



4545 W Brown Deer Road
PO Box 245036
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224-0536
414 355-0400 | 800 876 3837

Dear Existing Badger Meter TRACE® Customer:

This letter outlines important changes enacted by the FCC to all Public Safety and Industrial/Business licensed RF systems that operate in the 421 – 512 MHz (UHF) band. The changes affect the TRACE meter reading system that may still be deployed within your service territory. Specifically, the FCC has announced that beginning on January 1, 2013, all licensed systems operating in the 421 – 512 MHz frequency need to use narrow band communication. Narrow band communication is currently defined by the FCC as RF communication that is equal to or less than 12.5 KHz. Since the TRACE system uses a 25 KHz radio frequency communication, the system will no longer be compliant with the new rules enacted by the FCC as of January 1, 2013.

The FCC has adopted the transition to narrow band communication within the 421 – 512 MHz frequency band for several reasons. According to the FCC, a narrow band frequency allows more efficient use of the spectrum and greater access of public and non-public safety. In addition, the changes will relieve congestion and increase channel availability for all users.

What does this mean for your utility? Once the new FCC rules go into effect on January 1, 2013, systems that do not comply with the modifications may expect the following potential consequences:

- FCC rules will no longer protect the non-compliant wideband system from harmful interference
- Systems that do not comply could create interference or interoperability problems for systems that are in compliance
- FCC fines for non-compliance

Best regards,

John Fillinger
Marketing Manager
Badger Meter