



Corporate *NO: R071*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: April 9, 2001*

REGULAR COUNCIL			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	March 23, 2001
FROM:	General Manager, Engineering	FILE:	1218-006
SUBJECT:	Meter Supply for New Construction		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the supply by the City of meters for new construction be limited to single-family housing (to a maximum meter size of one inch).
2. That staff bring forward the necessary by-law amendments.

INTENT

To seek Council approval to limit the City meter supply to single-family development.

DISCUSSION

All new building construction is required to be metered. Under the current by-law, the City supplies, without cost, all meters under 50mm (2-inch) size or less. All larger meters are supplied by the owner/builder.

This provision in the by-law dates back many years and reflected the billing approach at the time whereby a meter rental charge applied for meters of 50mm (2-inch) size or less. Last year the meter rental was abolished, and all metering costs are now included in overall rates.

With the abolition of the meter rental charge which previously applied to 50mm (2-inch) meters or less, the rationale for the City to provide such meters for new construction no longer exists.

As there is a cost increase in meters larger than 50mm (2-inch), there is, under the current by-law, an artificial

extra cost incentive to use a 50mm (2-inch) meter where a larger meter would be more appropriate for ease of flow and long-term life expectancy of the meter.

In view of the above factors, we believe that the by-law should be revised to limit the City to just supplying the smaller meter sizes for single family housing and that meters for other landuses (i.e. multi-family, commercial, industrial) not be supplied by the City. For single family we believe that for meter standardization, long-term meter maintenance and customer friendliness, it is appropriate for the City to supply the water meter. By limiting supply to single family only, the City will avoid creating artificial cost advantages for the inappropriate downsizing of meters for multi-family and commercial industrial customers.

Jorgen Johansen, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

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