

## **ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **DESCRIPTION**

During the past ten years, the Village has been researching Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) with the goal of providing a safe and reliable means of providing both customers and our utility the means to better plan for water and energy usage. Since 2011, the Village of Prairie du Sac Electric & Water Utility has been installing infrastructure towards AMI, a two-way communication system between the utility and the meters. The Village is now in the full process of making the transition. A small transmitter is attached to each water meter to wirelessly transmit water use data to the electric meter. The electric meter data along with the water meter data is then wirelessly transmitted via a secure connection. Before the installation of AMI, meters are manually read every month using an outside read.

### **BENEFITS**

This project will provide both immediate and long-term benefits, including:

- Reduced operating costs and vehicle emissions by eliminating the need for a water meter reader to visit your premises.
- Improved leak detection on both the customer side and the distribution system.
- Early detection of power outages and other delivery issues.
- Eventual online access to your own consumption information will help with budgeting and enable you to have better control over your water and electric use and bill.
- Better consumption data will improve our customer service and help with water and energy supply planning and overall system operation.

### **PROCESS**

Water utility employees are going door to door to arrange an installation related to water meters located within the building. In most cases, installations take about 30 minutes and will not interrupt your water service. The utility prefers to install the water transmitter on the outside of the building. If your current water meter uses an older style wire, it may require the transmitter to be installed inside the building near the water meter. An adult over 18 must be present. The water meter must also be accessible, as has always been required for our regular meter change-outs. Electric meters are changed by electric utility employees, without the need to arrange the installation with or interrupt the customer.

### **SAFETY**

The wireless transmitters use radio frequencies (RF) to transmit data. Exposures to RF from a wireless meter are much lower than many common household devices, including cell phones, laptop computers, and microwave ovens.

### **OPTING OUT**

Despite the many advantages of the system, the Village recognizes that some customers may want to opt-out of having the standard technology installed inside their property. The opt-out program offers two options: have the water transmitter installed on the outside of the building (applies to older wire style discussed above, if your building has the wire style for the new transmitter there is no charge for placing it outside), or not have transmitters installed on the property at all. There is an additional customer cost for both options. Opt-out forms can be downloaded from our website, [www.prairiedusac.net](http://www.prairiedusac.net) (under forms in the Village Hall department section), or customers can e-mail [pdsutilities@wppienergy.org](mailto:pdsutilities@wppienergy.org) or call 643-2421 to request a form.