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301. Application for Electric Service.

301.1 Application Required.

Any person desiring to receive electric service from the Cooperative shall apply for such service by properly completing, signing, and filing with the Cooperative an Agreement For Electric Service. Special contractual arrangements, which may include additional charges, may be required for commercial and industrial services. A separate Agreement For Electric Service is usually required for each location where delivery of electric energy is desired, whether or not for initiation or renewal of service or otherwise.

The Agreement For Electric Service must be in the legal name of the person desiring to receive electric service. The Cooperative may require suitable identification and such other information as may be reasonably necessary to evaluate the application.

301.2 Membership in the Cooperative.

If an applicant is not a member of the Cooperative, the applicant shall properly complete, sign, and file an application for membership. The filing of an application for membership shall be accompanied by the payment of one (1) membership fee.

301.3 Offer to Purchase Electric Service.

Upon compliance with the provisions of Sections 301.1 and 301.2, applicant has made an offer to purchase electric energy from the Cooperative, the terms of which are contained in the Agreement For Electric Service, these tariffs, the Articles and Bylaws of the Cooperative, and any applicable easement. If no easement is executed, the Customer will upon request by the Cooperative at any later time execute the Cooperative's standard right-of-way agreement granting to the Cooperative, at Customer's expense, a satisfactory easement across lands owned or controlled by the Customer. In the event the Customer shall divide premises by sale in such manner that one part shall become isolated from streets or alleys where the Cooperative's electric lines are accessible, the Customer shall grant or reserve an easement for electric service over the part having access to electric lines for the benefit of the isolated part.

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302. Establishment of Credit.

The Cooperative may require a Customer, regardless of the type of service applied for, to demonstrate and satisfactorily establish credit in such form and manner as may be prescribed by the Cooperative. The satisfactory establishment of credit shall not relieve a Customer from complying with tariff provisions for prompt payment of bills. The following rules shall apply to the establishment of credit:

302.1 Establishment of Credit for Permanent Residential Applicants.

An applicant for permanent residential service may establish credit and shall not be required to pay a deposit based on satisfying one of the following requirements:

A. Payment History.

If the applicant has been a member of the Cooperative within the last two years and is not delinquent in the payment of their utility service account and during the last twelve (12) consecutive months of service did not have more than two occasions in which a bill for utility service was paid after becoming delinquent and never had service disconnected for nonpayment;

or

B. Utility Credit Report.

If the result of an inquiry to the applicant's utility credit report is satisfactory;

or

C. Senior Citizens.

If the applicant for permanent residential service is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and does not have an outstanding account balance with the Cooperative or another utility providing electric service which accrued within the last two (2) years;

The Cooperative may require a residential applicant for service to satisfactorily establish credit, but such establishment of credit shall not relieve the customer from complying with rules for prompt payment of bills. Credit history shall be applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who shared the service. Credit history maintained by one must be applied equally to the other without modification and without additional qualifications not required of the other.

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302.2 Security Deposit.

If the credit of an applicant for any type of service has not been established satisfactorily to the Cooperative, the applicant may be required to make a deposit.

302.3 Amount of Deposit For Permanent Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Service.

The required deposit for permanent residential or commercial or industrial service shall not exceed one-sixth (1/6) of the actual annual billings at the service location, if available, or an amount equivalent to one-sixth (1/6) of the estimated annual billings for a similar electric service.

302.4 Temporary or Seasonal Service.

The Cooperative may require an applicant for temporary service or seasonal service or service to intermittent use installations to pay a deposit sufficient to reasonably protect the Cooperative against the assumed risk for any of such services.

302.5 Reestablishment of Credit.

Every applicant who previously has been a Customer of the Cooperative and whose service has been discontinued for nonpayment of bills or meter tampering or bypassing of meter shall be required, before service is rendered, to pay all amounts due the Cooperative or execute a deferred payment agreement, if offered, and reestablish credit.

303. Cooperative Action on the Application.

The Cooperative shall consider the offer to purchase electric service and act upon it within a reasonable time by either granting the application (conditionally, subject to these Service Rules and Regulations) or refusing service in accordance with this tariff.

303.1 Granting Application.

The Cooperative may grant an application by having its authorized officer or employee sign the Agreement For Electric Service on behalf of the Cooperative; or making electricity available at Customer's service location.

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303.2 Refusal of Service.

