

Health Concerns

There are no potential health concerns related to the new meters. Both the old and new meters communicate with Chugach Electric using radio frequency (RF), similar to many common devices such as cordless phones and remote controls. The information below should answer many of the additional health aspect questions you may have.

MANY EVERYDAY APPLIANCES USE RADIO FREQUENCY (RF)

Just as your current meter uses RF communications, so do common every day devices such as radios, cell phones, baby monitors, and wireless networks. The new meter will also use extremely low RF communication. RF also exists naturally from the sun interacting with our atmosphere. RF weakens as barriers such as building materials and meter enclosures enter its paths.



METERS WILL TRANSMIT A TOTAL OF LESS THAN TWO MINUTES A DAY

On average the new meters will transmit less than two minutes a day. You would need 375 years of constant exposure to your new meter to receive a RF dose equivalent of one year of daily 15-minute cell phone conversations.

METERS WILL OPERATE WELL BELOW SET LIMITS FOR RF

The Federal Communication Commission have adopted Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) limits for radio transmitters of all types, including electric meters, which operate significantly below the MPE limit.



RESEARCH SAYS METER RF PRESENTS NO HEALTH RISKS

Based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, the World Health Organization concluded that current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields. Although research is ongoing, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concluded that available scientific evidence shows no increased health risk due to RF. FDA shares regulatory responsibility with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which has determined meters meet safety guidelines.

While some have raised questions about the safety of the new meters, it is important to note that the RF they use while transmitting data is at a much lower level than what already surrounds consumers every day.



Microwaves oven have more than 300 times the RF exposure.



Cordless phones have more than 8,000 times the RF exposure.



Cell phones have more than 12,000 times the RF exposure.