



**November 21, 2022**

**The following is Virginians for Safe Technology's response to Dominion's assertions in the follow up Augusta Free Press article:**

Mr. Slayton and Dominion's response to our press release is an obvious attempt to obfuscate the truth about 'smart' meters and the fact that Dominion is shutting people's power off in freezing weather instead of allowing them to keep an analog meter.

Virginians for Safe Technology, Children's Health Defense Virginia Chapter, and the Virginia Medical Freedom Alliance are urgently calling on Dominion to demonstrate their concern for customer safety by turning their power back on as soon as possible and replacing these customers' meters with Dominion-approved analog meters.

Only one customer out of the more than half a dozen received a certified letter, and all received threats from the revenue protection department, which is a corporate HQ bill collecting department aimed to protect their meter equipment and billing 'accuracy'. Every customer responded to Dominion with either letters, calls, and/or serious medical condition forms, but Dominion ignored their correspondence and forged ahead. It should also be noted that during the time Dominion says these customers had "unapproved, unsafe meters" on their homes, which ranged from two to 19 months, the company acknowledged these meters and continued to bill customers for electricity, and all customers paid on time or early. We are wondering why Dominion waited until the temperature dropped to give this ultimatum to customers if they were aware these individuals had an analog meter for months?

Despite Mr. Slayton and Dominion's claims, analog meters are the safest, most reliable, and most private version of an electricity utility meter available to consumers. The "choice" that Dominion is claiming to give customers does not put safety first; instead, it passes liability on to the customer because neither their 'smart' meter, nor their 'non-communicating' meter are UL certified, fully tested to ensure safety, or FCC compliant with Part 15B rules for interference when in operation.

Both Dominion's 'smart' meter and their 'non-communicating' meter have a switch-mode power supply (SMPS), which puts dirty electricity and interference on the line. Unlike other switch-mode power supplies

that may be used in common household consumer electronics, such as wireless routers, battery chargers and computers, these meters do not have electrical filters installed in them to protect the consumer from SMPS high voltage spikes and interference. Instead, a smart meter's SMPS "generates frequencies between [2 - 50 KHz](#), which fall squarely in the range identified by the FCC as "problematic" (3 KHz-10 MHz) because such frequencies have the potential to cause "adverse neural stimulation effects." There is also no ability to turn a smart meter off at will to avoid these undesirable frequencies, which is especially concerning for those with [medical implants](#). This means Dominion is denying these FCC admissions that health problems can result from radiation exposures in the 2 KHz-50 KHz range, which explains exactly why some electricity customers may want to retain their analog meters. Dominion should be trying to protect customers by allowing them to have an analog meter as an opt-out option.

Additionally, both options customers are given by Dominion are 'smart' meters. Dominion's response omits the fact that their 'non-communicating' meter actually does communicate information one way "with the internal network interface card (NIC) operating in [receive-only](#) mode." Calling their "opt-out" meter option "non-communicating" is misleading and does not fully inform the customer of the meter's capabilities.

We agree that electricity is dangerous, which is why we feel Mr. Slayton and Dominion should address the fact that the Aclara subcontractors initially installing these meters are not certified electricians and should not be permitted to work on high voltage lines. Instead, unlicensed individuals install them on hot wiring, rain or shine, endangering both workers and homeowners.

Attached you'll find pictures of a smart meter that started a fire on a Warrenton woman's home because it was installed improperly with a high voltage feeder line exposed. Several days after a 'smart' meter installation the homeowner, who was outside when it happened, witnessed a large fireball coming from the side of her house. Dominion responded to this fire by blaming the homeowner for her wiring problem instead of recognizing that the 'smart' meter never should've been installed by an unlicensed individual until the wiring issue was fixed by a licensed electrician who is authorized to work on high voltage lines.

'Smart' meters solely benefit corporations and governments by allowing access to consumer data inside the home that would otherwise be private. The same mechanism that Mr. Slayton claims to "allow customers to retrieve detailed information about usage and take control of how and why they use electricity" also gives a private corporation a detailed picture of exactly what, when, and how consumers are using electricity in their homes. This opens the door for third parties to receive customer information and industries to know customer behaviors for analysis and marketing purposes.

Finally, the fact that Dominion is still using the FCC radio frequency radiation (RFR) limits as guidelines is alarming considering they are some of the highest in the world and were called "arbitrary and capricious" in a decision by the [DC Court of Appeals in August 2021](#). [11,000 pages of evidence](#) were submitted into

the FCC record during this court case showing significant injuries can happen well below the current FCC RF safety guidelines. This means Dominion still isn't acknowledging these legal findings or the fact that the low frequencies of [dirty electricity](#) generated by the smart meter's SMPS are recognized as adversely neurologically stimulating in humans by ICNRP, the FCC, and the IEEE. Mr. Slayton's response also doesn't address how the dirty electricity created by these meters throughout the home can be more damaging than the RFR coming off the meter itself.

As stated in an [American Academy of Environmental Medicine letter](#) dating back to 2012, "...FCC guidelines for RF safety that have been used to justify installation of 'smart meters' only look at thermal tissue damage and are obsolete, since many modern studies show metabolic and genomic damage from RF and ELF exposures below the level of intensity which heats tissues."

If "smart meters are safe" and Dominion cares deeply about the safety of customers as stated by Slayton, yet customers are experiencing and reporting adverse health effects after having them installed on their homes, wouldn't it make sense for Dominion to mitigate the risk of 'smart' meters?

If Dominion truly cared about the safety of these customers, they could easily offer to replace the 'unauthorized' meters with a Dominion-approved analog meter, but instead are threatening and coercing customers into taking a 'smart' meter or have their power shut off. Seemingly to punish these customers, Dominion eliminated the choice of a 'non-communicating' meter, and they were left to choose between the 'smart' meter or no power.

A third family had their power turned off on Friday the 18th by Dominion with temperatures getting down to the twenties at night; two of the three families have children under 10 - one family with an eight year old, a two year old, and a child on life support in the hospital. Again, we urge Dominion to show their stated concern for customer safety by reconnecting their power immediately and offering an analog option to these customers.