

**OKEFENOKE RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
POLICY NO. 406**

**METER TAMPERING & CURRENT DIVERSION**

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish policy to provide guidance in situations where meter tampering, current diversion or cut meter seals have been found.

II. CONTENT:

A. Meter Seals

All meters on lines of the Cooperative shall be sealed at all times and no seal shall be broken without permission from an employee of the Cooperative. Upon giving permission for any seal to be broken, a service order to reseal the meter shall be created and printed immediately.

It shall be the responsibility of each and every member to see that the meter seal at their premises is not broken or tampered with. Upon finding any seal broken, an investigation shall be made. Broken meter seals will constitute grounds for questioning the accuracy of meter registration and the possibility of meter tampering. If it is determined that there was no valid reason for the seal to be cut, the member will be charged a Cut Seal Fee as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

B. Unauthorized Service Connection

When it becomes evident that tampering with the Cooperative's metering equipment for the purpose of connecting electric service has occurred, then it will be the policy of the Cooperative to disconnect the service immediately and without notice. The following conditions must be met before service will be restored:

1. Payment of an unauthorized service connection fee.
2. Payment of a reconnect for non-payment fee during regular working hours. An overtime reconnect for non-payment fee must be paid if service is reconnected after regular working hours.
3. Payment for all kWh used and any other amounts owed to the Cooperative.
4. The member must agree to comply with reasonable requirements to protect the Cooperative against further infractions.
5. The member's deposit will be reviewed in accordance with the Cooperative's deposit policy. Any additional increase in deposit is due to reconnecting the service.
6. The member must make payment of all amounts required for reconnection at one of the Cooperative's office before the service is reconnected. The only acceptable form of payment is cash.

C. Meter Tampering and Current Diversion

When it becomes evident that a member has tampered with the Cooperative's metering or service

equipment for the purpose of defrauding the Cooperative, by attempting to prevent the full or complete registration or recording or all energy and services used, then it will be the policy of the Cooperative to disconnect the service immediately and without notice. The following conditions must be met before service will be restored:

1. Payment of a meter tampering/current diversion fee.
  2. Payment of a reconnect for non-payment fee during regular working hours. An overtime reconnect for non-payment fee must be paid if service is reconnected after regular working hours.
  3. The Cooperative reserves the right to collect the difference between what the member has paid and the recalculated bill before service is restored. The Cooperative reserves the exclusive right to recalculate the billing on the account based on past billing history, the highest twelve-months' usage for this type service, and/or any other factors deemed appropriate by the Cooperative.
  4. The member must agree to comply with reasonable requirements to protect the Cooperative against further infractions.
  5. The member's deposit will be reviewed in accordance with the Cooperative's deposit policy. Any additional increase in deposit is due prior to reconnecting the service.
  6. The member must make payment of all amounts required for reconnection at one of the Cooperative's office before the service is reconnected. The only acceptable form of payment is cash.
- D. When service is disconnected at the pole or transformer for meter tampering or unauthorized use of service and is subsequently reconnected, the member will be charged a Disconnect at Pole/Transformer Fee in addition to the fees specified in Section B and C. In the event that service is not reconnected for the same member at this location, the disconnected account will be charged the Disconnect at Pole/Transformer Fee.
- E. The meter tampering fee, unauthorized service connection fee, disconnect at pole/transformer fee, reconnect fee and overtime reconnect fee will be in an amount as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

The Cooperative reserves the right to take any legal action it deems appropriate.

III. **APPLICABILITY:**

This policy applies to all members and services.

IV. **RESPONSIBILITY:**

The General Manager will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this policy.

Date Adopted: July 25, 2006  
Supersedes: April 26, 1994  
Effective Date: November 1, 2006