

City of St. Clair Shores
Department of Public Works

**Water Meter Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU)
Opt-Out Policy & Agreement**

Preamble

The City of St. Clair Shores Department of Public Works (DPW) is currently replacing water meters throughout the City. Currently the water meter usage is being read on a quarterly basis by means of a visual remote reading device attached to the outside of the home. This requires the meter reading person to access each individual remote reading device on the home, manually record the reading into a hand held data collection device and finally download this data to the Water Billing Department software.

The City is upgrading its water meter reading technology to a wireless fixed network system. This system connects a Mobile Transmitting Unit (MTU) to the water meter by means of a single wire. The MTU is mounted above the water meter in the basement, or near the water meter in a crawl space or closet. The MTU sends a daily reading to various Data Collection Units located throughout the City. This data is sent using a power source of 2 watts on a Federal Communication Commission (FCC) licensed frequency of 173.3625 MHz. The Data Collection Units then send this information to a central collection point at the Water Billing Department in City Hall.

Opt-Out Policy & Agreement

At the option of a City of St. Clair Shores property owner (Owner), the Owner may choose to opt-out of the wireless fixed network system MTU installation. All provisions in this policy shall be complied with in order to participate in the Opt-Out Program.

1. The City reserves the rights to discontinue the Opt-Out Program if it proves to be financially burdensome to the City.
2. If the owner elects to opt out of the wireless fixed network system MTU installation, it is only to not have the MTU installed in the home. The Owner must still allow the City Water Department employee access to replace the water meter prior to the opt-out program beginning.
 - a. The meter replacement shall include a new water meter, water usage register, and data collection end-point on the outside of the home.
 - b. The data collection end-point will be used by a Water Department Employee to manually read and record the water usage on a quarterly billing cycle.
3. The Owner agrees that by opting-out of the wireless fixed network technology there will be additional labor, vehicle and equipment costs (Opt-Out Meter Reading Surcharge) associated with

manually reading the water meter on a quarterly billing cycle for which the Owner will be responsible.

- a. The current Opt-Out Meter Reading Surcharge is \$10.00 per quarter.
 - b. The Opt-Out Meter Reading Surcharge will be included annually in the Water Department Budget for approval by City Council. Any change to the Surcharge shall be in compliance with the findings of the Supreme Court in the case of Bolt v. City of Lansing.
 - c. The City reserves the right to change the Opt-Out Meter Reading Surcharge. Notices will be sent to those customers who have entered into this agreement ninety (90) days prior to the increase taking effect.
 - d. The Opt-Out Meter Reading Surcharge will be included in the Owners quarterly water bill and shall be subject to all existing penalties in the event of non-payment.
 - e. There will be no additional charge if a customer requests to have a MTU installed and discontinue this agreement.
4. The Owner agrees that upon change in ownership of the property the City will replace the manual reading technology with a fixed network system MTU at the time of a final reading.
 5. If the subsequent Owner of a home chooses to enter into the Opt-Out Program after a fixed network system MTU has been installed in a home the Owner shall be responsible for the cost of the Water Department Employee to change the water meter, water usage register, and data collection end-point on the outside of the home.
 6. If the subsequent Owner of a home chooses to enter into the Opt-Out Program after a fixed network system MTU has been installed in a home, the Owner shall enter into a new agreement with the City agreeing to meet all requirements of the Policy.

Agreement

I, the undersigned Property owner, choose to opt out of the fixed network system MTU installation and hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the Water Meter Mobile Transmitting Unit Opt-Out Policy & Agreement.

Property Address

Property Owner Name

Phone Number

Property Owner Signature

Date