

SMART METER OPT OUT OPTIONS AND FEES – draft April 3, 2014

UTILITY	ONE-TIME CHARGE	MONTHLY CHARGE	OPT-OUT OPTION	NOTES
CANADA				
British Columbia: BC Hydro	<p>NO FEE</p> <p>\$22.60 (plus \$55 charge to exit Opt Out and accept Smart Meter)¹</p> <p>\$65.00 “failed installation charge” if a customer refuses meter exchange or obstructs access</p>	<p>\$32.40</p> <p>\$20</p>	<p>Current Meter (ANALOG or DIGITAL) –then “LEGACY METER²” when current meter expires, then RADIO- OFF METER when customer moves or when BC Hydro’s inventory of legacy meters is exhausted</p> <p>RADIO-OFF METER³</p>	<p>Proposed Fees⁴ .</p> <p>B.C. Utilities Commission interim approval⁵.</p> <p>April 25, 2014 - BC Hydro Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program ~ Decision⁶</p> <p>The BCUC decision notes: “As a result of the prescriptive nature of Direction No. 4, the issues within scope in this public hearing are very narrow. They are limited to whether the proposed charges would enable BC Hydro to recover expenditures that are considered program costs, investigation costs and infrastructure costs to the extent that BC Hydro requests their recovery and the amount of the failed installation charge.”</p>

² “legacy meter” means an electricity meter, other than a smart meter or a radio-off meter, that is of a type in use by the authority <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/SpecialDirections/2013/OIC-391-SD4-BCHSMI-Options.pdf>

³ “radio-off meter” means a smart meter adjusted so that the meters components that transmit data by radio are deactivated <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/SpecialDirections/2013/OIC-391-SD4-BCHSMI-Options.pdf>

⁴ BC Hydro: METER CHOICES http://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/smart_metering_infrastructure_program/smart_meter_installation/installation_preparation/meter-choice.html?WT.mc_id=rd_meterchoice

⁵ BC Utilities Commission Order G-166-13.
http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2013/DOC_36246_A-1_G-166-13_BCH-Meter-Choice-Program.pdf

⁶ April 25, 2014 - BC Hydro Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program ~ Decision - Download decision from: <http://www.bcuc.com/RecentDecision.aspx>
Table A Initial, Monthly and Exit Charges, page 7 summarizes fees

British Columbia: FortisBC	\$88 for those with an unwanted Smart Meter (“AMI meter”) \$60 for those who choose a radio-off AMI meter before meter installations begin in their region. ⁷	\$9 (\$18 per read every 2 months)	RADIO-OFF METER	
Quebec: Hydro-Québec	\$98 ⁸ (Hydro-Québec is proposing to reduce fee amounts – see note)	\$17.17 (Hydro-Québec is proposing to reduce fee amounts – see note)	NON-COMMUNICATING ELECTRONIC METER	Hydro-Québec has proposed to reduce the fees. It plans to ask the Régie de l’énergie to authorize a review of the opting-out costs and conditions. ⁹
UNITED STATES				
Arizona: Tucson Electric Power Co ¹⁰	\$20 (proposed)	\$10 \$5 per-month if you read your own meter. (proposed)	ELECTRO-MECHANICAL/ANALOG – with self-read option	TEP is honouring requests to keep the analog meter, but has not yet begun charging fees. (Nov 2013)

⁷ <http://www.fortisbc.com/About/ProjectsPlanning/ElecUtility/ProjectsInYourCommunity/AdvancedMeteringInfrastructure/Pages/Radio-off-option.aspx>

⁸ Hydro-Québec : Customer Information <http://meters.hydroquebec.com/installation/>

⁹ **Hydro-Québec to reduce opt-out cost for smart meters**, Montreal Gazette, November 22, 2013

[HTTP://WWW.MONTREALGAZETTE.COM/BUSINESS/HYDRO+QU%3%A9BEC+WANTS+REDUCE+COST+SMART+METERS/9202667/STORY.HTML](http://www.montrealgazette.com/BUSINESS/HYDRO+QU%3%A9BEC+WANTS+REDUCE+COST+SMART+METERS/9202667/STORY.HTML)

