From:	Ken Robinson
To:	Grimes, Ryan (UTC)
Cc:	Public Involvement (UTC)
Subject:	Questions about Avista"s Non-Communicating Digital Meter Application
Date:	Tuesday, February 19, 2019 2:15:09 PM
Attachments:	Avista Smart Meters Opt Out webpage.pdf NonCommunicatingDigitalMeterRequestForm (1).pdf Sch_80.pdf
Importance:	High

Dear Mr. Grimes,
I am not sure if I am communicating with the correct person in regard to my questions and so I have also Cd'd the comments email address.

If you are not the correct person within the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, then please inform me of whom I need to contact.

I received the below email which prompted me to do some research on "Smart Meters" and have decided that I do not want gas or electric smart meters for our residential home which we own.

I went to the Avista website (please see attached) to find out how to opt-out of this program and found the Non-Communicating Digital Meter Application form vetted through the WUTC.

The Avista Smart Meters Opt Out webpage states that there is a $5.00 monthly cost for not having a smart meter.
But neither the form nor the Avista Utilities Tariff Schedule 80 stipulate the exact fee.

In the interest of Consumer Protection I have some questions:

How do I know that Avista will only charge me $5.00 per month for not having a smart meter?

> The form is worded in such a way that Avista could charge me any amount they want and say that it is the "on going meter reading fee". The Avista Utilities Tariff Schedule 80 does not stipulate an amount either.

How do I know that Avista will fairly "estimate" my monthly bill when they manually read my meters only <u>once per quarter</u>?

> What recourse do I have if they charge me an exorbitant rate "based" upon my previous month's usage?

Would you sign such an ambiguously worded legal document?

Thank you for your time and I await your response which I hope will be soon as Avista will begin their policy implementation 1 March 2019.

Sincerely,
Kenneth L Robinson

new logo letterhead 1

- Feb. 19, 2019 -

Media Contact: (360) 664-1116 or media@utc.wa.gov

Docket number: U-180525

MEDIA ADVISORY

Public invited to comment on “smart meter” rulemaking

Olympia, Wash. – The Utilities and Transportation Commission will hold a public comment hearing on its rulemaking for advanced metering infrastructure on Thursday, Feb. 21.

During the hearing, the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the commission’s draft consumer protection rules as well as meter reading, meter accuracy, and remote disconnect rules guiding Washington’s investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities in the rollout of advanced metering technologies, or “smart meters,” for residential customers.

The public may submit comments prior to the Feb. 21 hearing:

- Online: utc.wa.gov/comments
- Email: comments@utc.wa.gov
- Toll-free: 1-888-333-9882
- Mail: P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA., 98504

WHAT

Public comment hearing on rulemaking for advanced meter infrastructure

WHO

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

WHEN and WHERE

Thursday, Feb. 21

Utilities and Transportation Commission

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.

Olympia, WA

6 p.m.

BACKGROUND

In April 2018, the commission issued a policy statement guiding Washington's investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities in the rollout of advanced metering technologies, or "smart meters," for residential customers.

The commission determined companies will need to offer residential customers the ability to opt-out of advanced meter installation to address customer concerns over the implementation of advanced meter technology.

All opt-out programs must be approved by the commission prior to a utility installing any advanced meters in its Washington service territory.

As the implementation of advanced meter technologies progresses in Washington, the commission is developing requirements to protect consumer information as well as make necessary rule changes for company operations.

The UTC is the state agency that regulates private, investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

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Editor's Note: The UTC is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to meeting participants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation, please contact the commission at (360) 664-1133.

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