confirmation.

We are concerned about health dangers, safety and privacy issues. We also understand that the Arizona Corporation Commission has not approved any proposed opt out fees.

Sincerely,

________________________________________

Your Signature
Sent Via Certified Mail
Marylandsmartmetersawareness.org

...low energy... and dangers. It's critical that those of us who have the power to influence policies... The information is extremely valuable to our evolving industry, which is focused on... There is no low-priority discussion of some of... What medical equipment you are using... whether you have or have not been exposed to or... yourself with your use of medical equipment... (authorized or not) can tell whether you are... from overwhelming anyone with access... Who is on the job?... and others in the... Smart meters have been shown to interfere... More... How does a smart meter... the electric... Health professionals, Children's advocates,... Smart meters are not a waste of taxpayers'... How many... can be spent to pay for... In an industry built for... The American Academy of Environmental... Smart meters provide... and increase... An increase in... Three significant factors... 180... this condition. Effective... and... Traditional incentive programs... money... counts... programs... Smart meters have never been... Smart meters do not save... Contrary to what utilities tell us...

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

They are the Trojan horse of our time. Smart meters seem like progress... their health... The fundable sensitivities issue... about non-ionizing radiation... No non-ionizing radiation... Safety issues for health effects... Smart meters have never been...

What is a smart meter?
Smart Meter Health Complaints

http://emfsafetynetwork.org/smart-meters/smart-meter-health-complaints/

All around the world people are reporting wireless radiation is affecting their health. We've collected many of these stories on smart meters and posted them here. Utilities claim smart meters are safe, and compare them to cell phones. However cell phones, cell towers, wi-fi and other wireless devices can also affect your health! Reducing your EMF exposure can benefit your overall health and wellness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies wireless radiation as a 2B carcinogen.

List of symptoms:

- Sleep problems (insomnia, difficulty falling asleep, night waking, nightmares)
- Stress, agitation, anxiety, irritability
- Headaches, sharp pain or pressure in the head
- Ringing in the ears, ear pain, high pitched ringing
- Concentration, memory or learning problems
- Fatigue, muscle or physical weakness
- Disorientation, dizziness, or balance problems
- Eye problems, including eye pain, pressure in the eyes,
- Cardiac symptoms, heart palpitations, heart arrhythmias, chest pain
- Leg cramps, or neuropathy
- Arthritis, body pain, sharp, stabbing pains
- Nausea, flu–like symptoms
- Sinus problems, nose bleeds
- Respiratory problems, cough, asthma
- Skin rashes, facial flushing
- Urinary problems
- Endocrine disorders, thyroid problems, diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Changes in menstrual cycle
- Hyperactivity or changes in children’s behavior
- Seizures
- Recurrence of cancer
Consumer Fraud Complaints Filed Against Utilities

SEDONA TIMES / MARCH 18, 2014 / 9 COMMENTS

Sedona AZ (March 18, 2014) – The following is a letter to the SedonaEye.com editor:

On March 4, 2014, I filed consumer fraud complaints with the Arizona Attorney General’s (A.G.) office against both Navapache Electric Cooperative and APS for lying about their “smart” meter transmissions as proved in my two recent videos (here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BjMGaQdmXy and here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_TLCd3Ltjg).

Today I got letters from the A.G.’s office saying my complaint “appears to fall within the jurisdiction and authority” of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). In my opinion, it “appears” the A.G.’s office is avoiding their statutory responsibility under A.R.S. 44-1522 to protect consumers from fraud.

Here is A.R.S. 44-1522. Note that there is no exception made for utilities.

44-1522. Unlawful practices; intended interpretation of provisions

A. The act, use or employment by any person of any deception, deceptive or unfair act or practice, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely on such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise whether or not any person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby, is declared to be an unlawful practice.

On the same day as I filed complaints with the A.G.’s office I also filed an informal complaint against Navapache and APS with the ACC. True to form, the ACC ignored me. So today I have filed a formal complaint of fraud against APS with the ACC.

