

AMI Opt-Out Policy

Follow-up Discussion



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Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Opt-Out Policy Consideration: *Follow-up on Dec. 16, 2019 discussion*

- Resolution highlights
- Summary of public comment
- Further look into offering an electro-mechanical analog meter option

Opt-Out Program Summary

- ✓ Residential service (including multi-family up to 4 units), single-phase, without net metering
- ✓ Customer history and premises considerations
- ✓ \$0 Enrollment
- ✓ \$50 per month, qualifying low-income senior/disabled discount of 50%
- ✓ Analog meter option (see following slides)
- ✓ Annual evaluation of cost

Public Comment Summary

- 6 formal communications representing approximately 40 customers (est. 30 premises)
- Common themes:
 - Concern with the magnitude of the monthly fee
 - Preference to have no fee associated with opt-out
 - General opposition to AMI due to health, safety and privacy concerns

Background information

- District last purchased an electro-mechanical analog meter in 2006
- Since then major meter manufactures have quit producing them, although secondary refurbished markets exist
- As part of the AMI deployment District could retain a number of newer electro-mechanical analog meters for those customers not wanting a solid state non-communicating meter



Considerations to manage a electro-mechanical analog meter within the Opt-out policy



- Meters should be field tested on at least a bi-annual basis
- Testing will ensure meter accuracy is within 99.7% to 100.3%
- District will maintain an adequate inventory of acceptable analog meters allowing for exchanges

Analog meter option cost information

- Will require 2 field accuracy test units
- Assumes 25 analog Opt-Out customers

Bi-annual analog opt-out meter testing

(2.5 hours of labor + vehicle)

\$110 annualized

(does not include meter costs or initial testing)

Fixed equipment costs

(5-year life)

\$130 annualized

Monthly additional cost of an analog meter option - \$20

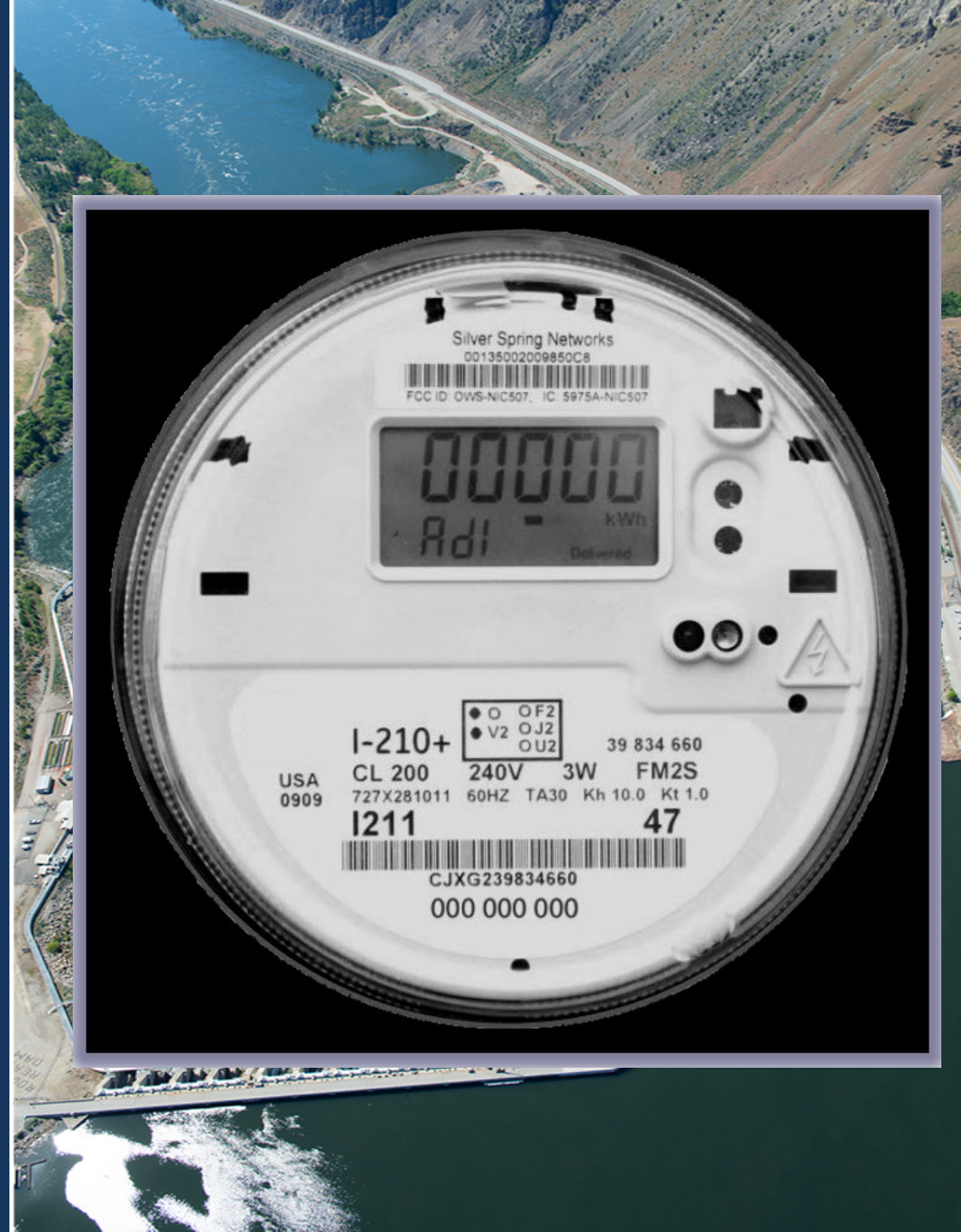
An aerial photograph of a dam and surrounding landscape, including a town and mountains, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid on the right side. The image is monochromatic with a blue tint.

Next steps

- AMI planned to deploy in 2020

Appendix - *Customer Service Impacts*

- Will not receive other enhanced benefits (near real-time usage data, energy alerts, premises-specific outage notifications, etc.)
- May not be eligible to participate in programs that rely on data from advanced metering
- Quarterly reads may result in unanticipated bill variability
- Assessed an ongoing meter reading fee for each billing cycle



APPENDIX

Similarly sized utilities

	<u>One-time Fee</u>	<u>Monthly Fee</u>
Benton PUD	\$90	\$15
Grant PUD	\$250	\$65
Douglas (one-way)	\$0	\$15
Cowlitz PUD	\$135	\$25
Mason 3 PUD	\$0	\$25
Clallam PUD	\$32	\$18

Large WA State Utilities

	<u>One-time Fee</u>	<u>Monthly Fee</u>
Seattle City Light	\$125	\$16
Avista	\$75	\$5
Puget Sound Energy	\$175	\$7.50

Appendix: *Opt-Out Eligibility*

- ✓ Residential service (including multi-family up to 4 units), single-phase
- ✓ Not net metered
- ✓ Satisfactory, timely payment history, including no unpaid account balances
- ✓ Property owner permission (i.e. if renting)
- ✓ Compliance with Utility Service Regulations (current and past)
- ✓ Meter must be physically accessible to PUD staff