MEMBER POLICY #14

SUBJECT: METER TAMPERING

For the purposes of this policy, meter tampering is defined as tampering with the Cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing the same, or other instances of diversion. Tampering would include physically disconnecting the meter; attaching objects to the meter to divert or bypass service; in setting objects into the meter; and other electrical and mechanical means of tampering with, bypassing or diverting electrical service. The burden of proof of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion is on the Cooperative. NOTE: The simple act of cutting a BCEC meter seal is grounds for tampering. No one other than a Cooperative employee is authorized to cut a meter seal.

In the event satisfactory evidence is furnished that any member of the Cooperative, or other person, has committed, knowingly permitted or attempted theft of electrical service belonging to the Cooperative with intent to avoid payment of service, then such person or member shall be denied service from the Cooperative until such member or other person shall make a cash payment in the amount to compensate for the following applicable penalties:

- First offense will incur a $250 charge.
- Charges will be double each subsequent event; $500, $1000, etc…
- These charges will come in addition to any applicable charges listed in Member Policy #11.
- Any damage to Cooperative equipment will be charged to the consumer. Ex: Cut locks or damaged meter bases.
- The Cooperative may charge for all labor, material and equipment necessary to repair or replace all equipment damaged due to meter tampering or bypassing.

- There will be kWh rate charges for the estimated amount of electricity unlawfully taken.
- If no deposit is currently present on the account, one will be assessed in accordance with Member Policy #10.
- Each time we encounter a potential meter tampering the local authorities will be contacted to verify our findings and subsequent charges will be filed with the District Attorney.

The required deposit and payment for lost revenue will be estimated by reference to the individual's consumption under similar conditions in previous years. If no previous usage history exists, the charges will be based on the average daily usage per the most recent Form 7. (For reference in 2024 that is 36.77 kwh/day.)

Adopted by the Board:	July 28, 1978
Reviewed by the Board:	June 20, 1986
Reviewed and Adopted by the Board:	March 16, 1990
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	May 17, 1996
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	April 25, 2006
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	September 24, 2013
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	March 28, 2017
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	May 25, 2021
Reviewed and Revised by the Board:	July 22, 2025