Response to Request for Information DMB-124 1996 General Rate Proceeding Q. M. J. Erbland's direct testimony (page 7, lines 16-18) indicates that monthly meter reading will increase costs by \$243,000 in 1997, but by 1998 will return to 1996 levels. Provide costs based on a direct comparison of monthly meter reading versus bimonthly meter reading; i.e., assume proposed meter route optimization in 1997 is carried out under both scenarios.

A. Please refer to PUB-27.