¹⁰ **Utility 'smart meters' raise health, expense concerns**, Arizona Daily Star, May 16, 2013 http://azstarnet.com/mobi/latest/article_ed579a26-59b3-5dfe-ad09-cf5168f44025.html

Arizona: Arizona Public Service ¹¹	\$75 (proposed) (As of 2/10/2014, no fees are being charged.)	\$30 (proposed) (As of 2/10/2014, no fees are being charged.)		The Arizona Corporation Commission requested an independent study be conducted by the Arizona Department of Health Services to test the effects of smart meters in October 2013. ¹² This is expected to take about a year.
Arizona: Salt River Project		\$20.00		
California	\$75.00 \$10.00 for low-income customers ¹³	\$10.00 or \$5.00 for low-income customers	ANALOG	The California Public Utilities Commission agreed to allow electric customers to keep their current analog meter or reinstall an analog meter if a smart meter had been installed February 1, 2012. ¹⁴
California: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) - 52,000 meter pilot project	NO FEE	NO FEE – including free reinstallation of analog meter ¹⁵	ANALOG	Marcelo Di Paolo, manager of the LADWP Smart Grid project, has stated that the project is “purely a volunteer optional program” and that the community can “pick and actually choose whether or not to participate.” ¹⁶
Florida: Florida Power & Light Co.	\$95 ¹⁷ (reduced from proposed \$105) ¹⁸	\$13 (reduced from proposed \$16)	Current meter (ANALOG), then NON-COMMUNICATING METER when it needs	Acting as attorney on behalf of opt-out customers, a former Florida Public Service Commissioner filed a petition with FPSC March 31, 2014 objecting to the fees, arguing that FPL is seeking advanced

¹¹ **APS smart meters worry residents**, Verde Independent, Oct 11, 2013 <http://verdenews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubsectionID=1&ArticleID=56641>

¹² **AZ Corporation Commission orders health study on smart meters**, The White Mountain Independent, October 22, 2013 http://www.wmicentral.com/news_premium/az-corporation-commission-orders-health-study-on-smart-meters/article_c709bd2e-3a9c-11e3-850b-001a4bcf887a.html

¹³ **PUC Orders PG&E to Offer Analog Meters as Sole Smart Meter Opt-Out Option**, La Mesa – Mount Helix Patch, January 17, 2012, <http://lamesa.patch.com/groups/susan-brinchmans-blog/p/bp--puc-orders-pge-to-offer-analog-meters-as-smart-me4240b673a5>

¹⁴ **California Public Utilities Commission’s Decision Modifying Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s SmartMeter Program to Include an Opt-out Plan:**
http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/word_pdf/AGENDA_DECISION/158309.pdf

¹⁵ **LADWP letter to customer** <http://stopsmartgrid.org/>

¹⁶ **Cindy Sage Challenges the “Smart” in LADWP’s “Smart” Grid: LADWP project manager guarantees “smart” meters are optional!** May 14, 2013 <http://emfsafetynetwork.org/cindy-sage-challenges-the-smart-in-ladwps-smart-grid/>

¹⁷ **Smart meter or alternative meter? Get the facts.** Florida Power & Light Company http://www.fpl.com/energysmart/pdf/meter_facts.pdf

			replacement. ¹⁹	recovery for the cost of possibly unnecessary visits to customers who simply keep their old meters. The petition also says that the fees fail to account for the cost savings because FPL did not have the expense of installing a meter for those who opted out. (In 2010 an FPL official testified that the Smart Meters would save \$30 million by 2013, but the projected savings have not materialized). ²⁰
Florida: The City of Lakeland electric utility	NO FEE for those who opted out before March 1, 2013. \$65 meter equipment fee after March 1	\$16.25	ANALOG	Lakeland City commissioners approved fees November 5, 2012. ²¹
Georgia: Georgia Power	No Fee to keep analog meter No fee to have Smart Meter removed.	\$19 ²²	ANALOG – (keep old one or have analog re-installed after Smart Meter removed)²³	On December 17, 2013 the Georgia Public Service Commission approved a Smart Meter Opt-Out tariff as part of Georgia Power's 2013 rate case. Customers who opt out of having a smart meter installed and prefer to maintain a mechanical meter at their residence or facility can now do so with a basic service charge of \$19 per month. Customers can also request removal of their smart meters for no extra charge.
Hawaii: The Kauai Island Utility	\$50.64 residential \$138.80 commercial ²⁴	\$10.27	ANALOG	Approved by the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission Nov 2013 ²⁵ Kauai Island Utility Cooperative voted to keep the fees Jan 2014 ²⁶

