



August 14, 2023

Jim Smith  
General Manager, Klickitat County PUD (KPUD)  
1313 S. Columbus Avenue  
Goldendale, WA 98620

Submitted via email and hard-copy mail

Re: Request for pause in Smart Meter Implementation

Dear Jim:

For the Trout Lake Community Council's (TLCC) May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting via Zoom we had invited KPUD to update our community on the plans for the substation on Warner Road. Randy Knowles and Brandon Johnson attended the meeting and provided information on the substation as well as some information on the Automatic Meter Infrastructure (AMI) program. No detailed discussion on that topic ensued as we had run out of time and needed to move on to the next item on our agenda. However, it was noted in our meeting minutes that Brandon Johnson said that customers would be able to opt out of having the "smart meters".

Since that time, several articles on the topic have been published in issues of the Ruralite. Those articles, as well as recent community discussions, have highlighted the need for more information on this program. A number of individuals in our community, including several council members, are concerned about a variety of features associated with the AMI program. The failure of the council, and community members, to immediately respond with concerns regarding the smart meter program must not be construed as "tacit consent" to AMI program implementation. This letter serves as notice to KPUD that we, as a council, are not tacitly consenting to the program.

We are requesting that KPUD delay implementation of the smart meter program in Klickitat County until such time as community meetings are held and residents' concerns are addressed. Some of the concerns that have been brought forward to the council are listed below. We hope that KPUD representatives would be available to come to Trout Lake and provide clarification on the following:

- Can/will KPUD have the ability to override customer usage during periods of peak use?
- Can the "smart meters" be used to regulate "smart" appliances and thermostats inside customer homes?
- How will and when will charges for use during peak periods be determined?
- How will customer data be secured from unauthorized access?

- What is the documented longevity of the smart meters (we were informed at our August council meeting that the meters usually last less than 10 years – in that case, will replacement of the meters be another cost borne by customers)?
- How safe are the meters? Are the meters grounded and therefore not a fire risk? If not grounded, then how will the fire risk be mitigated?
- How were the costs determined for customers opting out? It appears that they are cost prohibitive and will financially discourage those wishing and/or needing to opt out.
- Why, given the cost and the controversy of this program, communities were not informed by any means (such as community meetings) other than articles on the back pages of the Ruralite?
- How long will customer's power be out during installation and how much lead time will be provided to inform customers of the pending install?

Most of these concerns were brought up at our August 8 TLCC meeting and, it is our understanding, also were discussed at a focused community meeting (not sponsored by TLCC) on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We are inviting the KPUD to attend our September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, in person at the Grange, and will allow an hour for this topic. Our meetings start at 7 pm. If another date is preferable we can set up a separate community meeting. Please let us know what date works best for you.

Public utility districts are not-for-profit and are community owned. It is important for KPUD to be attentive to the concerns and needs of its customers.

Respectfully,



DAINA L. BAMBE  
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council

Cc:

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