

Testimony of Kathleen Roberts of Howell, Michigan on January 16, 2018.

In April of 2016 I received notification from DTE that they would be switching my analog meter to a Smart Meter. In the letter, they also offered me the "op-out" option of a non-transmitting digital meter. I contacted DTE and clearly stated my plan to keep my analog meter.

Subsequently, I secured my analog meter to my house with locks and chains. Within a few days a person showed up at my home, knocked on my door and said she was there to switch the meter. I reiterated that I was not interested in giving up my analog meter and she told me that was not an option and I could have my power turned off.

Sometime in the summer of 2017 another worker showed up, knocked on my door and said he was there to install my smart meter. I told him I was not interested and he said, "They are turning off people's power." I said, "Please tell them I am a senior citizen and I have health issues."

In October 2017, I received a shut-off notice from DTE dated 10/17/17 threatening me with shut-off on October 23, 2017, and bribing me with a \$50 gift card if I called them before 10/18/17 to arrange for a meter upgrade. Because the letter was dated the 17th, I'm quite sure it did not arrive before the 18th. They said the gift card was to thank me for being a valued customer. I did not respond to the threat or the bribe. This letter caused me a great deal of stress and anxiety because I was recovering from major surgery at the time and I would have to make a lot of preparations to live without electricity during the winter.

Then again, in late November 2017, I received another shut off notice for December 4, 2017. The shut off notice said securing my analog meter to my house was a health and safety issue for me and my neighbors, but it did not elaborate. On December 21st DTE sent me another bribe for a \$50 gift card stating I was not allowed to keep my analog meter and if I allowed them access to my analog meter by January 5th, they would pay the bribe. I ignored both of these notices.

There are many questions that remain regarding Smart Meters. People have expressed concern over health hazards, safety, fires, privacy, etc. I have not been able to find research that addresses these questions. Because DTE has gone forward with installing over 3 million Smart Meters and has not provided this research, I can only assume this is an experiment on their part and the data will be forthcoming sometime in the future. Per my legal and ethical right to informed consent when subjected to any experiment, I refuse to participate in this experiment. If, at any time, DTE addresses all these issues and proves to me the meters are safe in all these areas, I will unlock my analog meter and allow them to proceed with their plans to put a Smart Meter on the home of each of their customers.

It is important for me to emphasize that **IT IS NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVE THAT THE SMART METERS ARE NOT SAFE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DTE TO PROVE THAT THE SMART METERS ARE SAFE.**

Thank you for allowing me this time.

DTE THREATENED TO SHUT OFF THIS GRANDMA'S ELECTRICITY – TWICE!



Kathy Roberts is not a deadbeat, and her electric bill payments to are up to date. DTE has threatened to cut off her electricity because she is refusing to allow them to remove her analog meter and replace it with a new 'Smart Meter'.

"Smart Meters," she said, "have not been proven safe." Roberts, who has a Master's Degree in Social Work, believes that every person has the right to "informed consent" in matters that affect his or her health, safety and well-being. In a sense, Smart Meters are an experiment, a kind of research by the electrical industry, because they do not know the long and short-term effects of this technology on people who come in contact with it. Under the guidelines of informed consent, the test subject must be made aware of the nature of the experiment and the risks involved.

"Everything I've read from DTE states that the smart meters are safe, but I have seen no research or data that proves it. If, and when, I see that information, I will consent to the new meter," said Roberts.

A search of the DTE website reveals negligible information about the health and safety risks of the smart meters: <https://www.newlook.dteenergy.com/wps/wcm/connect/dte-web/home/service-request/common/natural-gas/rates/advanced-meters>

Definitions of "experiment": A scientific procedure undertaken to make a discovery, test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact. A course of action tentatively adopted without being sure of the outcome. To try out new ideas or methods. A trial or special observation made to confirm or disprove something doubtful; an act or operation undertaken to discover some unknown principle or effect or to test, establish, or illustrate some suggested or known truth.

