NEPTUNE TECHNOLOGY GROUP INC.

Take Control.

NECO

Smart Solutions, Water Powered

Importance of Automatic Meter Reading

Presenter:

Ray Schwarz

AWWA State of the Industry Report

Top 5 Issues:

- Infrastructure
  - Cost of replacement of aging infrastructure. Older areas.
- Regulatory factors
  - Cost to implement new, tougher regulations. Rural areas.
- Business factors
  - Ability to fund needed repairs.
  - Imbalance between rates and cost to produce.
- Water supply & protection
  - Arid and high growth areas.
- Workforce
  - "Almost 40% of utility workers will become eligible for retirement in the next 5 years." *(Public Utilities Fortnightly, July 2006)*

AMR-AMI Market Drivers

- Meter reading cost and time
- Meter reading safety and liability insurance
- Hard-to-Read meters
- Aging infrastructure
  - Main maintenance
  - Fire hydrant maintenance
  - Distribution System Tampering
- Customer Service
  - Eliminate estimated reads
  - High water bill complaints
- Increase Cash Flow
  - Shorten billing cycle

Water Losses

Leaks on Distribution Mains

Unauthorized Consumption

High Water Bill Complaints

Leakage on customer side of the meter

Daily Production – Daily Metered

Distribution Leak Monitoring – RF Sensor

Abnormal Consumption – daily or hourly usage profile

ARB® N_SIGHT™

End User Leaks – E-Coder High Resolution Registers

Daily Tools to Analyze your System

AMR/AMI Terminology

- **AMR** – (Automatic Meter Reading) automated process that collects readings from customers' meters without directly accessing the meter and can export reads to a remote central location
- **AMI** (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) automated process that collects readings and ***other data***, typically without going to the meter site, often two-way communication to facilitate data transfer

- **Ancillary devices**
  - Actuators - using the AMI communication network to operate equipment (e.g., customer shut-off valves)
  - Sensors – using AMI communication to process information from monitors other than meters (e.g., leak detectors, water pressure monitoring, water temperature)
- **Intelligent meters** – Reading devices with internal data storage/analysis capabilities to provide information/alerts to supersede or supplement readings
- **Interval Reads** - providing multiple period water usage data at predetermined or remotely configurable time intervals with individual collection transmissions

An Understanding between AMR and AMI

- **AMR – Automatic Meter Reading**
  - AMR technologies include handheld, mobile and network technologies based on (wired and wireless), radio frequency (RF), or powerline transmission. The primary purpose is to gather **meter reading data** coming from the meter to collection in a one-way or 1 ½-way communication method.

- **AMI – Advance Metering Infrastructure**

  - A **smart meter** is usually an electric meter that records consumption of electric energy in intervals of an hour or less and communicates that information at least daily back to the Utility for monitoring and billing purposes. Smart meters enable two-way communication between the meter and the central system.

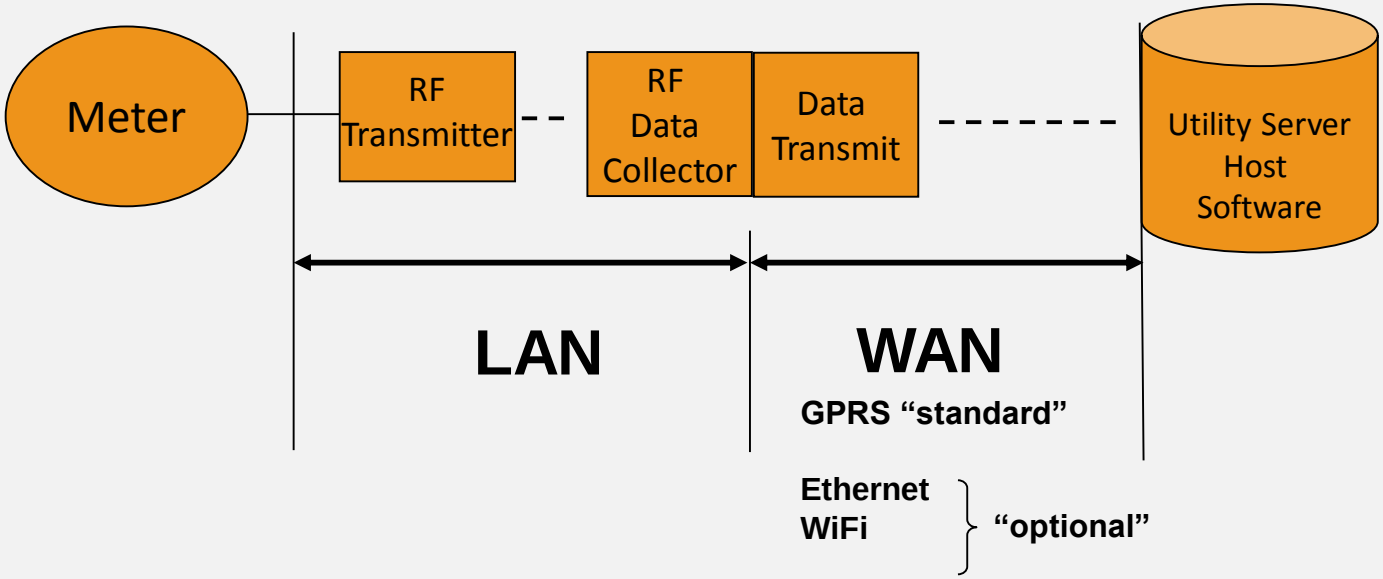
  Utilities may receive *meter reading data* but also daily *monitoring, data reporting and programming information*.

  Often associated as the "Smart Grid" technology

Fixed Network

AMI Fixed Base System Architecture

- Tower Based
- R900 or 450-470MHz Licensed Band
- Full data transmission (Host to MIU)
- Multiple Backhaul Options
- Server Based or Hosted



Types of AMI Systems

- Tower Base

  Collector antennas placed strategically throughout the reading area for total collection

  Normally located on water towers, tall buildings, and antenna towers

AMI FixedBase - RF Collector

- Tower-based system
  - ≥ 150 feet preferred antenna height
  - Collectors can be located on rooftops of buildings, or telephone poles (lower heights reduces cell size)
- Antenna is mounted on the top of the tower
- Data collector is mounted at the base of the tower
- 110 VAC power requirement
- GPRS modem standard (Ethernet, Wi-Fi backhauls are optional)

Benefits

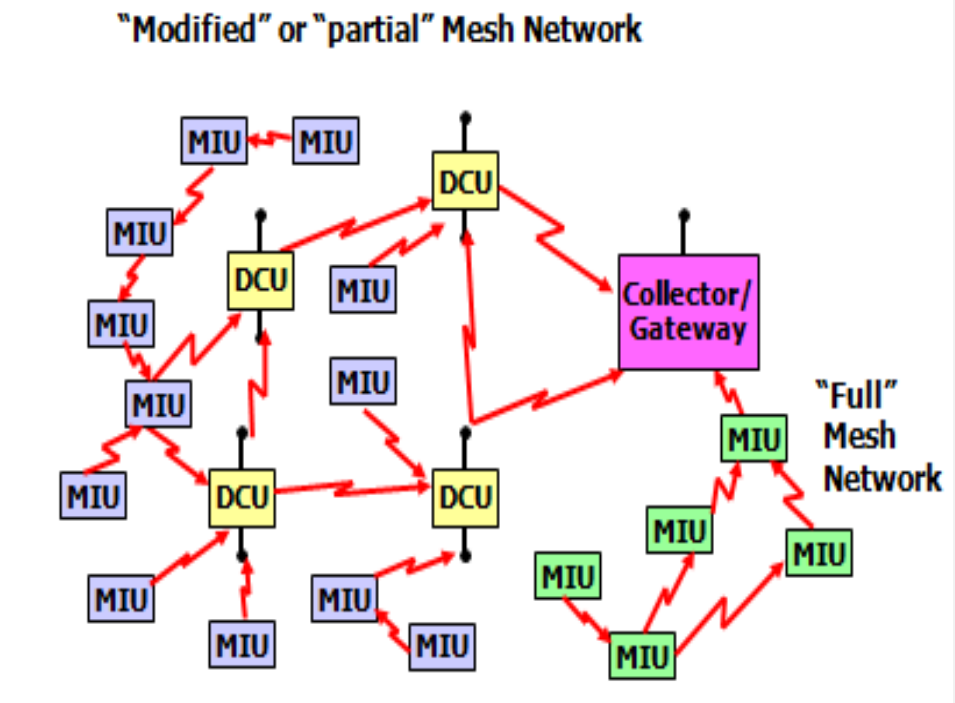
- **Reduced number of collectors**
- **Ease of access to equipment**
- **Lower maintenance costs**

Types of AMI Systems

- Mesh Network

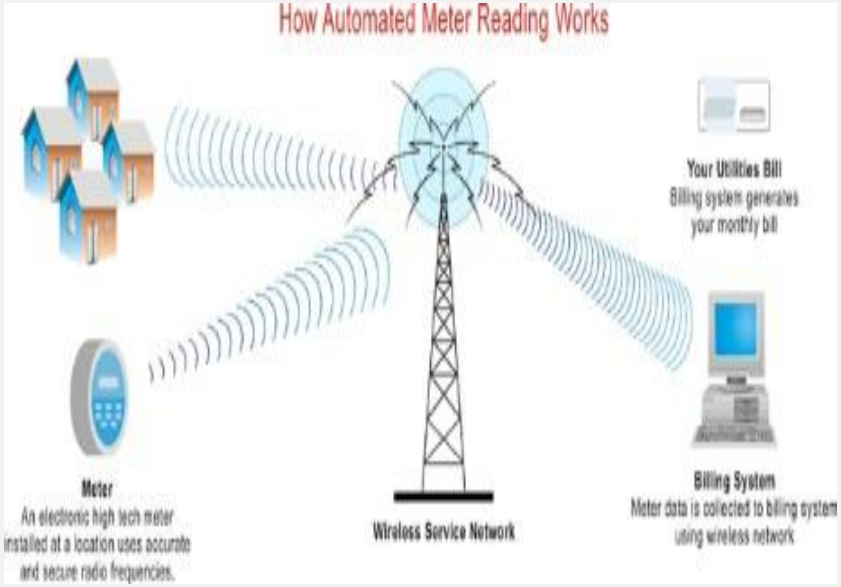
  Relaying data information from one unit to another to relay the readings to the host computer.

