

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Vermont Statutes Online**Title 30 : Public Service****Chapter 077 : Gas And Electric Companies**

(Cite as: 30 V.S.A. § 2811)

§ 2811. Smart meters; customer rights; reports

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Smart meter" means a wired smart meter or a wireless smart meter.

(2) "Wired smart meter" means an advanced metering infrastructure device using a fixed wire for two-way communication between the device and an electric company.

(3) "Wireless smart meter" means an advanced metering infrastructure device using radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the device and an electric company.

(b) Customer rights. Notwithstanding any law, order, or agreement to the contrary, an electric company may install a wireless smart meter on a customer's premises, provided the company:

(1) provides prior written notice to the customer indicating that the meter will use radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the meter and the company and informing the customer of his or her rights under subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection;

(2) allows a customer to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, at no additional monthly or other charge; and

(3) allows a customer to require removal of a previously installed wireless smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any charge for such removal.

(c) Reports. On January 1, 2014 and again on January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Public Service shall publish a report on the savings realized through the use of smart meters, as well as on the occurrence of any breaches to a company's cyber-security infrastructure. The reports shall be based on electric company data requested by and provided to the Commissioner of Public Service and shall be in a form and in a manner the Commissioner deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this subsection. The reports shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Natural Resources and Energy.

(d) Health report.

(1) On or before January 15, 2013, the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Public Service shall jointly submit a report to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. The report shall include: an update of the Department of Health's 2012 report entitled "Radio Frequency Radiation and Health: Smart Meters"; a summary of the Department's activities monitoring the deployment of wireless smart meters in Vermont, including a representative sample of postdeployment radio frequency level testing; and recommendations relating to evidence-based surveillance on the potential health effects of wireless smart meters.

(2) The Commissioner of Public Service, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, shall select and retain an independent expert, not an employee of the State, to perform the research and writing of the report identified in subdivision (1) of this subsection. The Commissioner of Public Service may allocate the costs of retaining the independent expert to electric utilities in accordance with sections 20 and 21 of this title (particular proceedings; personnel; assessment of costs). (Added 2011, No. 170 (Adj. Sess.), § 15, eff. May 18, 2012.)