

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

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IN RE:  INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. TF-2018-0029, TF-2018-0030, (C-2018-0006), (C-2018-0007), (C-2018-0008), (RG-0150)
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**ORDER APPROVING CUSTOMER NOTICE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION,  
CONSOLIDATING DOCKETS, AND SETTING SCHEDULING CONFERENCE**

(Issued July 13, 2018)

On March 1, 2018, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a proposed tariff regarding non-standard meter alternatives for its electric service customers. Specifically, IPL proposes to charge customers who opt out of having an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meter installed a \$15 per month charge per meter. The proposed tariff has been identified as Docket No. TF-2018-0029. On the same day, IPL also filed a similar proposed tariff for its natural gas service, which has been identified as Docket No. TF-2018-0030.

On March 16, 2018, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, filed appearances in both dockets as well as motions to dismiss. On March 21, 2018, OCA filed an objection in both dockets. Numerous objections from individual customers have also been received in both dockets.

On March 28, 2018, the Board issued an order docketing both tariffs for further investigation. IPL filed its response to OCA's motions on March 30, 2018. Both parties filed briefs on April 19, 2018. An oral argument on OCA's motions to dismiss was held on April 26, 2018. On June 12, 2018, the Board issued an order denying the motions to dismiss but requiring IPL to send notice to all affected customers. IPL filed its proposed notice on June 22, 2018. OCA filed its response on June 29, 2018. IPL filed a reply to OCA's response on July 6, 2018.

IPL states its proposed notice contains the necessary information to provide effective notice to its customers. Specifically, IPL notes that its proposed notice identifies the charge and eligibility criteria in the notice. It also outlines the customers' rights to file objections and to request a public hearing. IPL further states its notice contains a link to its website for further information about its AMI installation and the nonstandard meter alternative.

In its response, OCA offers five comments regarding IPL's proposed notice. First, OCA believes the notice should better inform dual electric and natural gas customers that they could incur a charge of \$15 for each meter, or a total of \$30 per month. Second, OCA states IPL should more clearly state that AMI meters are also digital meters. Third, OCA believes the proposed notice should further clarify that only customers who have already contacted IPL about opting for a nonstandard meter do not need to contact IPL again. Fourth, OCA notes that the website link provided in the notice does not contain an explanation of the nonstandard meter

alternatives; OCA argues the notice should not be approved until that information is available and OCA has an opportunity to review it. Fifth, OCA asserts the notice does not contain all of the opt-out eligibility criteria and should direct customers to a website for a full list of the eligibility factors. OCA provides proposed language to address these issues.

In its July 6, 2018 response, IPL attempted to address OCA's concerns. It incorporated much of OCA's proposed language. It also noted that its website has since been updated to include information about the nonstandard meter as stated in the notice. On July 9, 2018, OCA filed an additional response stating it does not object to IPL's revised notice.

The Board has also reviewed IPL's proposed notice. The notice provides customers with information about the proposed tariffs and informs customers of their rights to file objections and to request a hearing. The Board will therefore approve the notice subject to the following revisions. The revisions are contained in the draft notice attached to this order as Attachment A.<sup>1</sup>

The Board notes that IPL's proposed language may be read by some customers as though the proposed tariffs and program have already been approved by the Board. The Board is therefore revising some language to more clearly articulate that the items only discuss IPL's proposal and that the Board has not yet

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<sup>1</sup> The attachment is only meant to provide the substance of the revisions required by the Board. To the extent the attachment may also contain minor formatting or stylistic changes from the proposed notice filed by IPL, IPL is free to maintain its original formatting and style.

made any final determinations. The Board also has minor corrections to its mailing and email addresses and includes the Board's phone number on the revised notice as well. The Board has also made changes to more clearly articulate what IPL is seeking and that the nonstandard meter would be a non-AMI digital meter.

The Board also notes that it has three open complaint files involving IPL's AMI meters that have been identified as File Nos. C-2018-0006, C-2018-0007, and C-2018-0008. The issues raised in those complaint files are similar to what has been raised by the objectors in these tariff dockets and will involve the same questions of fact and law. For instance, many customers are complaining about the proposed opt out fee, wanting to keep their current meter, and disputing the safety and accuracy of the AMI meters. The Board believes many of the parties and witnesses will overlap between the complaints and these tariff dockets. Therefore, the Board will consolidate the three complaint files with these tariff dockets for purposes of establishing a procedural schedule and reaching a final resolution regarding IPL's AMI proposal. The Board's final order will address and resolve the issues raised in both the tariffs and the complaints. Though the complaint files are being consolidated for purposes of establishing a procedural schedule, in order to participate in any hearing a person will need to file a petition to intervene.

The Board will hold a scheduling conference to discuss a procedural schedule for these dockets on July 20, 2018 at 11 a.m. Participants may appear in person at the Board's hearing room or by webinar. Parties wishing to appear by webinar will

need to register at the link provided below. A proposed procedural schedule is attached to this order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The “Application for Approval of Customer Notice” filed by Interstate Power and Light Company on June 22, 2018, is granted subject to Interstate Power and Light Company modifying the notice as described in the body of this order and as set forth in Attachment A to this order.