The Cooperative may refuse service if:

- A. Credit.  
Customer has failed or refused to satisfactorily establish credit;  
or
- B. Fulfillment of Conditions Precedent.  
If Customer has failed or refused within a reasonable time to fulfill any condition precedent to performance (see Section 304.2);  
or
- C. Indebtedness.  
If Customer has failed or refused to pay any indebtedness to the Cooperative for electric service;  
or
- D. Membership.  
Customer has failed or refused to pay the membership fee or qualify for membership in the Cooperative in accordance with the provisions of law and the Articles and Bylaws of the Cooperative;  
or
- E. Hazardous Condition.  
If it has come to the Cooperative's attention that Customer's installation or equipment is hazardous or of such character that satisfactory and safe electric service cannot be given;  
or
- F. False Name or Other Artifice.  
Customer or prospective Customer uses an alias, trade name, business name, the name of a relative or another person or other artifice to avoid payment of electric service bills.

303.3 Insufficient Grounds for Refusal to Serve.

The following shall not constitute sufficient cause for refusal of service to a present customer or applicant:

- A. Delinquency in payment for service by a previous occupant of the premises to be served;  
or

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- B. Failure to pay for merchandise, or charges for non-utility service purchased from the Cooperative;  
or
- C. Failure to pay a bill to correct previous under billing due to misapplication of rates more than six months prior to the date of application;  
or
- D. Violation of the Cooperative's rules pertaining to operation of nonstandard equipment or unauthorized attachments which interferes with the service of others, or other services such as communication services unless the customer has first been notified and been afforded reasonable opportunity to comply with the rules;  
or
- E. Failure to pay the bill of another customer at the same address except where the change of customer identity is made to avoid or evade payment of a utility bill. A customer may request a supervisory review if the Cooperative determines that the evasion has occurred and refuses to provide service.

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304. Contract for Service.

Customer requests for electric service of the character and type provided by Cooperative are granted within the limitations of the applicable rate schedule for electric service, the availability of Cooperative facilities, the characteristics of Customer's electrical load and these Service Rules and Regulations.

Cooperative may require special contractual arrangements, which may include additional charges under this tariff, prior to Cooperative's providing electric service if the electric service requested by Customer is not available at the service location or is other than that which Cooperative usually provides.

The grant of an application shall operate as an acceptance of Applicant's offer to purchase electric service. Any Customer taking electric service from Cooperative, in consideration of the Cooperative's supplying electric service and regardless whether or not such Customer has made application for such electric service, is bound by these Service Regulations and is liable to Cooperative for payment for such electric service under the applicable rate schedule.

304.1 Terms of Contract. The terms of the contract are the provisions of the Agreement For Electric Service, this tariff, including the Service Rules and Regulations of the Cooperative, and the applicable rate schedule, the Articles and Bylaws of the Cooperative, and any applicable easement.

304.2 Conditions to be Fulfilled by Applicant or Customer. As conditions precedent to the performance or obligation to perform any part of the contract for electric service by the Cooperative or the provision of any electric service Customer shall:

- A. Comply with the Law. Customer warrants to the Cooperative that he or she has complied with all Federal, State, County, and Municipal regulations governing the service applied for and shall remain in compliance. The Cooperative does not undertake to determine if Customer is in compliance with the law and the provision of service shall not be construed as any indicia of compliance; however, the Cooperative may require a copy of any approval required by law, ordinance or regulation prior to the provision of service or may refuse or discontinue service if Customer fails or refuses to comply with applicable state and municipal regulations;

and

- B. Comply with Service Rules. Applicant/Customer shall comply with the Service Rules and Regulations of the Cooperative governing the service applied for;

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and

- C. Customer's Installation. Customer warrants to the Cooperative that Customer's installation is constructed in accordance with the latest revision of the National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association, the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., as well as other Codes, as applicable. Customer further warrants to the Cooperative that Customer's installation will be maintained in accordance with such Codes. The Cooperative does not undertake to determine if Customer's installation complies with such standards and the provision of service shall not be construed as any indicia of compliance; however, should it come to the attention of the Cooperative that Customer's installation does not conform to such standards, Customer may be required to conform or the Cooperative may discontinue service;

and

- D. Easement. Customer shall grant or secure to the Cooperative at Customer's expense an easement, the form and content of which is satisfactory to the Cooperative. In the event the Applicant/Customer is not able to secure an easement acceptable to the Cooperative after reasonable attempts and the Cooperative acquires an easement, then Customer shall reimburse the Cooperative all costs;

and

- E. Construction Costs. Customer shall fulfill all obligations for the payment of construction costs for work performed by the Cooperative in the manner prescribed in Service Rules and Regulations governing line extensions.

304.3 Assignment of Contract.

The Customer shall not assign the Agreement For Electric Service or any of Customer's rights or obligations thereunder except by written consent of the Cooperative and in compliance with the Articles and Bylaws of the Cooperative. The Agreement For Electric Service shall inure to the benefit of the Cooperative's assigns.

