

# **City of Independence**

## **Advanced Meter Opt-Out DRAFT Policy**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The City of Independence recognizes that some customers may not want to be part of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program. The objective of this policy is to outline the criteria under which such a customer may opt-out of the program. Customers electing to opt-out during the deployment period and prior to their scheduled meter replacement date may choose to retain their existing mechanical meter. Customers who opt-out after the deployment period will be required to retain their existing advanced meter however, the communications module will be deactivated.

### **POLICY**

- A. The opt-out program shall be available to all utility account owners who own the property associated with the account, except for the following accounts:
  - a. Commercial and industrial utility customers, generally;
  - b. Utility customers participating in special programs, such as net metering for solar energy production;
  - c. Account holders residing in multi-unit housing structures containing two (2) or more housing units. (A housing unit, as defined by the Census bureau, is a house, apartment, group of rooms, or single room occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters);
  - d. Utility accounts that have received disconnect notices within 12 months prior to requesting the opt-out program;
  - e. Utility accounts with more than two (2) name changes within a one (1) year period;
  - f. Utility accounts with a meter that is inaccessible to read (e.g. physical obstructions, hazardous conditions, animals, or denial of access);
  - g. Utility accounts with a history of meter tampering.
- B. Non-Property Owners who wish to opt-out of the Advanced Metering Program must receive written permission from the Property.
- C. Account owners who elect to enroll in the Advanced Meter Opt-Out program will provide the City of Independence with a completed Opt-Out Request Form signifying their agreement to the Terms and Conditions outlined on the form.
- D. Account owners who opt-out will be informed that they will not be able to participate in potential savings strategies through the Advanced Metering Program or receive benefits, such as Customer programs associated with AMI (e.g., pre-pay service; future alternative rate structures; access to some features of the Customer portal; enhanced safety features; automated power outage reporting, water leak detection notification).
- E. Account Owners who opt-out will be informed that they will not be eligible for any future rate reductions based on cost savings associated with AMI meters.

**OPT-OUT FEES**

There will be no initial charge for opting out of this program. However, in the years to come, when most other meters are read electronically, charges may be assessed due to the operating costs incurred with manually reading meters.