¹⁸ **FPL sets higher charge for customers refusing smart meters**, Orlando Sentinel, January 7, 2014 <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/os-dumb-electric-meter-charge-20140107,0,4390998.story>
http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_c_palm_beach_county/west_palm_beach/fpl-smart-meter-update-there-will-be-a-monthly-fee-if-you-refuse-a-smart-meter#ixzz2sxt802l

¹⁹ **Florida Public Service Commission Docket # 130223**, filed by Florida Power & Light <http://www.floridapsc.com/dockets/cms/docketFilings3.aspx?docket=130223>

²⁰ **Former PSC commissioner files smart meter petition on behalf of Loxahatchee couple**, Palm Beach Post, March 31, 2014 <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/former-psc-commissioner-files-smart-meter-petition/nfPdP/>

²¹ **Lakeland Officials Approve Fee to Opt-Out of Smart Meter Program**, The Ledger, November 5, 2012 <http://www.theledger.com/article/20121105/POLITICS/121109627>

²² **For a price, Georgia Power customers can opt out of smart meters**, SavannahNow.com, January 22, 2014 <http://savannahnow.com/exchange/2014-01-22/price-georgia-power-customers-can-opt-out-smart-meters#.UulH9ZoWLbg>

²³ **Georgia Public Service Commission Smart Meter Q & A** <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/electric/smartMeter/>

Cooperative				
Hawaii: Hawaiian Electric Co				HECO says it plans to offer customers an opt-out provision similar to that of the Kauai Island Utility ²⁷
Illinois: Commonwealth Edison Co - northern Illinois service territory	No Fee	\$21.53 ²⁸	ANALOG	The Illinois Commerce Commission rejected ComEd's request for a \$25.00 fee, but on Feb. 5, 2014, they allowed ComEd to impose a \$21.53 surcharge.
Maine: Central Maine Power	a.\$40 b.\$20.00	a.\$12 b. \$10.50	a. ELECTRO-MECHANICAL b. a standard wireless smart meter with the internal network interface card operating in receive-only mode (transmitter off)	On May 17, 2011 the Maine Public Utilities Commission ordered CMP to create an opt out program for customers who do not want a wireless smart meter ²⁹ As of July 2012, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that the PUC failed to properly address health and safety concerns. The Public Utilities Commission has opened a docket to examine the health and safety issues. ³⁰ Bill LD 826 - An Act To Eliminate the Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters ³¹ , which prohibits a utility from charging a fee or a higher

²⁴ **Non-smart meters fees approved**, The Garden Island, November 3, 2013 http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/non-smart-meters-fees-approved/article_f64efbd2-444f-11e3-a7eb-0019bb2963f4.html

²⁵ **KIUC ballot set, election begins Jan. 3**, The Garden Island, December 18, 2013 http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/kiuc-ballot-set-election-begins-jan/article_2b77f420-67ab-11e3-b977-0019bb2963f4.html

²⁶ **Kauai utility votes to keep smart meter opt-out fees**, Star-Advertiser, Jan 26, 2014 http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/20140126_Kauai_utility_votes_to_keep_meter_optout_fees.html?id=242091521

²⁷ **HECO moves to install controversial smart meters**, Jul 03, 2013 <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/22758923/heco-moves-to-install-controversial-smart-grids>

²⁸ **No smart meter for you? It'll cost you**, Chicagobusiness.com, February 06, 2014 <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20140206/NEWS11/140209838/no-smart-meter-for-you-itll-cost-you#>

²⁹ **PUC Approves smart meter opt out program**. <http://www.maine.gov/meopa/utilities/electric/smartgrid.html>

