

Our Terrifying Experience caused by DTE Energy shutting off our electrical service.

In the 26 years my wife and I had DTE for our electrical utility service, we were never once late paying our bill. DTE has a net worth of almost \$30 billion. Their CEO raked in \$12 million dollars in 2016. —Mackinac Center

In 2010 we received a letter from DTE telling us of their plan to install their AMI smart meter on our home. Having researched the horrific implications of the meters, we immediately sent DTE a letter letting them know in no uncertain terms that we did not consent to the installation of their unsafe, unhealthy, surveillance device on our property.

Twice a meter installer came to our home to install a smart meter. Both times we said “not here thank you” and both times he said “no problem” and left. Although we had our analog meter posted “No consent to a Smart Meter” we were concerned that an installer might switch meters when we were not home. To set our minds at ease, we secured the meter to our house with two shackle locks and a 3/16” thick steel locking device.

We never heard anything from DTE until August 21, 2015, when a DTE representative came to our home and served us with a notice that we were to remove the lock from our meter or they would disconnect our service. I told the rep. that I would remove the lock in a heartbeat if he promised he would leave the analog meter. He said they would exchange the analog meter for a smart meter, and that if we wanted to pay a fee, we could have a non-transmitting smart meter. I said we did not consent to their offer and he left.

We immediately wrote and sent a certified letter dated August 22, 2015 to DTE AMI Program Manager Joseph McCormick listing all the laws they were breaking as well as a copies of documents showing that DTE smart meters are susceptible to exploding and 2 home fires caused by smart meters in DTE’s service area. This was further detailed by listing 14 reasons DTE had no authority or owner’s consent to remove our “safe” meter and install their “unsafe” unhealthy, surveillance device on our home.

4 days later I received a letter from McCormick in which he made no reference to our letter or the reasons why they could not install a smart meter on our house, but instead he said the locking device on our meter is “unsafe for our family and our neighbors” (which is a lie, as the meter had been operating perfectly for 26 years and was protected from surges by proper grounding and a surge arrestor) and he further stated that “Pursuant to MPSC Rule 460.136 DTE could shut off service ‘temporarily’ for reasons of health or safety” How ironic when, as I pointed out in my letter, it is their meters (with documented proof, beyond reasonable doubt) that are a threat to health and safety, not the analog meters.

On August 30, 2015, we wrote and sent another certified letter to Mr. McCormick referencing his letter threatening to shut off our service, stating that we had a duty and right to protect our property and our lives from criminal malfeasance and that if they follow through on their threat we would need to be assured that they are adequately insured against any harm that may come to the inhabitants of the dwelling. We requested DTE to provide proof thereto with the corresponding bond number to subrogate the inhabitants from any liability caused by their device, should they force it upon us. We agreed to grant DTE access to “their” meter with the stipulation that they do not remove the analog meter for any reason other than by customer request or due to malfunction in which case they would replace the malfunctioning analog meter with a meter no different than the existing analog meter.

As an advocate for analog meter choice, I made plans to distribute flyers in House Energy Committee Chairman Aric Nesbitt’s district in Van Buren County on the western side of the state. I wanted to do this while the weather was still warm and come September 8th, having heard nothing from DTE and believing they would do nothing until I got a response to my last letter of August 30th, I took off on my mission leaving my wife home alone with instructions to hand any representatives from DTE an envelope showing their meters blowing up and photographs of two DTE customers’ homes severely damaged from smart meter induced fires. We had a

generator just in case we had our power cut, but we were not prepared to have it cut while I was gone, since my wife Glenna did not know how to run the generator, and I had not heard back from my last letter to DTE.

No more than 15 minutes after I left at 10AM on September 8th two representatives from DTE and two Auburn Hills police officers showed up at our front door. One of the reps had a smart meter under her arm and said they were there to install the meter and that Glenna should unlock the analog meter. Glenna said we did not consent to have a smart meter and that she had an envelope to give to them. One of the police officers told her, an 85 year old woman barely weighing 100 lbs, that he would need to accompany her to "make sure there wasn't any trouble". She was given no choice and he forced his way, uninvited, into our private home to "make sure there wasn't any trouble". She handed the reps the envelope and they left, again threatening to shut off our power.

