

Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Your questions answered

What is Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)?

AMI refers to a system that provides two-way communications between advanced “smart” utility meters and a utility’s back-end information technology infrastructure. Here’s essentially how it works: New automated meters at each property on Valley lines will send readings and other information electronically over the power lines to equipment at Valley’s substations. Computer equipment at the co-op’s headquarters will then use a high-frequency radio communication system to obtain the information from the subs and automatically record it.

Why is Valley switching to automated meters?

One of the ways we look out for our members is by operating as efficiently as possible. When we can gain efficiency along with improved reliability and better energy information for our consumers, it’s a winning combination. That’s just what we get with AMI. This new metering technology will benefit the co-op in a number of ways.

- ▶ As soon as the system goes live, you will no longer need to report meter readings.
- ▶ Since readings will be reported electronically at the same time each month, you will benefit from improved meter reading accuracy and consistent billing periods.
- ▶ We will no longer have to levy a trip fee to visit your property if a meter reading isn’t reported in a timely manner.
- ▶ The system will help us provide you with detailed daily use information and power consumption patterns. This will help you better manage your energy costs and pinpoint areas where you can save.



AUTOMATED METER

- ▶ Power quality diagnostics will help us determine the source of outages, and will confirm whether power has been restored at your property.

What specific information will the new meter provide?

It will record kilowatt-hour use, the number of times a loss of power has occurred, whether or not the meter has been tampered with and peak demand. It will also record the date and time energy was used, if and when the lights blink and how long power is out.

Will I be billed for the new automated meter?

No. Your account will not be charged for the automated meter or the installation. The costs associated with AMI were forecasted in advance; this project is part of the cooperative’s current work plan.

Do I have a choice whether or not to get an automated meter?

No. All Valley meters will be replaced with automated versions so that the entire membership can receive the benefits of AMI.

How are the meters being deployed?

A contractor of Valley REC, Joseph T. Berrena Mechanicals, Inc. of Huntingdon,

began the project in the Center Union substation area of Huntingdon County. From there, crews worked in the Huntingdon district, then moved on to the Martinsburg district. They will finish the project in the co-op’s Shade Gap district in 2012.

Will electric service be interrupted during the meter change-out?

Yes. You will experience a short, possibly five-minute, interruption of power during the meter change.

When will it no longer be necessary to read the meter?

As soon as a technician has installed and tested the automated meter at your property, he or she will leave a door hanger indicating that your meter has been activated and you no longer need to report meter readings. In addition, you will receive notification on your electric bill.

Will the meter automatically notify Valley when power goes out?

No. The meters operate on a polling basis and do not immediately notify the cooperative when an outage occurs. When you have an outage or emergency situation, you are encouraged to call 800/432-0680. The automated meter will help the co-op verify whether the problem is on the member’s side of the meter or with our service.

Can Valley disconnect power using the automated meter?

In the future, Valley may install a separate disconnect collar with the capability to remotely disconnect the service. These collars would only be installed when necessary.

Please continue to report meter readings until notified otherwise.



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