

# AMI Project Information

## AMI Implementation

After several years of exploring Automated Meter Reading, Etowah Utilities implemented this system for our customers. Automated meter reading, or AMR, is the technology of remote collection of consumption and other data by the central office for billing, troubleshooting, and utility systems analysis. This advanced system is currently known as AMI.

## Frequent Q & A

### What is AMI?

New technology, called Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) enables EUB to remotely read meters resulting in operational efficiency, enhanced customer service, billing and power restoration, environmental benefits, as well as energy use. All customer meters are in the process of being exchanged for new digital meters which began in 2019.

AMI is the acronym for this technology which was first introduced in the 1970's/ Previously known as "AMR" for Automated Meter Reading, the AMI system uses technology similar to that of a cellular telephone. The communication device embedded in each meter (generally located outside buildings) communicates with data collection equipment mounted on the utility poles at various points in a community. Communication between the AMI meter and data collection points is transferred over the 900 MHZ spectrum. The transfer of data gathered at various collection points is transmitted to EUB via the communications infrastructure.

### Why did EUB install AMI meters?

This new technology enables EUB to remotely read meters resulting in operational efficiency, enhanced customer service, billing, and power restoration as well as environmental benefits.

Other benefits of the advanced meter include:

- The meters are digital, secure, and easier to read.
- Energy usage data collected remotely eliminates misreads and therefore reduces the number of estimated electrical usage.
- Power outages may be restored faster with greater meter communication capabilities.
- Meter readers no longer need access to your electric meter every month.

## What do the meters look like?



**Electric Meter**



**Gas Meter**



**Water Meter**

The new AMI meter's exterior appearance looks similar to existing meters. The primary difference is customers who currently have mechanical meters with dials will notice no dials, but a new digital display instead. The AMI meter is secure and easier to read.

## Does the communications system interfere with home equipment?

All communications equipment meets criteria set by the Federal Communications Commission and should not interfere with any equipment inside a home or business.

## What type of information is being transmitted?

Only meter numbers, energy usage readings and diagnostic information is transmitted through encrypted signals. Personal data will not be transmitted so your information remains private and secure.

## Are there any potential health concerns with the radio frequency (RF) signals?

Several studies have been conducted on low-power RF transmissions that AMI uses, but no negative health impacts have been found. The AMI system we are deploying meets all applicable FCC requirements.

## If no one has to read the meter, does it still need to be accessible?

Yes, EUB requires that reasonable access to equipment still must be maintained for proper maintenance of utility equipment and resources.