³⁰ Friedman v. Maine Public Utilities Comm., Law Docket No. PUC-11-532 <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/me-supreme-judicial-court/1606139.html>

				rate for declining the installation or for the removal of a wireless smart meter was put forth March 26, 2013 and has been carried over to 2014 regular session. ³²
<p>Maryland : Baltimore Gas and Electric Co (BGE)</p> <p>*Opt-out customers who have both electric and gas service pay the fee once to opt-out for both.</p>	<p>\$75.00 (reduced from proposed \$100.00) (Same fee to keep old meter or have Smart Meter replaced by standard meter.)</p>	<p>\$11.00 (reduced from proposed \$15)</p>	<p>ELECTRO-MECHANICAL current analog or digital meter ("legacy meter")</p> <p>Customers who have a Smart Meter but wish to opt out can have current Smart Meter replaced by a "standard" meter</p>	<p>On January 7, 2013, The Maryland Public Service Commission ("MPSC") concluded that the public interest required that customers be allowed the option of declining the installation of a smart meter.</p> <p>On August 6, 2013, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. and other utilities in Maryland propose opt-out fees.³³</p> <p>On February 26, 2014, MPSC approved opt-out fees. They will revisit these costs after the percentage of opt-out customers has stabilized and may adjust fees accordingly.³⁴</p> <p>Two bills are now pending in the Maryland legislature that would prohibit the opt-out fees.³⁵</p>
<p>Maryland: Pepco</p>	<p>\$75.00 (reduced from proposed \$100.00)</p>	<p>\$14.00 (reduced from proposed \$58.00)</p>		
<p>Maryland: Delmarva Power & Light Co</p>	<p>\$75.00 (reduced from proposed \$100)</p>	<p>\$17.00 (reduced from proposed \$58.00)</p>		

³²Bill eliminates 'opt-out' fee for smart meters in Maine, Maine Sun Journal, March 26, 2013 <http://www.sunjournal.com/news/maine/2013/03/26/bill-eliminates-opt-out-fee-smart-meters-maine/1339124>

- Bill LD 826 -An Act To Eliminate the Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_126th/billtexts/HP057701.asp

³³ Utilities propose charges to opt out of smart meter: Estimates don't pass the 'straight-face test,' opponent says, The Baltimore Sun, August 05, 2013 http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2013-08-05/business/bs-bz-smart-meter-opt-out-cost-20130805_1_digital-meters-radio-frequency-emissions-maryland-electric-cooperative

³⁴ ORDER 86200 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND, February 26, 2014 http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/sitesearch/Whats_new/Order%20No.%2086200%20-%20Case%20Nos.%20%209207.%209208.%209294%20-%20Smart%20Meter%20Opt-Out%20Fees.pdf

³⁵ Maryland delegates criticize BGE smart meter opt-out fees: Bill has bipartisan support to erase opt-out charges, WBAL-TV 11, Mar 04, 2014 <http://www.wbal.com/politics/md-delegate-to-challenge-bge-smart-meters-fees/24794032>

Maryland: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative	\$75.00 (reduced from proposed \$105.32)	\$17.00. (reduced from proposed \$34.94)		
Michigan: DTE Electric	\$67.20	\$9.80	NON-TRANSMITTING METER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 12, 2012, the Michigan Public Service Commission opened a review of smart meters.³⁶ In May (DTE Electric) and June (Consumers Energy), 2013, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved non-transmitting meter provisions for residential electric customers.^{37 38}
Michigan: Consumers Energy	\$69.39, if the notice is given before the transmitting meter is installed; \$123.91 to remove a wireless Smart Meter	\$9.72	NON-TRANSMITTING METER	
Nevada: NV Energy	\$52.86	\$8.82	ANALOG - new analog meters to be installed for all opt-out customers³⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January, 2013, Nevada Public Utilities Commission agreed to let NV Energy charge opt out fees. The commission also approved analog meters as the alternative to Smart Meters.⁴⁰
New Mexico: New Mexico Gas Company	NO FEE	NO FEE	ANALOG – SELF READ: Customers send in own meter	

³⁶ Michigan Public Service Commission, Order Opening Docket U-17000: <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17000/0001.pdf>

³⁷ **MPSC Approves Advanced Metering Infrastructure Non-Transmitting Meter Provision for Residential Customers of Consumers Energy Company**, June 28, 2013 http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16400_17280-307199--,00.html

