

Re Meters, Schedule B, pages 36-37 (\$1,174,000)

Q. Describe the employee safety improvements that will be obtained by using the new AMR meters. Please list and describe any significant safety incidents that have occurred in the past 5 years that could have been prevented by the use of AMR meters?

A. This project involves the installations of AMR meters in locations where safety and access to meters has been problematic. These locations include back-lot developments, row housing with fenced backyards, lots bordering on treed areas or slopes, inside meters, raised meter locations accessed by stairs or patios, and customer specific issues such as locked gates and roaming dogs. These factors create unsafe conditions for the meter reader who attempts to access the meter, especially during the winter season, or they restrict access to the meter altogether.

Employee safety improvements will occur through AMR by reducing the meter readers' exposure to these unsafe conditions and thus minimizing the risk of injury.

There have a number of incidents reported over the past few years that could have been avoided with the use of AMR meters. Some examples are:

- 1) In April 1999, a Meter Reader was bitten by a dog in the back yard of a house. The residence was known to have a dog.
- 2) In May 2002 a Meter Reader suffered a knee injury as a result of falling into a snow covered fence post hole;
- 3) In March 2003 a Meter Reader slipped on an incline and landed on his back; and
- 4) In May 2003 a Meter Reader drove into a driveway at a customer's premise. The property was known to have aggressive dogs, however, the owner refused to restrain the animals. When the meter reader attempted to leave the property, the animals attacked the vehicle and punctured a tire.