

Update 3/10/2019 to Smart Meter Fraud by Randal Barrett

OPUC Meeting on 3/8/2019 Video: http://oregonpuc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=375

Commissioner Megan Decker responded to citizen comments disagreeing with opt out fees being legitimate, in part because of OPUC & Pacific Power not disclosing new meter costs. (1:39:00)

Commissioner Decker first describes how meter reader fees are evidence based fees, **completely omitting** any evidence based costs to report power usage with a 2 way communication smart meter. This misdirection is their tool to avoid any comparison of costs relating to reporting power usage utilizing different meter types. This intentional hiding of new meter costs by the OPUC and Pacific Power is the basis of the accusations of fraud and racketeering because they are charging ones fines/fees choosing a provably less expensive power reporting system while claiming that manual reads incur a higher cost that cannot be passed on to smart meter customers. An earlier submission by me shows how Pacific Power is now boldly and falsely claiming that our old manual system is more costly than the new smart grid system.

Commissioner Decker stated in regard to costs of New Meters, that Pacific Power applies for updates to the Basic Rate in General Rate Cases submitted and that the cost of the upgrade to AMI will be included in the next general Rate Case application in which all the current costs of the upgrade, plus savings will appear. These will be used to adjust the Basic Rate to all customers.

This means that costs for the AMI upgrade that exceed savings will be passed on in general rate increases to all customers, resulting in opt out customers also paying for the AMI Smart Meter upgrade costs required to read smart meters.

Any increase in cost that exceeds the current manual meter reader budget would prove that smart meters cost more to report power than the old system did. But how bad really is it?

I will provide some estimates here that easily show the ludicrousness of any possibility of savings, based on real numbers. Other areas where smart meters were installed have had to face this hidden cost in future rate increases.

Pacific Power Meter Reader Budget for Oregon currently. Approx \$10,600,000 per year (UE 263)

Cost of Smart Grid upgrade:

Smart Meters - \$50ea?

Instillation - \$100ea? Remember the original \$137 labor charge to install a smart meter at a later date?

590,000 Pacific Power customers in Oregon

$590,000 \times \$150 = \$88,500,000$ divided by $\$10,600,000 = 8.3$

That is 8 years to break even not counting infrastructure upgrades, small cell antennas, new employees, etc. The real years to break even could be 10 to 20 years just from initial expenses; resulting in no savings as predicted, ever.

It does not matter if the government provides grants to cover part or all of the initial expenses. What matters here is that the OPUC has enacted fines/fees on customers supposedly based on their costs for manual reading exceeding smart meter power reporting costs. Basic Math shows this to be fraudulent and extortion.

Additional smart grid costs include regular upgrades to software and infrastructure, along with upgrades requiring meter replacement at approx 5 year intervals. This is one of the hidden costs of the smart grid. Computerization upgrades are ongoing, resulting in Duke Energy in Utah replacing over 700,000 5 year old smart meters with new ones due to upgrades in the smart grid, passing these costs on to customers. This is only one example of meters needing replacement long before the life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. Pacific Power is currently replacing all 590,000 perfectly good meters, including computerized meters of which most are less than 5 years old.

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It was evidence like this that influenced states like New Mexico to refute industry lies submitted of smart grid savings. This is what the OPUC and Pacific Power don't want to come out. The outrage of customers in states where rates have gone up significantly after smart meter deployment, is intense.

In regard to public statements justifying charging opt out customers:

In a recorded session at a Coos County Commissioners Smart Meter Workshop on 1/15/19, Pacific Power representative Melissa Nottingham states, starting at 1:11:30 <https://coosmediacenter.viebit.com/player.php?hash=J3URvjqALtii>, their reasons for charging opt out fees.

Note at 1:13:44 how Ms. Nottingham states "would we want to have all the customers pay for the selection of a minority of customers?" She continues with the deception focusing on opt out expenses only, stating "Once we were directed (by the OPUC) to make sure that costs incurred by those choosing to opt out were born by those customers"

Note at 1:16:30 how Ms. Nottingham states "the obligation for us to maintain that the costs we are charging our customers are actual costs" while completely hiding "actual costs" of smart meter upgrade and ongoing costs.

Deceptions and Fraud:

1. The Opt Outs are a minority is because:

- A. Extortion and coercion were used to force the majority to submit.
- B. No disclosure of the smart meter / smart grid costs, which will be passed on to all customers later, while stating in writing that they are upgrading customers for free, which is not true according to her own statements here that "nothing is free, just a matter of who to charge".
- C. No disclosure of possible risks associated with computerized meters and what functionality they can put in these meters now or in the future.

2. Focusing all statements on the costs of manual meter reads while hiding the costs of remote power reporting with smart grid.

These deceptions have been consistent from the beginning of the Pacific Power AMI Deployment process. The deceptions also existed in previous AMI Deployment approvals by the OPUC. I understand the man hours needed to establish this. If an investigation is opened by your department, I can do additional research to provide you with specific videos, dates, etc that you may require.

All of the above evidence is provided to:

1. Establish the fraudulent methods utilized to justify charging opt out fines, and
2. Establish that these fraudulent fines were used to reduce opt outs to a minority of informed citizens.

It does not matter whether fraudulent opt out fees enacted by regulatory commissions; or; forced smart meter upgrades enacted by regulatory commissions with no opt outs; were used. The result is the same; Violation of Americans 4th Amendment Rights by laws/rules enacted by a government agency.

You can read the attached OpEd to see how the smart meter agenda was instituted. Follow the money. Smart Meters are being made mandatory at the state regulatory level.

Randal Barrett