Smart Meters

Smart meters are digital meters that measure a customer's electricity consumption and transmit data wirelessly to the utility. Florida investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) have deployed two primary types of smart meters: advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and automated meter reading (AMR). Advanced metering infrastructure meters provide two-way communications to and from a customer's meter. Automated meter reading meters are capable of transmitting a customer's usage data from the meter, but are not capable of two-way communication.

JURISDICTION

- The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) requires utilities to use accurate, commercially available metering devices to measure customer energy consumption.
- The FPSC cannot mandate the metering technology deployed by IOUs.
- The FPSC enforces the safety standards found in the National Electrical Safety Code for all electric utilities, which does not address radio frequency (RF) emissions.
- RF emission standards are established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

HEALTH

- The FPSC's authority does not extend to health issues related to meters.
- Smart meters periodically transmit a low power signal.
- RF emissions from smart meters are well below the FCC standard.
- Smart meter transmitters are certified for compliance with RF emission standards by the FCC.
- The FCC deems that meters in compliance with these emission standards do not have adverse health impacts.

DATA SECURITY/PRIVACY

- Smart meters transmit customer energy consumption data and do not transmit customer identification information.
- The data transmitted by the smart meter is encrypted to ensure only the utility can decipher the signal.
- Florida's IOUs treat individual customer data as confidential, except for release for regulated business purposes and to comply with court orders.

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