

"Mark Taylor" 16/11/2004 5:07:02 pm >>>

Dear Sir,

I have a few questions regarding the new "Smart Meter" proposal. I was hoping that perhaps you could clear up a few major consumer concerns with this initiative.

1. Most importantly, these meters do not seem to support 'Net Metering' as our current meters do. Net Metering means that if I have solar panels on my house, at the end of the month, I pay for the difference between energy used and energy produced by my panels. In Alberta, net metering is illegal, but in Ontario this is legal. I suspect that this push to new "Smart Meters" is a ploy to get meters installed that will not support "Net Metering". This would save utility companies from the embarrassment of lobbying for a change in the "Net Metering" legality. This would mean the years down the road (coming sooner than people expect) they will still receive high power bills despite the use of solar panels.

These smart meters are being sold/pushed due to their ability to reduce 'consumption'. I suspect that this will do the opposite in the long run since this will massively affect the economics of installing solar panels.

2. How will informing the consumer of his energy use reduce use of power. Consumers can already calculate how much power they are using. Or they could simply look at their power bill. The problem is that people lack the will and knowledge to do anything about it. Telling them they use too much power, is probably something they already know. Without the \$100 cost of a new meter.

3. As if Ontarians won't be paying for the meters through direct costs (the charges that will occur on power bills to pay for the meter plus the reduced economy of solar panels.) They will also pay for this through job loss. The new meters will eventually eliminate jobs of medium pay meter readers. This will result in higher unemployment, more money needed for Job Creation programs, and eventually higher taxes.

I am hoping that you can make me see the brighter side of this 'Smart Meter' proposal.

Anxiously Yours,

Mark Taylor