

# MADISON WATER UTILITY

## OPT-OUT POLICY

In order to modernize billing and services available to customers, the Madison Water Utility (MWU) is installing smart meter technology using radio frequency (RF) transmitters. This device, a small flat box called an Electronic Read Transmitter (ERT), is connected to the water meter by a wire, and transmits meter readings wirelessly to MWU. This installation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is called *ProjectH20*.\*

Despite the many advantages of the system, MWU recognizes that some customers may want to opt-out of having the standard smart meter technology installed inside their property.

MWU offers two options for the customer wishing to opt-out of the smart meter technology: have the ERT installed on the outside of the building (Option 1), or not have an ERT installed on the property at all (Option 2).

### **Option 1: Electronic Read Transmitter (ERT) installed on the outside of building** **(\$50.69 \$38.17 one-time charge)**

The standard location for the ERT is on a basement ceiling joist directly above the water meter. A one-time, non-standard meter installation charge of ~~\$50.69~~ \$38.17 will be billed to customers who choose to have the ERT installed at a location on the outside of their residence/ building. This charge of ~~\$50.69~~ \$38.17 reflects 75% of the additional average cost for customer-requested placement of ERTs on the outside of the building.

*Following the completion of the installation phase of **ProjectH20** and the demobilization of the installation subcontractor, MWU will charge actual costs for time and materials to perform an outside mount.*

### **Option 2: No Electronic Read Transmitter (ERT) on property** **(\$15.42 \$7.78 monthly charge)**

Customers will have a ~~monthly~~ quarterly manual meter reading. The monthly bill will include a charge of \$15.42 \$7.78 to pay for the increased costs for utility personnel to perform the manual meter read and enter # information into the billing system. The monthly charge will be evaluated by the Public Service Commission with each rate increase application and could increase or decrease in the future based on actual costs.

*Following the completion of the installation phase of **ProjectH20** and the demobilization of the installation subcontractor, MWU will charge actual costs for time and materials to remove an ERT.*

**Please note:** Many meters are due to be replaced as part of MWU'S routine meter replacement schedule. Even if you select one of the options above, **MWU may still need to schedule an appointment to gain access to your property in order to replace an old meter.** MWU standard practice will be to bill on a monthly basis, so all meters will receive a monthly bill.

*\*For more information about **Project H2O** and the smart meter technology used by MWU, please visit our website: [www.cityofmadison.com/water/programs/projectH2O/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/programs/projectH2O/)*

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