

## Should You Be Concerned About Utility Smart Meters?

Since 2010, complaints have been filed in 6 states with public utility commissions and consumer organizations about Duke Energy's gas and electric AMI Smart Meters. Customers want the right to "opt out" and have original analog meters instead. There has been extensive media coverage in each state about concerns, complaints, documented issues, and rate increases regarding installation and replacements.

WCPO's John Matarese has produced several segments featuring complaints and issues associated with Duke Energy's AMI Smart Meters in Ohio and Kentucky. In 2012, WCPO aired *"Smart Meter Makes Touch Lamp Go Crazy"*. In 2018, the company admitted there had been smart meter fires in the WCPO segment *"Duke makes it expensive to opt out of smart meter."* AMI Smart Meters must be properly grounded and have surge protection that is adequately rated in order to divert a lightning strike or short-circuit incident.

In Ohio, customers fought for an "opt-out" through PUCO case record, 14-1160-EL-UNC. Medical testimony was submitted to PUCO on February 3, 2017 by Dr. David Carpenter about health issues associated with Smart Meters.

In 2013 – 2014, Ohio SB 181 *"Smart Meter Consent Bill"* and Ohio HB 368 *"Smart Meter Customer Rights"* were introduced to allow all Ohioans to refuse utility Smart Meters. Both bills were endorsed by the Ohio ACLU.

In 2014, Ohio customers were given a rate increase to pay Duke Energy to finish installing 700,000+ wireless AMI Smart Meters. In 2018, customer rates were increased again to pay for replacing those meters with new wireless AMI Smart meters: PUCO case record, 17-0032-EL-AIR.

Kentucky governor, Andy Beshear, stopped the smart meter rollout while he was Attorney General because the state couldn't afford the meters and didn't need them. His decision was supported by Kentucky AARP.

Ohio customers may "opt out" of wireless transmitting Duke Energy AMI Smart Meters by paying \$100 for removal and \$30/month. Kentuckians may pay \$100 for removal and \$25/month. Customers are receiving what Duke Energy refers to as digital "opt-out" meters – not original analog meters – when they "opt out".

**Duke Energy customers in North Carolina may provide a notarized medical statement in order to not pay "opt out" fees for refusing wireless AMI Smart Meters.**

In Sept 2021, Duke Energy requested \$55 million increase to its electric distribution rates to support continued rollout of an optimized grid, smart meters and a series of new residential customer options.

A study of the 9 most commonly installed "smart" meters found that they cause [measurement errors](#) 30%-582%.

Free online documentary, *"Take Back Your Power,"* provides details about issues associated with and reported about digital and wireless utility Smart Meters. (<http://www.takebackyourpower.net>)

Organizations that oppose Duke Energy AMI "Smart" Meters include:

[Stop Smart Meters Ohio](#) | [No Smart Meters 4 Indiana](#) | [Stop Smart Meters Florida](#)  
[Stop Smart Meters North Carolina](#) | [Stop Smart Meters South Carolina and Worldwide](#) | [Raleigh ES](#)  
[SC Smart Meter Awareness](#) | [Southwest Ohio for Responsible Technology \(SWORT\)](#)

Other informative websites include:

[StopSmartMeters](#) | [SmartMeterHarm](#) | [Smart Grid Awareness](#) | [EMF Safety Network](#)

For more information about Southwest Ohio for Responsible Technology (SWORT) email us at [swo4responsibletech@fuse.net](mailto:swo4responsibletech@fuse.net) and visit our [Facebook page](#).