



Layton City, Utah: A Work in Progress

Nov 25, 2003 - Terry Coburn, Director of Public Works at Layton City, Utah has been at that position for twenty-three years and the city utilities for twenty-nine years. Layton City has a 14,000 AMR water meter replacement project underway for over 12,000 residential and several hundred large commercial meters. Mr. Coburn says, "We have about 8500 residential AMR wireless meters in the ground now and things are going well. We have done some test reading runs and are pleased with our results."

The decision to use a different type of meter was made based on a patented new AMR technology and an increase in accuracy. Mr. Coburn says, "We had been using PD meters and had to use wiring that extended outside the meter so we could get the reading. The exposed wiring lead to maintenance problems and frankly, I don't think it was worth the trouble to continue that practice. This is especially true, when we were introduced to a completely wireless solution with the multi-jet meter where the RF radio is combined with the water meter register. It's sealed and simple to install. I have no wires to contend with and once it is installed it starts up by just turning on the water. That is a real change for us and the major reason our choice is the Master Meter DIALOG 3G. We can make the reads from the truck as we drive by."

Layton City's Director of Public Works has decided to have the residential installation done by an outside contractor and his city staff will do the large commercial meters which is a smaller project over a longer period of time. Mr. Coburn states, "We will save man hours from quicker meter reading. We were using six to eight men what 1 to 2 men will do with the new drive by system. That manpower will be enough to get most of the large meters installed and we save money." One of the other benefits he has found is, "We have already found major water leaks with the new meter's alerts. The 3G has leak detection, backflow and tampering alerts and the leak detection has identified about half a dozen major leaks which will save their residents a small fortune in the future."

The expectation is that when completed, the new meters will increase the reading accuracy by about 15% from the older meters that were in place and with a better use of manpower there will be a more man hours applied to maintaining the water system vs. reading the meters.

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Mr. Coburn looks forward to a completely installed residential and commercial water meter system in about a year from now. "We are confident and comfortable with the decision we have made. We believe we have secured a top-notch, technologically advanced system that will serve the citizens of Layton very well."

Contact:

Stephen Thomas
Marketing Manager
Master Meter, Inc.

817-842-8000 Office
817-842-1000 FAX
stthomas@mastermeter.com