

As many of you may be aware, Thursday, December 5th around Noon, the NV Energy Smart Meter at (35 Austrian Pine Circle) suffered a catastrophic failure resulting in a fire on the outside of the house which also resulted in hot spots in the garage walls behind the meter location. The only reason our house did not burn to the ground was because the owners were home at the time of incident and a strange noise occurred and the power went out - that was the only warning that had them look further and find the meter and outside of the garage was on fire. They were able to partially extinguish the fire before the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District firefighters arrived. Had the failure occurred 18 hours prior, or at night when they were asleep (no lights on), or last week when they were out of town the house would have most likely burned to the ground or suffered much more serious damage. I would venture to say that if this fire really took off (i.e. dryer conditions/wind) at a minimum of us on AP Circle could have also suffered losses.

Below are two photos from the fire, but I saw firsthand how far it extended up the wall and the damage which occurred from the firefighters having to break through the backside to deal with the hot spots. All power and Spectrum services (i.e. landline) were completely fried/destroyed.



The reason I am sending this message to our Board and Homeowners is twofold; 1.) to make you all are aware of this incident and the circumstances surrounding our neighbor's Smart Meter fire, and 2.) to consider options for passing this information on to our neighborhood (Galena 2E) to protect our homes and forest. Here are the facts as of this date:

- According to the owners their meter was installed September 17, 2012 (per a letter in their files), and they also obtained the serial number.
- Several of the responders indicated that this was not an isolated incident, but less common than when the smart meters were first installed.
- It was concluded by the Fire Inspector and the first responders that this meter failed and was the source of the fire. NV Energy has restored power and is covering the costs of repairs.
- NOW to my point..there are several different models of watt meters that have been installed and apparently in our area they are most frequently they are either the Icon Sensus models or the Landis & Gyr model.
- The Icon Sensus models are apparently the ones which have failed in other parts of the country as well as Canada - I found these articles with just a quick search

- <https://www.smart-energy.com/regional-news/north-america/smart-meter-fires-sensus-design-at-fault-says-canadian-review/>
- <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/pge-replacing-70000-smart-meters-after-three-catch-fire/290865/>

