

Eddie Sleeper

From: Fred Kummer <kummerfb@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 3:48 AM
To: Eddie Sleeper
Cc: kummerfb@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for 1/16/2018 House Energy Policy Committee

Dear House Energy Policy Committee members:

I received a DTE Energy Electrical Shut Off Notice (scheduled "On or After October 23, 2017) on October 11 and again the next week. Since October 2015, I had resisted the installation of the SMART meter and retained the analog meter* which had satisfactorily been used at my current residence since 1971.

I acquiesced to DTE's Shut Off Notice and allowed the installation of a SMART meter on October 23, 2017 ONLY DUE TO THAT COERCIVE THREAT of an electrical service shutoff because I was no longer in a position to continue resistance to what I considered coercion/bullying/extortion/compulsion. This is not the way to treat customers.

That resistance included:

1. A letter of complaint to DTE on 10/5/15 primarily stressing the invasion of privacy aspect of the DTE SMART meter,
2. The MPSC complaint (Case No.U-17988) dated November 19, 2015, which was rejected on 12/1/15 because it didn't meet the legalese "standards" for the Commission's rules. The complaint included a letter from my wife's doctor, my letter of complaint to DTE on 10/5/15 and the DTE threat letter of 10/26/15.
3. Even after the MPSC rejection, I continued to resist installation of the SMART meter and began sending in monthly meter readings to DTE in January 2016. Another threat letter from DTE dated 3/30/17 was received.

Then came the formal DTE Energy Electrical Shut Off Notice received on October 11, 2017. DTE considers my acceptance of the SMART meter installation as "**Self-Implementation**" and sent a \$50 Gift card in "appreciation". That gift card will never be used. I consider the SMART meter installation as a coerced decision under the threat of electrical service shutdown by a utility company that is, in effect, a monopoly and the MPSC should not allow it to function in that manner. The MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission) should consider its responsibility to **serve the public** and not allow **coercion of the public to serve** utility companies.

It is a travesty and a great disregard of the rights of the residents of Michigan that HB4220 that respects consumer choice and their privacy & health by allowing retention of mechanical analog utility meters has not been signed into law. Why is it that citizens are forced to go to such extents and effort to convince law makers to simply respect the same rights that our Founders provided in the Bill of Rights?

Thank you for your consideration.

Fred Kummer
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* The analog meter did not pose the threat of surveillance of the electricity usage within my residence (i.e. invasion of privacy). Regardless of ill-determined utility company procedures by the MPSC. no matter how "legal", no utility company has an inherent right to monitor or have the capability of monitoring utility use inside a home on a minute by minute basis without permission of the resident. However, DTE is able to obtain what they consider permission of the resident by the very real threat of electrical service shutdown.