

Regulatory Review – Smart Meters

Submission

Summary

That the data collected every 30 minutes by Smart Meters be made available to consumers or their authorised agents in a format that is accessible by computer software.

Data Content, Format and Transfer Method

Consumers or their authorised agents should be able to download their billing data from web sites maintained by power companies. Both content and structure of data should be regulated so that software need not be specific to individual companies.

Security would be maintained using account code and password.

Suggested data to be provided:

Date, Time, Account reference, Meter reading, Tariff, Cost

The file should be of a simple format such as comma delimited values (CSV). The simplest transfer method would be to download a file to a location on the user's personal computer. A file of this type can be loaded into Excel or similar spreadsheets.

A more sophisticated approach would be the provision of a Web Service that can be consumed by purpose built software.

Benefits

Electricity consumers would be able to perform analysis of their consumption according to their specific needs and interests.

Developers of energy related software packages could use the data as input and produce a range of standard reports. Examples:

- Consumption and cost by day, week, month or year.
- Aggregated data by day of week – eg to determine which day of the week sees most usage.
- Aggregated data by time – to see at what times of the 24 hour cycle usage is at its peak, and what usage occurs at times when the premises are vacant.
- “What if” analysis to explore effects of alternative tariffs.

Declaration of Interest

I am the developer of the “Home Energy Analysis System” software package, details of which can be seen at www.countcarbon.com. The software now relies on its users individually collecting and keying accounts and meter readings, which has contributed to its low rate of use. Smart Meter Readings would make data acquisition much simpler, and greatly increase the number of reports which could be produced.

Contact Details

David Foskey
31 Jordan Street
Malvern VIC 3144

Telephone: 0432 146 747

Email: djfoskey@ozemail.com.au