

June 24, 2026

Naka Power Utilities (NWT) Receives Federal Funding to Advance Smart Metering and Grid Modernization

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories — Following yesterday’s announcement from Minister Hodgson, Naka Power Utilities (NWT) is pleased to announce it has entered into a funding agreement with the Government of Canada through the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways (SREPs) Program to support the deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

The agreement provides funding of up to \$4.4 million, or 50 per cent of eligible project costs, whichever is lower, to support the AMI Deployment Project. This investment will help modernize the electricity system, improve service for customers, and support a modernized grid.

This federal funding plays an important role in helping to support customer affordability by minimizing impacts on future electricity rates.

“Canadians deserve reliable, affordable and modern electricity systems, no matter where they live – which is why we look forward to releasing our forthcoming National Electricity Strategy, which will focus on building clean, reliable and affordable power in every corner of Canada. Through this investment in Naka Power Utilities, we are proud to help work to modernize the Northwest Territories’ electricity grid, improve service for customers, and support long-term affordability,” said the Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. “By strengthening critical electricity infrastructure, this project will help meet growing energy needs, support economic development, and ensure northern communities have access to a reliable and resilient electricity system for years to come.”

AMI is critical to Naka Power Utilities’ work to strengthen and modernize the electricity system. These meters securely transmit electricity usage data on a regular basis, supplementing traditional manual meter reads. This technology also supports the long-term evolution of the NWT’s electricity system, improving readiness for future energy needs, including increased electrification and renewable integration.

For customers, this means:

- More accurate billing, with fewer estimated readings
- Better visibility into energy use, helping customers make informed decisions
- Faster identification of issues, including outages and service interruptions
- Improved reliability through enhanced system monitoring and data

“Modernizing the grid is essential to improving how we deliver electricity across the Northwest Territories,” said Cathy MacDonald, CEO, Naka Power Utilities (NWT). “This funding allows us to advance critical upgrades that strengthen system performance and improve the overall customer experience, while continuing to manage costs responsibly.”

The AMI deployment will be rolled out in phases over the next three years.

“For Naka, this is about delivering practical improvements to the people and communities we serve,” added MacDonald. “AMI will help us provide more consistent, accurate billing and better system visibility, while ensuring we continue to balance modernization with affordability.”

Naka Power Utilities thanks the Government of Canada for its support in advancing critical infrastructure that benefits northern communities now and into the future.

Background: AMI Deployment in the Northwest Territories

- Planning, design, and procurement are underway, with contractor installation in Yellowknife expected to go to tender shortly.
- Deployment will occur in phases, with each installation including both AMI meters and supporting communications infrastructure.
- Yellowknife deployment:
 - 2026 (Q3–Q4): ~508 meters and supporting communications network
 - 2027: ~2,946 meters
 - 2028: ~5,890 meters
- Other community deployments:
 - Fort Providence (2026 Q3–Q4): ~314 meters
 - Wekweèti (2027 Q1): ~61 meters
 - Sambaa K’e (2027 Q1): ~56 meters
 - Kakisa / Dory Point (2027): ~35 meters
 - Enterprise (2027): ~55 meters
 - K’atl’odeeche (2027): ~117 meters
 - Riverwoods (2027): ~13 meters

About Naka Power Utilities (NWT)

Naka Power Utilities (NWT) safely delivers reliable electricity service to homes, businesses and communities across the NWT. We are committed to providing safe, dependable and affordable energy while supporting the long-term needs of the communities we serve.

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