

PETERBOROUGH UTILITIES COMMISSION

TREATMENT OF WATER METERING COSTS

Reference File: O53

POLICY

General

Installation of a water meter and automatic meter reading (AMR) device shall be a condition of water servicing.

The customer is required to provide a secure, heated environment for the water meter and prevent it from being damaged. The meter and AMR device is provided by the Commission at no cost to the customer and remains the property of the Commission. The customer shall be liable for damage caused to the installed meter or AMR device and shall be responsible to return the meter and AMR device to the Commission if water service is no longer required by the customer.

Existing Residential Accounts with Optional Water Metering

The Peterborough Utilities Commission has offered optional residential water metering since June 1, 1984.

Optional residential water metering was offered under the following conditions:

1. The Commission supplied the water meter and remote readout device at no cost to the customer;
2. The customer arranged and paid for the installation of the water meter (including wiring for the remote readout);
3. The meter would stay in service for at least one year (1984-1991)/three (1991+) years; and
4. The customer would be billed based on the commercial metered service rates and conditions, consisting of a basic water charge per month plus consumption.

Since this program was entirely voluntary and it is probable that customers selected this option to reduce their bill from the flat rate system, the Commission shall not reimburse these customers for any costs incurred by participating in optional metering.

The Commission shall convert the existing meters with touchpad readers to AMR devices for remote read capability. This conversion shall be at the cost of the Commission.

Existing Non-Residential with Flat Rate Accounts

While non-residential metering has not been optional in Peterborough, many low water user accounts have been put on flat rate in the past. These accounts will now require metering and this work will be carried out with the residential metering project.

Existing Non-Residential and Multi-Residential Metered Accounts

The metering project will have a minor affect on this class of customer since they are already metered. The Commission shall convert the existing meters with touchpad readers to AMR devices for remote read capability. This conversion shall be at the cost of the Commission. There shall not be any reimbursement to this class of customer for meters already installed.

New Accounts (All classes)

As of May 1, 2009, all new customer accounts (residential and non-residential) require water meters and AMR devices. The meter and AMR device shall be supplied at no cost to the customer for installation at their cost. The installation shall be carried out to the specifications of the Commission and the Commission shall inspect the meter installation to ensure it meets the requirements.

Difficult Installations

Where the Commission deems it impractical to install a water meter, the customer shall be advised of the situation and placed on flat rate billing.

RATIONALE

Peterborough Utilities Commission wishes to implement water metering throughout the city to the fullest extent practical.

Approved: May 27, 2010