2. Interstate Power and Light Company shall file a copy of the final notice with the Board no later than the date it begins sending the notices to its customers.

3. File Nos. C-2018-0006, C-2018-0007, and C-2018-0008 are consolidated with Docket Nos. TF-2018-0029, TF-2018-0030, and RG-0150.

4. A scheduling conference to discuss a procedural schedule with Utilities Board will be held on July 20, 2018 at 11 a.m. The parties, including any interveners and any other person who files an appearance at least two days prior to the scheduling conference, shall participate and be prepared to discuss: (a) testimony deadlines; (b) the intervention deadline, (c) the deadline for a joint statement of the issues; (d) the date by which a settlement is due, if reached, along with a proposed order; (e) the date and time of the hearing, and (f) post-hearing briefing deadlines.

5. The parties may participate in the scheduling conference by appearing in person at the scheduled time at the Hearing Room in the IUB/OCA Building at 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, or by participating via webinar. For

parties wishing to participate through the webinar, please register for the “TF-2018-0029 and TF-2018-0030: Interstate Power and Light Company Scheduling Conference” on or before Wednesday, July 19, 2018, at 5 p.m. using the link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7015471716399258369>.

After registering, a party will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar at the above-specified time and date. If a party has problems with the webinar, contact Utilities Board Customer Service at 515-725-7300.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Bradley Nielsen  
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Richard W. Lozier Jr.

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 2018.

## Notice of filing at Utilities Board

Proposed charge for voluntary nonstandard meter



Dear Customer:

Alliant Energy is seeking the Iowa Utilities Board's approval for a new optional tariff to allow residential customers to choose a nonstandard meter. The proposed tariff includes an additional monthly charge and the provisions described in this notice. The proposed charge would be \$15/month, per meter (\$15 per electric meter and \$15 per gas meter).

The nonstandard meter would be a non-smart digital meter. Customers who choose the nonstandard option would self-read their meters and send readings to us monthly within four days of their scheduled meter reading date.

After a thorough investigation, the Board may approve, deny or modify the proposal and determine when the charge would become effective. Please review your process rights on the reverse side.

**This proposed charge is for a voluntary program. It will not affect you unless you call us and sign up. Please check eligibility requirements.**

Standard meters are smart meters, which we are installing for all customers. They detect outages instantly and help us respond more quickly when they occur.

Smart meters are digital meters that automatically transmit meter readings wirelessly at no additional charge.

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Eligibility: The nonstandard meter alternative would be available to residential electric or natural gas customers who have only one electric meter and/or one natural gas meter and who elect the nonstandard meter before a smart meter is installed. The customer must also not be enrolled in any of the following electric pricing tariffs: Time-of-Day, Net Metering Pilot—Renewable Energy Facilities, Cogeneration and Small Power Production or Alternative Energy and Small Hydro Production. The customer of record would need to request the nonstandard meter alternative. Additional terms and conditions apply. For more information please visit [alliantenergy.com/smartmeter](http://alliantenergy.com/smartmeter).

If you previously notified Alliant Energy that you do not want a smart meter, there is no need to contact Alliant Energy at this time. We will contact you when the Board's process is completed.

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You have the right to file a written objection to this proposed nonstandard meter charge with the Board and to request a public hearing. You may submit comments online or contact the Board by mail or email:

Iowa Utilities Board  
1375 E. Court Avenue,  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069  
Email: [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov)  
Web: <http://iub.iowa.gov>  
Phone: (515)-725-7300

In your communications, please reference docket number TF-2018-0029 for electric and TF-2018-0030 for natural gas. Please provide the Board with any facts that would assist it in determining the justness and reasonableness of this requested nonstandard meter charge. This information will be made available to the Office of Consumer Advocate, who represents the public interest in proceedings before the Board.

A written explanation of the nonstandard meter alternative and additional details on smart meter implementation are available at [alliantenergy.com/smartmeter](http://alliantenergy.com/smartmeter). If you have any questions, please contact Alliant Energy at 1-800-ALLIANT (800-255-4268).



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**TF-2018-0029 TF-2018-0030**  
**Interstate Power and Light Company**  
**AMI Tariffs**

EXTERNAL

Procedural Activity	Option 1 Dates	Option 2 Dates
Proposed Tariffs filed	3/1/2018	3/1/2018
IPL Direct Testimony	8/17/2018	8/31/2018
Intervention Deadline	9/4/2018	9/7/2018
OCA and Any Intervenor Testimony	9/10/2018	9/24/2018
IPL Rebuttal Testimony	9/21/2018	10/8/2018
Joint Statement of Issues	10/1/2018	10/12/2018
Settlement Deadline	10/1/2018	10/12/2018
Settlement Meeting	10/5/2018	10/18/2018
<b>Hearing</b>	<b>10/18-10/19/2018</b>	<b>10/31/2018</b>
Simultaneous Briefs	11/9/2018	11/14/2018