³⁸ Michigan Public Service Commission Customer Support Section: Smart Grid and Advanced Metering Infrastructure http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/ami_final_426915_7.pdf

³⁹ **NV Energy customers can opt for ‘refurbished’ old-style meters**, Las Vega Sun, Jan. 9, 2013 <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/jan/09/nv-energy-customers-can-opt-old-style-meters/>

⁴⁰ **Smart Meters Battle Ends For Good**, Las Vegas Review-Journal, January 9, 2013 <http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/smart-meters-battle-ends-good>

			readings once a month	
OREGON: Portland General Electric Company ⁴¹	\$253 Fee is the same whether replacing a Smart Meter or an old (analog) meter ⁴²	\$51	NON-COMMUNICATING Unwanted Smart Meters will be exchanged. Some analogs still operating as of spring 2014, but these will be replaced.	
OREGON: Ashland Electric Department ⁴³	NO FEE	NO FEE	ANALOG	
OREGON: Eugene Water & Electric Board	NO FEE	NO FEE	ANALOG	Opt-In Plan: customers who want a smart meter would have to call EWEB to get one installed. Those who don't ask for one won't get one. ⁴⁴
Tennessee: Memphis Light, Gas and Water Divison	NO FEE ⁴⁵	NO FEE		
Vermont:	NO FEE	NO FEE	ANALOG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 18, 2012, Governor Peter Shumlin signed into law S. 214 (Act 0170) allowing for smart meter installation if utility

⁴¹ **Could smart meters pose health risks? Some say yes**, KATU Problem Solver, Mar 25, 2013 <http://www.katu.com/news/local/Could-smart-meters-pose-health-risks-Some-say-yes-199882821.html>

⁴² Customer service 503 – 228 -6322

⁴³ **Ashland drops smart meter opt-out fee**, The Associated Press, June 12, 2012, <http://projects.registerguard.com/web/newslocalnews/28216815-41/meters-ashland-smart-opt-health.html.csp>

- A Resolution Adopting An Opt Out Policy For The Automated Meter Reading Program, May 17, 2012 <http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/2012-14%20AMR%20Opt%20Out%20Policy.pdf>

⁴⁴ **Voluntary 'Smart' Meter Option Is Adopted**, , OCT. 2, 2013 <http://www.registerguard.com/rg/news/local/30540231-75/meters-smart-eweb-meter-million.html.csp>

⁴⁵ **No Smart Meter Opt Out Fee for Memphis MLGW Customers**, October 3, 2013 <http://thetruthaboutsmartgrids.org/2013/10/03/no-opt-out-fee-in-memphis/>

	NO FEE to have Smart Meter removed ⁴⁶			company (1) provides prior written notice to the customer indicating that the meter will use radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the meter and the company and informing the customer of his or her rights; (2) allows a customer to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, at no additional monthly or other charge; and (3) allows a customer to require removal of a previously installed wireless smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any charge for such removal. ⁴⁷
Virginia: Dominion Virginia Power	NO FEE currently, but Dominion Virginia Power will be going before the State Corporation Commission of Virginia and requesting to charge fees. ⁴⁸	NO FEE currently, but Dominion Virginia Power will be going before the State Corporation Commission of Virginia and requesting to charge fees.	NON-COMMUNICATING METERS - smart meters with both the two-way communications and data storage features disabled.	Dominion Virginia Power has eliminated from all the meters the 2nd antenna that keeps track of what appliances are using how much electricity at any given time. ⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Vermont 'Smart Meter' Opposition: No Opt Out Fee under New Legislation, Huffington Post, May 14, 2012, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/14/vermont-smart-meters-opposition_n_1514544.html

⁴⁷ S. 214 (Act 0170), AN ACT RELATING TO VERMONT ENERGY ACT OF 2012, at pp. 61-63: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/Acts/ACT170.pdf>

⁴⁸ Dominion Virginia Power: Interim Non-Communicating Meter Option Requirements <https://www.dom.com/about/conservation/pdf/meter-option-requirements.pdf>

⁴⁹ Dominion: Smart Meter FAQs: Are there alternatives to receiving a smart meter? <https://www.dom.com/about/conservation/smartmeter-fags.jsp>