

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Fourth Quarterly Report on the Pursuit of Automated Meter Reading for Water Meters

In the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) March 12, 2009 decision concerning Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) proposed SmartMeter™ Program Upgrade, the CPUC stated:

In order to pursue automated meter reading for water meters, PG&E shall work with the water utilities in its service territory, either through multi-party workshops or direct dialogue. PG&E shall report back to the Commission on the status of its efforts and results of its discussions on a quarterly basis, beginning April 11, 2009, until completed. (D.09-03-026, p. 197 (Ordering Paragraph 11).)

This report is the fourth such quarterly report issued in compliance with the Ordering Paragraph.

Background

There are hundreds of water agencies in PG&E's service area. Most of these agencies are municipal utilities and are not CPUC-regulated utilities. The largest water distribution utility has about 400,000 customers while some of the smallest ones have as few as 10 customers. Some of these water utilities historically served their customers based on flat rates and without metering.

Progress since October 15, 2009 Quarterly Report

In response to a request from the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), PG&E started a dialogue with EBMUD regarding a potential pilot that would leverage SmartMeter™ network technology. In the fourth quarter 2009, PG&E met with EBMUD to continue discussions on operation and deployment synergies. The PG&E-EBMUD meeting reviewed meter and network access sites offering the potential for a joint-use trial encompassing joint-read options, disaster recovery, and shared technology.

As reported in the last quarterly report, PG&E held a workshop in San Francisco for interested water utilities on September 14, 2009, where PG&E requested that the utilities in attendance provide the following information:

- Utility name and contact information
- Service area location within California
- The number of service points your utility serves
- Level of interest (high, medium or low)
- Your current stage of development

While a few smaller water utilities responded, PG&E did not receive any response from the majority of the water companies, including the larger water companies in the service area. Without interest from the larger water companies in the service area, it will be challenging to develop a business case for a large-scale water meter reading program.

Next Steps

Further development on deployment criteria, data security, and technical requirements will be needed before initiating a pilot installation to assess the operational efficiencies envisioned. No decisions have been made on specific near-term installations. PG&E expects to continue the current evaluations with EBMUD while reaching out to other water utilities in the PG&E service territory in 2010.