

HEALTH CONCERNS

Research conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Electric Power Research Institute, the Utilities Telecom Council, and others, has found no negative health impacts from digital meters that send information via a wireless communications network. The radio frequencies (RF) emitted by digital meters fall well below the maximum recommended in federal guidelines.

People are continuously exposed to very low levels of natural and man-made radio frequency fields or RF. Even the earth's surface and the human body are constant sources of RF fields. Digital meters send information about home electricity use by RF signals. WCEC meters will emit RF similar to that of many common household devices such as baby monitors, cordless phones, and remote-controlled toys and medical monitors. And in fact, cell phones and cordless phones emit much greater RF and people hold them up to their heads.

The exposure from new meters is much lower than other common sources for two reasons: 1) infrequent signal transmission and 2) distance. On a daily basis the cooperative's meters emit less than five minutes per day. In addition, these meters are outside a wall separating the meter from the living space. This combination of placement and infrequent operation means that you would need to be within one foot of **7,000** digital meters all communicating at the same time to reach the FCC exposure limit.

SUMMARY

WCEC is a not-for-profit private business that is solely owned and operated by the members who receive electric service from our company. When our board of directors approves a policy or procedure for the use of new equipment and technologies, they do so knowing that it will also apply to their own homes and their own families. In using this type of metering system, we have not only deemed it to be a wise and safe choice for all co-op members and their families, but our own families as well.