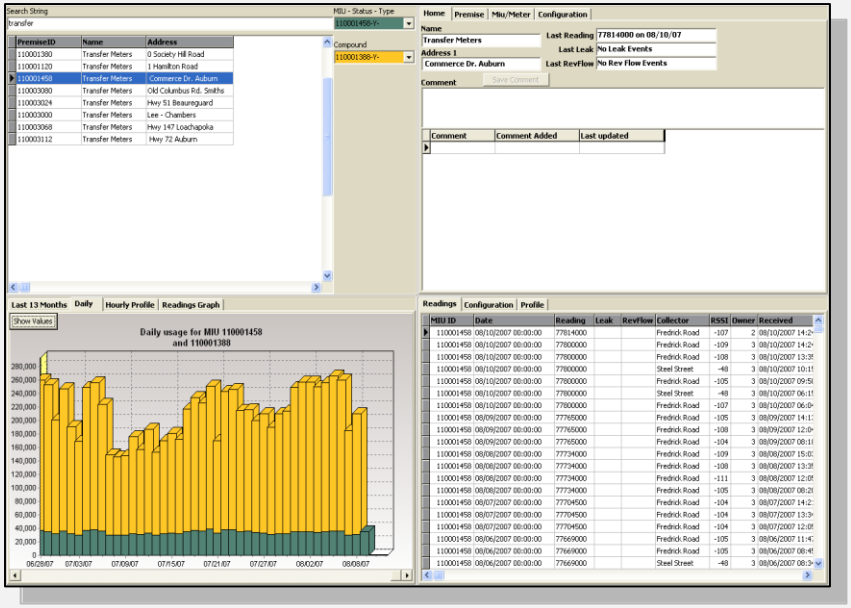
  The individual units gather their on data but also pass other data



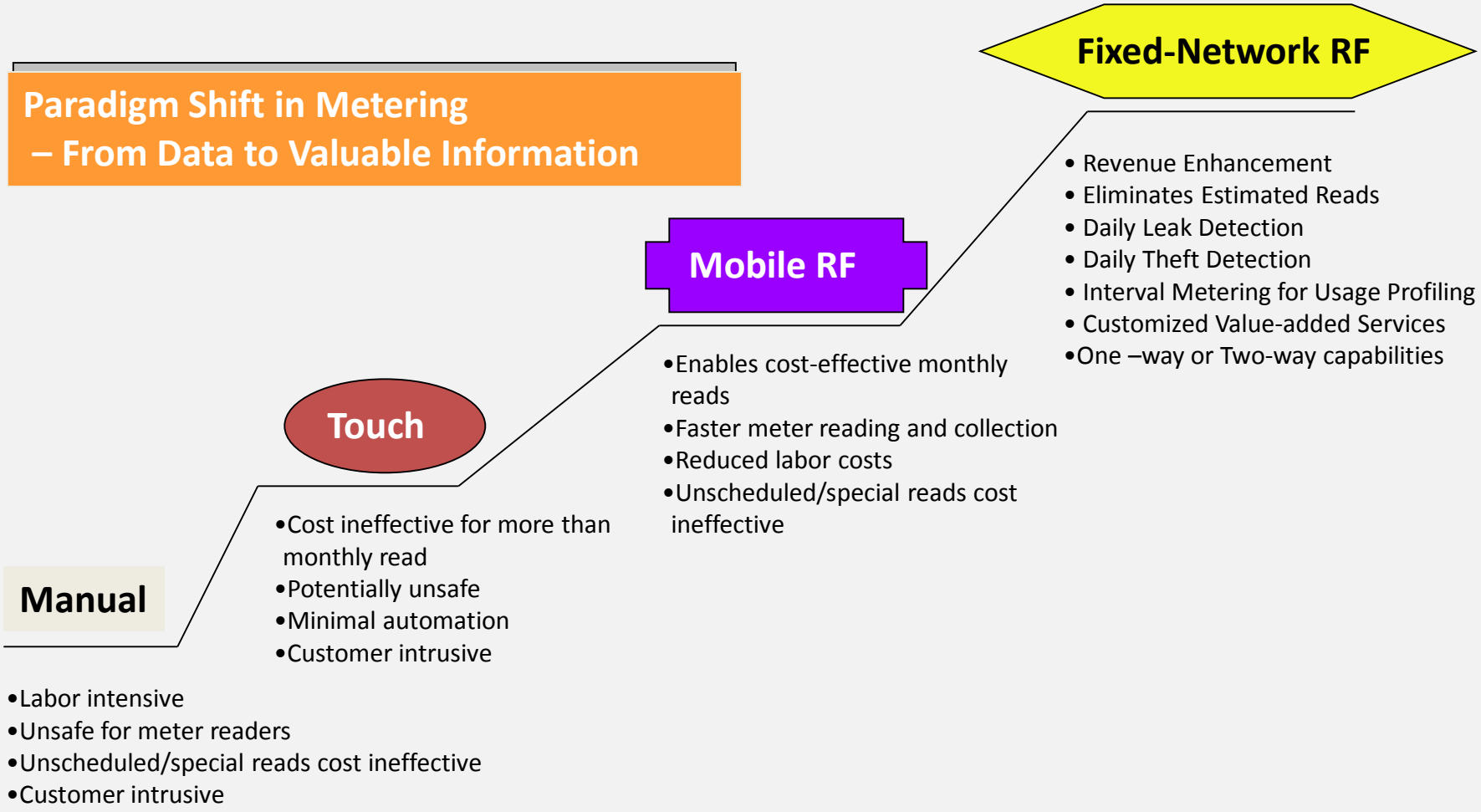
AMI & AMR Provides Two Major Benefits

- Meter Reading Improvement
- Better Data





The Evolution of AMR



The Evolution of AMR

Why Improve Meter Reading Method?

Meter Reader Safety

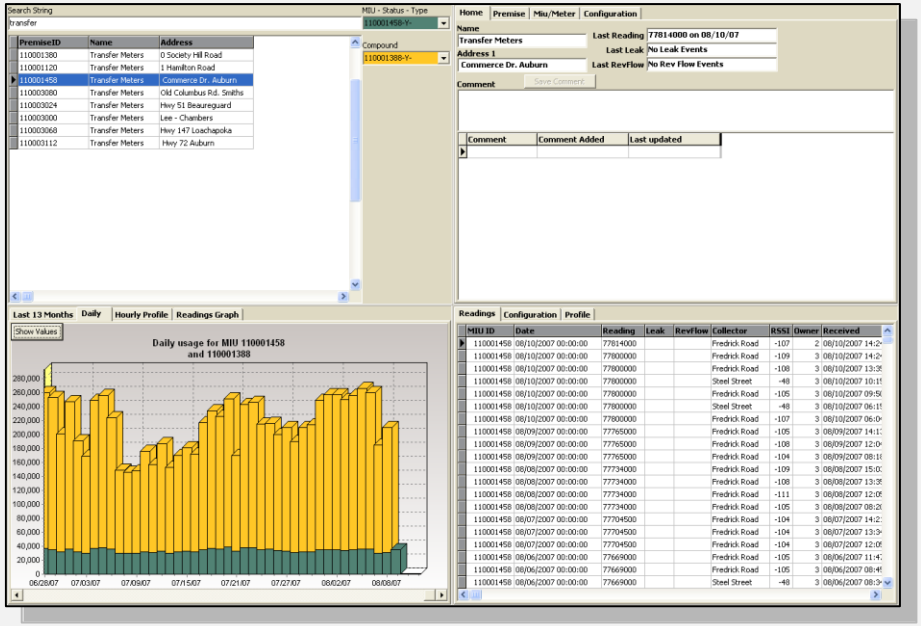
- Fewer Dog bites
- Weather related conditions
- Fewer Injuries - Fall on ice
- Less need to be driving throughout the community
- Access issues
- Challenging locations of the meters

- Customer Service
  - eliminate inaccurate reads
  - avoid estimates
- Efficiency
  - increased number of reads per day lowers meter reading costs

Do We Remember Last Winter

AMI offers more than reading the meter, It's all about the Data

- Precise consumption information
- Clear and accurate billing
- Automate leak notification
- Better & Faster Customer Service
- Flag potential high consumption before customers get the high bill
- Billing disputes are resolved faster because of better information



Improving Water System Operations

- Meter selection and accuracy
- Non Revenue Water Evaluation (DMA)
- System Leak Monitoring
- System Backflow
- Water Quality Monitoring

