Master Meters and You

A brief look into Wisconsin’s Master Meter Operators

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022
What is a Master Meter Operator?

• Is my neighbor a master meter operator?

Probably not
What is a Master Meter Operator

• Defined by PHMSA in 49 CFR 191.3


• Resale of Gas

• Distribution System
What is a Master Meter Operator?

• Potentially anyone collecting payment from tenants

• Common Examples:
  • Hotels
  • Apartment Complexes
  • Camps
  • University Campuses
What is a Master Meter Operator?

• Customers **without** underground piping are typically **non**-jurisdictional
  
  • Some exceptions...
What is a Master Meter Operator?

- Gas can be distributed without resale

- Who is the end gas consumer?
  - Do tenants own gas appliances?
  - Do tenants control gas use?
What is a Master Meter Operator?

- Defined by PHMSA in 49 CFR 191.3

https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-I/191#p-191.3(Master%20Meter%20System)

- See PHMSA interpretations...
How Common are Master Meter Operators?

- Varies widely by state
- Last extensive study in 2002
  - Estimated 81,000 systems in 1979
  - Fell to ~ 8,300 systems in 1999
How Common are Master Meter Operators?

- Per Volpe/PHMSA’s study...
How Common are Master Meter Operators?

• Per more recent data...
### How Common are Master Meter Operators?

- Comparing data...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Operators in 1999</th>
<th>Operators in 2022</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2704</td>
<td>2064</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>-640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>-340</td>
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<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>-163</td>
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<td>89%</td>
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<td>258</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>-255</td>
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<td>219</td>
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<td>AR</td>
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<td>124</td>
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<td>-76</td>
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<td>WV</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>-163</td>
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<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Common are Master Meter Operators?

- Is there a trend?
How is Wisconsin Regulating Master Meters?

- Identification
- Notification
- Inspection/Dissolve
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- Identification
- Notification
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How is Wisconsin Regulating Master Meters?

• Identification

• Notification

• Inspection/Dissolve
What if I Identify a Master Meter Operator?

• Reach out to the PSC
Questions?

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