304.4 Modification by the Parties.

The contract for electric service may be modified by the agreement of both the Cooperative and the Customer if such agreement is made in writing and signed by both parties.

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305. Line Extension.

305.1 General Policy.

The Cooperative extends its distribution facilities to Customers in accordance with the following line extension provisions. Each provision classifies the predominant type of electric service/use anticipated on Customer's premises and specifies conditions under which a line extension may be made. For each location where electric service is desired, Customer's classification involves an evaluation of the type of installation and its use. Customer's classification shall be determined by the Cooperative. In the event that the classification assigned by the Cooperative is incorrect based upon Customer's subsequent actual use of the installation then the Cooperative may alter Customer's classification and apply the correct line extension classification, making appropriate adjustment to the Customer's account or billing.

305.2 Permanent Residential.

The Cooperative will construct a new extension of its distribution system to serve a permanent residence under the following provisions:

A. Application.

To qualify as an extension to a permanent single-family residence the location where Customer is requesting service shall:

- (1) be a permanent installation; and
- (2) be a single-family dwelling unit not combined with or attached to other residential units; and
- (3) if located within a subdivision, the developer must have complied with the subdivision line extension policy of the Cooperative and paid all aid to construction required therein.

B. Point of Delivery.

The Cooperative extends its electric facilities only to the point of delivery. Customer shall be solely responsible for the installation of all wiring associated with service entrance wiring to the meter base and extending to the customer's main disconnect switch or service center.



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C. Facilities Charge.

The Customer shall be required to pay in advance as aid to construction 100% of the actual cost of all construction by the Cooperative. The actual cost of construction shall be based on the Cooperative's adjusted unit cost for same type of construction for the most recent calendar month.

The Cooperative shall estimate actual cost and Customer shall pay such estimate prior to commencement of construction. All amounts paid to the Cooperative for construction shall be non-refundable.

D. Underground Service.

The Cooperative will provide secondary underground facilities to serve a permanent residential structure as defined above. The Customer will be required to pay in advance as aid to construction the difference between overhead and underground costs for the entire installation in addition to any cost specified above. The Cooperative reserves the right to determine feasibility of any underground extensions due to trees, rock, encumbrances, rodents, etc.

E. Contract Term.

The Cooperative may require Customer to sign an Agreement For Electric Service for a specific term.

305.3 Permanent Commercial and Industrial Installations.

The Cooperative will construct a new extension of its overhead distribution system to serve permanent commercial and industrial installations under the following provisions:

A. Application.

To qualify as an extension to commercial and industrial installations the location where Customer is requesting service shall:

- (1) be a permanent installation; and
- (2) be used predominantly for non-residential (e.g., commercial, retail, manufacturing or industrial) purposes, however, multi-family dwellings including but not limited to apartments, and motels shall be included.
- (3) be duly organized and licensed to conduct business in the State of Texas.
- (4) maintain regular consistent business hours on a permanent basis.

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(5) employ a permanent workforce.

B. Point of Delivery.

The Cooperative extends its electric facilities only to the point of delivery. Customer shall install and be solely responsible for wiring of the installation and all service entrance wiring through the weatherhead and the meter base to customer's main disconnect switch or service center.

C. Facilities Charge.

The Customer shall be required to pay in advance as aid to construction 100% of the actual cost of all construction by the Cooperative. The actual cost of construction shall be based on the Cooperative's adjusted unit cost for the same type of construction for the most recent calendar month.

The Cooperative shall estimate actual cost and Customer shall pay such estimate prior to commencement of construction. All amounts paid to the Cooperative for construction shall be non-refundable.

D. Underground Service.

The Cooperative will provide primary and or secondary underground facilities to serve a permanent commercial or industrial installation as defined above. The Customer will be required to pay in advance as aid to construction the difference between overhead and underground costs for the entire installation in addition to any cost specified above. The Cooperative reserves the right to determine feasibility of any underground extension due to trees, rock, rodents, etc.

E. Contract Term.

The Cooperative may require Customer to sign an Agreement For Electric Service for a specific term.

305.4 Miscellaneous Installations

The Cooperative will construct a new extension of its overhead distribution system to serve permanent installations that do not fit in the above definitions under the following provisions.

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A. Application.

To qualify as an extension to a permanent installation the location where the Customer is requesting service shall:

- (1) be a permanent installation that falls outside the definitions of Residential, Commercial or Industrial installation (e.g. shops and barns with or without living quarters, wells)

B. Point of Delivery.

The Cooperative extends its electric facilities only to the point of delivery. Customer shall install and be solely responsible for wiring of the installation and all service entrance wiring through the weatherhead and the meter base to customer's main disconnect switch or service center.

