

Wireless Safety Group Recommends Consumers Choose Non-Communicating Smart Meters

Arlington, VA-- May 6, 2013—Center for Safer Wireless, a non-profit group concerned about wireless technology safety reports that Dominion Power of Virginia, following the trend that is occurring across the country, agreed to offer a smart meter opt out to customers.

This option is only available to residential customers who do not have electric service on dynamic pricing, time-of-use-rate or customers who sell generation back to the company. “You must ask to receive the opt out and they will not routinely inform people of the option, so it is buyer beware,” explains Desiree Jaworski, Executive Director of Center for Safer Wireless.

The World Health Organization finds that radiofrequency electromagnetic fields emitted from wireless devices are a class 2B possible human carcinogen, in the same class as lead, DDT, and chloroform. Once smart meters came into use, people across the United States began reporting ringing in the ears, insomnia, strong headaches, nausea, heart palpitations, memory loss, anxiety and pain. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine opposes the installation of wireless smart meters based on the current medical literature. People with medical implants or electrosensitivity, may be especially vulnerable to radiation.

According to Dominion, “The Non-Communicating meters are Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) or Smart Meters with both the two-way communications and data storage features disabled, the only recording features retained are the minimum needed for monthly billing. Because the Non-Communicating Meters’ remote communication abilities have been disabled, a Company representative will manually read the meter.

The Company plans to propose a charge for the Non-Communicating Meter Option to the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.” Virginia residents will have the ability to comment on the fees at a currently unscheduled public hearing.

To sign up for the smart meter opt-out plan call Dominion at 1-866-566-6436 between 7 am and 7 pm. They will mail you paperwork to fill out and return to them after which they say they will come out to your home to within 3 weeks and deactivate your meter.

According to the Center for Safer Wireless, some customers of Dominion Power were concerned about the health impact of the radio frequency radiation and the safety and the security of the smart meters. They had urged Senator Garrett to present a bill in January, 2013 to the VA Senate Commerce and Labor Committee asking to be given the right to opt out of the smart meter installation. The bill failed to pass at that time. Dominion Power, responded to the public concern anyway and decided to move forward by giving this choice to their customers.

The Center for Safer Wireless www.centerforsaferwireless.org is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that enhances public understanding of wireless technology and products.

Visit their website www.centerforsaferwireless.org and www.stopsmartmeters.org for more information.