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Subject: Smart Meters

Hello PG&E,

I am not sure if you're aware that the state of Maine is also experiencing the same type of backlash with respect to smart meters and RF. So far, Maine's Center for Disease Control have issued a paper indicating that there's no adverse health impact. See below the article which talks about their concern over an opt-out program and how that may impact their DOE grants (potentially).

We're in contact with the Maine PUC and usually exchange information about this issue. You may also want to do the same with the utility, Central Maine Power.

thanks,
marzia

Central Maine Power surprised
by resistance to new meters
November 22, 2010

The consumer backlash against smart meters has spread o a small portion of the East Coast of the US from California and Texas. At least three Maine towns have sought moratoriums on smart meter installations by Central Maine Power (CMP), and one town won a brief halt. Some are worried about health impacts related to RF from smart meters. CMP has set up town meetings, solicited expert opinions and responded to a complaint filed with Maine's PUC.

"This is not an issue we anticipated," John Carroll, a CMP spokesperson, told us Friday. "The wireless-communications technology we're using is so common, and people are exposed to RF from so many sources every day. Our concern is that this worry is shifting public attention away from the very real consumer benefits AMI has to offer."

The town of Sanford, Maine, on Tuesday passed a resolution asking CMP to halt smart meter installations for 90 days and to let the town's 23,000 residents express their thoughts about the meters before any are installed there.

"If they want us to go talk with them, we'll go, but we're not committing to the moratorium," Carroll said Friday.

CMP did pause in its smart grid roll-out for the town of Scarborough, he noted. That town, in an

Oct 20 resolution, urged CMP to forego installing any smart meters or wireless-communications equipment for at least 90 days until the utility held a meeting addressing concerns among the town's 20,000 residents about adverse effects from RF and microwave radiation. The town also urged that CMP let Scarborough residents opt to avoid smart meters.

The meeting is scheduled for Nov 29, and a halt until then -- though not for the requested 90 days - was granted because "at the time, it was the first request we'd gotten, and there were no proceedings yet at the PUC, so we wanted to be respectful," Carroll said. "Now there are proceedings under way, so more information is available" and there is less need for a halt elsewhere, he said.

Opt-out requests by individuals or towns are "not something we can or are willing to do unilaterally," Carroll said. "We have a commitment to DOE under a grant and to the PUC to develop and deliver an efficient smart grid system, so we're not prepared to give opt-outs in unknown numbers. We look to the PUC for guidance as to whether opt-outs are appropriate."

Opt-outs could cripple the Trilliant RF-mesh communications technology CMP is using, making it difficult for meters from Landis & Gyr and other firms to communicate with each other and the home office, Carroll said.

In addition to Sanford and Scarborough, the 9,000-person town of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, on Nov 8 formally asked CMP and the PUC for a moratorium and permission to let residents opt out.

"What happens now is up to the utility and the PUC," Town Clerk Debra Lane told us Friday.

Meanwhile, CMP is building a medical case supporting smart meters. The utility early last week responded to a formal complaint its smart meters pose an RF health hazard, filing several documents including lengthy reports by four researchers. In its 66-page response to an Oct 25 complaint filed by Scarborough resident Elisa Boxer-Cook (SGT, [Nov-17](#)), the utility concluded that the complaint "does not offer any sound basis for stopping the implementation of AMI, and should therefore be dismissed as without merit."

To support that assertion, Central Maine Power offered testimony from occupational and environmental medicine physician James Kornberg and from three other researchers whose conclusion matched that of the utility.

The PUC is analyzing the utility's response, Evelyn deFrees, a PUC spokesperson, told us Thursday. When it has finished its analysis -- probably after Thanksgiving -- it could seek more information, open judicial proceedings or dismiss the complaint, she said.

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