

January 28th 2018

To any and all who will listen,

My name is Matt McNutt, I live at 205 S. Neeper St. in Capac, MI. I have lived at this address for the last 18 years and have been a customer of DTE Energy since March of 2000 and I have never experienced any problems with my analog electricity meter, ever. I put a keyed Master lock on my electrical meter box back in late April of 2016 after speaking with several family members and friends about problems associated with smart meters and the issues related to health, inaccurate energy costs, invasion of privacy since they transmit metadata information silently and potential fires they have been known to cause.

I received a visit by DTE Energy shortly after securing my meter, they were attempting to install one of these dangerous/invasive devices to my home but were unsuccessful so they left a door tag on my front door stating that I needed to remove the lock because it was a "safety hazzard" pursuant of MPSC rule 460.136 and I had to call them to have the "smart" meter installed. I spoke to two firefighters from different departments and neither could say that a locked meter box could be dangerous since firemen have standard equipment capable of opening meter boxes easily. I did some research online about others who may have had similar experiences and found Linda Kurtz, director of Smart Meter Education Network. Her website was very helpful and gives several different example letters of refusal in which to respond with, so I printed off a copy, added my information and sent it to DTE Energy via certified mail approximately 30 days after receiving the door tag.

In August, I received an "Opt-out" letter to which I did not respond as per the suggestion on the Smart Meter Education Network website. I did not receive any other letters or threats from DTE Energy until December 2nd. I received a letter threatening to shut off my power on Dec. 12th if I did not remove the lock from my analog meter box. This letter is not an official shut-off notice, just letterhead with "immediate reply required" printed in red in the upper corner of the page. DTE Energy has an "Opt-Out" option through extortion, charging an initial fee of \$68 followed by a monthly fee of \$9.80 per month but they still force you to accept a smart meter which they claim has the radio turned off. What is a smart meter that doesn't transmit information wirelessly? An analog meter, which is what they claim is a "safety issue". I did not comply with their extortion demands so on December 12th at approximately 1:00 pm DTE Energy physically cut the supply line to my home at the utility pole one day after a 10 inch snow accumulation in near-zero degree temperatures. I used a generator, gas range and gas fireplace to survive for as long as my family could bear it.

On December 15th, three days after DTE cut my power, my wife & I and our 11 year old son were forced to comply against our will, under duress and in protest. I had to call DTE Energy to reconnect my electricity, they had won. I had to submit by force to have a smart meter installed or face physical harm or death due to hypothermic living conditions. Unfortunately others weren't so lucky; a large fish tank full of Cichlid fish died due to this act of tyranny. To arbitrarily deny service to any customer in good standing who pays their bill on time is authoritarian in nature.

I have contacted Rep. Dan Lauwers' office about this matter and did receive a response from his staff but no real solutions. I also have reached out to Sen. Gary Peters and Sen. Debbie Stabenow but have not received a response as of yet. Maybe it's the fact that our representatives receive "donations" or "sponsors" or "support" or other bribes from monopoly corporations like DTE Energy as encouragement to push laws allowing this type of behavior? Perhaps the only action to alleviate this problem is to vote accordingly in the upcoming midterm elections against those not willing to "represent" their constituents? There is no competition against DTE where I live, no other choices to purchase electricity from. Michigan residents should not be strong-armed into accepting a dangerous piece of equipment that is injurious and violates their 4th amendment rights to privacy under the guise of "safety". DTE Energy is a monopoly, they violate antitrust laws and need to be held accountable for their abuse of power. These "Too Big" utility corporations have to stop violating customer's rights to chose what metering devices they attach to their homes as much as our "leaders" need to protect those who elected them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matt McNutt

DTE Energy Company
One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226-1221



DTE Energy

IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUIRED

December 12, 2016

Mr. Matthew McNutt
205 S Neeper St
Capac, MI 48014-3621

Regarding: 205 S Neeper St, Capac, MI 48014-3621

Dear Mr. McNutt:

Your electric service has been interrupted for safety purposes. Please remove the locking device and call us at 1-800-441-6698 to arrange to have the new advanced meter installed and for power restore. Our office hours are Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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 has been disconnected. You may be required to pay a reconnect fee to have your service restored.

If you would like to enroll in our Opt-Out Program, make us aware of that decision when you contact us and a non-transmitting advanced meter will be installed.

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 Energy