Benefits of AMR/AMI

Leak Detection
Daily reception of E-Coder® leak intermittent and continuous leak flags

Customer Service
Easily accessed and daily reading data allows utilities to improve customer service and resolve billing disputes

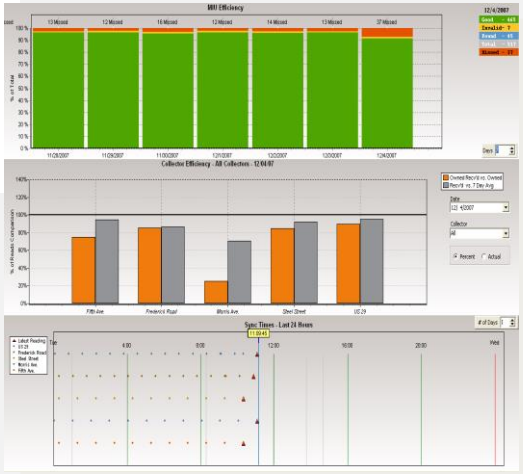
Off-Cycle Reads
Daily readings from the Gateway are available to support off-cycle readings without rolling a truck, saving time and money

Reverse Flow Monitoring
Daily access to E-CoderPLUS flags provides continuous reverse flow monitoring 24 hours per day

Tamper Detection
Advanced E-CoderPLUS tamper detection provided daily to the Gateway

Usage Profile Analysis
Data received by the R900® Gateway allows a utility to provide more data to industrial/commercial customers so that those customers can manage usage

AMI Fixed Network RF AMR



Up to 24 Reads per meter per day

2,000-30,000 reads per day

1,000-2,000 reads per day

175-450 reads per day

100-175 reads per day

- **Enhanced meter reading efficiency and safety**
- **Eliminates estimated reads**
- **Ease of unscheduled / special reads**
- **Daily leak / theft detection**
- **Usage profiling**
- **Customized value-added services**
- **Real-time use of smart encoder features**
- **Reverse flow alarm for system security initiatives**
- **Can spot and correct meter and system issues before billing**

AMR Network RF AMR

Up to 24 Reads per meter per day

2,000-30,000 reads per day

1,000-2,000 reads per day

175-450 reads per day

100-175 reads per day

- **Enables existing RF assets to avoid obsolescence**
- **Allows for easier “fail safe” capture of reads**
- **Allows the blending of the “Best” technologies to meet the business case objectives**
  - **Financial**
    - **Mobile for monthly or bi-monthly meter reading**
    - **Fixed network for daily or monthly meter reading**
  - **Operational**
    - **Address safety and labor issues**
    - **Reduce non-revenue water**
    - **Usage profiling**
  - **Customer Service**
    - **Eliminates estimated reads**
    - **Ease of unscheduled / special reads**

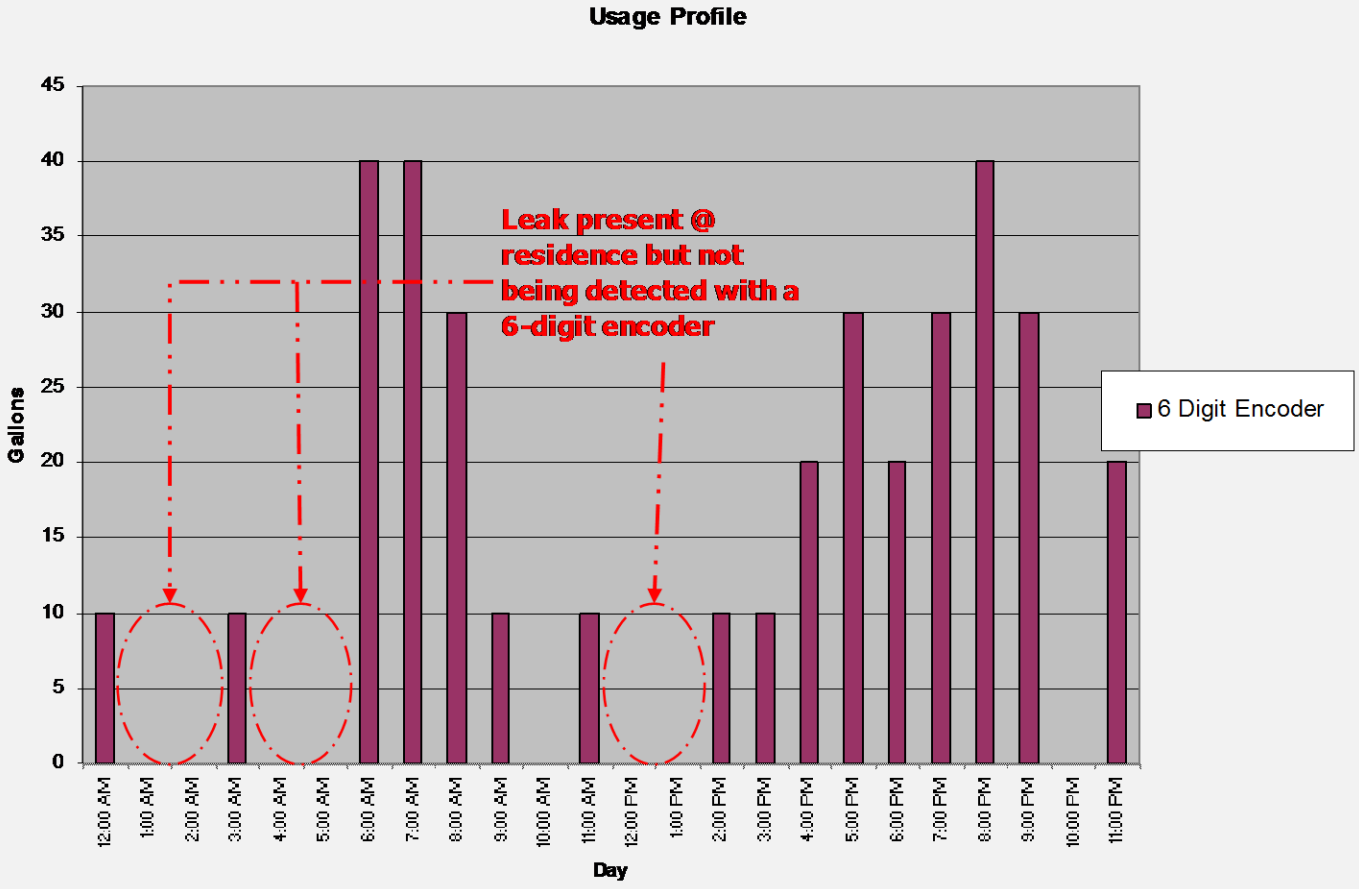
Smart Encoders

- **Higher Resolution**
- **Leak Detection**
- **Reverse flow Detection**
- **Tamper Detection**
- **Data Logging**

- **Actionable Information**
- **Improved Customer Service**
- **More Information to you**

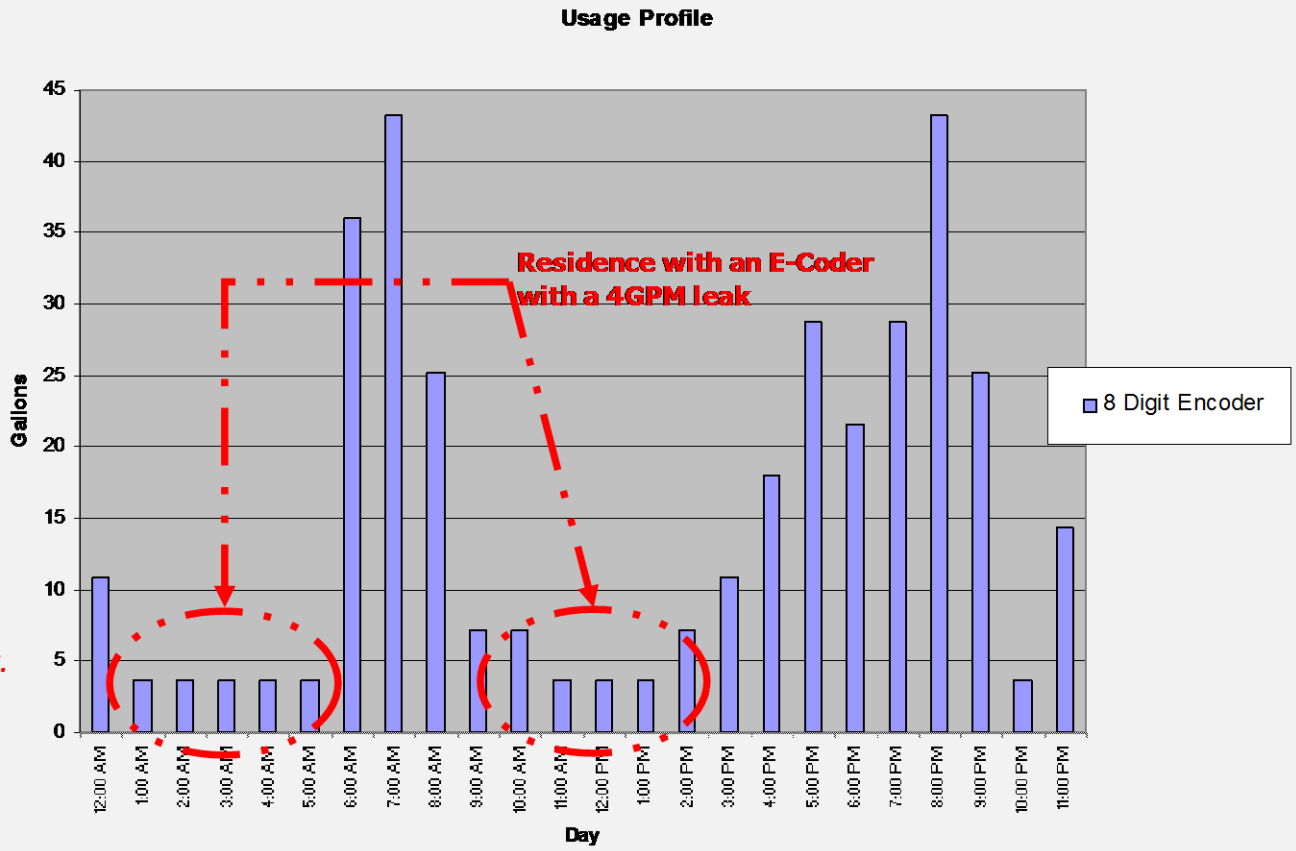
Leak Detection without High Resolution Meter

