A Summary of "Useful Life" Values for Smart Electric Usage Meters
(as documented in various utility industry-related documents/ web links worldwide)

Compiled by SkyVision Solutions
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The information in this document is provided to substantiate the claim that most electric utilities and supporting companies tend to claim that smart meters have a useful life of 15 to 20 years. There is reason to believe these numbers are overly optimistic based on evidence available from other sources as documented at https://wp.me/p3nav9-4b7

Source Document or Link	Smart Meter Useful Life (as quoted from source)
Testing Expert Tom Lawton from TESCO in a 2014 slide presentation (slide 5) available at: http://www.slideshare.net/bravenna/meter-operations-in-a-post-ami-world-36336258?related=1	"Electronic AMI meters are typically envisioned to have a **life span of fifteen years** and given the pace of technology advances in metering are not expected to last much longer than this."
"Ameren Illinois Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Cost/ Benefit Analysis," June 2012; available at: http://wp.me/a3nav9-3VW	"With respect to meter depreciation, Ameren Illinois has reviewed some of the largest AMI deployment plans in the United States, such as those by Duke Energy, Southern California Edison, DTE, and PG&E to base its AMI deployment on a **useful life of 20 years** for the AMI meter."
"ComEd Files Smart Meter Deployment Plan," April 2012, Press Release; available at: http://wp.me/a3nav9-3sR	"[E]fficiencies could save customers $2.6 billion over the **20-year life** of the smart meters, according to a cost-benefit analysis by Black & Veatch, a consultancy that evaluated operational cost savings as part of the plan that was filed with the ICC."
Naperville Smart Grid Initiative Question Response Inventory, dated 25 March 2013, page 36 of 77; available at: http://wp.me/a3nav9-3T3	"The smart meters are manufactured by Elster and are expected to have a **life of roughly 15-20 years**. At that time they will be replaced by the city on a rolling basis."
Fortis BC November 2012 Letter pertaining to Revised Response to British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or the Commission) Information Request; available at http://wp.me/a3nav9-3VX	"Meters – Assumptions regarding depreciation rates for the AMI meters have been determined based on the **observed useful lives** as established through industry experience, as well as through the manufacturer's recommendations. This has resulted in a 5 percent depreciation rate based on an estimated **economic life of 20 years**;" … "Itron has provided written confirmation of the **expected 20 year life** of the proposed AMI meters."

Source Document or Link	Smart Meter Useful Life (as quoted from source)
BC Hydro Media Release on Smart Meters, January 2016; see response to question, "How long do the new meters last?" at https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2016/why-we-may-need-to-exchange-some-meters.html	"New meters have a **minimum life expectancy of 20 years**."
Southern California Edison (SCE) AMI Preliminary Cost Benefit Analysis, December 2006; available at http://wp.me/a3nav9-3VY	"The analysis period is dictated by the multi-year deployment schedule that begins in 2009, and by the **20-year useful life** of the meters."
Echelon MTR 5000 Series ANSI Smart Meters, specification datasheet, at http://www.echelon.com/assets/blt6b8a91498df28864/Smart-Meter-MTR-5000-ANSI-datasheet.pdf	"**Life Expectancy: 20-year design**."
"2012 AMI Business Case Update," Seattle City Light, March 2012.	"The SAIC AMI business model supports several methods for calculating depreciation. At City Light's request, depreciation is calculated utilizing a straight line method over 15 years. **The actual life of the AMI equipment may be 20 years or longer**. Alternatively, it may be replaced sooner if newer technologies and functions emerge that constitute a compelling reason to change operations. **The assumed 15 years is typical of current utility practice**."
Notice to Public Service Company of New Mexico Customers regarding AMI deployment proposal April 2016; available at http://wp.me/a3nav9-3W4	"It is reasonable to recover the undepreciated investment in existing meters over a twenty year period in order to properly balance impacts on customer rates and timely recovery of the undepreciated investment. **The twenty year recovery period is consistent with the expected useful life of AMI**."
Direct Testimony of Henry E. Monroy, New Mexico NMPRC Case No. 15-00312-UT, February 26, 2016, page 4.	"WHY WAS THE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS PERFORMED OVER TWENTY YEARS? … The time period selected was based on the expected **useful life of the AMI meters**, which is **20 years**."

Source Document or Link	Smart Meter Useful Life (as quoted from source)
Michigan Public Service Commission Staff Report, June 2012 regarding smart meter proposed costs and benefits; available at http://wp.me/a3nav9-3W0	"Consumers Energy Estimated savings over the **anticipated 20-year life of the smart meters** is $2 billion."
Arizona Public Service (APS)'s Response to Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) Staff's Ninth Set of Data Requests, October 2016; available at https://wp.me/a3nav9-4aP	"APS is proposing a **20-year useful life** for both AMI and non–AMI meters in the 2016 depreciation rate study."
Direct Testimony of Paul Alvarez on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General for the state of Kentucky, May 18, 2018; available at https://wp.me/a3nav9-4aN	**See table below (page 4)**. SkyVision Solutions did not independently verify all values listed by the Paul Alvarez. The last line in the table pertains to Kentucky, the subject of the testimony, and for which the final value submitted to the Kentucky PSC was 20 years. *****
Public Service Commission for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Case No. 2018-00005, Order pertaining to Deployment of Advanced Metering Systems for Louisville Gas and Electric Company & Kentucky Utilities Company; available at https://wp.me/a3nav9-4aO	"In support of their assertion that the meters have a **20-year service life**, the Companies relied upon a two-word email from their vendor that read '20 years' in response to a question about the expected service life."

***** Refer to the table on the next page (page 4) for a summary of smart meter benefit periods documented as part of a rate proceeding in the state of Kentucky.

Benefit Periods for Publicly Available Smart Meter Business Cases

IOU	State	Docket	Year	Benefit Period	Customers (millions)	Regulatory Approval?
Eversource	MA	15-122	2015	15	1.20	No
Massachusetts Electric	MA	15-120	2015	15	1.32	No
San Diego Gas & Electric^	CA	R08-12-009	2011	15	1.43	Yes
Ameren	IL	12-0244	2012	20	1.22	Yes
ComEd	IL	12-0298	2012	20	3.95	Yes
ConEd	NY	15-E0050	2015	20	3.40	Yes
Duke Energy Ohio*	OH	08-920-EL-SSO	2008	20	0.69	Yes
Duke Energy Carolinas	NC	E7 Sub 1146	2017	20	1.95	TBD
Pacific Gas & Electric	CA	R08-12-009	2011	20	5.43	Yes
KU/LGE	KY	2018-00005	2018	23	0.92	TBD

^ "Terminal Values" (to account for benefits beyond 15 years) also provided for information purposes.

* While a 20-year useful life was assigned to smart meters, the associated communications network was assigned just a 10-year useful life.

Source: This Table was included as Part of Direct Testimony for Paul Alvarez on Behalf of the Office of the Attorney General for the state of Kentucky, May 2018.