Sebastopol crowd decries PG&E's SmartMeters

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Carrillo said he has received no reply from PG&E or the PUC in response to his letter asking for a moratorium on meter replacements until Sonoma County residents' concerns are answered.

He said that PG&E also had asked its two scientific experts not to attend the forum.

PG&E plans to replace all 379,592 meters in Sonoma County with the SmartMeters. According to its website, it has replaced about 10 percent so far and intends to continue until all are replaced by mid-2012.

The company said the new meters are more convenient because no meter reader is needed to physically check the meter each month, residents can review their usage in real-time and the company can pinpoint power outages and restore power faster.