C. Facilities Charge.

The Customer shall be required to pay in advance as aid to construction 100% of the actual cost of all construction by the Cooperative. The actual cost of construction shall be based on the Cooperative's adjusted unit cost for the same type of construction for the most recent calendar year. The Cooperative shall estimate actual cost and the Customer shall pay such estimate prior to commencement of construction.

D. Contract Term.

The Cooperative may require Customer to sign an Agreement for Electric Service for a specific term.

305.5 Subdivision Developments and Mobile Home Parks.

The Cooperative will construct a new extension of its overhead distribution system to provide service within subdivision developments and mobile home parks under the following provisions:

A. Applicability.

To qualify as an extension to subdivision developments and mobile home parks the location where Developer is requesting service shall:

- (1) be a dedicated subdivision or a mobile home park; and

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(2) be primarily used or developed for several single or multi-family residential dwelling units.

B. Type of Service.

The Cooperative extends its electric facilities only in accordance with an approved plan along public roads suitable for all weather travel and within proper easements. Usually the extension provided for developers of a subdivision are largely primary voltage facilities. Arrangements for extensions of secondary voltage facilities are handled with individual Customers under the appropriate residential or commercial policy.

C. Facilities Charge.

The Cooperative shall determine the conditions under which a line extension will be made to service a subdivision development. Service may be based on a contract considering cost to provide service, longevity of load, load factor, anticipated revenue and compatibility with planned system improvements.

305.6 Temporary Service.

In any circumstance where the need for electric service may be for a period of less than one year the Cooperative shall charge and Customer shall pay 100% of the actual cost of construction plus the cost of removal less salvage value.

305.7 Area Lighting/Security Lighting.

The Cooperative will construct an extension of its distribution system to Customer's point of delivery for area or security lighting installations. The Customer shall be required to pay 100% of the actual cost of construction prior to the commencement of construction as a nonrefundable aid to construction. No part of the cost of the line extension shall be borne by the Cooperative.

305.8 Ownership of Distribution Facilities.

The Cooperative shall retain the ownership of all material and facilities installed by the Cooperative for the distribution of electric energy whether or not the same have been paid for by the Customer. All lines and facilities constructed or installed by the Cooperative are the property of the Cooperative. Additionally, all civil construction components installed by the Customer, including but not limited to conduit, junction cabinets, and transformer pads, shall become the property of the Cooperative upon energization of the service.

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305.9 No Refund of Aid to Construction.

Payments necessary for construction of facilities which will be used by the Customer are contributions in aid of construction and are not refundable.

- 305.10 Relocation or Upgrade of Facilities. The Cooperative will relocate its facilities on Customer's premises at Customer's request provided Customer has (1) provided a satisfactory easement for the new facilities; (2) paid in advance an estimate of all costs for the removal of the old facilities and all costs for the construction of new facilities. If the Cooperative determines it is necessary to move its facilities because the customer fails or refuses to allow the Cooperative access to Cooperative's facilities at any time, the Customer may be required to pay an amount not to exceed the actual cost of all construction. Additionally, for underground services, the Customer may elect to install their own civil construction, which will become the property of the Cooperative upon energization of the service.

The Cooperative will relocate its facilities on City, County or State public right-of-way with like facilities due to widening or relocations after receiving a written request from the appropriate City, County or State body having jurisdiction over the public right-of-way. Other requests to relocate facilities on City, County or State public right-of-way will require payment prior to commencement of construction of the actual cost of relocation.

306. Meters.

306.1 Location and Installation of Meter.

Meters and service switches in conjunction with the meter shall be installed in accordance with the latest revision of American National Standards Institute, Incorporated Standard C12 (American National Code for Electricity Metering), and will be readily accessible for reading, testing and inspection, and where such activities will cause minimum interference and inconvenience to the Customer. Customer shall provide, without cost to the Cooperative, at a suitable and easily accessible location: (1) sufficient and proper space for installation of meters and other apparatus of the Cooperative, (2) meter board, (3) meter loop, (4) safety service switches when required and (5) an adequate anchor for service drops. Where the meter location on the Customer's premises is changed at the request of the Customer, or due to alterations on Customer's premises, the Customer shall provide and have installed at his expense, all wiring and equipment necessary for relocating the

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meter. All meters will be located outside the building except as may be permitted with the prior written approval of the Cooperative.

306.2 Type of Meter and Ownership of Meter.

The Cooperative shall provide, install, own, and maintain all meters necessary for the measurement of electrical energy. Such meters shall be of a standard type which meet industry standards, however, special meters not conforming to such standards may be used for investigation or experimental purposes.

