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April 11, 2011

PG&E president promises a safer, customer-friendly company

Chris Johns, president of PG&E, has been on what he describes as a "listening tour" after what he calls the company's most challenging year ever.

That tour brought him this afternoon to The Bee's editorial board, where he vowed that the giant utility will operate safely, efficiently and with customers always in mind.

Last year, customers rebelled against the installation of "smart meters." Johns acknowledged that the company did not do a great job of educating homeowners and laying the groundwork, but also said PG&E was the victim of going first in California and timing with a rate increase and hot temperatures that convinced many customers that the meters were responsible for high bills.

The conversion is 95 percent complete in the Sacramento region and about 75 percent complete in PG&E's entire service area. Complaints are down, Johns said.

Then in June, **Proposition 16**, financed by PG&E, went down at the polls. It would have made it much more difficult for new public utilities to form and existing ones to expand - thus limiting competition. The Bee, along with most newspaper editorial boards, roundly criticized the ballot measure as a power grab.

Johns said he has heard loud and clear from residents and customers that PG&E shouldn't be in the business of putting initiatives on the ballot. He said he doesn't think it will happen again.

Asked whether it was bad policy or bad timing, or whether the company would sponsor a ballot measure ever again, he replied, "I'll leave it at that."

And then last September, a PG&E gas line ruptured and exploded in San Bruno, killing eight people, destroying 38 homes and leading to one troubling revelation after another but testing and maintenance of the natural gas infrastructure.

Johns said everything connected with the gas lines is now under a microscope and he accepts that. Saying it would be even more tragic if PG&E did not do everything possible to prevent a similar explosion, he promised that the company will emerge from all the scrutiny with the best-run natural gas system in the country.

More recently, PG&E has been dealing with its collateral damage from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan that crippled a nuclear power plant. The utility is having to prove to regulators, lawmakers and residents that its two reactors at Diablo Canyon are safe from natural disaster.

In advance of a town hall meeting Wednesday, the company announced today that it is asking federal regulators to delay re-licensing the plant until extensive seismic studies are complete, probably by the end of 2015. The plant, which sits on a bluff overlooking the Pacific midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, is near two earthquake faults -- and within 50 miles of some 400,000 Californians.

James Becker, the site vice president at Diablo Canyon, said there are some important differences that make it much safer. The cooling system can work without any power at all, and if the grid goes down, there are six backup diesel generators with enough fuel on site to last seven days, he said.

And since 2009, about 800 spent fuel rods have been placed in more secure dry cask storage, leaving about 2,000 in pools, Becker said.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who recently toured Diablo Canyon, urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission today to require that transition to dry cask storage happen quicker at nuclear power plants across the country.

Categories: Foon Rhee

Tags: Diablo Canyon, Japan earthquake, nuclear power, PG&E, Proposition 16, San Bruno explosion



Posted by **Foon Rhee**
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ConcernedinLaMesa

To Chris Johns,

I am so glad to hear that PG&E will stop killing people as they did in Hinkley and San Bruno, and throughout California, now, with the poorly researched, dangerous smart meter program. If PG&E is suddenly going to act in a human and humane manner for the first time, you can start with the repeal of the smart meter program in California, which is not welcomed by the public. We are not stupid enough to think that the dangerous radiation and other problems with these meters is ok. Many people have said they don't appreciate a corporation acting like the Mafia and exacting extortion from the public for not being harmed or fleeced by these meters (aka your dismal opt-out program). By the way, in case you didn't notice, last summer was cold, not hot, so the exponential increases that many of the customers experienced cannot be attributed to weather. You should read Crossing the Line in the Lake County Record-Bee to see how your subcontractors, Wellington, are treating the aged and disabled population who don't want the smart meters installed. http://www.record-bee.com/ci_1... is the link. Everyone should read it. You see, Mr. Johns, there are millions of people who aren't ready to lose their rights or freedoms to your miserably behaved company or any other like it. We have all noticed that the gutless CPUC and Governor Brown won't raise a finger to help us. We know why and we don't appreciate the collusion to deprive us of our rights and health. Our country wasn't established two hundred fifty years ago to give up all of this just so your company and the other utilities can make a hefty, greedy grab for our money and control our lives, decide which of us get to live and die. Even if the government supports this, and obviously Governor Brown does, or his sham of an office would help all those who call, we won't tolerate this. So, it is welcome news that your company will cease and desist from acting like a third world dictator (actually, Castro has more heart)...you can stop the company immediately from this conduct, and show us by your actions. Words mean nothing. Free, immediate retroactive opt-outs and a moratorium on all installations of smart meters is just a start. I will look forward to your announcement of this, tomorrow.

