

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 3/29/2010 10:58:57 AM
To: Dietz, Sidney (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=SBD4);
'paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov' (paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Fwd: do we have a good response for this.
Sid - please handle. Asap. Thx

From: Clanon, Paul <paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov>
To: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: Mon Mar 29 10:26:53 2010
Subject: Fwd: do we have a good response for this.

You guys have one?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Randolph, Edward F." <edward.randolph@cpuc.ca.gov>
Date: March 29, 2010 10:02:20 AM PDT
To: "Clanon, Paul" <paul.clanon@cpuc.ca.gov>, "Fitch, Julie A." <julie.fitch@cpuc.ca.gov>, "Deal, Matthew" <matthew.deal@cpuc.ca.gov>, "Prosper, Terrie D." <terrie.prosper@cpuc.ca.gov>
Subject: do we have a good response for this.

SF Chronicle - Field-test SmartMeters before more installed (OP-ED)

By Willard H. Wattenburg, March 29

The president of the California Public Utilities Commission, Michael Peevey, told the Legislature this month that the commission - shockingly - did not do the most basic and essential field testing to investigate complaints about Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s SmartMeters before ordering the utility to install them at millions of customers' homes and businesses.

The utility apparently relied on tests supposedly done by the meter suppliers. There are already hundreds of complaints from honest customers about how their power bills

have soared after the SmartMeters were installed. These complaints cannot be ignored.

The Legislature is considering ordering a halt to installing more SmartMeters until adequate tests are done. The governor and the Legislature must take charge now and demand that the utility not install any more SmartMeters until independent field tests are done to test their accuracy.

The only way to restore the public trust is to have a laboratory with the experience and technology field test the meters under actual operating conditions at customer locations. There is a straightforward and inexpensive way to do this: Take a sample from all installed SmartMeters (at least 1 out of every 100 installations) by re-installing standard meters alongside the SmartMeters and comparing the electric-use readings from both. Field testing must be continued for at least a year to validate the SmartMeter readings during various times and under various environmental conditions. Then the meters must be monitored on a periodic basis thereafter.

During the 2001 energy crisis, the governor asked Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to help find solutions. The extensive field experiments done by the laboratory scientists assisted the state and thus helped bring an end to the disastrous energy crisis.

Beyond the accuracy of the SmartMeters' energy-use readings, there is another serious uncertainty: The utilities plan to read and control the SmartMeters via radio. There is hardly any over-the-air communication scheme that has not been defeated by clever hackers. If communications are hacked, and the knowledge of how to do that becomes widespread, then hundreds of millions of not-so-smart meters in the country will have to be modified or replaced.

There must be thorough testing of the SmartMeter communication schemes by the most sophisticated cybersecurity laboratories in the country. This has the potential to become a national security matter, because hacking could disrupt the nation's power grids.

Willard H. (Bill) Wattenburg is a senior research scientist at the Research Foundation, California State University, Chico; and a scientific consultant for the University of California and many other institutions. He is also the host of the talk-radio show "The Open Line to the West Coast" on KGO radio in San Francisco.

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