- Undetected leak standard with 6-digit resolution



E-Coder 8-digit Resolution

- **8 Digit Resolution = 1/100 GPM**
- **True Leak Detection Demands High Resolution:**
  - *Old Technology Cannot Get Below 1 GPM.*
  - *That Is a Pretty Big Leak!*



The Need for High Resolution

Meter Application	Conventional Encoder		Solid State E-Coder	
	Visual	Remote	Visual	Remote
Residential *(5/8" – 1" T-10)*	0.1 cubic foot	1 cubic foot	0.001 cubic feet	0.01 cubic feet
Light C&I *(1½" & 2" T-10; 1½" – 4" HTP)*	1 cubic foot	10 cubic feet	0.01 cubic feet	0.1 cubic feet
Large C&I *(6" – 20" HPT, HPPIII, & TF)*	10 cubic feet	100 cubic feet	0.1 cubic feet	1 cubic foot

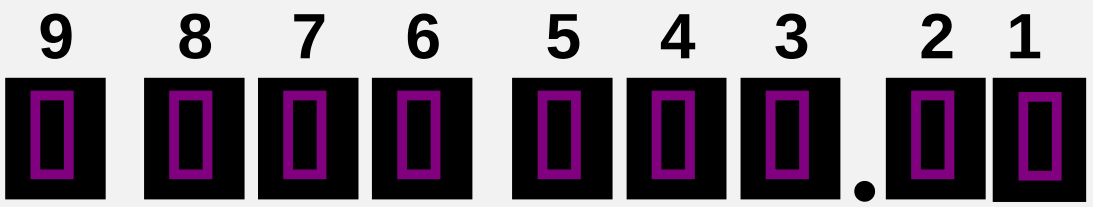
High Resolution = High Value

Encoder Comparison

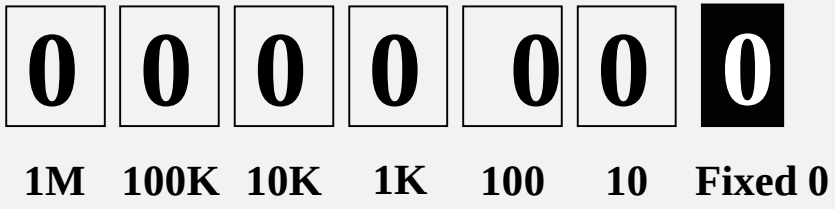
Typical Residential Register

E-Coder

9-digit



Typical
6-wheel



Smart Encoder: Value Throughout the Utility

General Management

- Accurate bills
- Proactive water leak notification
- Financial accountability
- Resource conservation

Customer Service

- Improved operational efficiency
- High water bill complaint resolution

Finance

- Increased cash flow
- Reduced unaccounted-for-water
- Improved bottom line

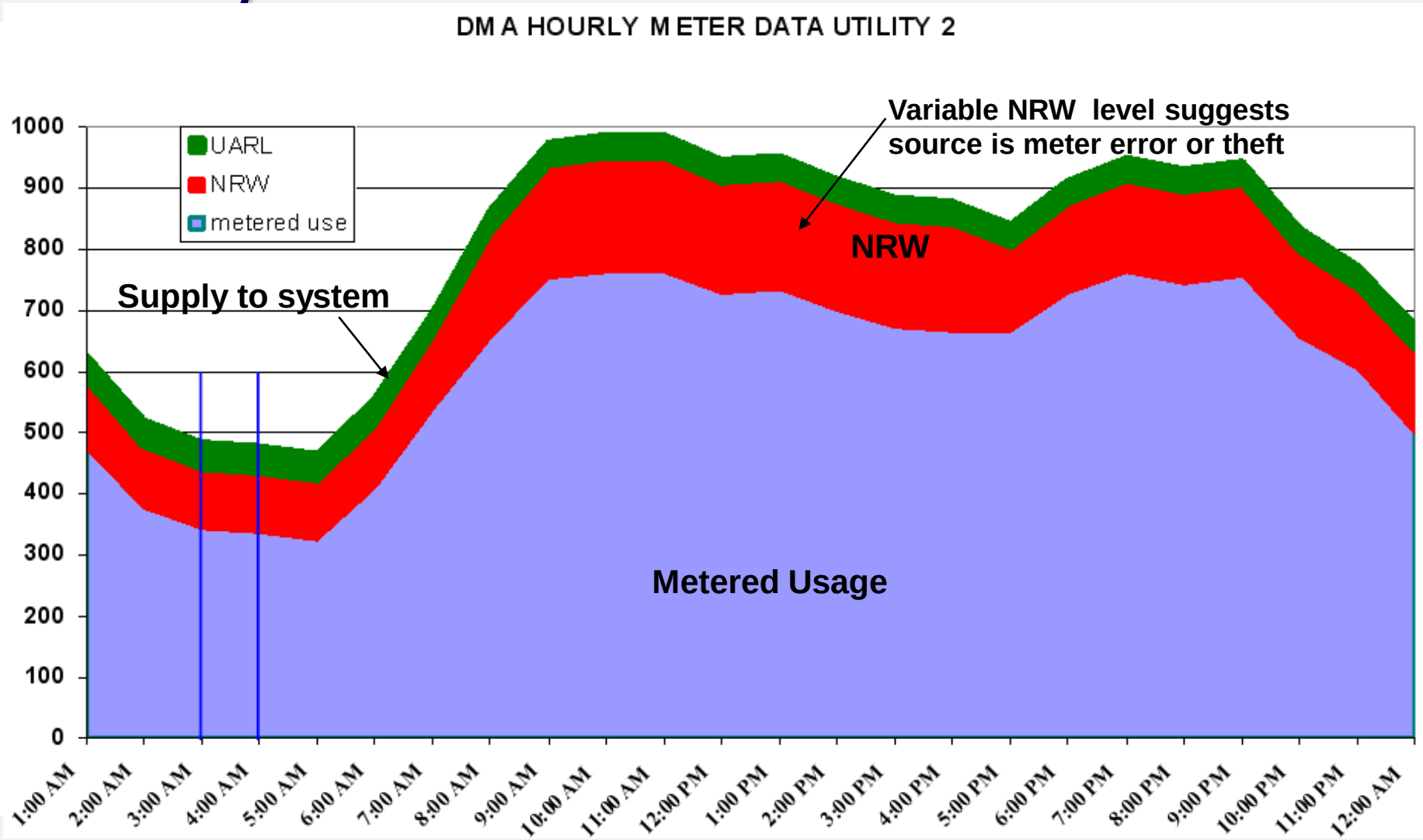
Meter Reading Department

- Encoder technology
- Guaranteed accurate readings

Maintenance

- Service order reduction – leaks, tamper, backflow
- Enhanced trouble-shooting tools

