

**POLICY NO. 313**  
**COST RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXISTING CUSTOMERS OPTING OUT OF THE AMI SYSTEM**

**I. OBJECTIVE**

Lincoln County Power District No. 1 (Lincoln County Power) has determined it is in the best interest of its customers to deploy an automated metering infrastructure (AMI) system. An AMI system is a system used to meter energy use and the demand of customers, and to automatically communicate that information to Lincoln County Power. One component of an AMI system is the meter located on a customer's premises. These meters are typically called "smart meters".

Use of an AMI system with smart meters will reduce the overall cost of delivering energy to customers and has been approved by regulatory agencies in all 50 states. According to the U. S. Energy Information System based on data obtained at the time this policy was adopted, as of the end of 2017, nearly 50% of all electricity customers in the United States were metered through an AMI system with smart meters. In Nevada, the Public Utilities Commission has allowed the regulated investor-owned utility to utilize an AMI system since 2010.

Lincoln County Power has reviewed available literature and studies from scientific and medical communities that conclude an AMI system with smart meters is not a health risk to the public. Lincoln County Power has also determined that an AMI system will substantially reduce operating costs and will provide real-time information to customers so that they may better manage their use of electric energy.

After considering the benefits and costs of an AMI system with smart meters, Lincoln County Power determined to deploy an AMI system with smart meters. It is the objective of Lincoln County Power to complete full deployment of an AMI system with smart meters by the end of 2022.

**II. POLICY**

It is the policy of Lincoln County Power to meter electric service in accordance with Policy 308. It is further the policy of Lincoln County Power that an AMI system with smart meters shall be the primary method of metering electric service.

Although third parties have concluded that there is no harmful health effect from an AMI system with smart meters and Lincoln County Power lacks data to call that conclusion

into question, Lincoln County Power understands that some of its existing customers may wish to not have a smart meter located on their premises.

For existing customers who desire to not have a smart meter located on their premises, it is the policy of Lincoln County Power to honor their request and allow them to opt out of the AMI system.

However, to utilize a meter other than a smart meter in conjunction with an AMI system will result in higher costs to serve those existing customers without a smart meter than those customers who allow installation of a smart meter with the AMI system. It is the policy of Lincoln County Power that such increased costs be paid for by the existing customers requesting to not have a smart meter on their premises and who are opting out of the AMI system.

### **III. EXPECTATIONS**

#### **A. Request to Opt-Out of the AMI System**

To opt-out of the AMI system, an existing customer must submit a written request to Lincoln County Power indicating that they do not want a smart meter installed on their premises, and they understand that they will be financially responsible for additional costs associated with opting out of the AMI system. The written request must be provided on an opt-out application form available from Lincoln County Power.

#### **B. Fees**

Opt-out fees will consist of both a one-time meter change-out fee and a recurring monthly meter reading and invoice processing fee.

1. The one-time charge will consist of the actual cost to install a non-smart meter on the existing customer's premises and shall include the cost of the replacement meter and the cost of labor associated with the meter change. If written notice from an existing customer is received by Lincoln County Power prior to the installation of an AMI smart meter before, or within thirty (30) days following the installation of an AMI smart meter, the one-time meter change-out fee will be \$0.00. If written notice is received on or after thirty (30) days, the one-time meter change-out fee will be \$75.00.

2. The recurring monthly meter reading and invoice processing fee will be the lesser of:
  - a) \$50.00, or
  - b) The actual cost to read the customer's non-AMI meter and to create a monthly invoice for service.

#### IV. LIMITATIONS

- A. An existing customer, as that term is used in this Policy, is a customer of Lincoln County Power who has an active account for electric service with Lincoln County Power on the date this Policy is adopted. This Policy allowing existing customers to opt-out of Lincoln County Power's AMI system is limited to existing customers. All new customers of Lincoln County Power who request electric service from Lincoln County Power shall be required to allow their electric service to be metered at the point of delivery with a smart meter and Lincoln County Power's AMI system.

#### V. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The general manager shall have primary responsibility to implement this Policy. The general manager shall report to the Board of Trustees on how this Policy is being carried out.
- B. The President of the Board of Trustees shall ensure that this Policy is followed.

Issued by:

  
Edward Wright, President

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