

Meter Installations on the Lummi Peninsula

Important Information Regarding the Lummi Peninsula Settlement Agreement and Groundwater Metering Requirements



Contact information

Kelly Hamilton
(360) 255-4385
kelly.hamilton@ecy.wa.gov

ADA accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6872 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

The final appeals to the Lummi Peninsula Settlement Agreement were resolved on December 11, 2009 and all aspects of the Agreement are now in effect. Please note: there are specific requirements regarding the type of meter you install and how you install it.

This handout provides information on:

- The type of meter you must install.
- Where to purchase your meter.
- Installation and permitting requirements.

Please read this information thoroughly. For more information, visit our [website](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-rights/Case-law/Lummi-settlement) at: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-rights/Case-law/Lummi-settlement> For specific questions relating to the Lummi Settlement or for additional technical assistance, contact Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, at (360) 255-4400.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of meter must I use?

There are two meter options:

1. You may install a Neptune E-Coder)R900i water meter. This meter is part of an automatic meter reading (AMR) radio-read system. This system allows Ecology staff to drive by your meter and receive the meter readings remotely. The meter also allows you to visually read the meter.
2. You may install a Metron-Farnier (S25D) **Telemetered** water meter. This meter is a cellular-based telemetered meter, which allows measurements to be taken at the installed water meter and be transmitted via cellular technology, like a text message, to a secure data storage facility. Telemetry allows for:
 - Water use monitoring in near real time using a personal computer or smart phone.
 - Real-time leak detection and notification, if desired, and system performance monitoring.
 - Data is automatically stored and the owner and Ecology staff can access data remotely.

When do I have to install the meter?

All new wells or new hook-ups to existing wells (such as those permitted under Exhibit D and E of the Settlement Agreement) must have a meter installed prior to any beneficial use of the well water.

Where can I get a meter?

You can purchase a Neptune E-Coder)R900i meter from:

Company	Contact Information
Core & Main https://coreandmain.com/	3735 Irongate Bellingham, WA 98226 (360) 734-4210

You can purchase a Metron-Farnier (S25D) Telemetered meter from:

Company	Contact Information
Metron-Farnier https://metronfarnier.com/	Charlie Prosch (303) 449-8833 Charliep@metronfarnier.com

If you decide to order a Metron-Farnier (S25D) Telemetered meter please make sure you tell Metron-Farnier that you are installing the meter as required by Washington State Department of Ecology.

Are there installation or permit requirements?

Yes. Meters must meet the installation standards set by the manufacturer and by Ecology in order to function correctly. This handout includes a copy of the installation design requirements for Neptune meters on page 5.

Additionally, the Lummi Nation requires that you must apply for and receive a no-cost Land Use Permit prior to installing the meter. Please contact Lummi Planning Department at (360) 384-2307 for additional information.

Will Ecology install my meter?

No. You are responsible to hire a plumber or other qualified installer. Make sure that you provide your plumber/installer with a copy of these design requirements when explaining how you want your meter installed.

How much will it cost to install a meter?

The price of meter installation varies. It depends on several things, such as: your water pipe size, your landscape, and a number of other site-specific factors. In order to reduce costs, consider getting at least two estimates or bids from different installers. Also, you may want to join with other neighboring State Water Users and negotiate a group discounted rate with the same installer.

My neighbor and I share a well. Do we both need to install a meter?

Yes. If you share a well with 3 or fewer connections, you have a Small Well. **Each** homeowner using a Small Well must install their own meter on the portion of the water line serving only their residence.

Do I need a meter if I am part of a water association?

Only if you belong to the Kel (Bel) Bay Water Association. Each member of the Kel (Bel) Bay Water Association must install their own individual meter on their individual portion of the water line. If you belong to any other association, the association is responsible for metering the well or wells.

Do I need to contact Ecology after I have my meter installed?

Yes. Contact Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, at (360) 255-4400 to set up a time for Ecology staff to complete a site visit to inspect your meter installation and to activate your meter's automated meter reading capabilities.

How will my meter be read?

If you install a Neptune E-Coder)R900i Ecology staff will read your meter approximately monthly in an effort to notify you in a timely manner of potential leaks, overuse, or the potential for overuse. The meter will be part of an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system. This system transmits your meter reading to an electronic hand-held device that Ecology staff will use. In most cases, staff only need to drive by your meter to receive the meter reading. If your meter is obstructed or not functioning properly,

staff may need to drive onto your property to get the electronic reading or manually read your meter. Staff will wear identification at all times.

If you install a Metron-Farnier (S25D) Telemetered meter, measurements will be transmitted via cellular technology, like a text message, to a secure data storage facility. You and Ecology will have access to data from a Web Portal.

On occasion, joint inspections/meter readings with both Ecology and Lummi Nation staff will occur for new and existing meters, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement (Section V.H.3.a).

How will I know how much water I'm using?

With a Neptune E-Coder)R900i, you can visually read the meter to calculate your water use. You can also contact Ecology's Bellingham Field Office at (360) 255-4400 for previously collected meter reading data.

With a Metron-Farnier (S25D) Telemetered meter, you can visually read the meter to calculate your water use or you can access your water use data from a Web Portal. You will also have the option to receive notifications for leak detection and system performance monitoring.

What will happen if I use more than my allotted share of water?

If you use a **Small Well** (3 or fewer connections) and your total water use from Oct 1-Sept 30 exceeds 0.39 acre-ft, you can pay to use additional water. Until the Lummi Nation determines that it requires all of its allocation, the Nation agreed to allow Small Well owners to purchase additional quantities of water from the Nation's allocation. Those exceeding their allocation will receive an end-of-the-year billing from the Lummi Nation for the additional water. Please refer to Section V.H.2(c) of the Settlement Agreement for billing rate information.

Supply Well users may not exceed their respective allocations and cannot pay the Nation for additional quantities of water.

What if my meter breaks or doesn't work?

You must repair or replace your meter promptly if it no longer functions accurately or reliably. Providing a copy of the design standards to your meter installer will help ensure that your meter is installed correctly and therefore functions correctly. If you replace a previously installed meter you **must** replace it with a Neptune E-Coder)R900i water meter or a Metron-Farnier Telemetered water meter.

What if I have other questions?

Contact Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, at (360) 255-4400.