AMI Can Help Track and Identify Non-Revenue Water



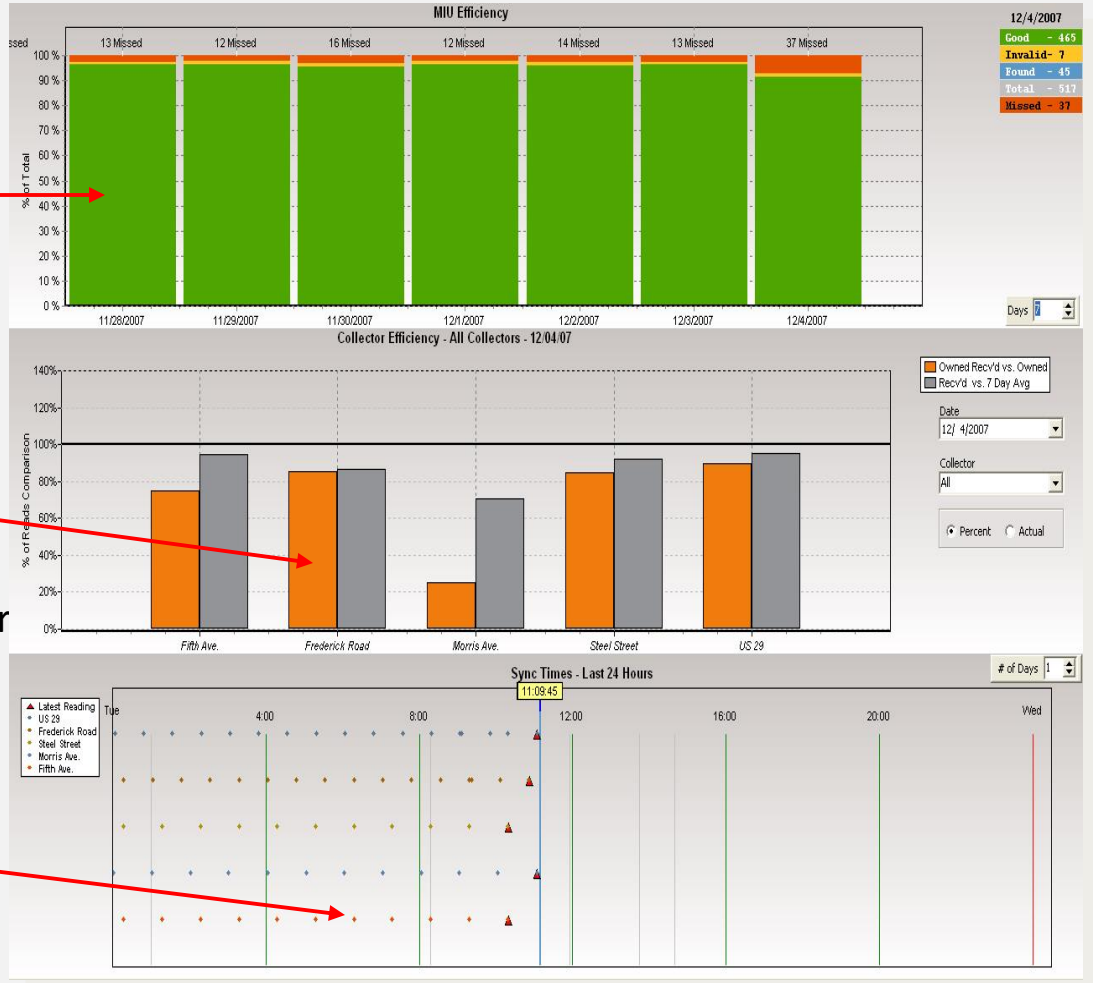
Utility View - Example Group Detail

Consumption of every meter in the system compared to the water Pumped from the Water Plant

Water Pumped – Total Water Used = Unaccountable Water (non-billed water)

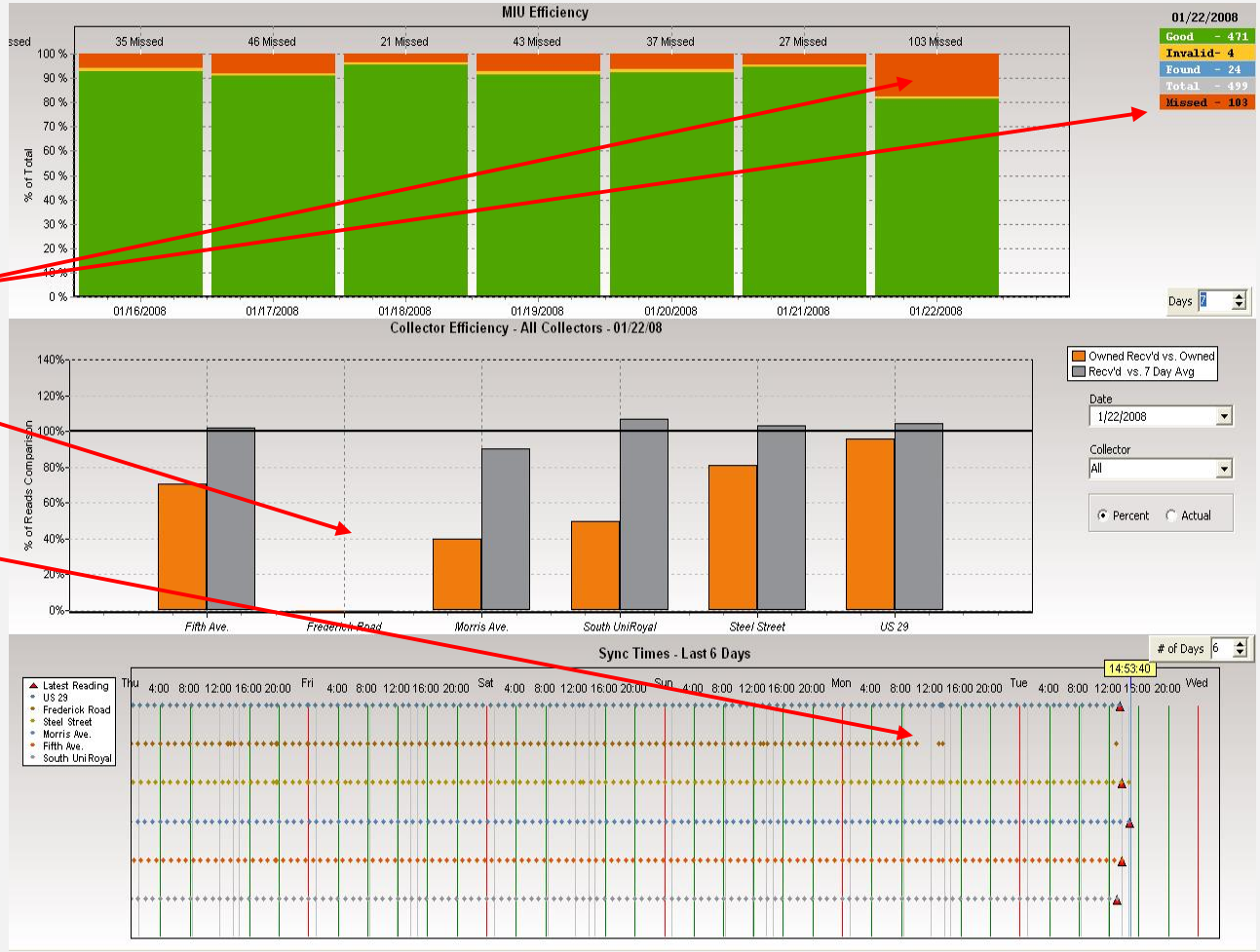
System Health Screen

- "At-a-glance" view of the efficiency of the system
  - MIU efficiency
  - Collector efficiency
    - Orange bar represents "Owned" MIUs (MIUs the collector is receiving the strongest signal strength from)
    - Grey bar represents all of the MIUs the Collector has received transmissions from
  - Collector sync times



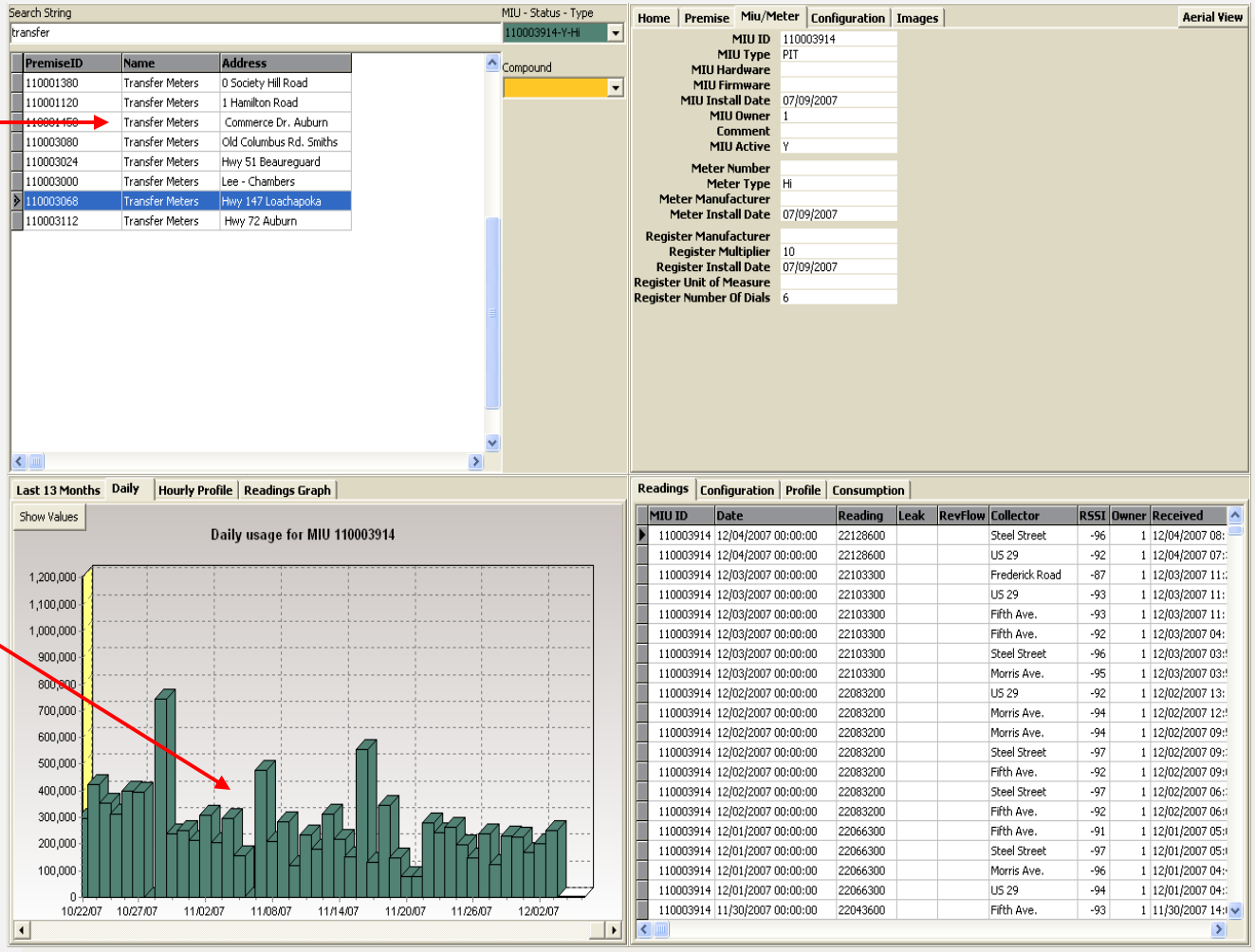
System Health Screen

- "At-a-glance" trouble-shooting
- Missed Reads 103
- Collector down
- Collector failed to sync with Host at 2:00PM Monday