307. Point of Delivery.

Customer shall designate the location he or she desires to receive electric energy and shall provide service entrance conductors and any receptacle needed for the receipt of electric energy.

The point of delivery of electric energy is the point where the Customer's service entrance conductors are connected to the Cooperative's conductors. Such point shall be outside the Customer's installation or structure(s) at a location which will facilitate connection in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and standard operating practices of the Cooperative.

In special circumstances, the point of delivery may be located inside the Customer's installation or structure if the Customer makes a written request which is approved by the general manager of the Cooperative or his/her designee.

308. Initiation of Service.

Electric service is provided to customers in the Cooperative's certified area who have satisfactorily established credit and fulfilled all conditions precedent. Normally, as a service objective, the Cooperative attempts to make service available within the following guidelines:

- A. Within seven (7) working days if no line extension or new facilities are required.
- B. Within ninety (90) days for permanent residential service requiring a line extension or other facilities unless unavailability of materials causes unavoidable delay.
- C. Extensions to other customer classes requiring line extensions may take longer than ninety (90) days.

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- D. If a line extension is required by other than a large industrial or commercial electric customer or if facilities are not available, the Cooperative shall inform the customer within 10 working days of receipt of the application, giving the customer an estimated completion date.
- E. Any construction cost options such as rebates to the customer, sharing of construction costs between the utility and the customer, or sharing of costs between the customer and other applicants shall be explained to the customer following assessment of necessary line work.

309. Electric Energy.

309.1 Delivery of Electric Energy.

If Customer has satisfied and continues to satisfy all conditions and perform all obligations contained in the foregoing Service Rules, the Cooperative shall provide electric energy to Customer at the point of delivery. The Cooperative may, however, limit the amount of electricity furnished, as capacity and usage conditions warrant.

309.2 Characteristics of Electric Energy.

A. Voltage.

The Cooperative adopts the following standard voltages for distribution:

<u>Single Phase</u>	<u>Three Phase</u>
120/240	120/208
240/480	120/240
	240/480
	277/480

Customer should obtain from the Cooperative the phase and voltage of the service available before committing to the purchase of motors or other equipment.

B. Frequency.

The Cooperative's transmission provider controls the frequency of current provided by the Cooperative. The Cooperative provides alternating current at a standard frequency of 60 cycles per second. Except for periods of outage and infrequent and unavoidable fluctuations, system frequency is maintained by the Cooperative's transmission provider to meet the requirements of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

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310. Method of Providing Service.

310.1 Overhead Service Drop.

Electric service is generally available to Customers throughout the Cooperative's service area from overhead distribution facilities. The Cooperative, however, may refuse to provide overhead service in any area where the Cooperative has or expects substantial investment in underground distribution facilities. To receive overhead service Customer must install a suitable bracket for attachment of Cooperative conductors in compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code.

310.2 Underground Electric Service.

Electric service from underground distribution facilities is available to customers who meet the requirements of these Service Rules and Regulations. In areas served by the Cooperative's underground distribution system phase and voltage of electric service may be limited to that which can be provided from existing facilities. Underground conductors are usually connected to the Cooperative's overhead distribution facilities at a location outside the Customer's premises or at a suitable location on Customer's premises. The location and routing of underground distribution facilities is determined by the Cooperative. Before the installation of underground distribution facilities, Customer will complete rough site grading, establish final grade along conductor route, expose to view any underground installation including gas lines, water lines, wastewater lines, communication lines, etc., and clear the area of all obstructions. The Customer may elect to install their own civil construction, including by not limited to conduit, junction cabinets, and transformer pads, which will become the property of the Cooperative upon energization of the service. No change shall be made in the grade along the conductor route without the consent of the Cooperative. Any change in grade which requires lowering or raising electrical facilities and or conductors is at the expense of the Customer.

The Cooperative or Customer will provide loose backfill for any trench for underground service depending on which party performs the civil construction. The Customer will be responsible for any compaction of the backfill and hauling unused spoils from the construction site.

310.3 Mobile Home Parks.

In mobile home parks and similar installations, the Cooperative provides electric service through individual meters to each space for each consuming facility. Either underground or overhead service may be provided.



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310.4 Multi-Family Residences.

Electric service is provided through individual meters for each living unit or through one meter at each point of delivery for any number of living units.

310.5 Connections at Point of Delivery.

The Cooperative makes connections of its conductors to Customer's conductors only at the point of delivery.

311. Continuity of Electric Service.

311.1 Reasonable Diligence.

The Cooperative uses reasonable diligence under standard utility practices to provide continuous and adequate service in accordance with the standards set forth in these rules but does not warrant or represent that irregularities or interruptions will not occur.

