

May 7, 2010

Michael R. Peevey, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

*Mayor*  
Lew Tremaine

*Vice Mayor*  
Larry Bragman

*Town Council*  
Pam Hartwell-Herrero  
John Reed  
David Weinsoff

*Town Manager*  
Michael Rock

**SUBJECT: PG&E SMART Meters**

Dear Mr. Peevey:

PG&E is planning to install a major new wireless grid infrastructure in Marin County beginning in July 2010. This grid will consist of wireless repeater antenna-transmitters installed onto lampposts, buildings, and telephone poles throughout the County, as well as PG&E's new wireless transmitting "Smart Meters," which will be installed at every residence and business. Multi-unit buildings with separately-billed electric service will contain one such meter for each unit, the meters frequently being lined up side-by-side on the same wall. An additional transmitter will be attached to every natural gas meter. The operation of all these myriad devices will send frequent pulses of very-short duration but quite-strong radio frequency radiation (RFR) throughout each day and night into our homes, schools, businesses, and the surrounding environment.

The intensity of each such pulse will be nearly 1,000 times the radiation emission of a typical cell phone's output; the human body is bioelectric in nature, and has not evolved to handle ongoing exposure to even very-short exposures of that enormous magnitude, which subject the County's residents to the potential for developing a variety of health problems. The multiple layers of strong ongoing RFR signals from this PG&E program will be in addition to all the other RFR emissions to which we are already exposed. These devices will be installed and operated continuously, typically without the consent of the owners of the properties, all of whom will be paying the substantial additional financial cost of this program by way of their utility bills. Where the meters have already been installed, frequently without the knowledge or consent of the property-owners, some residents have already found their health significantly negatively affected.

This Smart Meter program has also raised numerous other serious community concerns, including:

1. **Accuracy:** There are conflicting reports on the accuracy of the SMART meters. Our understanding is the CPUC will be conducting an independent evaluation of this issue in the near future.
2. **Fire Safety:** There have been allegations that the PG&E SMART meters can pose a fire hazard.
3. **PG&E Control of Usage:** There is a concern in our community that the PG&E SMART meters would allow PG&E to remotely control the usage in individual homes by restricting or turning off the service,

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particularly during peak demand periods, without the consent of the customer.

4. **Health Effects:** There have been allegations that the radio frequency transmissions from the devices like the SMART meters are linked to adverse health effects.

It is also the case that remote reading of meters, and the other essential features of a Smart Grid, could be achieved via existing technology that does not involve wireless transmissions. In light of the lack of FCC safety standards for chronic long-term exposure to RFR - particularly exposure to pulses of such high intensity - and of all of the other aforementioned concerns regarding PG&E's Smart Meter program, and in light of Marin County's Precautionary Principle resolution, the need to protect public health, and a strong call for precaution (from global scientists, environmental agencies, advocacy group and doctors) regarding the deployment of wireless technology:

On behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, I hereby submit this letter requesting a moratorium be placed on the installation of PG&E SMART meters within the Town of Fairfax until such time that an independent third party review of the issues raised in this letter has been conducted.

The Town also requests that the CPUC make this program voluntary for PG&E customers by allowing them to opt out. If paired with an independent third party review of the potential issues, it would allow PG&E's customers to make an educated choice about participating in the SMART meter program. The last topic of general concern to our community is how the switch to remote read meters will affect the employees of PG&E that currently read meters. Job creation is a high priority to virtually every community in the State. To better understand the impact to our region, we request additional information on how the SMART meter program will impact jobs at PG&E, and what, if any, programs are available to re-train or assist any displaced meter readers so they can find new employment.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lew Tremaine  
Mayor

cc: CPU Commissioner John A. Bohn  
CPU Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich  
CPU Commissioner Nancy E. Ryan  
CPU Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon  
Assembly Member Jared Huffman  
State Senator Mark Leno  
Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members