Abstract

Utility Source Type Determination Apparatus and Method

From a first aspect, an apparatus for determining the type of source for a utility being monitored by a utility meter is provided, the apparatus comprising a means for receiving a utility to be monitored by a utility meter, means for analysing the utility to determine whether the received utility is from a first source of the utility or a second source of the utility. From a second aspect, a utility meter is provided, comprising a housing containing the aforementioned apparatus and a means for measuring the consumption of a utility, wherein the measuring means is arranged to provide data relating to the measurement of utility consumption to the analysing means. From a third aspect, a method of determining the type of source for a utility being monitored by a utility meter is provided, the method comprising: receiving a utility to be monitored by a utility meter; and analysing the utility to determine whether the received utility is from a first source of the utility or a second source of the utility. This can allow for automatic detection of a change in the source of a utility, at a location where a utility meter is situated, when there is a change in the type of utility source, for example, a change from a main primary power source to an alternative power source, without external assistance. The source of the utility can be determined and a determination of whether or not it has altered can be made.

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[No figure for publication]