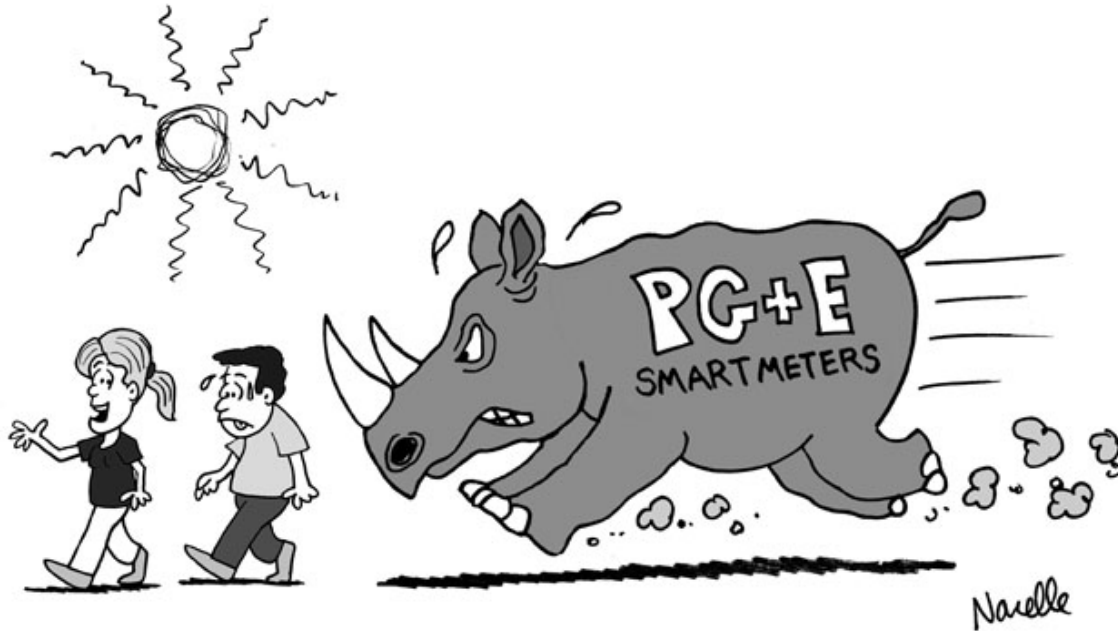


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Structure Report: Smart meter conflict of interest and cover up of skyrocketing bills



Don't worry. They only overcharge when it's hot.

SAN FRANCISCO – Emails between PG&E and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) expose conflict of interest and cover up of skyrocketing smart meter bills. The consultant the CPUC hired to investigate the complaints, Structure, had worked for PG&E for the previous five years, and was not “independent” as they claim. CPUC President Peevey told PG&E the results of Structure’s investigation two months before it was complete.

The coordinated propaganda campaign between the CPUC, PG&E and marketing firms couldn’t tolerate news such as 500,000 smart meters were at risk for overcharging in hot weather. Peevey knew smart meters were overcharging, as his own bill doubled when a smart meter was installed on his vacation home, causing him to joke about making The Sea Ranch a smart meter free zone.

The CPUC and PG&E used the Structure report to cover up smart meter problems, and to defend the deployment at the customers’ expense. *“The CPUC values smart meters more than they respect the law.”* said Sandi Maurer, director of the EMF Safety Network and intervenor in CPUC smart meter proceedings. *“We need to return to the tried and true analog meters, and meter readers to protect public and environmental safety. Smart meters are costing us money, privacy, and our health and safety.”*

March 30, 2010: The day the CPUC announced an “independent” evaluator, Structure, was selected to test smart meter accuracy, PG&E’s Brian Cherry wrote to CPUC’s Energy Division Director Julie Fitch, “Julie-we

have a small hiccup... I hope you know that we have done some work with them [Structure], and continue to do work with them.” He tells her they are concerned about media inquiries, and wants to avoid any hint of favoritism. PG&E lawyer, Chonda Nwamu, confirms Structure worked for the company over the last five years. She writes, “We don’t currently have work with Structure.”

Cherry writes: “Then we tell the media that we do not currently work with them.”

Fitch responds: “Yes. And we will say the same thing. We asked for disclosure. There is no current relationship between PG&E and Structure.”

On July 2, 2010 Cherry writes: “*He [Peevey] said he could not go into details, but that we would like their [Structure] conclusions on the viability of the technology and infrastructure that supports it. He did say the Structure Audit report would be very critical of the way we handled the problem and communicated with our customers.*” According to the Structure Report, they were still field testing meters in July and did not complete their investigation until August 25, 2010.

On August 31, 2010 Cherry sent an email to President Peevey warning PG&E found smart meters were overcharging, and there were 4800 commercial smart meters at risk for the problem. Two days later The CPUC announces the Structure Report results claiming smart meters are accurate. Peevey is quoted, “*I am happy to hear that PG&E’s Smart Meters are functioning properly, but disturbed by PG&E’s lack of customer service and responsiveness.*”

In April 2011 Alope Gupta, CPUC Senior Energy Analyst warned there were 500,000 smart meters at risk for overcharging in hot weather. He writes, “*The faulty reading occurs only in a narrow band of temperature (approx 100-115 estimated).*” PG&E’s Sid Dietz responds, “500,000 have the same electronics as the ones with a problem, but only 3000 have thrown an error code and only 1500 have the problem. So the real number is 1500.”

A little over a year later Peevey got his first smart meter bill, which more than doubled the cost. He writes to PG&E, “*something is screwy.... I would like an explanation.*” PG&E investigates his bill and they don’t find a problem. Peevey concedes they did “super-duper” bathroom remodel, with electric towel warmers however he still thinks the bill is “way out of line” as they were not there for most of the month. A few months later Cherry sends him news about PG&E’s nine millionth meter installed. Peevey responds, “Great. However, I am considering supporting creation of a Smart Meter Free Zone at The Sea Ranch. In fact I want to go further to have no electricity, period, for everyone there. Back to the land, I say.”

Links to emails can be found here: <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/smart-meters/structure-report-smart-meter-conflict-of-interest-and-cover-up/>