Below is my formal complaint.

Warren Woodward
55 Ross Circle
Sedona, Arizona 86336
928 204 6434

March 18, 2014
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division, Steven Olae, Director
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Re: Formal Complaint Against APS

Mr. Olae,

Since my informal complaint of March 4th was ignored, consider this a formal complaint.

For several years, APS has been distributing a “Myth vs Fact” sheet about “smart” meters to their ratepayers. APS also has a “Myth vs Fact” page at their “Meter Information Center” website, aps-meters.com.

Unfortunately, almost every “Myth vs Fact” claim made by APS is either misleading or an outright lie.

In my opinion, these APS deceptions are in clear violation of consumer fraud statute A.R.S. 44-1522. Note that there is no exception made for utilities in the statute.

http://sedonaeye.com/consumer-fraud-complaints-filed-against-utilities
44-1522. Unlawful practices; intended interpretation of provisions

A. The act, use or employment by any person of any deception, deceptive or unfair act or practice, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely on such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise whether or not any person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby, is declared to be an unlawful practice.

Despite being made aware of most these lies over the years, and despite both A.R.S. 40-203 and A.R.S. 40-422, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has done nothing.

40-203. Power of commission to determine and prescribe rates, rules and practices of public service corporations

When the commission finds that the rates, fares, tolls, rents, charges or classifications, or any of them, demanded or collected by any public service corporation for any service, product or commodity, or in connection therewith, or that the rules, regulations, practices or contracts, are unjust, discriminatory or preferential, illegal or insufficient, the commission shall determine and prescribe them by order, as provided in this title.

40-422. Action by commission to enjoin violations or threatened violations; venue; time for answer; joinder of parties

A. When the commission is of the opinion that a public service corporation is failing or about to fail to do anything required of it by law or an order or requirement of the commission, or is doing or about to do or permitting or about to permit anything to be done contrary to law or any order or requirement of the commission, it shall commence a proceeding in the name of the state to have such violations or threatened violations prevented, either by mandamus or injunction. The commission shall bring the action in the superior court in the county in which the claim arose, or in which the corporation complained of has its principal place of business or an agent for any purpose, or in which the commission has its office.

How can ratepayers make an informed choice when their utility is allowed to mislead, lie and defraud them with impunity?

As we review the lies and deceptions, note that APS also calls “smart” meters “automated meters”. Both terms, however, are industry “public relations” terminology and are misleading. While having metering capabilities, the devices are actually utility networking equipment, amiennas and transceivers (they receive and transmit other people’s data as well as that of the location where they are installed). By calling the devices “meters”, utilities have been able to skirt the fact that they are taking the antennas/transceiver sitting rights of property owners without compensating those property owners. Shouldn’t that be considered theft?

Utilities have easements for meters, simple place-specific measuring devices, not for transceivers or antennas that are installed without permission or compensation and for the purpose of moving data from other locations to implement the utility’s business plan. It’s as though a company branch office, albeit “automated”, has been set up on each customer’s property.

From APS:

**MYTH**: Automated meters pose a safety risk to APS customers

**FACT**: Automated meters are safe. They use wireless technology to communicate information about electricity usage to APS. The meters transmit this information through radio frequency signals. Wireless smart meters result in much smaller levels of radio frequency than many existing common household electronic devices such as cell phones and microwave ovens. According to a study by the Electric Power Research Institute, a cell phone held against one’s ear exposes someone to more than 1,000 times the radio frequency as an APS automated meter from a distance of 10 feet.

**The Actual Truth**: APS’s claim that “Automated meters are safe” is unsubstantiated. “Smart” meters have not been proved safe. The Arizona Corporation Commission docket has numerous testimonials from Arizonans injured by “smart” meters. Doctors have also posted to the docket advising against “smart” meters.
In testimony to the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Dr. De-Kun Li, MD, PhD, MPH, senior research scientist at the Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, stated:

"I am not aware of any studies that have shown that exposure to smart meters is safe for the human population. Anyone who wants to install smart meters to every household needs to demonstrate that such massive installation is safe ...."