311.2 Service Interruptions.

Service interruptions may occur. Customer is responsible for installing and maintaining protective devices as are recommended or required by the most current edition of the National Electrical Code and other such devices as are necessary or advisable to protect Customer's equipment or process during irregular or interrupted service including, but not limited to, voltage and wave from irregularities, or the failure of part or all of the electrical service. When interruptions do occur the Cooperative shall re-establish service as soon as practicable.

The Cooperative may interrupt service to provide necessary civil defense or other emergency service in the event of a national emergency or local disaster. The Cooperative may also interrupt service as necessary for maintenance, repairs, construction, moving of buildings or oversized objects, relocation or changes of facilities, to prevent or alleviate an emergency which may disrupt operation of all or any portion of the Cooperative's system, to lessen or remove risk of harm to life or property, to aid in the restoration of electric service, and on occasions when the Cooperative's transmission provider fails to deliver sufficient power and/or energy to the Cooperative.

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311.3 Service Irregularities.

Irregularities in service such as voltage surges may occur. Customer is responsible for installing and maintaining devices which protect his/her installation, equipment, and processes during such service conditions.

311.4 Investigation of Service Interruptions and Irregularities.

The Cooperative makes reasonable investigation of service interruptions and irregularities reported by a Customer. Such investigation normally terminates at the point of delivery. If standard service voltage exists at this point and the Cooperative's service facilities are in good condition the Customer shall be so advised. The Cooperative shall not be obligated to inspect Customer's conductors, installation, or equipment.

311.5 Liability, Indemnity, and Disclaimer of Warranties.

A. Liability/Indemnity.

Cooperative is responsible for design, construction (except in cases where the Customer chooses to perform the civil construction ahead of the Point of Delivery), operation, and maintenance of electric service facilities up to and including the Point of Delivery. Customer is responsible for design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Customer's installation beyond the Point of Delivery and has sole control and supervision over Customer's installation. It is particularly understood that the Customer assumes full responsibility for electric energy furnished to Customer at and past the point of delivery and will indemnify the Cooperative against and hold the Cooperative harmless from all claims for damages including but not limited to injuries to any persons, including death resulting therefrom, and damages to property occurring upon the premises to the Customer arising from electric power and energy delivered by Cooperative whether or not caused by the negligence of the Cooperative except when the negligence of Cooperative or its agent or agents was the sole proximate cause of such injuries, death of persons or damages to property.

Except to the extent injuries or damage have been caused by the Cooperative's negligence or willful misconduct as provided in this section it is the express intention of Customer to indemnify the Cooperative for the consequences of Cooperative negligence. Without limiting the foregoing, Cooperative is not and shall not be liable to Customer for damages occasioned by: (A) irregularities or interruptions (of any duration), or failure to commence electric service, caused in whole or in part by (1) governmental or municipal action or

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authority, litigation, public enemies, strikes, acts of God (including weather and its resulting consequences), (2) an order of any Court or Judge granted in any bona fide adverse legal proceeding or action or any order of any commission or tribunal having jurisdiction in the premises, (3) situations or conditions described in the second paragraph of Section 311.2 of these Service Rules, (4) the absence, inadequacy or failure of protective devices which are the responsibility of the Customer, (5) inadequacy or failure of generation or transmission facilities, or (6) any other act or thing reasonably beyond the control of Cooperative or as may be authorized elsewhere in this Tariff For Electric Service; or (B) any interruption of service not occasioned by situations or conditions described in (A) above that has not existed continuously for beyond a reasonable period of time after notice to Cooperative, which reasonable period shall under no circumstances be less than twenty-four (24) hours or any interruption of service of greater than a reasonable duration if the Cooperative has used reasonable diligence in attempts to restore electric service after the Cooperative is notified of such interruption.

Cooperative may perform voluntary or emergency acts to electric facilities which are the responsibility of the Customer but shall have no liability for damages or injuries resulting from said acts except to the extent that said damages or injuries are proximately caused by acts or omissions of the Cooperative which are found to be wanton or willful with the intent to cause injury.

In any claim or cause of action relating to the provision of electric service asserted by Customer or any other person against Cooperative, Cooperative shall not be liable for any consequential, special, or non-direct damages, including but not limited to loss of use of equipment, extra expense due to the use of temporary or replacement equipment, loss of electronic data or program, loss of business revenue, costs of capital, or any cost not part of necessary repair to or reasonable replacement of electric equipment whether the claim or cause of action is based upon contract, tort, negligence, products liability, or any other theory of recovery.

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B. Disclaimer of Warranties.