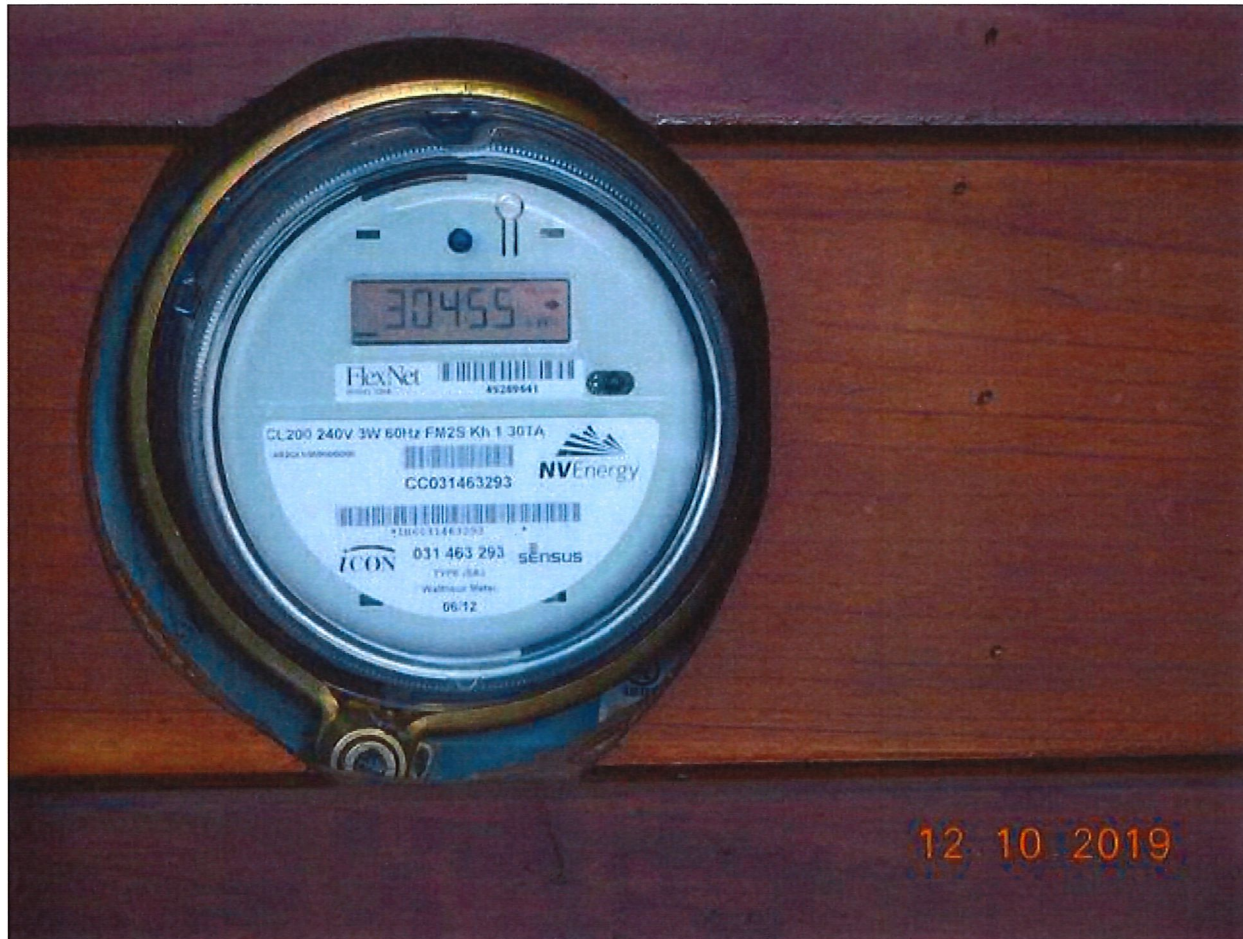
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/sensus-smart-meters-pass-ul-safety-tests-but-fire-concerns-remain>

And here is an article from the local *Reno Gazette-Journal*, that Kathleen shared which notes some of the same information found in the above links:

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2015/01/26/six-takeaways-nv-energy-smart-meter-document-dump/22380643/>

As the meter was destroyed at the home, and our home was the first built on the court, and theirs was the second - my husband and I decided to see what model we have as it may have been one of the first installed back in 2012. Below is a photo of our watt hour meter - and it is a Sensus Icon Type iSA3 which is the type referenced in many of the articles ("The electrical component failures are limited to a subset of smart meters that were installed between 2010 and 2012. The affected model number is the Sensus 2S Gen3 RD"). Our meter was manufactured in June 2012, and the serial number is just one off from the Clemence meter which failed resulting in a fire. So after an informal survey of our immediate neighbors' equipment it turns out all six homes have the same watt hour meters and they were manufactured in either June or July of 2012.





Given the potential for failure several of us that are now aware of this possible threat will be independently contacting NV Energy to request that our meters be replaced with a safer alternative such as the Landis & Gyr model which I believe was released in 2015. Given that we live in a forested community and the potential for a "natural" occurring fire (i.e. lightening) is always with us, it does seem prudent that we take every measure possible to safeguard our homes from manmade ("unnatural") potential fire threats such as these meters which have been removed in other communities and metropolitan areas in the U.S. and Canada (per the hyperlinks).

Finally, the good news is there was no major loss of life or property with this incident last week, and also that we are so fortunate to have the very responsive TMFD firefighters in our neighborhood!

The NV Energy phone number to call is 702-402-5555 – Residential – option #5 and then option #5 again.

When I got Customer Service I just explained that there was a catastrophic failure of the smart meter and a fire in our neighborhood and that we live in the forest. I gave them the type as I put in the earlier email and told them that was the same one that failed. One or two of our neighbors have already gotten it changed out and ours is scheduled.

on behalf of the Galena Forest Board