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is an industry advocacy group. Their "study" mentioned by APS is not a peer-reviewed scientific study. It is seriously flawed.

Daniel Hirsch of U. C. Santa Cruz found that EPRI had neglected to consider the duty cycle of cell phones. Also according to Hirsch, "EPRI ... compared a whole body average exposure to SmartMeter radiation to peak exposure to the ear for the cell phone. One needs to compare apples and apples, or whole body exposures to whole body exposures." [italics in original]

Taking those factors in account, Hirsch found that, from a distance of 10 feet, "smart" meters actually expose people to over 5 times the microwave radiation of a cell phone. In short, APS is misleading the public by repeating EPRI's industry propaganda that, "... a cell phone held against one's ear exposes someone to more than 1,000 times the radio frequency as an APS automated meter from a distance of 10 feet."

Read Hirsch's 11 page document here:

Additionally, the "common household devices" to which APS compares their "smart" meters are used voluntarily. "Smart" meters are forced on people. No one tells you the only way you can not have a microwave oven or a cell phone is to "opt out".

Also, unlike other "common household devices" "smart" meters are often in close proximity to people for long periods of time (such as on a bedroom wall). "Smart" meters are in use 24/7/365, not infrequently like the other "common household devices". So APS's comparison is misleading in many ways.

By clicking "Learn more" at the APS site (or on the flip side of APS's "Myth vs Fact" sheet), APS claims their "smart" meters transmit at a strength of 0.009 milliwatts per centimeter squared measured at 10 feet away. I disproved that by measuring APS "smart" meters using a Gigahertz Solutions HF35C microwave analyzer. I found APS "smart" meters transmitting at 432% more than what APS claimed. Search Youtube for APS Caught Lying to see the video proof (or click here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_TLCd3Ltg).

APS claims their "smart" meters... send signals at brief intervals throughout the day, averaging just a few minutes exposure over a 24-hour period." That is misleading. Because "smart" meters transmit in bursts measured in milliseconds, "just a few minutes" can mean hundreds of thousands of transmissions per day. For example, PG&E "smart" meters transmit as many as 190,000 times per day, and those of Sacramento Municipal Utility District transmit as many as 240,396 times per day. APS has avoided giving a specific number of transmissions.

Also, on the "Myth vs Fact" webpage is a video by Peter Valberg. According to APS:

"Dr. Peter Valberg, Ph.D. of Gradient Corp discusses the health effects of Smart Meters and Radio frequencies. Gradient is an environmental and risk science consulting firm." Gradient could be more accurately described as a product defense firm employing scientists-for-hire. Valberg is quite literally a "tobacco scientist" having worked for Phillip Morris in their "light cigarettes" lawsuit. He also worked for R.J. Reynolds.

From APS:

**MYTH**: APS will use automated meters to monitor customers.

**FACT**: Automated meters do not have this capability. Like the old mechanical meters, automated meters measure how much energy customers use, not how they use energy. The automated meter does not store or transmit any personal identification information. The automated meters give APS no indication of who our customers are, what they are doing, nor can they determine what appliances customers are using.

The Actual Truth: If the meters did not "transmit any personal identification information" or gave "no indication of who our customers are" then how would APS know who to bill?

From the CRS report: “By examining smart meter data, it is possible to identify which appliances a consumer is using and at what times of the day, because each type of appliance generates a unique electric load “signature.”

From APS:

MYTH: Customer usage data collected by APS will be sold or accessible to third parties

FACT: APS places the highest priority on the security of customer account information. We continue to work with automated meter vendors, electric utilities and governmental agencies to refine security standards and practices to ensure that security remains at the highest level. APS also has outside security firms audit and review our automated meter system to validate our security practices. APS does not sell customer automated meter data. The usage data collected is intended for customers to make choices that enable them to pay the least amount possible for their electric service. APS considers all customer information to be confidential.

