

Virginians for Safe Technology
Children's Health Defense Virginia Chapter
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DOMINION ENERGY CUTS POWER TO VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS WHO REPLACED HAZARDOUS 'SMART' METERS
Elderly and Families with Children Now Left Cold, Hungry, and in the Dark or Suffering with a Hazardous 'Smart' Meter

Richmond, VA - Two weeks before Thanksgiving, Dominion Energy has disconnected power, threatened to do so, or forced a 'smart' meter on the homes of more than half a dozen households across the state, including families in Petersburg, Fauquier, Prince William, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Henrico and Spotsylvania counties. These customers swapped out their 'smart' meters for analog meters after receiving the 'smart' meter without any warning. Many are suffering life-altering health effects from the pulsed wireless radio frequency radiation (RFR). Opponents of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) 'smart' meter program denounced the power shut-offs as illegal and immoral and are calling on energy companies to do the right thing and turn these customers' power back on immediately.

"Dominion has crossed a line," said Jenny DeMarco, Communications Director of the Fredericksburg-based Virginians for Safe Technology, "When families taking reasonable steps to protect themselves and their children have their power cut-off in the middle of November, local police and sheriff's departments are escorting the corporation doing so, and the government and regulatory agencies stand idly by, that's a pretty strong signal that our system is broken."

Milton Williams power was shut off by Dominion November 9th and he still doesn't have power today:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqNDIItEBko&t=2s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pAxUSXAMnc>

Consumers are feeling violated in their own homes by what critics are calling a heartless response to this 'smart' meter crisis by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC), which approved their statewide 'deployment' in January of this year as part of the SCC [Grid Transformation Plan](#), Case no. [PUR-2021-00127](#), against the recommendations of some of their own staff employees. Even though this plan was previously denied twice for statewide installations, energy companies had already been deploying AMI 'smart' meters as pilot projects prior to their official approval by the SCC.

Many of these individuals had a smart meter installed against their will and without notice or informed consent. Most appealed to Dominion to have it removed and their analog meter put back. When denied by Dominion, they contracted privately to swap out the AMI 'smart' meter back to an analog. Dominion responded to these customers by showing up with law enforcement officers and multiple field crew to disconnect their power - even in homes with children present. Others who had an analog meter put on were forced to accept the reinstallation of an AMI 'smart' meter under the threat of losing power during weather that is now at or below freezing overnight.

Fauquier County resident Aeron Mack was coerced into making this difficult choice, "Dominion 'upgraded' my new house to a 'smart' meter without my knowledge or consent. I have Lyme disease and cannot function with a smart meter on my home, but Dominion wouldn't remove it so I had it replaced with an analog by a trained professional. I had just gotten home and was recovering from minor cancer surgery when Dominion showed up to cut off my power. I called the police to help me and instead of checking on my welfare, they stood laughing with the Dominion technicians while I cried and was forced to choose between a smart meter and no power."

Dominion's Landis & Gyr AMI 'smart' meters can emit radiation bursts up to [190,000 times a day](#) that are far more powerful than wireless consumer devices, such as cell phones. 'Smart' meters also have a peak level emission two and a half times higher than the FCC's RFR safety guideline limits, which were called into question by the DC Court of Appeals August 2021 ruling in the [CHD/EHT et al v. FCC](#) case. AMI 'smart' meters have never been fully tested to determine if they should even be considered "safe" for the general public. The SCC doesn't require power companies to provide any health warnings to pregnant women, elderly, and children, who are most vulnerable to RFR [adverse health effects](#), (such as ringing in the ears, leg cramps, balance problems, heart and eye issues, fatigue, headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and disorientation), nor to those that have [medical electrical implants](#), where RFR interference can be lethal."

Children suffer the most from exposure to RF radiation from 'smart' meters because of their rapidly developing bodies, thinner skulls, and immature nervous systems. [Research](#) shows this exposure can cause headaches, persistent nosebleeds, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, sleep disruption, ADHD symptoms, weakened immune system and abnormal brain development.

"Parents must be free to protect their children from this invisible toxin and an analog meter is a safer solution," said Kathy Blum, President of the Virginia Chapter of Children's Health Defense, "If children can't be safe in their own home, where can they be?"

These meters also create dirty electricity throughout the electrical wiring in our homes, which makes them non-FCC compliant (per Part 15B interference rules), raise customer's bills approximately [10%](#) due to the dirty electricity voltage transients on the line, leaves residents vulnerable [to hackers](#), and are [fire hazards](#) due to insufficient electrical protection devices within the meter.

It's no wonder customers are increasingly rejecting 'smart' meters as [high risk and high impact](#) surveillance devices, fire hazards, and dangerous sources of non-ionizing RFR - what the World Health Organization now identifies as a Class 2B carcinogen.

Virginians for Safe Technology Radio Frequency Engineer Mary Bauer, who says 'smart' meters are already obsolete energy hogs with short life spans, responded to last week's cut offs, "The SCC and other state government officials need to better protect the public by authorizing an "opt-in" to retain our analog meters without cost, and support the inevitable transition to a wired ethernet electric utility meter, such as an [intelligent energy meters](#)."

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