

## Take Action! Large-scale Smart Meter Deployment and Fees Coming to NC!

Duke Energy of the Carolinas is in the process of installing almost 200,000 smart meters in North Carolina. There are a number of health risks associated with the electromagnetic frequencies that are emitted by smart meters and other devices. Please read this [letter to the North Carolina Utilities Commission \(NCUC\)](#) for additional information regarding potential health impacts and follow [www.RaleighES.info](http://www.RaleighES.info) for the latest news.

Duke Energy does not have a North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC)-approved smart meter opt-out plan, meaning that Duke is under no obligation to honor citizens' requests to not install or to remove smart meters. The plan that Duke has proposed and which the NCUC is reviewing includes levying tariffs on North Carolinians who opt out of smart meter installment. We do not yet know what tariffs Duke Energy is proposing for North Carolinians, but we are aware of recent tariffs that Duke has proposed for Ohio's citizens. Duke's 2015 proposed smart meter opt-out tariff to the Ohio Public Utilities Commission, initially \$1,073 to avoid installation (now adjusted down to \$426.02) and its proposed monthly fee of \$40.63 for those who refuse installation, is highly alarming. Duke is protected by confidentiality during the NCUC negotiation process and is not yet required to reveal the tariffs and rationale that they are considering for North Carolinians.

Now is the time for us to make our voices heard and oppose any tariffs for smart meter opt-out. **Tell the NCUC and its Public Staff to reject any tariffs proposed by Duke Energy! Please note the deadline and other helpful points:**

**You must send in your comments by January 22, 2016.**

**You must include this as your Subject: DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 141**

**Submit comments to:** [statements@ncuc.net](mailto:statements@ncuc.net) and [tim.dodge@psncuc.nc.gov](mailto:tim.dodge@psncuc.nc.gov)

Staff at the NCUC have been helpful and cordial. Please keep that in mind as you craft your comments.

Here are some potential points you could consider making:

- The scientific literature shows that electromagnetic frequencies, such as that produced by smart meters, are a growing health threat and reported cases of electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) are increasing.
- The United States Access Board (developer of the Americans with Disabilities Act) recognizes that EHS is a growing problem, recognizes it as a disability, and is creating best practices to protect people afflicted with EHS.

- The FCC standards that Duke Energy relies on to justify that smart meters are safe are not intended to be applied to smart meters, as discussed by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2002: [EPA position on FCC standards](#).
- People should not have to pay to protect their health from an industry-inflicted device that only increases profits of the industry. The NCUC's position on Duke's tariffs will set a precedent for the other utilities who will deal with opt-out provisions, and the NCUC must keep that in mind. Even if you aren't a Duke customer, the Duke tariff outcome could affect you.
- Include any personal adverse health experiences that you think are related to exposure to EMFs or mention that you want to avoid potential adverse effects. Here are a list of possible adverse effects, as created by Ronald Powell, Phd Harvard and former employee at the Executive Office of the President, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology: [Symptoms after Exposure to Smart Meter Radiation](#).
- The Public Utilities Commission should OPPOSE any smart meter opt-out tariffs proposed by Duke Energy.
- North Carolinians need the help of the North Carolina Utilities Commission to protect their health. Duke Energy is the largest electricity provider in the world, and the average citizen doesn't stand a chance on their own.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [andrew@RaleighES.info](mailto:andrew@RaleighES.info).

Thank you for your efforts to secure a safer North Carolina.