The Actual Truth: Note how cleverly misleading this portion of the “Myth vs Fact” sheet is. APS has proclaimed data sharing with third parties to be a “myth”. But nowhere in the “FACT” part is this explained or substantiated. Instead there are many high sounding words and phrases carefully crafted to create a favorable impression. However, on APS bills there is an asterisk next to Metering, Meter Reading, and Billing (as well as other categories). The asterisk corresponds to: “These services are currently provided by APS but may be provided by a competitive supplier.” A “competitive supplier” is a third party.

More cleverly misleading language: “APS considers all customer information to be confidential.” APS may consider it confidential but is it really? Also, confidential does not mean private. Once your information leaves you it is no longer private.

APS’s promises of “security standards” and “security practices” are what’s myth. According to the previously mentioned Congressional Research Service report, “Even privacy safeguards, such as “anonymizing” data so that it does not reflect identity, are not foolproof. By comparing anonymous data with information available in the public domain, it is sometimes possible to identify an individual—or, in the context of smart meter data, a particular household.”

Moreover, the Congressional Research Service warns, “… consumer data moving through a smart grid becomes stored in many locations both within the grid and within the physical world. Thus, because it is widely dispersed, it becomes more vulnerable to interception by unauthorized parties and to accidental breach. The movement of data also increases the potential for it to be stolen by unauthorized third parties while it is in transit, particularly when it travels over a wireless network …”

APS has admitted in front of the ACC that they do not have the source codes for their “smart” meters. So APS cannot say with certainty what data is being gathered or who has access.

From APS:

MYTH: Automated meters will drive up my bill.

FACT: APS customer rates have not gone up due to the installation of automated meters. In fact, APS expects that over time the meter reading charge on the customer monthly statement will be reduced as the company’s costs to read the meters are reduced. As always, it is 100 percent up to our customers to choose the service plan they use, no matter which meter is installed on their home or business. APS customer associates are always available to help our customers select the service plan that is best for their lifestyle.

The Actual Truth: Over-billing is a common problem of “smart” meters.

California’s KION/FOX35 TV did a three month side-by-side comparison of a “smart” meter and a calibrated mechanical analog meter. After three months the “smart” meter showed an extra 37 kilowatt hours. (”P&amp;E Smart Meter Side By Side Test Final Results” — http://kion.membercenter.worldnow.com/story/1401659/pge-smart-meter-side-by-side-test-final-results)

The test result is consistent with anecdotal over-billing reports I receive from Arizonans.
Over-billing, even slight over-billing, adds up. With 1.1 million customers, APS has likely received many, many millions of unearned dollars due to inaccurate “smart” meters.

APS claims, “... customers rates have not gone up due to the installation of automated meters.” True (so far), but if APS is getting extra – and “free” – multimillions of dollars per year due to faulty meters then they are already getting a hefty cash injection without having to apply for a rate increase at the ACC.

Finally, while choosing a service plan is ‘100% up to the customer’, can paying APS’s proposed fee of $75 up front and $30 per month to keep a dependable, safe analog meter and avoid the harm of a “smart” meter really be considered a choice? Or is it extortion?

Sincerely,
Warren Woodward

Why Smart Meters Are A VERY Bad Idea & What You Can Do To Avoid Them

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http://nhne-pulse.org/smart-meters/

http://sedonaeye.com/consumer-fraud-complaints-filed-against-utilities

Page 5
Automated Meters

Since 2005, APS has been replacing traditional customer meters—whose only function has been to measure electricity usage—with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), also known as “automated” meters.

Already installed to more than a million of APS’s 1.1 million retail customers, automated meters set the foundation for innovative projects to help customers manage their energy use while driving upgrades in overall reliability.

