AMI Opt-Out Policy

Follow-up Discussion
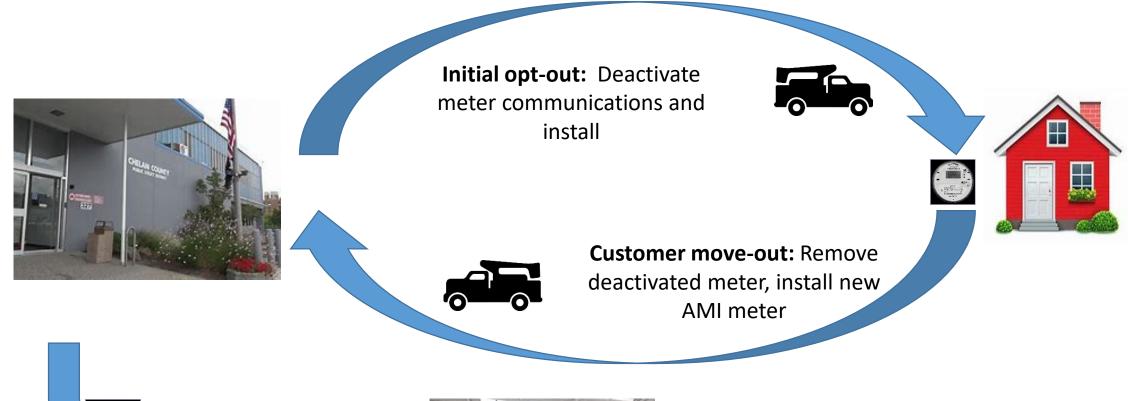
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Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Opt-Out Policy: *Follow-up on Dec. 2, 2019 discussion*

What we've learned
Understanding of Board Guidance
Next Steps

No Action Today

What We've Learned: *AMI Meter Opt-Out Exchange*

Initial opt-out: Deactivate meter communications and install

Customer move-out: Remove deactivated meter, install new AMI meter

Meter reactivation: Ship to vendor factory for reprogramming, for a fee

Conclusion:
Standardizing on one meter with disabled communications will result in a greater up-front charge than previously discussed

What We've Learned: *Additional Meter Options*

	1. New standard meter without communications board	2. Non-communicating digital meter	3. Utilize existing analog meters
Data availability (providing customers some usage information, with a delay)	Yes	No	No
Other than monthly reads acceptable	Yes	TBD	No
Usage data accuracy for billing	High	High	Moderate
Manual data incorporation for District and customer use	Yes	No	No
Impact to initial cost	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Impact to ongoing cost	Moderate	Moderate	High
Requires PUD access to meter	Yes	Yes	Yes

Board Guidance: *One-time fees*

- Phase 1: During AMI deployment
  - $0 opt-out fee
- Phase 2: Post AMI deployment
  - Study cost/fee for opt-out
  - Anticipated costs:

Administrative costs (application review & customer service)	Initial opt-out meter configuration & install	Future meter exchange to standard
	(2 hr labor)	(2 hr labor)
$45-$65	$0-$165	$165
	(does not include meter cost)	*(does not include meter cost)*

Board Guidance: *Monthly fees*

- Phase 1: During AMI deployment
  - $ 50/month
  - Consider additional cost if offering analog meter option
  - Qualifying low-income senior/disabled discount of 50%
- Phase 2: Post AMI deployment
  - Study cost/fee for opt-out
  - Anticipated cost :

Meter reads

(Option 1 quarterly cost, Option 2 & 3 may be greater)

$20-57/mo

Administrative costs

(monthly estimating, additional customer service)

$5-10/mo

Analog meter testing

(Option 3 meter only)

$15-30/month depending

Quarterly data integration
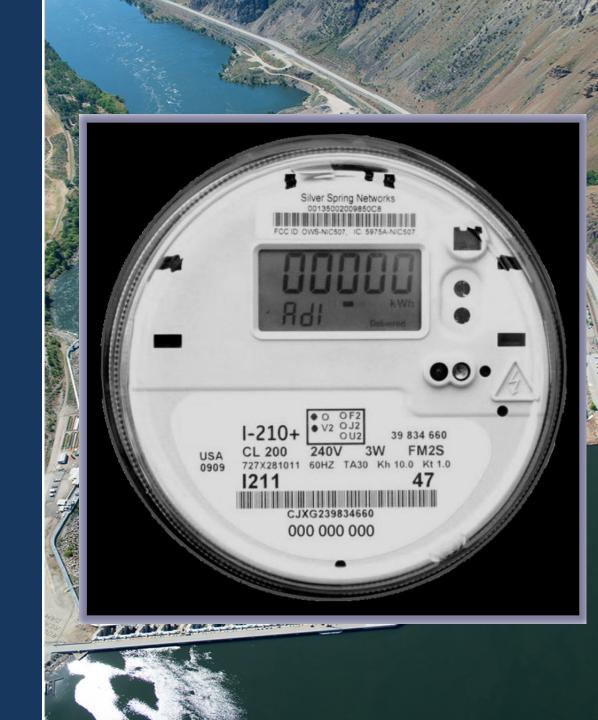
(Option 1 meter only)

$13/mo (assumes 100 participants)

Review: *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

Review: *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

Next steps

- AMI planned to deploy in 2020
- Continue to collect feedback and direction
- Return with a resolution adopting new policy

APPENDIX

		One-time Fee	Monthly Fee
Similarly sized utilities	**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**
		One-time Fee	Monthly Fee
Large WA State Utilities	**Seattle City Light**	**$125**	**$16**
	Avista	$75	$5
	Puget Sound Energy	**$175**	**$7.50**