Steven,

Steven,

     I lived in the Northern Virginia suburbs of DC until last year, and watched the Smart Meter issue closely. I take a personal liberty perspective.  It has long been a goal of Progressives to drive people onto the electric grid, and therefore, by "partnering" with energy companies (think fascism), be able to monitor and control energy use just like Social Democrats of Europe and communists of Cuba and Venezuela do to their subjects.  We, the people of the United States are not subjects, but, almost uniquely in world history, own our government.  We monitor them.  
  
     If I had any hope that my electric company was not controlled or able to be controlled by federal authorities, I'd be a lot more conducive to smart metering.  If the smart meter was/is a way for me to interface with my service provider about making more sense of the service they provide, I'm all for that.  If there is a chance the company and anyone who happens to hack or tap into their system (think NSA and your phone conversations) (Nakashima, E.) can or might use that information against me, I have a problem with that and will not pay for or allow it on my home.

The Smart Meters being advocated in DC were not just for monitoring, but could actually throttle or cut off an individual's service based on input, intentional or not, from some unknown data facility downtown - or in Utah or Bangalore, for that matter.  If, one day, I or someone I love is on life support and someone in the government decides they don't like my political viewpoint (or anyone’s viewpoints, for that matter) and decides to take it out certain "clients", as was recently allowed to happen in the IRS (Schouten, F. and Korte, G.), they have a direct line on our Constitutionally protected natural right of security from the government.

     Issues about RF radiation are, based on my 28 years in radio frequency electronics, unfounded in physics.  That a meter could cause a fire seems almost as ludicrous aside from manufacturing defect.  That rogue or not-so-rogue elements of our government would abuse their positions and attempt to use power meter information individually or community-wide to control the population has proven recently to be absolutely a reasonable concern.  That government officials would jeopardize my information security by happenstance or malfeasance is a likely event. The present administration has shown eagerness to adopt purposefully and known misleading propaganda regarding The Global Warming Hoax and accompanying Carbon Scare of the late 20th and early 21st Centuries (Booker, C.). They are still attempting to use that as justification to impose draconian governmental control measures on us, the citizens who employ them as representatives. We have a legitimate reason to do due diligence regarding any government potential for interference in any area of our lives.

This is sad.  Smart Meters are a great technology and promise to improve a lot of folks' relationships with service providers.  Unfortunately, government is able and willing too often to abuse such systems to overstep their Constitutionally mandated limits.  With less Progressive totalitarians around, I might be more "user-friendly" with Smart Meters...  
  
Thanks for a great post,

David

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