



AMI OPT-OUTSIDE POLICY

The following policy was approved by the SPU Commission on November 6, 2023.

All SPU electric customers will receive a smart meter as part of SPU's enhanced metering system upgrade, known as AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure). A non-communicating electric meter is not an option for reasons of overall system integrity and performance, customer benefits, billing and meter reading efficiencies, and administrative operational costs.

In Minnesota, water meters are required to be installed inside climate-controlled buildings due to external weather temperatures (i.e., freezing). The communication module (necessary for the water meter to communicate) can, however, be mounted outside.

Data from the water meter is sent to the electric meter through this communication module via radio frequency (RF) and then back to SPU. The communication module is a low-frequency RF device (that transmits significantly less radio frequency transmission waves than other indoor devices, such as baby monitors, microwaves, Wi-Fi or cellphones) and is installed near the water meter by SPU or SPU-approved installers. Water meters are typically installed in the basement, or in a ground level utility room if there is no basement, near the water service line entering the building.

Customers may request to have the communication module device installed outside the home/building on an exterior wall near the electric meter. This is SPU's Opt-Outside option. If the Opt-Outside option is selected, the homeowner/property owner is responsible for any professional electric or construction expenses that may be incurred to get the proper wiring from the meter to the outside of the home/building. SPU will only connect the communication module/ERT to the wiring once it has been brought to the exterior wall and meeting SPU criteria.

This Opt-Outside decision needs to be made prior to the standard water meter and ERT installation. If a change is required after the original installation, SPU truck and labor fees will apply, in addition to above costs.

The following options are also acceptable under the Opt-Outside policy. Customers are responsible for any associated expenses, including professional services by an electrician or contractor.

- Meter Faraday Cage – provided cage does not interfere with the automated data readings to SPU
- Remote Mounting – an electric meter and water communication module may be mounted away from the home or building on a separate surface/pole.

See **Right to Access SPU-Owned Equipment Policy** for more information.