

**B-71 Automatic Meter Reading, \$695,000**

Q. What is the anticipated service life of an AMR meter compared to that of a meter requiring a manual hand-held device?

A. The actual customer meter used for both the AMR System and the Handheld System is the same. The difference with the AMR System is that a small transmitter is inserted inside the meter that transmits the customer data along Hydro's power lines to a collector point where a transceiver stores the data. From this point it is transmitted via a communications medium to the billing system at head office.

The service life expectancy for the meter-transmitting device, which Hydro used in its pilot project, and as provided by the equipment supplier, is 15 years.

The service life expectancy for the electronic substation equipment is estimated to be 10 years.

The service life for the Handheld System based on Hydro's experience with the RX 200 model, which it just replaced, is approximately 6 years.