



Meter Tampering/Theft of Power

Policy No: MP 100

Revision 1st

Original Issue Date 10/01/2019

Last Revision 03/19/2019

Board Approved 03/19/2019

Last Reviewed 07/29/2019

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SCOPE

This policy is to establish and define Tri-County Electric Cooperative Inc.'s (TCEC) course of action regarding meter tampering/theft of power and the ramifications of such activity.

TAMPERING DEFINED

Unauthorized individuals who are found to be tampering with, have gained unauthorized access into metering equipment, tampered with electrical devices supplying power to metering equipment, including, but not limited to meters, service wire, transformers, fused cut-outs, and primary wire shall be prosecuted to the highest extent permissible by law.

28.03 Criminal Mischief of the Texas Penal Code

Class C Misdemeanor: \$100.00 or less

Class B Misdemeanor: \$100.00+ but less than \$750.00

Class A Misdemeanor: \$750.00+ but less than \$2,500

State jail felony if amount of pecuniary loss: \$2,500+ but less than \$30,000

COURSE OF ACTION

- A. Each member-owner shall be responsible to prevent tampering with, or unauthorized entry into, metering equipment serving such member-owner. Member-owner shall promptly report to TCEC any broken meter seals found and any unauthorized entry gained to metering equipment, or TCEC owned power supplying equipment serving such meter.
B. All meter seals shall be installed and removed by TCEC personnel, except when authorization to remove a seal has been provided by TCEC System Operations personnel.
C. When meter tampering, equipment tampering or trespassing to gain access to TCEC owned equipment or easements is suspected or found, all costs associated with replacing or repairing damaged electrical equipment and other direct costs of restoring electrical service shall be paid by the member-owner.
D. Each member-owner shall be responsible for payment of all energy not metered during the period of inaccurate meter registration due to tampering or theft of power.



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- Legal fees/fines are not needed to be collected in order to reestablish service, only fees applied by TCEC.
- E. Proper Authorities will be contacted upon discovery and investigation of meter tampering/theft of power to TCEC owned equipment.
- TCEC employee conducting initial investigation shall request to have charges filed and should request the assistance of Law Enforcement while conducting initial investigation.
- F. TCEC staff will properly notate the member-owner account associated with tampering/theft of power.
- Contact Brian Fink upon first discovering tampering/theft of power, as well as MSR Supervisor and district Line Superintendent.
  - Upon notification or discovering meter tampering or theft of power at a member meter base or TCEC owned electric power supplying equipment, a thorough investigation will need to be completed by the Safety Specialist, or the Line Superintendent for the district associated with the tampering.
  - All TCEC staff involved in contact with member either by phone or in person shall document or provide documentation to management of the details found or provided by the member.
- G. Discretion of fees, penalties, deposits and associated costs will need to be calculated upon conclusion of investigation by TCEC management staff.
- Depending on the scope of charges, fines, total associated costs the member may be subject to repaying any reinstatement costs, such as deposits, which may become non-refundable.

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Chief Executive Officer/General Manager shall be responsible for the administration of this policy.