



ADVANCED METERING
Planning for the Future

Advanced meters bring to KREMC members benefits of enhanced technology

*By Steve Rhodes
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In March 2012 Kosciusko REMC will begin installing new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology at members' homes and businesses. This is one of the largest projects ever undertaken by KREMC and it represents a very important improvement for our cooperative. The new technology will enable us to serve our members even better through remote meter reading, improved outage management and enhanced sharing of information with members. It also will allow us to stay current with advances in appliances, electric vehicles, renewable energy, and communications.

Ultimately, advanced meters will be necessary to prepare for future energy demand. There is a nationwide implementation of advanced meters underway to comply with government and regulatory initiatives to prepare for the Smart Grid. KREMC must be ready for these new technologies to ensure seamless delivery of reliable and affordable electric power for our members.

Among the specific benefits we have been emphasizing that members can expect from this AMI technology are:

Members will no longer have to read their meters. Members will no longer have to read and report their monthly meter readings. This offers greater convenience and will virtually eliminate estimated bills and meter reading fees.

Improved reliability. KREMC experts will be able to better examine outage data trends and to identify trouble areas. This will enable us to respond more quickly to outages and to restore power to members more effectively.

Improved information about power use. Members will have access to more information about energy usage at their homes or businesses. This will help members to make better-informed decisions about how to use and conserve energy.

Improved power quality. The advanced meters technology will allow our engineers to monitor the system better, which will help us to better balance the electric load on our distribution lines and analyze voltage information to reduce spikes, blinks and surges

Improved operational efficiency. Remote meter reading, improved outage management and enhanced information sharing with members will enable KREMC to provide even better customer service and to better manage service provider costs.

I want to emphasize that we have worked hard to ensure this new technology is both safe and secure. We also are performing the installation process without any additional member fees or rate increases related to it.

AMI technology is another way that KREMC can continue to build upon what is already one of the highest member satisfaction levels among electric cooperatives in the state. It is the kind of enhanced service that KREMC members can and should expect from their cooperative.

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