



Panel Discussion

- Meter Technicians - Where Do We Go From Here?



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Advanced/Management Combined Session*

Meter Service Departments after AMI

- Metering is becoming more about IT. Some metering departments have been reorganized after AMI as part of the IT department.
- Metering emphasis will shift strongly toward C&I customers and further and further away from residential meters
- Metering resources are being refocused on C&I accounts.
- There are fewer levels of meter tech. Every meter tech needs to be at the higher level as there is not enough lower level work to warrant full time employees
- Utility commissions are being less forgiving of allowing rate relief for project over runs and metering inaccuracies



New or expanded roles for metering departments of all sizes

- Responsible for either reviewing ANSI Tests or even performing some of these ANSI Tests
- Perform Meter Functionality testing on new and returned AMI meters
- Register and communication module energy measurement comparison
- Disconnect/Reconnect Functionality
- Outage Performance
- Meter Communications Performance
- Consumer safety and combating real and perceived issues
- Near continuous research into the “next” technology and the next deployment



Summary

- The focus is on far more than accuracy
- The meter man of the future knows not only metering but they are communication experts and are involved with handling, reporting and analyzing far more customer and system data
- There are fewer “routine jobs” in the field and many of the standard tasks are no longer required. This will lead to fewer classifications of meter techs going forward and the need for a more highly trained tech.
- Each Utility must take a far more active role as part of checking, certifying, and rechecking the functionality of their meters.
- Metering will be in a near constant cycle of looking for the next technology, evaluating those technologies, planning for deploying these technologies, and cleaning up the aftermath of the deployment of these technologies. Meter Services will be a far more active player in the second and third portions of this cycle than they were in the first cycle.



Questions and Discussion



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