



City Clerk Department

July 20, 2010

Michael R. Peevey, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: PG&E's Installation of Smart Meters in Berkeley

The Berkeley City Council has received numerous complaints about PG&E's Smart Meter installations. In question are accuracy, safety, no "opt out" provision, [security](#) and potential for violation of personal privacy. We are writing to express our concerns and request the CPUC's intervention.

Reports of meter malfunctioning are widespread. Residents have reported overbilling and overcharging, communicating that their PG&E bills have significantly increased. PG&E Vice-President Helen Burt reported to the *San Francisco Chronicle* that 43,000 Smart Meters have had "at least" one type of problem or another. *The Chronicle* published a June 21st editorial calling for the immediate cessation of Smart Meter installations until Californian consumer worry is alleviated, and until public satisfaction is gained and meters are deemed fully "accurate." We ask exactly the same with this writing.

In addition to concerns about malfunctioning meters, the Council has received complaints regarding fire safety, based [on](#) reports that Smart Meters have been known to malfunction and cause fires. Given Berkeley's history of destructive fires, our residents are particularly sensitive to this possibility.

Concerns about privacy intrusion have surfaced, including the possibility of data exchanges occurring without consumer knowledge, and fear of PG&E's ability to instantly deprive a household of service without appropriate process. Additionally, the program has no provision for "opting out." Residents have asked PG&E to cease installation of Smart Meters and were informed that they could not only not opt out, but that "residents had no recourse" when it came to the matter.

In light of the numerous concerns voiced by so many Berkeley and California residents, we request that the CPUC:

- Continue its independent investigation of PG&E's Smart Meter program.

- Require PG&E to submit a characterization study of Berkeley's energy delivery system that would reveal infrastructure and other important detailed information to the public.
- Require PG&E to allow consumers to 'opt out' of the Smart Meter program, without repercussion.
- Place an immediate moratorium on the removal, disposal, or permanent alteration of old PG&E meters from Berkeley.
- Place a moratorium on the installation of PG&E Smart Meters until consumer concerns have been addressed.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deanna Despain, CMC
City Clerk

Cc: Kriss Worthington, Councilmember, District 7
Linda Maio, Councilmember, District 1
Laurie Capitelli, Councilmember, District 5
Phil Kamlarz, City Manager