The next day, September 9, 2015, at 10AM several DTE trucks pulled up in front of our home and one of the workers walked back to the utility pole on our private property, climbed the pole which was posted "No Trespassing" and cut the service line to our home. Glenna was stunned and at first unaware of what had just happened. For the duration of a day she will never forget, she gradually began to realize the frightening dilemma she was in. The generator and the car were in our garage and even if she could find the key to the service door, (which she couldn't) she would not have been able to manually open the 16' x 8' double overhead door. We have "voice-over-internet" and since there was no power to the computer, she was unable to use the telephone. I took the only cell phone we had, so she had no way of calling anyone. She walked to our neighborhood church and asked the pastor for help, but there was little he could do under the circumstances as he didn't have a clue how to get the service door open to the garage or to hook up and start the generator. For several hours, Glenna was traumatized.

There's no telling what might have happened to her had not, by divine providence, a friend who had her power cut the previous December happened to stop by with a cell phone and they were able to call a locksmith friend who came immediately from nearby Pontiac and picked the lock to the garage, manually opened the overhead door, rolled out the generator, hooked up the gas line and by 5PM, 7 terrifying hours after shut-off, he got the generator started and we had power restored. Glenna attempted to call me several times, but I leave the phone in my truck when I am distributing flyers and did not find out what had happened until I got back to my motel and called her. I still had 2 days left before I would have distributed all my flyers, but left immediately for home and was back with Glenna by 10 PM.

Of course, our troubles were not over nor have they ever ended. Glenna never recovered fully from the trauma of that day. She has since broken her hip which required surgery, and now at 88 her memory is failing. We refuse to have a plastic spy and fry device on our home if we can possibly avoid it. We have heat for cooking, clothes dryer, water and furnace supplied by natural gas. All of our generators have operated on natural gas. Our first two burned out, and we are now on our third. We are far enough away from neighbors that the noise of the generator is not an issue. We would like to put in solar, but cannot afford it. We have a wood stove that heats our entire house which minimizes use of our furnace blower. Our electrical needs are down to a refrigerator, clothes washer & dryer, LED lights, a computer, a TV and occasional furnace.

We need our power back, measured in a safe, reliable, inexpensive, healthy and private manner that only an analog meter can provide. There is no reason why our government is not answering the cries of those of us who are warning the misinformed of the inherent threats posed by these falsely-named smart meters.

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Attached: Article and DTE's document showing their AMI meter exploding from a power surge.



Power cut: September 9, 2015



[Andrea McNinch](#) - Our friend who helped Glenna the day of the shut-off

When is it going to stop? I spent most of my day yesterday cleaning up DTE Energy's latest assault. This time on an 85-year-old woman for refusing a smart meter!!

They actually brought 2 police officers! Why? To make sure there was "no trouble." Take a look at this pic? They terrorized a grandma!! I have stayed pretty silent on social about what has been going on, but I am disgusted what they did to this poor woman in Auburn Hills - this is just AWFUL! I am not showing this to put fear into any of you about refusing a smart meter, this is what they want. She was attacked like me for standing-up (6 days after I packed the [Main Art Theatre](#) and showed [Take Back Your Power](#)), as her husband is a major advocate and is working on getting a bill passed for meter choice here in Michigan. She was retaliated against and they came when her partner was out of town. I don't think that's a coincidence - more like strategy. He was actually on the west side of the state "flyering" to spread awareness about the upcoming house bill. He was also in negotiations with AMI manager Joseph McCormick about keeping his analog. DTE actually tricked poor Glenna and cut her from the pole. The letter they left with their claim/ demand was not what they told her when they showed-up. These people are ruthless and will even manipulate and lie to an 85-year-old woman. And shame on those police officers for being part of an assault on an 85-year-old!

