

# ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

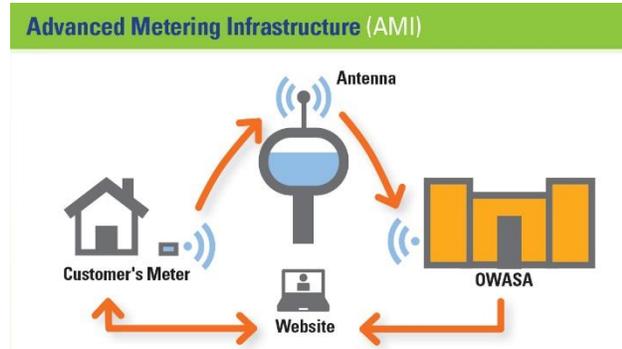
## Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) June 2017

**PURPOSE:** To provide information about AMI and OWASA's plans for AMI.

### What is AMI?

An AMI system collects meter readings remotely via radio transmissions, eliminating the need to drive or walk through the community to collect this information monthly as we do now.

As a result of their efficiency, AMI systems can read meters more often (many times a day vs. once a month). AMI systems also eliminate the potential for human error when reading meters.



### Key benefits to customers

- OWASA staff will have access to information that empowers them to proactively let customers know when their water-use patterns indicate a potential leak at the customer's premises.
- Customers will have access to their water use data online, providing much greater insight into how water is used. This will help our customers conserve water and save money.
- An AMI system will significantly reduce our vehicle use and associated greenhouse gas emissions for our meter reading program.

### Impact on customers' bills

Keeping our essential services affordable is one of OWASA's most important goals. Investing in an AMI system will not, by itself, lead to a rate increase for OWASA customers.

The investment in AMI will be offset by avoiding planned investments in our current, less efficient water meter technology and by savings from operational efficiency improvements.

### CURRENT STATUS:

On May 11, 2017 the OWASA Board of Directors approved the contract for implementing the AMI system. OWASA selected Mueller Systems of Cleveland, NC as the vendor for the AMI system. The total expected cost to implement the system is \$5.4 million and will take about two years to complete. We have been approved to receive a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project.

One of the first tasks will be to install the network equipment (data collectors and repeaters) 16 collectors and 46 repeaters are proposed to provide coverage to all of OWASA's service area. Data collectors consist of a 2-3-foot-long antenna, conduit and a control cabinet (about the size of a briefcase). Repeaters are small radio transmitters about the size of a brick typically attached to street signs.

We anticipate beginning to install/retrofit meters for customers in late-2017/early-2018 which is expected take about 18 months to complete across the entire community.

We are planning to implement an active communication campaign to let the community know when and what to expect.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure  
June 2017

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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