Definition of "informed consent": Informed consent is a process by which a researcher provides the necessary information to a subject about the nature of study such that the subject can competently decide whether to participate or not.

Informed consent resources: "Informed consent means the knowing consent of an individual without undue inducement or any element of force, fraud, duress or any other form of constraint or coercion. Sufficient information must be presented (in understandable language) so that the potential subject can make an informed judgment about participation. Research involving human subjects can pose complex ethical issues which require careful thought and consideration on the part of both researchers and research participants. Prospective participants should always be given adequate information on both the possible risks and the potential benefits of their involvement to allow them to make informed decisions about whether or not to participate in the research.

<https://research.uncc.edu/departments/office-research-compliance-orc/human-subjects/informed-consent>

<https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm126431.htm>



October 17, 2017

IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED

KATHLEEN L ROBERTS

Regarding: [REDACTED]
Meter Number [REDACTED]

Dear: KATHLEEN L ROBERTS

We have made several attempts to contact you to gain access to our metering equipment in order to upgrade our electric meter. We have not received a response to the previous correspondence we sent you. Therefore, we will proceed with exercising our right to disconnect your electric service.

Please be advised that the electric service is scheduled for disconnection on or after October 23, 2017.

If your service is disconnected, then you may be required to pay a reconnection fee in order to reinstate service at the aforementioned address.

To prevent interruption of your electric service, you must contact us immediately at 313-235-4009 to arrange to have the meter upgrade completed. Our office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Special short time offer for those that call now! Given that we are near the end of our installation program, if you call us prior to October 18, 2017 to arrange for the meter upgrade, once the meter upgrade has been completed, you will receive a \$50 gift card as our way of saying thank you for being a valued DTE Energy customer.

If you would like to enroll in our Opt-Out Program, then please make us aware of that decision when you contact us. This program allows for a non-transmitting, (radio off) advanced meter to be installed and the following fees will be assessed to your account.

- \$67.20 AMI Opt-Out Initial Fee
- \$9.80 AMI Opt-Out Monthly Charge

Please note that providing access to our metering equipment is not optional. It is a requirement that you must comply with based on the terms under which you take service from DTE Electric.

Please give this matter your prompt attention and thank you for being a valued DTE Electric customer.

Sincerely,

DTE Electric



DTE Energy

IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUIRED

November 22, 2017

KATHLEEN ROBERTS

Regarding: [REDACTED]

Dear KATHLEEN ROBERTS:

This is a follow-up to our letter informing you that the Michigan Public Service (MPSC) approved DTE Electric Company's proposed plan to offer residential customers an opt-out of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program. Our letter provided you with the requirements for opting out and instructions to contact us if you would like to participate in the Opt-Out Program. Additionally, the letter clearly stated that if you do not contact us to enroll in the Opt-Out Program, we will proceed with the installation of the advanced meter.

During a recent visit to the above address, we found that a locking device was installed that prevented us access to our metering equipment. This condition is unsafe for your family and your neighbors. Pursuant to Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Rule 460.136, a utility may shut off service temporarily for reasons of health or safety. For these reasons, your electric service will be disconnected on or after December 4, 2017. If you do not remove the locking device and contact us immediately so that we can proceed with the installation of the advanced meter, if your service is interrupted, you may be required to pay a reconnect fee to have your service restored.

To prevent interruption of your electric service, please remove the locking device and call us at 1-800-441-5698 and arrange for a non-transmitting, (radio off) advanced meter to be installed. Our office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to enroll in our Opt-Out Program, make us aware of that decision when you contact us. This program allows for a non-transmitting, (radio off) advanced meter to be installed and the following fees will be assessed to your account.

- \$67.20 AMI Opt-Out Initial Fee
- \$9.80 AMI Opt-Out Monthly Charge

Please note that providing access to our metering equipment is not optional-it is a requirement that customers must comply with, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Thank you for being a valued DTE Electric customer.

Sincerely,

DTE Electric