

Walter Clemence

From: SpruceCreek Patriots [sprucecreekpatriots@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 10:08 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Balbis; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Brown; Mark Futrell; Walter Clemence
Subject: Important comments of a consumer who was unable to attend the 9/20/2012 Workshop.

From: Rick Haven, Putnam County:

Sorry that I could not have been with all of you yesterday, auto problems prevented from attending. I watched the "comments from the public", Marilynne and Roger you were terrific! So what is the next step? When will we know of any decisions of the FPSC and what is the Oct 12th deadline date given by the moderator Mr. Clemence about?

Just one comment, a reference was made by one of the speakers about the state of Vermont that was inaccurate. Perhaps I was mis-understood at the Friday meeting at Maredy's last week. The three Vermont utility companies had applied to their PSC for a rate increase to do the installations of "smart meters" in 2010. The 2011 legislature got into the act and they were told by these utility companies that the "smart meter" would in time show a cost savings to both the customers and to the utility companies, as they were looking for ways to comply with the 2009 Energy Reduction Act. The Energy Reduction Act was a schedule of curtailment of fossil fuels that was being placed on the utility companies. The Vermont legislature told the three utility companies that they would grant the necessary rate increase to cover meter replacement, contingent on the utility companies would have to issue an annual report showing the cost savings to the customers and the energy reduction for the power companies. The three utility companies must have known there would have been no savings to the 784,000 residents of Vermont (a population smaller than Orlando), and never began the meter replacement.

One subject that was not brought up in the public comments that I had intended to bring before the FPSC was the incidence of fires and explosions that have occurred within days of a meter replacement. I live in an older home built in 1945. Here in Putnam Co. and St. Augustine in St. Johns Co. there are many turn-of-the-century homes, that would exist for many more years with their analog meters. When I had to do some major electrical work on my home, Clay Electric (who will not be replacing meters) was called to shut down power at my transformer before I began. I have been told that the un-trained crews are not shutting down power before replacing meters so that they might safely clean-up what might be corroded terminals, before plugging in the new meter. Why? Because the panel box belongs to you and FP&L has no responsibility to insure that your panel box is safe! Never mind that the old analog meter would have continued to give good service for perhaps

another 100 years if left undisturbed.

The incidence of fires and explosions thus far has been just under 2% to date, but 2% of FP&L's 4.5 million customers could possibly be as many as 90,000 house fires! In addition, we have been told that many insurance companies will not cover damages due to these fires because the meters do not have the Underwriters Laboratory seal of approval.

Isn't homeowner's insurance high enough without adding this additional burden. We all know how health insurance companies feel about covering pre-existing conditions. Are the insurance companies aware of this new burden? State Farm has been threatening to leave Florida due to it's heavy losses from Andrew, and several did, while other insurance companies will no longer issue coverage for mobile and modular homes. Those are now covered by Citizen's Insurance, a company founded by the Florida legislature and the Florida Insurance Commission who will not be able to cover 30% of the losses in the event that we should have another serious hurricane. Will "smart meters" hasten State Farm and the other remaining companies to leave Florida?

This group has un-covered a variety of reasons why "smart meters" are a bad idea. Why are so few listening?Rick

Website: www.SpruceCreekPatriots.com