

**EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 119**

SUBJECT: METER TAMPERING

OBJECTIVE: To establish procedures in the event of meter tampering.

POLICY: Members who endeavor cutting a meter seal, removing and/or replacing a meter , whether to work on service, avoid realizing accurate energy consumption, or for any other reason, will be recognized as a meter tampering situation.

PROCEDURE:

In cases of cutting the meter seal to work on, disconnect, or reconnect the service, the Cooperative will:

1. Require all costs to be paid to the Cooperative for replacement or repair of the meter and/or any other equipment belonging to the Cooperative.
2. Members may be assessed a \$250 meter tampering fee to the account for each offense.
3. Contractors may be assessed a \$250 meter tampering fee and will be charged to the contractor.

In cases of willful tampering with, bypassing metering equipment, or any other attempts made to adjust or distort energy usage, the Cooperative will:

1. Immediately take criminal action upon discovery of such tampering actions.
2. Disconnect, without notice, any service, that has been found tampered with or having a bypassed meter situation.
3. Require all costs to be paid to the Cooperative for replacement or repair of the meter and/or any other equipment belonging to the Cooperative before reconnection.
4. Assess a \$250 tampering fee to the account, to be paid before reconnection.
5. Assess a security deposit:
 - a. in the amount of 3 times the highest bill (from the previous 12 months of service) for traditionally billed accounts, or
 - b. a \$100 security deposit to reconnect as a PrePay billed account.
 - c. All security deposits must be paid in full before the service is reconnected at the tampered location.
6. Estimate the amount of energy used on the account from when the meter stopped reporting to disconnection of tampered service, based on previous usage from that account. The estimated amounts will be required to be paid before service is reconnected.
7. Require outstanding balances and amounts due on the member's accounts be paid in full before reconnection.

Willful meter tampering or bypass, as used in this policy, shall include but not be limited to a broken meter socket seal, other proof of tampering, missing meter, or use of mechanical devices to purposely bypass the kilowatt-hour meter that prevent or modify its operation.

Any future tampering incidents can cause service to be disconnected indefinitely and/or membership with the Cooperative terminated, in accordance with Article II, Section 2.01 in the Cooperative Bylaws.

Adopted: 09/24/2019
Revised: 1/25/2022

Attested: Paul Pyatt, Secretary
Attested: Kevin Liefer, Secretary