AMI Host Software – Customer Service Screen

- Group prefix – ”transfer” pulls up all transfer meters
- Usage graph
  - Daily profile



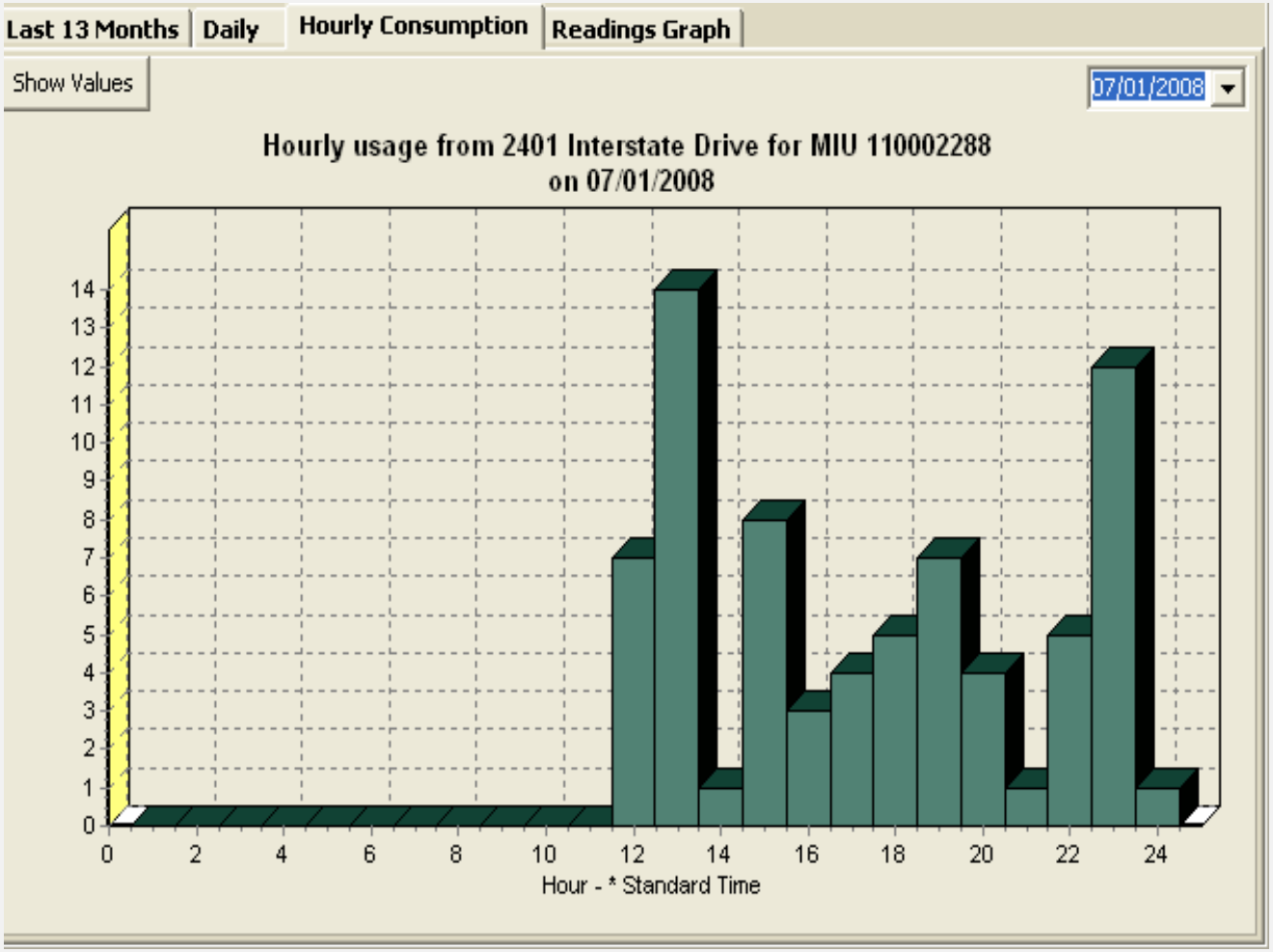
How Does Daily Meter Readings Benefit Customer Service?

- Example
- 10,000 meter Utility
- Currently reading monthly – 10,000 x 12 months =
- 120,000 reading/per year

- With AMI Customer Service will have hourly meter reading data
- One customer - 8,760 meter readings/per year
- All customers - 87,600,000 meter readings/per year

24-Hour Usage/Consumption Profile

- Hourly usage is presented in graphical form



24-Hour Usage/Consumption Profile

- Hourly usage data is also presented as consumption totals in a table by hour

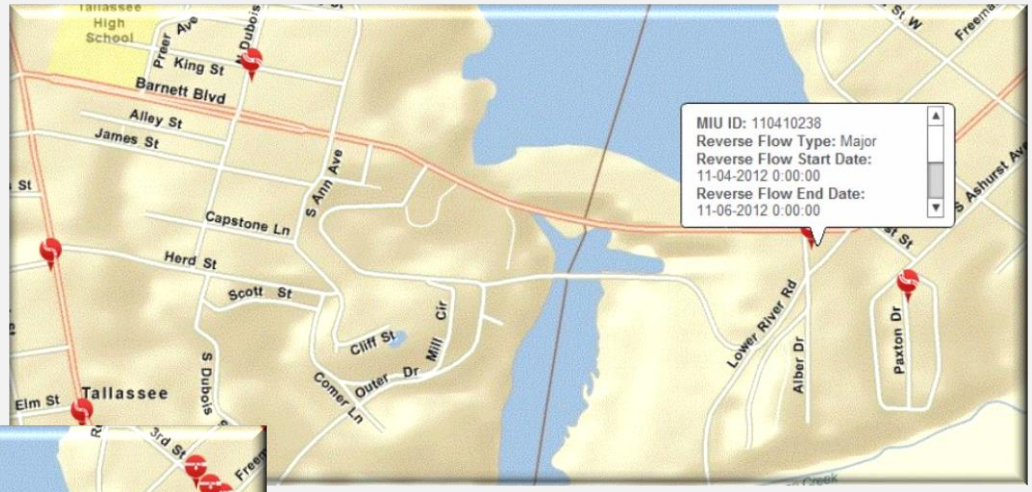
Readings | Daily Consumption | Hourly Consumption | Alarms | Configuration

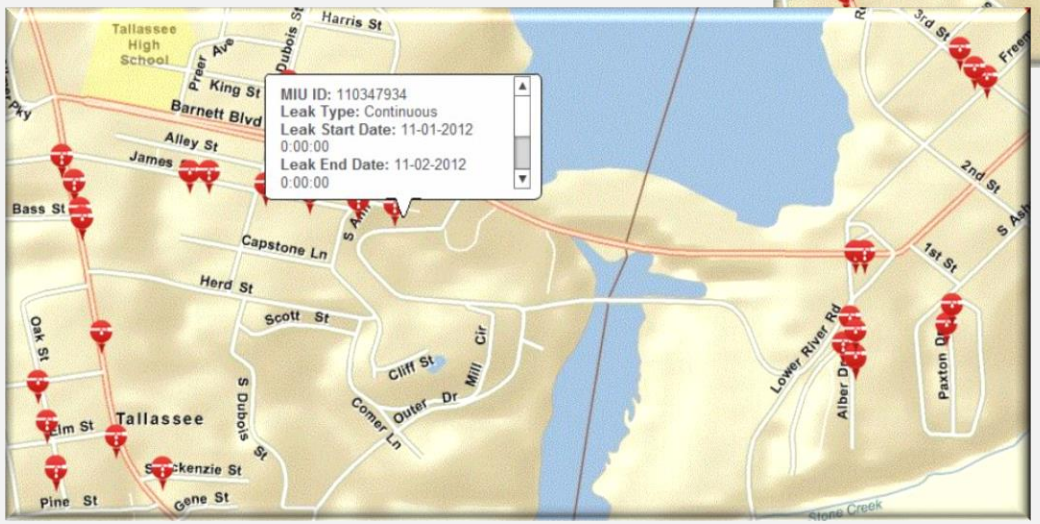
Date	Consumption	Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Hour 4	Hour 5	Hour 6	Hour 7
07/14/2008	101000	0	3000	6000	7000	8000	2000	0
07/13/2008	165000	820	0	820	0	820	4140	5800
07/12/2008	165000	820	0	820	0	820	4140	5800
07/12/2008	165000	820	0	820	0	820	4140	5800
07/12/2008	93000	0	0	930	0	0	0	0
07/11/2008	244000	19420	14560	21850	6060	8490	7280	25490
07/10/2008	244000	19420	14560	21850	6060	8490	7280	25490
07/10/2008	208000	14650	4500	4500	6760	1120	13520	12400
07/09/2008	206000	5670	5670	3400	1130	6810	5670	1130
07/08/2008	477000	72810	72810	72810	72810	72810	12550	2510
07/07/2008	1675000	67000	67000	67000	67000	75370	75370	75370
07/06/2008	1586000	64080	64080	64080	64080	64080	64080	64080
07/05/2008	1578000	71360	71360	71360	63430	63430	63430	63430
07/04/2008	1627000	73210	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080
07/03/2008	1627000	73210	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080
07/03/2008	1627000	73210	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080	65080
07/01/2008	1624000	65940	65940	65940	74190	74190	82430	74190
06/30/2008	1675000	66330	74630	74630	82920	91210	82920	74630
06/29/2008	1693000	70720	70720	79560	79560	4420	88400	79560

