

9. Understanding PGE's Metering and Interval Meter Data

Metering services remain with PGE when a customer chooses to receive electricity from an electricity service supplier. PGE owns and maintains meters for each retail electricity customer receiving distribution services. This chapter explains the metering requirements and operational procedures that support customers receiving power from an ESS. It also covers the types of interval meter data the ESS will receive.

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Standard Metering Services
- Metering Requirements for Direct Access
- Meter Installation
- Meter Testing
- Meter Reading Cycles
- Interval Meter Data

9.1. Standard Metering Services

PGE provides each retail electricity customer with a standard meter and metering services that are appropriate for billing and other requirements. At the customer's point-of-delivery PGE installs a meter that is capable of registering kilowatt-hour usage. Meters capable of registering demand, reactive demand and time of use are installed when required due to the customer's electricity usage or rate schedule. The meters and any meter transformers installed are PGE's property.

9.2. Metering Requirements for Direct Access

Interval Metering with Communications

For each customer PODID (Point of Delivery Identification) enrolled to purchase electricity service from an ESS, PGE installs a meter capable of providing 30 minute interval usage data that can be collected through remote communications. Communications may include wireless network or phone line communication. Interval meters are installed for all enrolled customers regardless of the size of their load.

Unmetered Loads

Electricity service to fixed loads with fixed periods of operation – such as streetlights, traffic lights, television amplifiers, and other similar installations – may be unmetered. We bill the estimated monthly usage under the customer's rate schedule.

9.3. Meter Installation

Meter Location

Meters are to be installed on the outside of buildings at a location that is easily accessed by PGE personnel and by PGE's distribution lines. However, with PGE's prior approval, meters for nonresidential buildings may be located indoors if accessible to PGE personnel during scheduled crew hours.

If no satisfactory location for the meter is available on or in the customer's building, we may install the meter and related equipment on one of our utility poles or in an enclosure.

Note: Meters installed indoors or in enclosed areas may require telephone line installations for communication purposes. Unusual physical characteristics around the meter socket may require additional work by the customer to bring the site to a state in which metering communication is feasible. These conditions will need to be resolved and communications to the meter established before enrollments can proceed.

Timeframe for Installation

Existing customer sites

A customer must have an interval meter with communications installed before becoming active as a direct access customer. If one is not already in place, PGE has 30 days from the date the enrollment DASR (Direct Access Service Request) is accepted to install an interval meter. Once an interval meter is installed and communications have been established, the enrollment can proceed for the customer to begin purchasing electricity from the ESS.

If a telephone line is required for communications to the meter, the enrollment cannot proceed until the telephone line is installed. Installation of a telephone line is handled jointly between the customer, the phone company, and PGE. The installation of communications equipment by PGE at the customer's site will require coordination with the customer. It is important that the customer facilitates installation of any additional equipment in an efficient manner to expedite the processing of their enrollment.

Newly constructed customer sites

PGE works with the customer to coordinate meter installation for new construction. The process for enrolling a newly constructed site for direct access involves PGE, the ESS and the customer, and is described in [Chapter 8, Enrolling End-Use Customers](#).

Meter Exchanges

PGE exchanges meters when field reports indicate the meter is damaged or malfunctioning. When a meter is exchanged for a direct access customer, PGE forwards the meter exchange information to the ESS through an EDI 814 transaction. For more information about the EDI 814 file, you can find a link to the specifications on the [Direct Access Operations Web site](#).

9.4. Meter Testing

PGE routinely tests a sampling of installed meters to help ensure that these instruments perform to national metering and quality standards. If a customer or ESS requests such a test more than once in a 12 month period, PGE charges a meter test fee as described in [Schedule 300 of PGE's OPUC Tariff](#).

PGE does not allow devices to be placed on or in a meter or metering system that could adversely affect the accuracy or performance of the meter or metering circuit.

All company employees and company contractors who perform work associated with customer metering systems are trained to identify and report safety, security, revenue and other metering defect issues.

9.5. Meter Reading Cycles

For billing processes, PGE assigns each meter to a meter reading cycle date. There are twenty-one meter reading cycles each month. A calendar of the meter reading cycles can be found on PGE's ESS Web portal under "Public Downloads". This calendar includes the due date for on-cycle billing usage files to be posted to the ESS Web portal. The meter read cycle cannot be changed upon request of the ESS.

9.6. Interval Meter Data

Several terms help describe the type of interval data the ESS receives.

VEE Usage Data (Validated, Estimated and Edited)

PGE's meter data management system utilizes data validation checks to identify anomalies in the interval meter data. Data anomalies may indicate issues at the meter or data recorder which either inaccurately measured the customer's usage or caused the usage data to be missing.

VEE data has gone through all required validation checks in the VEE process and either passed them all or been verified. If the data was not valid due to an event at the meter or missing due to meter failure, data is estimated according to standardized calculations based on the customer's load. VEE data does not include Schedule 600 loss factors.

Billing Usage Data via the ESS Web Portal

On-Cycle Billing Usage

On-cycle billing usage data is billing quality data that has been through the VEE process and any additional data quality verification. ESS' can obtain billing usage files from PGE's ESS Web portal within two business days of the meter reading cycle for each PODID. Typically, billing usage files contain 30 minute kilowatt-hour (kWh) interval usage in an EDI 867 format. Billing usage data does not include Schedule 600 loss factors.

If the ESS wants to calculate interval demand, then the ESS will need to use PGE's 30-minute kWh interval data.

For more information about the EDI 867 file, you can find a link to the specifications on the [Direct Access Operations Web site](#).

Off-Cycle Billing Usage

In some instances, billing usage files may be posted off of the normal meter reading cycle. These may be due to circumstances such as drops by the ESS, account closures, or customers moving out of the premises. Billing usage data that has been corrected after the posting of an on-cycle file will be re-posted to the ESS Web portal off-cycle when the data correction is made.

Settlement Usage Data Via the ESS Web Portal

Settlement usage data is 60 minute interval data for the previous calendar month which has gone through the VEE process and any additional data quality verification to ensure accuracy. Settlement usage data is available mid-month with the wholesale invoice and can be viewed in the CSV formatted invoice. Settlement usage data includes Schedule 600 loss factors. Hence, settlement usage is equivalent to VEE data multiplied by the applicable Schedule 600 loss factors.

Historical Usage via the ESS Web Portal

With written permission from the customer, ESS' who are registered with PGE may request historical usage data by PODID before enrolling the customer. Historical usage may be interval usage data or monthly summary data and is posted in an EDI 867 format on the ESS Web portal. Interval usage data is posted in whatever interval the data is measured at. For more information on how to acquire customer historical usage data, see [Chapter 8, Enrolling End-Use Customers.](#)

Meter Information Services

If the ESS would like to receive interval data on a schedule other than on-cycle billing usage data from the ESS Web portal, they can purchase interval meter data through the Meter Information Services program. Contact the ESS Business Office Account Manager for more information about this program. Additional information about this service including fees can be found under [Schedule 320, Meter Information Services, of PGE's OPUC Tariff.](#)

Acquiring Data from the ESS Web Portal

For more information on acquiring data through the ESS Web portal, please see the ESS Web Portal Guide on the [Direct Access Operations Web site.](#)