

File Memo

September 2011 Additional Information as per EB-2011-0105 Decision and Order

A new problem with the Elster A3RL meters has emerged. The Sensus Flexnet radio has two identifiers programmed in it; the Flexnet ID and the Meter ID. Typically the meter ID is the LDC badge number that is placed on the meter face and used by the LDC as the meter inventory number. It would appear that about 50% of the 1300 A3RL's have the Meter ID improperly programmed rendering them useless. We are working with Sensus to resolve the problem. If the units can be reprogrammed using the Flexnet radio system, then the solution will be less onerous than if they all have to be physically removed, sent back and reprogrammed...again. At present it is not known if reprogramming over the air is possible.

The same Elster A3RL meters with the Flexnet module under glass have a significant register read measurement issue that has been identified by Sensus. Sensus has received approval from Measurement Canada for a firmware upgrade that will solve the problem. The firmware upgrade can take place over the air as soon as Sensus provides the upgrades which are expected soon.

The MDMR EnergyIP 7.2 upgrade will seriously impact our MDMR integration as all systems will have to be retested in January 2012 after we have just completed integration testing required to meet the EB-2011-0105 Decision and Order. The required January 2012 retesting will encumber qualified staff who could be upgrading 2-1/2 element meter installations. It would be more efficient to delay MDMR integration till after the January 2012 EnergyIP 7.2, however this would contravene the Decision and Order.