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RobertWilliams

1. INSURANCE COMPANIES WON'T INSURE THE HEALTH PROBLEMS FROM WIRELESS Smart Meters

And Insurance companies don't sacrifice insurance premiums (\$\$\$) for no reason.

TV NEWS VIDEO - Insurance Companies Won't Insure Wireless Device Health Risks (3 minutes, 13 seconds)

<http://eon3emfblog.net/?p=382>

2. WIRELESS SMART METERS TRANSMIT RADIATION APPROXIMATELY 25,000 TIMES PER DAY, 24/7, not 45 seconds per day as claimed by PG&E.

VIDEO - Radiation Measured From Smart Meter Mounted On A Home (6 minutes, 21 seconds)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v...>

3. CELL DAMAGE, DNA BREAKS & BREACHES IN THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER observed in laboratory tests from low levels of pulsed RF signal radiation as emitted by Wireless smart meters - reported by Top Wireless radiation scientists in the world at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco Nov 18, 2010:

VIDEO - <http://electromagnetichealth.o...>

4. THE KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE IN STOCKHOLM (the University that gives the Nobel Prizes) ISSUES GLOBAL HEALTH WARNING AGAINST WIRELESS SMART METERS.

2-page Press Release:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/4814...>

...AND in the U.S. and UK and other countries where Wireless smart meters are being installed, energy use is NOT decreasing, customer UTILITY BILLS ARE INCREASING, there are additional PROBLEMS and COSTS incurred from increased SECURITY & HACKING PROBLEMS and the Wireless meters are creating ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS, motion detector device interference and even starting fires in some homes.

Wireless smart meters are NOT mandated by the US Federal Energy Program, but PG&E is pretending that they are being forced by the Government.

The Utility companies are salivating over eliminating the jobs of the full-time-with-benefit meter reader employees and replacing them with phone operators in India and the Philippines who read scripts to customers over the phone for \$4 per day and NO Benefits.

The monetary transfers from customers to utility companies are huge, the problems are real, but the advertised benefits are NOT occurring.



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Inside9

PG&E will go down as one of the most brutal utility monopolies in the history of the United States. Their recent ongoing disaster includes the involuntary subjugation of millions of Californians to the untested effects of pulsed microwave radiation put out by their new SmartMeters. They have continuously changed their numbers and story on the power output but these half truths will do nothing to slow the erosion of public health in this state. SmartMeters are much more powerful and biologically harmful than cell phones when valid statistics are presented. WIRELESS SMART METERS TRANSMIT RADIATION APPROXIMATELY 25,000 TIMES PER DAY, 24/7, not 45 seconds per day as claimed by Utility Company. INSURANCE COMPANIES WON'T INSURE THE HEALTH PROBLEMS FROM WIRELESS Smart Meters.

Oh and the proposed cop-out, oh I mean opt-out, is designed to "break the kneecaps" and disempower those who really need to avoid more rf radiation. The California Public Utilities Commission is asked to godfather this extortion scheme on the lucky people of California. Time for PG&E's reign of brutality to be ended!

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bobster94901

If you are worried about Smart Meters you just have to fashion a tin foil hat and wear it all the time. That way you'll be safe from the dangerous radiation from the meters and also from cell phones and wireless routers. Yep, that's the ticket!

04/17/2011 09:55 AM in reply to Inside9 1 Like Report Abuse

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