



AMI METER EXCHANGE POLICY (formerly AMI Opt-Outside Policy)

The following policy was approved by the SPU Commission on November 3, 2025.

SPU's enhanced metering system upgrade, known as AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure), requires non-AMI metering equipment to be replaced with upgraded technology. All existing SPU electric services will have a meter with AMI technology installed, and all existing SPU water services will have an upgraded water meter and AMI communication module installed. New service addresses require AMI metering equipment installed before connection to SPU's system. Exceptions or modifications to this policy are noted below.

Opt-Outside – A customer may elect to have the AMI water meter communication module device installed outside the home/building on an exterior wall near the electric meter rather than inside the home. (Water meters must be installed inside a home/building in MN due to cold weather. The communication module, not the water meter, communicates with the electric meter using radio frequency.) 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 meets SPU criteria.

Meter Faraday Cages – Faraday cages may be installed by the homeowner to reduce or block minimal external electromagnetic fields generated from a transmitting AMI meter or communication module, provided the cage does not interfere with the automated data readings sent to SPU. The cost of the faraday cage and installation is the responsibility of the homeowner/property owner.

Remote Mounting - An electric AMI meter and water communication module may be mounted away from the home or building on a separate surface/pole located on the customer's property. This may require the customer to hire an electrician to underground the electric service and install the necessary 3-wire needed for the communications module. These costs are the responsibility of the homeowner/property owner.

Manual Read, Non-RF Communications – A residential customer may choose to have AMI metering equipment with non-radiofrequency (RF) communications installed at their home. In selecting this option, the customer will be required to cover the associated costs. These costs include a one-time setup fee for meter reprogramming (to non-RF), materials, travel, and installation costs. The setup fee applies to each non-RF electric and/or water meter installed. In addition, a monthly manual reading fee (covering both meters) will be applied to each monthly billing statement.

The monthly manual reading fee is in addition to the monthly Residential Service Charge. These fees become part of the customer account balance. Nonpayment of these fees is subject to SPU's disconnect policy. These fees may be adjusted annually based on published rates in SPU's fee schedule.

All metering equipment is owned by SPU. SPU has the right to access its equipment for purposes of maintenance, removal, exchange, reading, and/or repairs. See [Right to Access SPU-Owned Equipment Policy](#) for more information.