Mapping

- Identify areas of concern or interest such as:

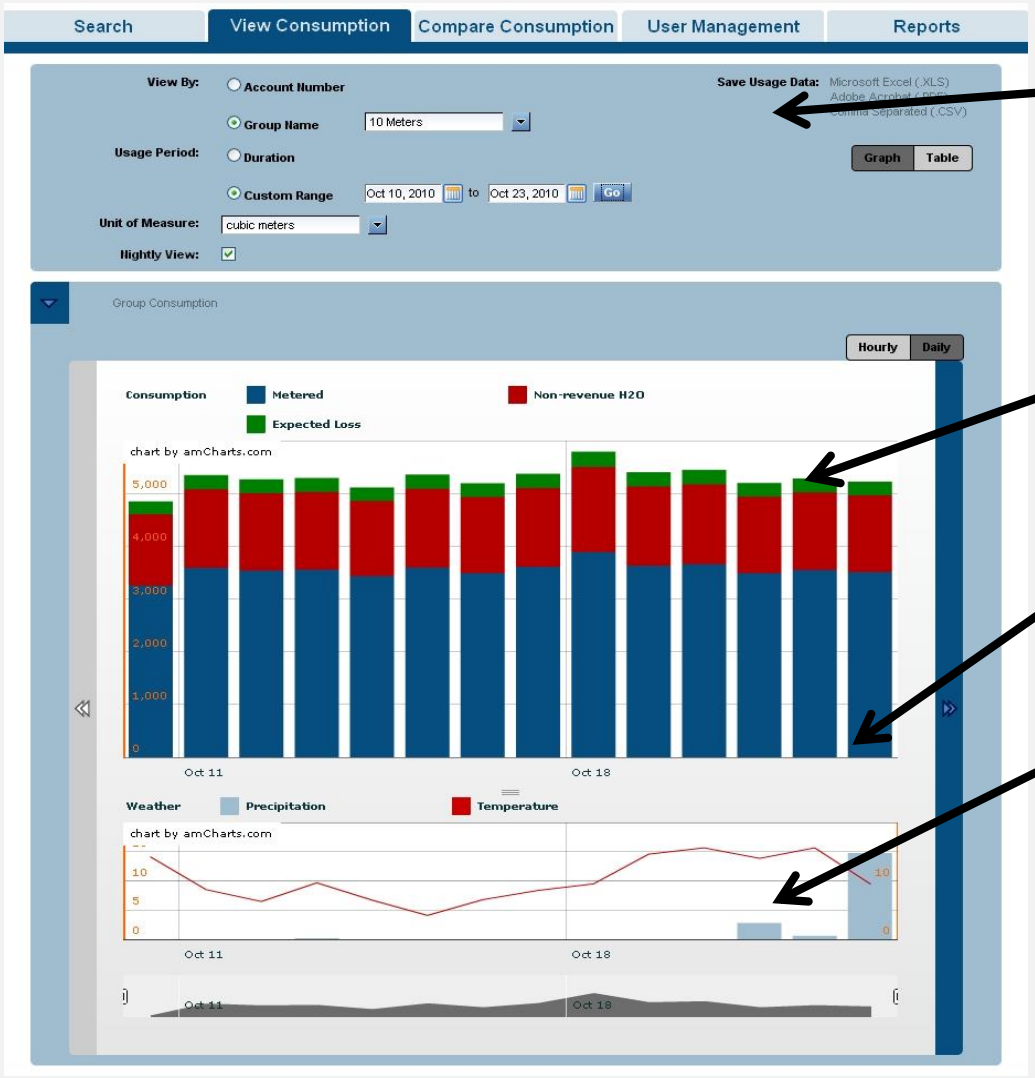
  - Leak
  - Reverse Flow
  - Zero Consumption
  - Soft-Disconnect
  - Not Heard From
  - Major Reverse Flows





  - Missed
  - Inactive with Usage
  - Collector Types
  - Collector Status
  - All Endpoints
  - Continuous Leaks

Customer Service Web Interface



Data Controls

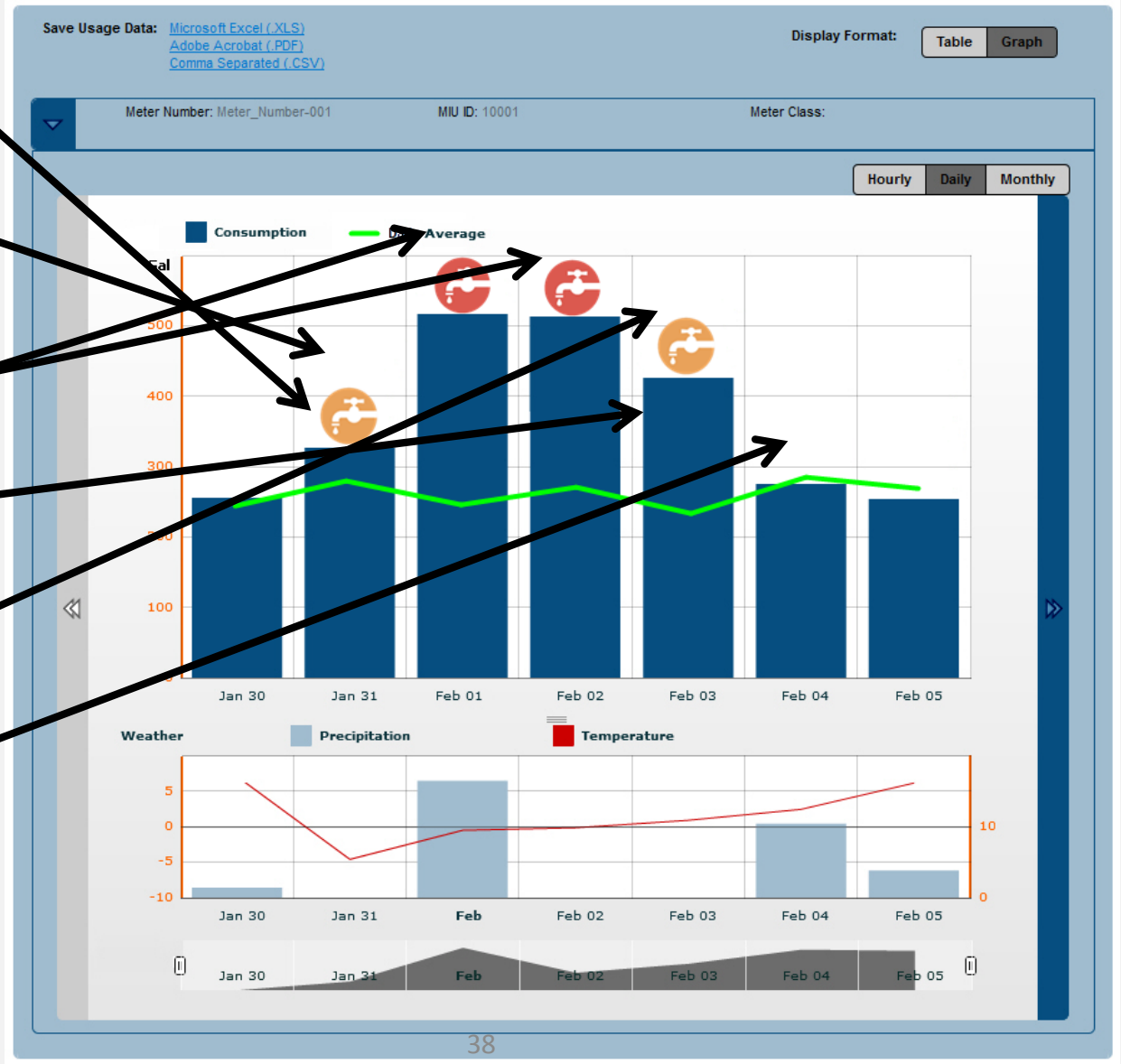
Data Detail

Temperature and Precipitation

Long-term View

Customer Service Web Interface – Customer Example

- Customer leak starts
- E-Coder® intermittent leak alert triggered
- E-Coder continuous leak alert triggered
- Customer repairs leak
- E-Coder intermittent leak alert triggered
- Usage back to normal



Is AMR Right for You?

