



Control Number: 41906



Item Number: 52

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2013 NOV 25 AM 9: 10

November 19, 2013

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Public Utility Commission of Texas
Attn: Filing Clerk
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Subject: Docket #41906 Centerpoint

Dear Honorable Chairman Nelson and PUC Commissioners:

I have filed as an Intervener in the above case and request a hearing on this matter.

I did not want a smart meter, but I came home one day and saw a door hanger on my door stating that one had been installed in our backyard. Before removing any analog meters, Centerpoint should have asked its customers to sign a form that you wanted a smart meter, particularly since these are not mandated by law.

Smart meters are the "non-standard" meters, not analog meters. If you were not paying additional fees to have a standard analog meter in the past, you should not have to pay additional fees to have a standard analog meter now.

Please note that an analog meter reading could be self-reported using an online interface or by filling out and mailing in a form, as many in rural areas have done for years.

The grossly inflated fees Centerpoint wants to charge is taking advantage of the consumer. Centerpoint should offer free opt outs like some other states and municipalities, as well as free conversions back to analog meters. I should not have to pay to switch back to what I was happy with in the first place.

- Centerpoint should not be allowed to charge you to get an analog meter back.
- Centerpoint should not be allowed to charge you an additional recurring fee for having a standard analog meter read.
- Centerpoint should not be allowed to charge you for an out-of-cycle meter read if you switch back to an analog meter.

There have been no cost savings to customers since these have been installed. If it was so expensive for Centerpoint to read analog meters, then after they converted to smart meters, our monthly bills should have dropped.

Centerpoint lavishes its executives with huge salaries, bonuses, stock grants, and other compensation. David McClanahan's total compensation was reportedly almost \$5.3 Million! Was this where the meter reading savings went? Furthermore, besides paying extra for these smart meters every month, Texas received about \$2 Billion in stimulus TAX Dollars to roll out this initiative, of which Centerpoint received \$200 Million.

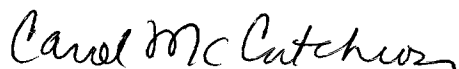
In addition, smart meters allegedly violate wiretapping laws and invade people's privacy and the smart meter data is begin used in violation of Texas law:

- **Wiretapping** – Violate both Texas and federal wiretap laws (18 USC 2511 & 18 USC 2520 (federal), Tex.Penal Code 16.02(b) & Tex. Code of Crim. Proc., Art. 18.20, Sec. 16)
- **Invasion of privacy** – Collect and constantly transmit such intimate details of the activities of a given home that it violates Texas laws regarding invasion of privacy; See O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action 2013, Invasion of Privacy–Intrusion on Seclusion.
- **Conversion (theft)** – Texas law states that data from a smart meter belongs to the customer unless they expressly consent to allow the utilities access to it. (Texas Utilities Code §39.107(b))

Centerpoint wants to stick its utility customers with unrealistic charges. One way or the other, I have already paid plenty of money for something I never wanted and am not mandated by law to have. Please do not let Centerpoint charge us even more money to go back to a standard analog meter, which they should not have removed without our consent in the first place.

Thank you very much for your help with this important matter.

Sincerely,



Carol McCutcheon