

Comment

Briana Thiodet

Owner

 [Notes](#) [Contacts](#)

Comment Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name Briana Thiodet

Contact Method Email

Email briana.thiodet@gmail.com

Business Phone

Mobile Phone

Address 1: Street 1 11050 Palatine Ave N

Address 1: Street 2

Address 1: City Seattle

State/Province WA

Address 1: ZIP/Postal Code 98133

Details

Comments Hello,

First, I would like to suggest that the comment period regarding Docket No U-180117 should be extended to allow more customers and stakeholders to be made aware of this process and share comments and experiences. I am submitting these comments after the scheduled March 8 deadline as I only became aware of this Docket this morning, March 9.

I am a Seattle City Light customer in Seattle and have chosen to Opt-out of the Advanced Meter installation on my home. I have also strongly encouraged my neighbors and community members to Opt-out as well. I have spoken to SCL employees and officials about the program and I thoroughly appreciate their thoughtful approach to the implementation of this program, however I believe that the depth and breadth of the studies regarding long term impacts of this technology are extremely limited, and therefore Seattle customers and all WA state residents should have the benefit of choice as to whether they want this technology on their home and their property.

I am currently paying fees to Opt out of the Advanced meter program, and have requested to keep my Analog meter, which SCL has allowed until they can determine what to do with the existing Analog meters. I have been told there is not a viable new Analog meter in production to replace old Analog meters. From my understanding, old Analog meters can be refurbished, however I would imagine that with enough consumer demand, Landis and Gyr or another meter manufacturing company would be willing to put an Analog meter back into production.

I will continue to Opt-out of the Advanced meter program to protect my privacy and the health of my family for as

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long as I live in WA State. I do appreciate that this Opt-out program is available, as I understand customers in other states have had to fight for this right. However, I believe that having an Analog meter should be a mandated allowance as well. I would also advocate that the Advanced metering program should be redesigned as an Opt-In program, so that customers can thoroughly consider the costs and benefits of an Advanced meter, and whether this is the appropriate technology for their home.

I don't currently have the option to Opt-out of my Advanced gas meter from PSE, however I would strongly encourage any legislation that would allow for that choice. I was not aware of the Advanced metering technology when I had the gas meter installed next to my bedroom wall, and I would have made a different choice had I known.

I would also strongly encourage that billing and meter reading cycles for Opt-out customers be consolidated into fewer cycles per year (perhaps quarterly, or bi-annually) to limit the fees required by Opt-out customers, and also to limit the emissions used by my fleet vehicles for meter reading (one of SCL's goals was to reduce emissions by switching to Advanced meters).

If customers are unable or unwilling to pay for the Opt-out program, but still have concerns about the location of their Advanced meter, I would encourage the option to relocate their meter to a different location on their home at a reduced or subsidized cost.

Further (and I don't know whether this commission has any hand in this decision), I would strongly encourage any upcoming legislation on the proposed 5G rollout to allow for customer choice as to proximity to small cell towers and technology. I believe that Advanced meters and Small cell towers are equally invasive in our communities, and should be the choice of residents as to their proximity to such technology. I would prefer not to have any cell tower technology near my family or my neighborhood and the particularly the children in this neighborhood. I have already noticed quite a few cell towers installed on telephone poles in the North Seattle area. I was not aware of this policy to allow cell towers to be installed on public use telephone poles, and I am concerned for those in proximity to these, and whether they were made aware of the installation and possible health effects.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration,
 Briana Thiodet
 206-491-4218
 Briana.thiodet@gmail.com

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