

## **Press Release**

### **Advanced Metering Infrastructure Installation**

Water Meter Installation scheduled to begin week of April 12

City of Yoakum recently approved the implementation of a series of capital improvement projects in partnership with Ameresco Water and Energy Solutions. The projects include the installation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) serving the City's water and electric utilities as well as energy savings projects throughout the City.

The AMI metering infrastructure improvement projects include the installation of auto-read water and electric meters, and a data collection and management system. In total, the program will replace all of the City's 2,700 water meters and 3,200 electric meters and integrate them into the AMI network.

The initial phase of the meter installation is scheduled to begin the week of April 12. Subcontractors working for the City of Yoakum will be handling the installations. Electric meters and water meters will be installed by separate crews and at separate times. Every utility customer will be notified prior to the installation of new meters at their service address.

In addition to the preceding monetary benefits, the project will also help the City address the following outstanding operational issues:

- Installing the AMI system will provide automation to the City's billing system and will greatly reduce the burden on City staff.
- Automated meter reading by an AMI system will reduce meter accessibility issues and reduce billing errors.
- The AMI system will allow City staff to access the meter data through a web portal from anywhere with an internet connection.
- The AMI system will provide a customer web portal that the customers can visit to see their historical utility consumption data.
- Replacing the water meters will reduce failure risks and results in fewer service calls from the customers.

Your patience and cooperation during this project is greatly appreciated. For questions or concerns, please call City Hall at 361-293-6321.