

The Brigham City council made the correct move with its unanimous vote to install smart meters on homes and businesses. The improved technology will better measure electric consumption and precisely pinpoint power outages.

There has been a small but vocal opposition to the installation, in which 120 meters will be installed over four years. There is talk of radio waves that are "the same bandwidth as particle beam weapons." Others worry that the smart meters will create persistent headaches. These are odd arguments, but they are not unique to Box Elder County. Recently, a Republican Party official in Weber County accused elements of a county library bond as "Agenda 21," a United Nations initiative that is frequently cited as a conspiracy by some political activists.

Some Brigham City residents plan lawsuits to prevent the smart meters. However, as Brigham City Attorney Kirk Morgan mentioned, Brigham City has an opt-out opportunity in which residents can refuse to have the smart meter installed. Residents, if they choose, can presumably retain meters that do not transmit data in a state of the art manner. As Morgan noted, that should be an effective remedy against lawsuits. However, on a Facebook page opposed to the meters' installations, fears are expressed that the meters will one day be made mandatory.

As mentioned, some of the opposition to the smart meters is kooky, such as fears of radio waves that are similar to particle beam weapons. A concern with more teeth to it is that cities may use or share the information gathered as third-party data, and not have it protected by the Fourth Amendment. But that is an issue that will be debated and dealt with over time. It is not a reason to stop technologies that improve individuals' lives, whether smart phones or smart meters.

Smart meters? Oh, my aching head!

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Image by: TIM GURRISTER

Brigham City officials ponder a vote on plans to save the troubled fiber-optic network UTOPIA during Thursday's City Council meeting. (TIM GURRISTER/Standard-Examiner)

Editor,

Electricity Smart Meters? Oh my aching head! Last year, Fox News reports over 900 house fires being caused by these "smart" meters and Brigham City is debating whether or not they give you headaches? This is so tragic! "I feel like I'm taking crazy pills!"

Is there a giant "common sense" vacuum that is just sucking that town dry? You are stepping over dollars to pick up pennies; the gem of the argument against "smart" meters is: months ago a nationwide news report indicated there were nearly 1,000 reports of the things burning down buildings! Forget nationwide reports or our neighbors to the south in Herriman reporting electric bills doubling and tripling or reports of being slammed with a "makeup" bill, because of "Smart" meters underreported usage; or forget that smart meters can be hacked (same Fox Report); just focus on fire!

How many times does something fail, before there is a recall? Think about all the recalled toys, cribs, highchairs, strollers, cars, planes, etc. How much property is destroyed and life lost before there is a recall? And the smart meter had a track record over 900 months ago? No recall? UTOPIA is just stupidity and ISPs getting rich for doing next to nothing, but these "fire-starter" meters are serious stuff! If given the choice of idiocy: I would choose not to roast marshmallows on the glowing embers of my home, thank you very much!

Do you supplement your power consumption with solar, wind or water-generated electricity? Will that smart meter give you credit for what you produce or charge you for the power, as if you were using it, instead of producing it? Do they charge you for the power the city should be buying from you? There are many, many complaints. Nearly a decade now, I have been saying: if Brigham City wants to "play" with electronic devices, they need to hire somebody to help them make good choices! Brigham City Council is in the dark, out in the street, playing with marbles, and according to lawsuits and published news reports, fire.

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Brigham City

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