

## COMMUNICATING METER OPT OUT POLICY

Updated November 2025

### PURPOSE

- To enable PUD customer-owners to have existing Communicating Meters changed to a Non-Communicating Meter.
- All residential customer-owners have or will receive a Communicating Meter, also known as an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meter, unless they elect to opt out and qualify for opt-out service.
- Customer-owners electing to opt out will have a Non-Communicating Digital Meter installed by a PUD technician.

### DEFINITIONS

- AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) Meter: A meter that collects and transmits power usage data to the PUD's data collection system.
- Non- Communicating Meter: A solid-state meter that collects electrical usage information and is not transmitting energy usage.
- RF (Radio Frequency): Low power, oscillating electromagnetic waves used for wireless communication.
- PUD: Jefferson County Public Utility District No. 1.
- Customer: Any person, firm, corporation, government agency, or other legal entity who uses, has used, or has contracted for electrical service from the PUD. The PUD is a locally owned public power agency, and customers are referred to as "customer-owners."
- Property Owner: The individual or entity, jointly or severally in possession of title to land or a building, who holds all or any part of legal title in any form allowed by state law.
- Non-Property Owner Customer-Owner (Tenant): A customer-owner who does not own title or legal ownership interest in the property receiving service.
- Net Metering Customer: A PUD Customer with an approved Net Metering Agreement using either fuel cell, solar, wind or hydropower electric generating system.

**EVALUATION:** The PUD reserves the right to evaluate and revise this Policy, including fees, rates, and procedures, at any time.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Residential customer-owners receiving single-phase electrical service by Rate Schedule 7 are eligible to opt out of having a Communicating Meter, unless otherwise noted below.
- Commercial and industrial classes or services exceeding 200 A are not eligible to opt out.

- Customer-owners disconnected for non-payment are ineligible to opt out for a period of one (1) year. After twelve (12) consecutive months of on-time payments, such customer-owners will qualify for the Opt-Out Program.
- Customer-owners found to have committed unauthorized or illegal modifications to their meter, including but not limited to current diversion, are ineligible to opt out.
- Net Metering Customers are not eligible to opt out.
- Non-Property Owner Customer-Owners (tenants) wishing to opt out must obtain permission from the Property Owner of the residence. The Property Owner's signature on the Opt-Out Application will satisfy this requirement.
- If a property Owner wishes for their tenant to have a non-communicating meter and the tenant disagrees, the account will remain in the Property Owner's Name.
- Customer-owners participating in the Opt-Out Program will not have access to the PUD's customer portal that displays real-time or interval power usage data.
- Customer-owners participating in the Opt-Out Program will be ineligible for Time of Use rates and Light Load Hour energy discounts.
- The meter base must be located on the exterior of the building and accessible to PUD personnel for manual meter reading. If relocation is required, the customer-owner must cooperate with the PUD to identify a reasonable location. Any costs associated with relocating the meter base are the responsibility of the customer-owner.

#### **COST RECOVERY – MONTHLY FEE**

- An Opt-Out fee shall be collected through the customer-owner's monthly bill to offset the PUD's costs for installation, operation, reading, and maintenance of Non-Communicating Meters. The monthly fee shall be \$12.00 per month beginning July 1, 2026.
- The subsidized monthly Opt-Out fee shall be \$5.00 per month for customer-owners who are enrolled in and qualify for the PUD's low-income program(s).

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The PUD shall be responsible for conducting and recording meter reads. Beginning November 2025, meter reads for all Non-Communicating Meters will occur bimonthly.
- Customer-owners who opt out shall maintain PUD meter access requirements for PUD to read, inspect and test the meter.

- The Property Owner owns and is responsible for maintaining the meter base (the fixture to which the meter connects).
- The PUD owns all meters (Communicating and Non-Communicating) and is responsible for providing and maintaining a functioning meter.
- The manufacturer, make, and model of the Non-Communicating Meters used by the PUD shall be determined solely at the discretion of the PUD.

## PROCEDURE

- Eligible customer-owners who wish to opt out shall do so by submitting a completed Opt-Out Application to the PUD.
- Non-Property Owner Customer-Owners (tenants) applying to opt out must provide written consent from the Property Owner with their completed application. The Property Owner's signature on the Opt-Out Application will satisfy this requirement.
- Customer-owners who opt out shall not be charged an installation fee for the first meter changeout.
- If a customer-owner who has previously opted out relocates to a new service address that has a Communicating Meter, the customer-owner must submit a new Opt-Out Application and shall pay a one-time \$60 installation fee for the new Non-Communicating Meter.

**APPLICATION COMPLETION:** Incomplete applications will not be processed.