

From: Chris Gekas
To: Beverly Duffy
Date: 1/15/08 3:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: "Smart" thermostats

DOCKET	
07-BSTD-1	
DATE	JAN 15 2008
RECD.	JAN 16 2008

>>> Alisha Gale <alishagale@gmail.com> 1/12/2008 9:29 AM >>>

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have just read an article in the San Francisco Chronicle (www.sfgate.com) concerning the new "smart" thermostats that would allow utilities to regulate the setting of thermostats inside homes and businesses. I am very alarmed at this idea. May I give you a real-life example of why. I live in Orange County. In the summer of 2006, I was in my second trimester of pregnancy (I delivered a baby in November). In addition, I had two other small children, ages 3 and 1 1/2. I used my air conditioner extensively that summer, and with good reason: It would have been seriously dangerous to my health to allow my house to get too hot--it is not at all an exaggeration to say that my health, and the health of my fetus, depended on my ability to remain cool. Even a moderately warm house was unbearable and caused me to feel faint. My small children, too, would have been adversely affected, as children's bodies do not have the ability to keep cool like adults'. What if Southern California Edison had set my thermostat up too high, and I had fainted? A fall would have seriously injured me and/or my unborn child. I am certain I am one of thousands of women to whom this is a serious concern. What safe guards are in place to make sure that those who are extremely sensitive to heat (pregnant women, small children, the elderly) are not subject to having their thermostats at too high of a setting? Are there any? Do you even recognize that keeping cool is in many cases not a luxury but a necessity?

Aside from the fact that having your home's temperature set by an outside company is an egregious breach of privacy, it could be a serious health threat. I am appalled by this idea, and I hope it is removed from the new regulations.

Truly yours,
Alisha Gale
Irvine, CA