

# CUSTOMER UPDATE

## EQUIPMENT SERIES



### Your Residential Electric Meter

Residential electric meters are the ultimate “set it and forget it” piece of equipment used by Owatonna Public Utilities (OPU). Traditionally, a new electric meter we install will operate for about 15 years before we need to check it for accuracy. Very few have to be replaced at the 15-year mark, so most are reinstalled and last for another 15 years before they are replaced.

At its most basic level, the electric meter functions as a cash register. When you finish shopping for groceries, don't you want to know, with a high degree of certainty, what your food cost? It's the same for electric meters: Without them, we wouldn't know what to charge you for the electricity you buy.

When an electric meter needs to be replaced, or installed for the first time in a new home, that basic meter costs OPU about \$60. Each year, OPU replaces or installs between 200 and 300 residential electric meters, at a cost of between \$12,000 and \$18,000.

Although these meters look harmless, do not tamper with them as electric shock is always a possibility.