RF EXPOSURE

Automated meters use wireless technology to communicate information about electricity usage to APS. The meters transmit this information through radio frequency (RF) signals.

Wireless smart meters result in much smaller levels of radio frequency (RF) exposure than many existing common household electronic devices.

Significant research on the thermal effects of radio frequency energy has been done over the last 30 years. The World Health Organization has concluded that no known adverse health effects can be attributed to low-level radio frequency.

RF Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milliwatts per square centimeter (mW/cm²)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone at ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave Oven - 2 feet away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Meter - 8 inches behind wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Meter - 10 feet away</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wireless meters send signals at brief intervals throughout the day, averaging just a few minutes exposure over a 24-hour period. The comparisons on the chart above are based on an assumption of an APS automated meter’s radio running 100 percent of the time.


Questions?
More information about radio frequency is provided by the following organizations:

- World Health Organization (who.int);
- Federal Communications Commission (fcc.gov); and
- Electric Power Research Institute (epri.com).

For more information about the APS automated meter program, please visit aps.com or call us at 602 371 7171 (Phoenix metro area) or 800 253 9405 (statewide).
Automated Meters: Myth vs. Fact

Automated meters enable direct communication between the meter and APS, allowing an enhanced ability for customers to manage costs. The meters allow customers to know when and how much energy they are using, enabling them to make informed decisions about their energy usage.

Since 2005, APS has been replacing traditional customer meters—whose only function has been to measure electricity usage—with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), also known as “automated” meters. The new meters have been distributed and installed among almost 1 million of our 1.1 million retail customers. Deployment of automated meters thus far has centered upon metro Phoenix, Flagstaff, Prescott, Yuma and other areas.

Automated meters provide APS aggregate usage information that is helping the company plan for the future needs of its customers; they give APS the ability to offer a host of service plans tailored to the different lifestyles of our customers; and they will help notify APS in the event of a customer outage, enabling the company to more efficiently begin restoration efforts.

While the technology is providing APS customers with better access to their usage information, the relative newness of the technology has resulted in some misinformation about what automated meters can and cannot do. Here are some of the myths and important facts about the APS automated meter program:

**Myth: Automated meters pose a safety risk to APS customers.**

**Fact:** Automated meters are safe. They use wireless technology to communicate information about electricity usage to APS. The meters transmit this information through radio frequency (RF) signals. Wireless automated meters result in much smaller levels of RF exposure than many existing common household electronic devices such as cell phones and microwave ovens. According to a study by the Electric Power Research Institute, a cell phone held against one's ear exposes someone to more than 1,000 times the RF as an APS automated meter from a distance of 10 feet.

**Myth:** APS will use automated meters to monitor the actions of its customers.

**Fact:** Automated meters do not have this capability. Like the old mechanical meters, automated meters measure how much energy customers use, not how they use energy. The automated meter does not store or transmit any personal identification information. The automated meters give APS no indication of who our customers are, what they are doing, nor can they determine what appliances customers are using.

**Myth:** The customer usage data that APS collects will be sold to others or will be accessible to outside parties.

**Fact:** APS places the highest priority on the security of customer account information. We continue to work with automated meter vendors, electric utilities and governmental agencies to refine security standards and practices to ensure that security remains at the highest level. APS also has outside security firms audit and review our automated meter system to validate our security practices. APS does not sell customer automated meter data. The usage data collected is intended for customers to make choices that enable them to pay the least amount possible for their electric service. APS considers all customer information to be confidential.

**Myth:** The installation of automated meters results in higher costs to the customer.

**Fact:** False. APS customer rates have not gone up due to the installation of automated meters. In fact, APS expects that over time the meter reading charge on the customer monthly statement will be reduced as the company’s costs to read the meters are reduced. As always, it is 100 percent up to our customers to choose the service plan they use, no matter which meter is installed on their home or business. APS customer associates are always available to help our customers select the service plan that is best for their lifestyle.