

New Mexico Keeps Smart Meters Out

This is what happens when a state has honest regulators.

Fabulous news from Arthur Firstenberg of the [Cellular Phone Task Force](#) in New Mexico:

From: Arthur Firstenberg <info@cellphonetaskforce.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:18 PM

Subject: New Mexico keeps smart meters out

Encouraging

Dear Friends,

Today we won a victory in the fight against radiation in New Mexico. The Public Regulation Commission has denied PNM's application for Smart Meters. "The plan presented in the Application does not provide a net public benefit and it does not promote the public interest," wrote the Commission.

The Commission accepted the Hearing Examiner's recommended decision without alteration. It ruled that:

- PNM did not demonstrate that smart meters will save money.
- PNM did not demonstrate that smart meters will produce energy efficiency.
- PNM did not show that customers want smart meters.
- PNM did not evaluate alternatives.
- PNM did not say how it would protect customer data privacy.
- Cybersecurity issues need to be addressed.
- 125 good, high-paying jobs would be lost.
- Proposed opt-out fees were unreasonable.
- There was insufficient public input.
- There was insufficient response by PNM to public objections.

EVIDENCE ABOUT HEALTH EFFECTS was discussed at length. "Customers who have strong feelings about the health effects of the meters should be allowed to protect their stated health concerns without a prohibitively high cost."

The decision goes on to state: "The conditions of the portion of the population who believe they are electromagnetically sensitive deserve acknowledgment and consideration as decisions are made regarding the implementation of an AMI Project. Accommodations could include reasonable opt-out provisions and fees and perhaps the selection of technologies that minimize the impacts on such people. Such accommodations may be desirable to minimize health risks to customers and address the needs and preferences of PNM's customers. These are issues that can and should be addressed in a public input process of the sort PNM stated in its 2012 Report that it would conduct before bringing a smart meter proposal to the Commission for approval."

The decision means there will not be smart meters in the near future in New Mexico's metropolitan areas: Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Clayton, Ruidoso, Tularosa, Alamogordo, Silver City, Lordsburg and Deming.

Arthur