



SAWNEE EMC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**ADVANCED METERING
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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1. Q. What is AMI?

A. AMI stands for Advanced Metering Infrastructure. This refers to systems that measure, collect and analyze energy usage, and interact with devices such as Sawnee EMC's standard electric meters through various communication media either on-demand or on a pre-defined schedule. This proven technology enables electric utilities, like Sawnee EMC (SEMC), to communicate with their electric meters and integrate cost saving activities such as reading electric meters remotely, automatic outage detection and allowing customers to have access to detailed energy usage data.

2. Q. How does the technology work?

A. As a member uses electricity, an electronic module located inside the meter records the energy usage and periodically transmits the usage data and other information through a FCC licensed radio network comprised of towers, antennas and other equipment... back to our headquarters in Cumming, GA to be imported into our computer systems.

3. Q. Which accounts have an AMI meter?

A. Almost every one of Sawnee's 200,000 plus meters, both commercial and residential, utilize this type of meter.

4. Q. How does the meter benefit me, the member?

A. Smart meters virtually eliminate estimated meter readings, provide tangible benefits, provide a additional level of safety, and aid in outage notification which means quicker service restoration. It also enables members to view and utilize detailed energy usage data and other valuable information. This assists all members in evaluating and managing monthly, daily and even hourly electric energy usage.

5. Q. Will the AMI service interfere with my radio, telephone, computer, television, phones, wireless internet access, invisible fence or other equipment?

A. No. The transmitting device operates in compliance with FCC regulations in a licensed spectrum to avoid interference with other electronic devices. The system generally only operates for short periods of time each day (e.g. typically once every 4 hours) at a low power frequency reserved strictly for this purpose. The meter's radio frequency (RF) signal only operates for fractions of a second as it sends a reading and **is not operated continuously**.

6. Q. Is my personal account information secure?

A. Yes. Only meter readings and specific meter data are transmitted over the secure gateway to our office. The AMI system **does not** transmit personal information. Also, measures have been put into place to ensure that no personal identification information will be located at our AMI data portal.

7. Q. I have heard these meters put off electromagnetic fields (EMF) or radio frequencies (RF)... should I be concerned about that?

A. Experts Say No. We also performed our own test using a third-party engineering firm. The results showed the EMF levels to be extremely low. The readings were less than 0.06% of the maximum levels recommended by IEEE Standards C95.1 and C95.6. Even when tested at close proximity when the meters were transmitting data, the levels were still less than 12.84 % of that required by IEEE Standard 95.1. With respect to concerns of health risks associated with EMF, we are aware of no federal or State of Georgia standards regarding exposure levels. There is no evidence to show that AMI meters are harmful to you.

8. Q. How does the EMF output compare to other electronics?

A. AMI meters rank lower than many household items that people use every day, as shown:

Measurement of Common Household Appliances		
Item	Approximate Distance	mW/m ²
Computer Monitor	1 foot	0.115
Computer	1 foot	0.303
Space Heater	1 foot	895
Cell Phone	1 foot	34.47
AMI Meter	3 feet	0.003

9. Q. Do AMI meters utilize batteries?

A. Sawnee EMC's standard AMI meters do not contain batteries.

10. Q. Can you have a third-party test my AMI meter if I believe that it is not accurate?

A. Yes. The meter can be tested and the results will be provided to you free of charge.

11. Q. Can I “opt-out” of Sawnee’s AMI meter program and if so, what can I expect?

A. Yes. If you so desire, your existing standard meter can be switched out to a “non AMI” meter. This meter exchange will be performed free of charge. However, going forward, there will be a \$20 manual meter reading fee assessed on your bill each month to recover the cost of this service.