Things to Consider

- Evaluate what type of system works best in for YOUR Utility
- Review a long-range plan with various departments (Distribution, Customer Service, IT)
- Determine if you want to use the existing assets (meters & existing mobile RF) or replace everything
- Compare the system offerings (Not all are the same)
- Communicate with other Utilities who have systems installed
- Determine if you have personnel to evaluate the additional data

Roundtable

- What type of meter do you use?
- How old is the system?
- Describe the meter reading process
- Describe the billing process
- What is your greatest challenge?
- Has Funding projects been a challenge?
- What have you done that has worked particularly well?
- What questions do you have for other utilities?

QUESTIONS?

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Steps to Getting Started

- Evaluate your current system
  - Number of meter in the system
  - Where are they located
  - Are they all being replaced
  - Have you tested any existing meters
  - What time-line do I want to take to replace them
  - Do I have the office and field support to conduct the project
- Understand what System options are available
- Model the system potential costs
- Conduct Fixed Network Propagation Study
- Consider Funding options
- Evaluate Purchasing options

Propagation Study

Scope:

- 9,889 meters in the service area
  - Geocoding: 7,924 (80.1%) matched
- Service boundary is approximately 12.78 sq. miles
- External MIU used for evaluation.
  - R900v3 Wall MIU
- Assets provided for Gateways.

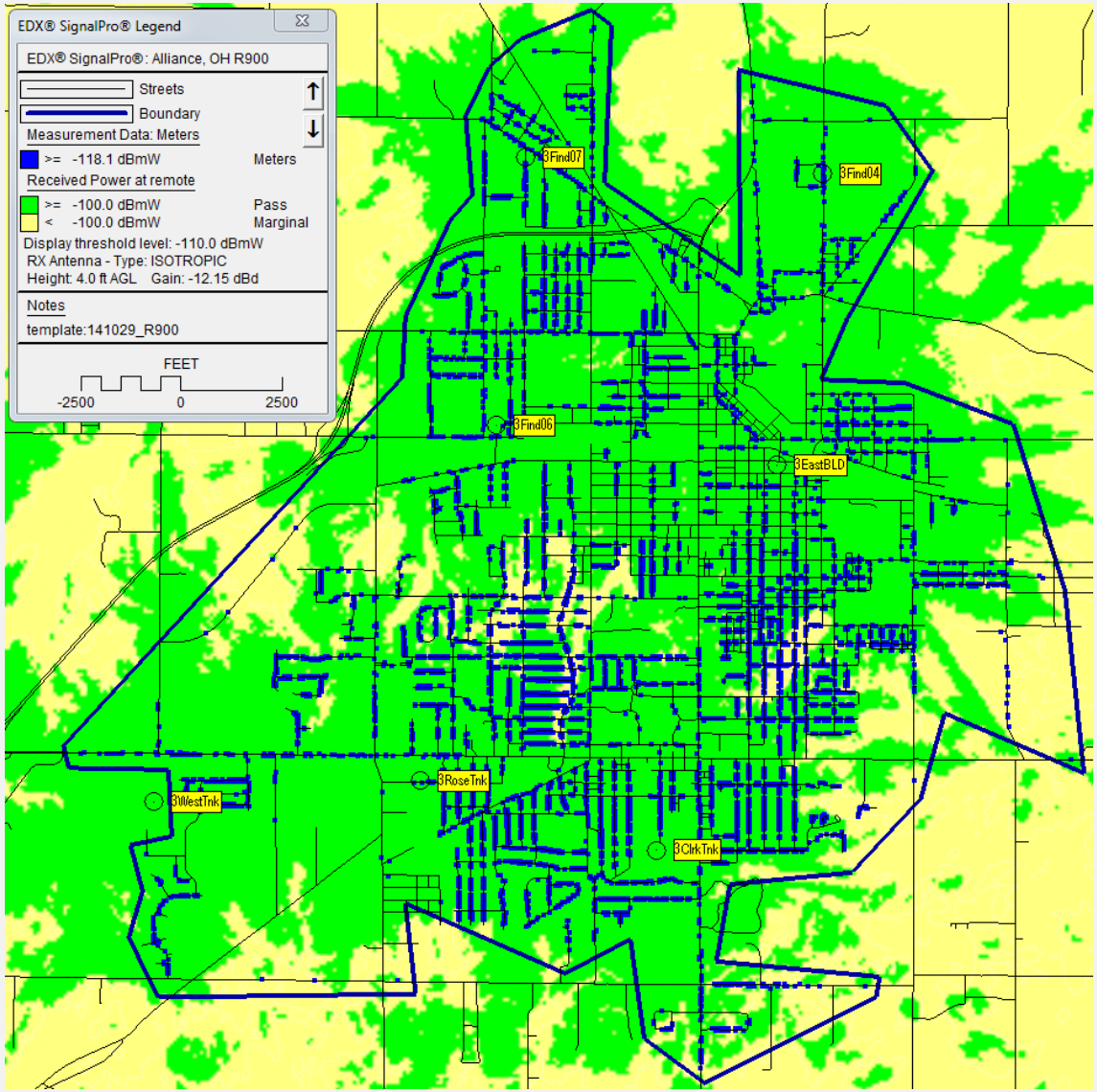
Typical Community

Water Tower

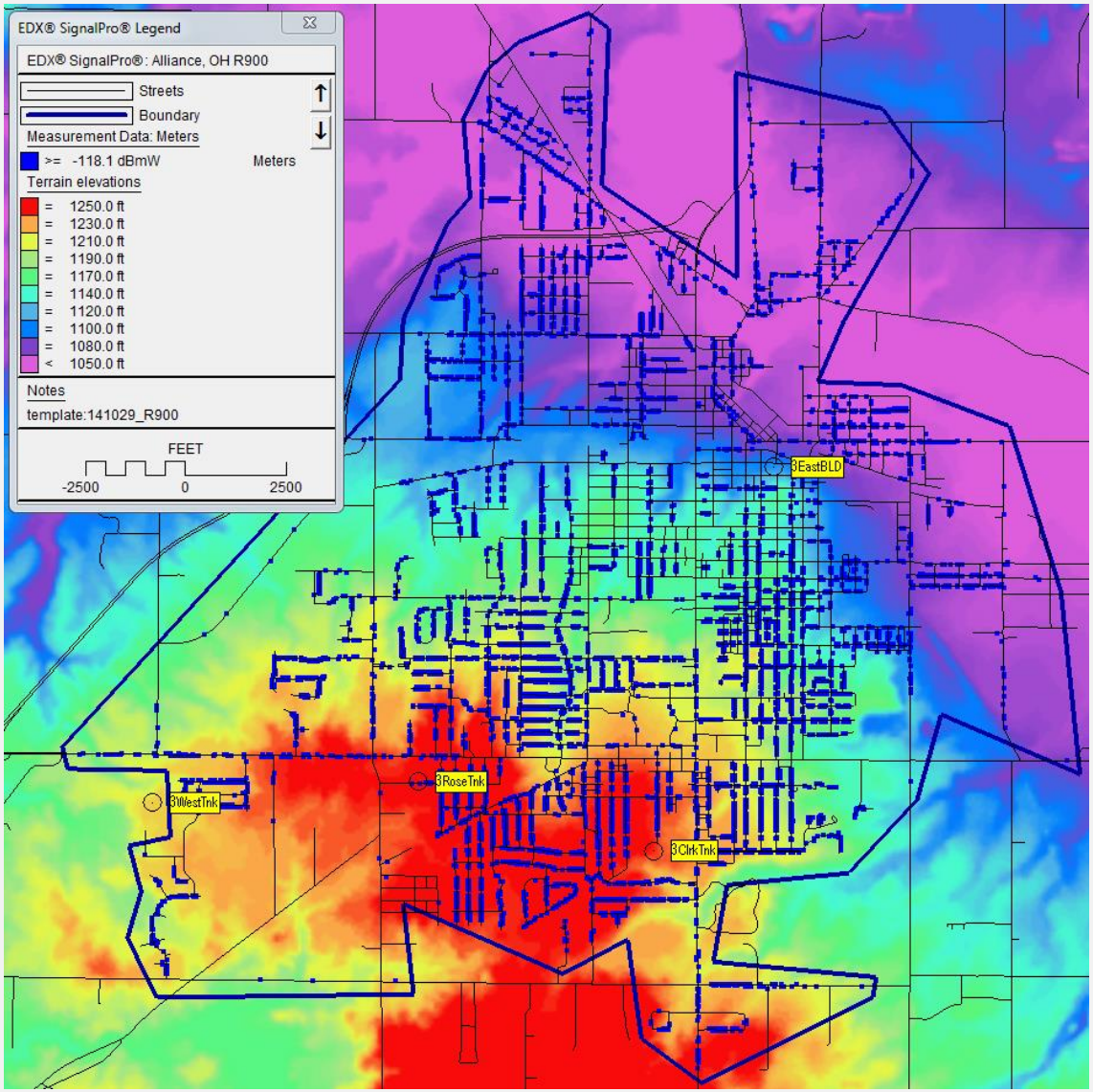

1677 Rosemont Rd SW
Exit Street View
© 2015 Google
© 2015 Google
Report a problem
Google earth
40°54'00.96" N 81°07'50.39" W elev 1317 ft eye alt 1273 ft

City Building

Map 2: >90% predicted coverage



Elevation Map (*National Elevation Dataset available, courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey)*



Project Management

Project Management
Pre-Construction

- Licensing and frequency procurement
- Database population
- Data interface
- Office and warehouse logistics

Project Management
Installation Organization

- Customer notification
- Paperless data
- Digital photos
- Reports

System Support

- Installation and training
- System monitoring
- Ongoing support