

From: [Michael Rice](#)
To: [UTC DL Records Center](#)
Subject: Jan 6th 2020 Avista request for fee changes on opt out program
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:10:38 AM

To whom it may concern,

I find it sobering that Avista wishes to increase the fee for a meter read on the opt our program from 5 to 15 dollars monthly.

The first point of concern deals with the fact that initially the Commission sought to have Avista to provide for an alternative to smart meters when they first began the install of smart meters to include retention of analog meters. Avista countered with digital non-smart meters which was accepted by the Commission. This was based on customer issues with the smart meters in relation to a number of issues surrounding the implementation of smart meters. Concerns which I still have, namely EMF's and privacy.

The second point of contention is cost at 5 dollars per month that is but 60 dollars a year at 15 per month it is almost 200 dollars a year and that for a quarterly reading. When I was attempting to talk to the company about how many people had chosen to opt out within my geographical area, Clarkston, they refused to to provide me any demographics. They stated that it would be a violation of personal privacy rights.

The third issue is privacy, when they were asked prior to to implementation of the smart meter program if they were going to monitor every appliance within the house they stated not a this time. which of course means they will not only have the ability but sometime in the future they have a plan to execute said invasion of personal data.

All this said, I believe the increased rate request is nothing more than a ploy to make "non-compliant" customers bend to their will by making the cost to remain outside of the program to exorbitant to afford.

Thank you so much for your consideration this matter.