



Myths vs. Facts

The Truth About AMI Meters

Being unfamiliar with advanced technology can lead to misunderstanding and the development of myths. The case is no different with Advanced Metering Infrastructure or AMI meters, which utilities, like Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, are deploying across the country in an effort to bring the benefits of a modernized electric grid to consumers and co-op members like you.

Here are five of the most commonly circulated AMI meter myths. Each response offers facts that are supported by prevailing scientific research.

MYTH

1

AMI meters are a health threat because they communicate using wireless signals.

TRUTH: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the small amount of radio frequency (RF) energy produced by AMI meters is not harmful to human health.

TRUTH: RF emitted by AMI meters is well below the limits set by Federal Communications Commission and it is below levels produced by other common household devices like cell phones, baby monitors, WiFi routers and microwaves.

No credible evidence shows any threat to human health from RF emissions at or below RF exposure limits developed by the FCC. Even the American Cancer Society has stated that there is no evidence that RF from AMI meters is harmful to humans.

MYTH

2

AMI meters will not keep my data secure.

TRUTH: Just as the banking, credit card and cable industries have provided secure access to your information online, the utility industry is doing the same using advanced security and encryption technology to safeguard your data.

TRUTH: Meter manufacturers are incorporating security features and encryption technology into their meters, as recommended by national security experts. Our goal is to upgrade our electric distribution system to make it safer, more secure, and more reliable. Your new enhanced meter is a part of this effort.

The privacy of your data is protected now. Utilities work constantly to safeguard it.

MYTH

3

AMI meters are less accurate than analog meters.

TRUTH: AMI meters are rigorously tested for accuracy even before they leave the manufacturing plant.

TRUTH: Some public service commissions require meter manufacturers to supply test results to prove that their AMI meters generate on-the-mark measurements. All meter manufacturers must follow performance standards set by the American National Standards Institute.

AMI meters are highly accurate, and in some cases even more accurate than analog meters. The cooperative's old system used electro-mechanical meters, which with age, fail to register accurately and eventually stop functioning. They are obsolete and are no longer being manufactured.

MYTH 4

AMI meters do not provide any consumer benefits.

TRUTH: AMI meters measure and transmit your energy use directly to the cooperative, eliminating the practice of manual, in-person meter reads and estimated bills, making meter reads and billing more accurate.

TRUTH: AMI meters provide you with near-real time information about how much and when you use energy. Armed with this information, you can monitor spikes in energy usage to quickly find and correct problems (such as a faulty appliance or heating or cooling that should be off) and take more control over your energy consumption—and your monthly bills.

TRUTH: AMI meters improve power outage detection and notification.

TRUTH: By nearly eliminating in-person meter reads, the cooperative will be saving money by reducing the labor and transportation costs associated with sending employees to numerous locations across northeast Michigan.

MYTH 5

AMI meters are an invasion of privacy.

TRUTH: AMI meters measure *how much* energy you use, based on time of day, not *how* you use that energy. Smart meters cannot tell whether the energy used is from your oven, air conditioner, or hairdryer. You, the co-op member, will be able to look at the time and how much energy was used to determine what home appliances contributed to your bill.

TRUTH: Utilities adhere to strict policies, following state laws that regulate the use of personal information for business functions like billing and customer service.

AMI meters are a landmark change allowing communication between Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op and your meter, much like cell phones and banking. We adhere to strict standards and practices to safeguard and keep your data private and secure and will always strive to maintain that.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative utility. We are looking out for our members by investing in new safe and secure state-of-the-art technology to improve service, efficiency, and reliability.



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