

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Policy No.: **M-34**

Subject: **Non-Metered (Idle) Services**

Objective: To allow property owners the opportunity to retain an Idle Service, as hereinafter defined, for future use and provide a method for the Cooperative to recover part of the continuing maintenance costs for Idle Service.

Policy: *This policy will be guided by the principle of return on investment. If the Cooperative is required to invest funds to bring a power line up to standards of safety and/or operation it will only do so if it can be reasonably assured of a return on that investment.*

Idle Services require continued maintenance including, but not limited to, line inspections, right-of-way clearing, and pole testing and must meet current electrical codes. Idle Services also tie up material and equipment that could otherwise be utilized elsewhere. Therefore, to offset costs associated with maintaining Idle Services, the following will apply:

1. Definitions.
 - a. For purposes of this policy, an “Idle Service” is a service that has been at an inactive (disconnected) status for two years or more.
 - b. For purposes of this policy, an “Idle Service Facility” is any equipment, line, or other Cooperative property on a property with Idle Service.
2. At the discretion of the Cooperative, notification by certified mail will be made to the property owner specifying that an Idle Service(s) is located on property owned by them. The property owner may elect to keep the Idle Service. If no response is received or if the property owner states they wish to get rid of the Idle Service, the Idle Service will be terminated and all Idle Service Facilities removed by the Cooperative, or designee, as time permits. No further notification will be sent.
3. If the election is made to retain the Idle Service, the property owner will be billed a monthly fee (the “Idle Service Fee”). The Idle Service Fee is subject to periodic review and revision by the Cooperative’s board of directors, which such revisions may be made without further notice.
4. Idle Service Fees not paid by the due date are considered overdue. If more than three (3) consecutive payments are late or otherwise unpaid, the Idle Service may be ended and Idle Service Facilities removed, as determined by the Cooperative, as time permits. No further notification will be sent.
5. In the event Idle Service is terminated and Idle Service Facilities are removed from a property and service is later requested at the same location, the request will be treated as a request for new service with all the costs associated therewith calculated in accordance with the line extension policy in effect at the time of the request.
6. A member that elects to retain an Idle Service under paragraph 2 above shall not accrue or receive allocated or retired capital credits attributable to the payment of the Idle Service Fee.

7. Reconnecting an Idle Service and later disconnecting the Idle Service to avoid the Idle Service Fees will subject the service to the same status as an Idle Service and be subject to the Idle Service Fee.
8. New services shall be metered and energized within ninety (90) days of installation. A service that is not so metered and energized shall be treated as an Idle Service subject to the Idle Service Fees.
9. The General Manager/CEO has the authority to modify and/or add additional requirements or protections in addition to those provided for in this policy if circumstances warrant additional protection of present or future assets of the Cooperative.
10. Idle Service Fees are non-refundable. The Idle Service Fee is intended to cover on-going operation and maintenance expenses, not capital costs to replace all or some of said line and other Idle Service Facilities. Should the Idle Service Facilities fail, the property owner paying the Idle Service Fee will have the option to pay any and all costs to replace the same and keep the Idle Service in place. If a property owner chooses not to pay the Idle Service Facility replacement costs, the line shall be retired, the Idle Service ended, and all Idle Service Facilities removed from the property. If the property owner chooses to pay the replacement cost of the Idle Facilities, the service will still be treated as an Idle Service subject to the Idle Service Fees unless it is metered and energized.
11. If the electric facilities serving a disconnected service have not reached the time limit to be considered an Idle Service and is part of a line rebuild project, the service shall be treated as an Idle Service.
12. Any underground lines with non-jacketed cable will be excluded from being considered an Idle Service under this policy and retired as the cable has reached the end of its useful life. In the event that the Idle Service has a newer primary or secondary cable, as determined by the Cooperative, it may be exempt from retirement and removal, at the discretion of the General Manager/CEO.
13. A letter will be sent to the member explaining that upon reconnection at a future date, the member may be charged any repair or replacement costs if found to be deteriorated or faulted. If the service is not energized, it will remain on the Idle Service list for reevaluation.

Edward O. Gullickson, President
January 27, 2025