**COOPERATIVE MAKES NO WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE AND DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.**

312. Customer's Receipt and Use of Electric Energy.

312.1 Receipt of Electric Energy.

A. Exclusive Use.

When electric service is available, Customer shall purchase from the Cooperative all electric energy and service required to be used by Customer from a single consuming installation. Customer may not connect his lines to another source of electric energy in a manner that may permit electric energy to flow into Cooperative's system from such source without a written agreement with the Cooperative.

B. Customer's Installation.

Customer shall at all times maintain his/her installation in accordance with the latest revision of the National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association and/or The National Electrical Safety Code published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., as well as other applicable standards imposed by law, ordinance or regulation.

312.2 Customers Use of Electric Energy.

A. Permitted Uses.

Electric energy provided through Cooperative facilities shall be used by Customer exclusively for the purpose or purposes specified in the availability clause of the rate schedule under which Customer is receiving service and being billed.

B. Resale Prohibited.

Customer shall not resell electric energy unless specifically provided for in writing by the Cooperative.

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C. Interstate Transmission of Electric Energy Prohibited.

The Cooperative does not provide electric service to any member's installation any part of which is located outside the State of Texas or is connected to any conductors, all or part of which is located outside the State of Texas. Customer shall not transmit electric energy provided by the Cooperative outside the State of Texas.

D. Uses Prohibited by Law.

Customer shall not use electric energy for any unlawful purpose or in such a manner that it may endanger life or property.

312.3 Customer's Electrical Load.

A. Load Balance.

Cooperative requires Customer to control the use of electric energy so that Cooperative's electrical load at the point of delivery is in reasonable balance.

B. Allowable Motor Starting Currents.

The following motors may be started across-the-line if the starting current (which is the locked rotor current of the motor at nameplate voltage) does not exceed the limits given below:

Nominal <u>Nameplate Voltage</u>	<u>Phase</u>	Maximum Locked <u>Rotor Current*</u>
115 volts	single	50 amperes
230 volts	single	200 amperes
200, 230 or 460 volts	single	200 amperes

\* Groups of motors starting simultaneously are classed as one motor.

Larger across-the-line starting currents than above may be permitted where Cooperative determines its facilities are adequate and the frequency of starts are such that other Customer's service will not be adversely affected. Any motor starting devices are to be of a type approved by Cooperative and are to be provided and installed by Customer.

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C. Intermittent Electrical Loads.

Electric service to equipment such as spot and arc welding machines, X-ray machines, arc-furnaces, elevators, dredges, locomotives, shovels, feed grinders, etc., whose use of electricity is intermittent and subject to fluctuations, is provided to such equipment as a part of Customer's installation or by a transformer dedicated solely to that equipment and served as a separate account. Except for individual transformer type arc welders whose rated primary input current does not exceed 15 amperes at 120-volt operation or 30 amperes at 240-volt operation (38 amperes if Customer is served by an individual transformer), Customers contemplating the installation of such equipment are to make specific prior arrangements with Cooperative.

D. Equipment Necessary to Limit Adverse Effect.

Cooperative may require Customer to provide, at Customer's expense, suitable apparatus to limit the effect of voltage fluctuations caused by electric equipment in Customer's installation where Customer is found to be operating electrical equipment which produces voltage fluctuations, interference or distorted wave forms which adversely affect electric service provided by Cooperative to Customers.

In lieu of requesting Customer to install such suitable or special equipment limiting such adverse effect, Cooperative may, at its option, install at Customer's cost, additional transformer capacity (which may or may not be dedicated solely to such member) or other equipment specially designed to reasonably limit such adverse effect.

E. Voltage and Wave Forms Sensitive Equipment.

A Customer planning the installation of electric equipment such as computers, communication equipment, electronic control devices, etc., whose performances may be adversely affected by voltage fluctuations and distorted 60 hertz wave forms are responsible for providing and installing the necessary facilities to limit these adverse effects.

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F. Change in Customer's Electrical Load.

The Cooperative may require information concerning the nature of the load and electric service requirements as well as the expected duration of the load. Customer shall give written notice to the Cooperative fifteen (15) days in advance of connecting any motors or other devices which might increase load above the rated capacity of transformer(s) servicing Customer. If Customer fails to give such notice and an overload condition causes damage to the transformer(s) servicing Customer then Customer shall pay to the Cooperative the value of such transformer prior to the time it was damaged less salvage value.

If in the judgment of the Cooperative there is an increase in any electric service requirement for which, under standard engineering practice, it would be desirable to construct additional facilities, then the Cooperative may charge Customer as aid to construction or as an increased minimum an amount not to exceed the actual cost of such facilities together with the cost of any additional facilities required to be constructed by the Cooperative's wholesale power supplier serving Customer's load. The Cooperative may require the Customer to execute a new contract for electric service specifying appropriate terms including the maximum load, increased minimum or aid to construction.