Please share. Don't be scared. That's what they want. We need the public to know what's going on behind the scenes. It's CRIMINAL! As far as the news media covering it, they are all in DTE's back pocket. Any stories they have ran make it seem like we have a choice and we don't. This is what they did to me. They sent a paid-for news crew to my home. Aired a story that said I committed a felony and that I had meter choice (we don't the opt-out program is NOT a true opt out). So I am a nut-job criminal according to what they aired. The only way we can get the truth out there is through social. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE help get this out far and wide: SHARE!

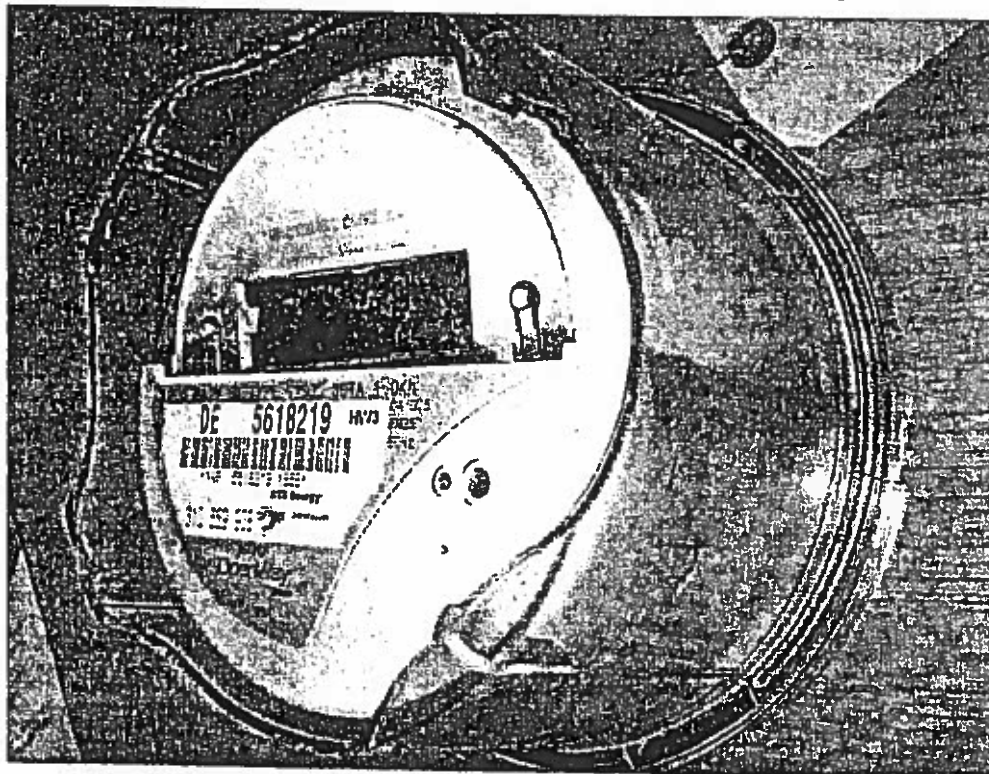
They literally attacked a helpless grandma...what's next??

PIC:

Got her hooked-up on a generator after some hard work. As you can see DTE couldn't take her smile!

Issued By:
Meter EngineeringNumber:
2015-002Date Issued:
04/23/2015**OPENWAY METERS FAILURE UNDER INVESTIGATION****Purpose of Communication**

Meter Engineering has identified a handful of OpenWay Centron Form 2S 240V meters that have failed due to overvoltage. As you can see in the picture below the front of the polycarbonate meter cover has been blown off. The investigation is ongoing and your assistance is required.

**ACTION Required by All Field Personnel:**

Please contact Florin Moldovan of Meter Engineering at (313) 389-7617 to report such sites and assist with the field investigation.

Written By /s/ Florin Moldovan
Principal Engineer
Meter Engineering

