



NEWS RELEASE

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NJBPU Authorizes Rockland Electric Company to Initiate Roll Out of Smart Meters

-Program has potential to help [Christie Administration reach Energy Master Plan](#) goals-

TRENTON, N.J. – Today, the [New Jersey Board of Public Utilities](#) (Board) authorized [Rockland Electric Company's](#) (Rockland Electric's) petition to initiate the installation of an [Advanced Metering Infrastructure Program](#) (AMI Program). Approximately 74,000 AMI meters, communication infrastructure, and data and coordination systems will be utilized across the entire Rockland Electric territory. The project is intended to allow customers to view real-time energy usage while also increasing storm resiliency and optimizing the distribution system monitoring and control capabilities. This will enable Rockland Electric to respond and restore power more quickly to rate payers.

“This is the first smart meter program in the state,” said Board President, [Richard S. Mroz](#). “We at the Board are hopeful the AMI Program has the potential to provide more data creating benefits to the distribution system, allowing Rockland Electric to streamline and modernize its operations, provide a better customer experience, and benefit the environment.”

On May 13, 2016, Rockland Electric filed a base rate case petition with the Board. As part of the base rate case petition, Rockland Electric included the request to install approximately 74,000 AMI meters and smart meters throughout their territory; which was ultimately bifurcated from the rate case and handled separately in this petition.

Rockland Electric will begin the deployment of the AMI system during the remainder of 2017 and is scheduled to be finished in 2019. The system uses a two-way, point-to-point mesh network that allows the smart meters to communicate directly with wireless communication devices across the network. Prior to installing the system, Rockland Electric was instructed to develop an implementation plan that includes, among other things, education and outreach its customers. Customers who do not wish to update to AMI could be allowed to maintain their existing meters.

The cost for maintaining the manual meter was determined to be incremental by the company. It is estimated that full deployment over a two-and-a-half year period will cost Rockland Electric \$16.5 million and the cumulative recurring operating and management expenses over a twenty-year period of \$12 million. According to Rockland Electric, benefits anticipated from the program include reduced labor for field services and outage management, which is estimated at \$82 million over 20 years.