312.4 Power Factor.

If the power factor of Customer's load is less than 95%, Cooperative may require Customer to install appropriate equipment to maintain a power factor of at least 95% or at Cooperative's option, to reimburse Cooperative for installing the necessary equipment.

312.5 Access.

Customer will admit to Customer's premises at all reasonable hours personnel authorized by Cooperative to inspect, install, remove, or replace Cooperative's property; to read Cooperative's meter; and to perform other activities necessary to provide electric service, including tree trimming and tree removal where such trees in the opinion of Cooperative constitute a hazard to Cooperative personnel or facilities, or jeopardize the provision of continuous electric service. Refusal on the part of Customer to provide reasonable access for the above purposes may, at Cooperative's option, be sufficient cause for discontinuance of service. Alternatively, the Cooperative may move the metering location and other facilities and charge consumer the cost of relocating all facilities.

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312.6 Protection of Cooperative's Facilities on Customer's Premises.

Customer shall use reasonable diligence to protect Cooperative personnel and facilities on Customer's premises.

In the event of loss of, or damage to, Cooperative facilities on Customer's premises caused by or arising out of carelessness, neglect, or misuse by Customer or unauthorized persons, Cooperative may require Customer to reimburse the Cooperative the full cost of such damage.



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313. Billing.

The Customer shall be obligated to pay the total amount of charges for electric service shown on the Customer's bill. Such charges shall be calculated in accordance with the Cooperative's latest approved rate schedule or schedules applicable to the class or classes of service furnished to Customer and these rules. Bills shall be rendered promptly following the reading of meters.

313.1 Determining Usage of Electric Energy.

Usage of electric energy (expressed as kWh) shall be determined by a meter reading. The meter reading is conclusive and establishes absolutely the amount of energy used unless it is shown by meter test that the meter was inoperative or inaccurate, in which case the meter reading shall be adjusted as provided in Section 313.9 of these rules. The meter reading shall not otherwise be adjusted. Electric energy usage is measured at the metering point regardless of whether or not it is the same as the point of delivery.

313.2 Meter Reading.

The Cooperative uses reasonable diligence to obtain meter readings for all meters monthly. Unless specifically stated in the applicable rate schedule, all charges are based on a billing month. A billing month or billing period is the period between two consecutive meter reading dates and typically ranges from 28 to 33 days. The Cooperative may check the meter reading of any meter at any time.

313.3 Estimated Billing.

Usage as well as Demand may be estimated by the Cooperative where there is good reason for doing so provided an actual meter reading is taken every three months.

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313.4 Meter Test and Accuracy Adjustment.

Upon request of a Customer and if he or she desires in the Customer's presence, the Cooperative shall make a test of the accuracy of Customer's meter. The test shall be made during the Cooperative's normal working hours at a time convenient to the Customer if he or she desires to observe the test. The test may be made on the Customer's premises or at a test laboratory as determined by the Cooperative. Following completion of testing, the Cooperative shall promptly advise the Customer of the date of removal of the meter, if removed, the date of the test, the result of the test, and who made the test either Cooperative personnel or a third-party. A meter test fee, listed in Section 204 of the Cooperative's Rate Schedules, will be added to the Customer's electric account. The fee will be refunded if the test results are outside acceptable industry standards.

313.5 Minimum Charges.

The Customer will pay a minimum bill in accordance with the applicable rate schedule irrespective of the amount of electricity consumed, even if none is consumed. The minimum charge shall be in addition to any fuel cost adjustment charges, power cost adjustment charges or other billing adjustments. All billing adjustments shall be billed in addition to and exclusive of the minimum charge.

The minimum charge may be increased in accordance with the Cooperative's line extension policy for new construction. Usually, the amount of such increase will be stated in the Agreement For Electric Service.

313.6 Terms of Payment.

Each bill for utility service(s), regardless of the nature of the service(s), is due 16 days after issuance unless such day falls on a holiday or weekend, in which case payment is due on the next work day. The postmark, if any, on the envelope of the bill, or an issuance date on the bill, if there is no postmark on the envelope, shall constitute proof of the date of issuance. If full payment is not received in the office of the Cooperative or at any agency authorized by the Cooperative to receive payment on or before the date such bill is due, the Member's account will be considered delinquent and subject to disconnection in accordance with these rules.

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313.7 Disputed Bills.

In the event of a dispute between a Customer and the Cooperative regarding any bill for electric utility service, the Cooperative shall make such investigation as may be appropriate under the particular circumstances and report the results thereof to the Customer. In the event disputes are not resolved, the Cooperative informs Customers of the complaint procedures of the Cooperative.

Customers shall not be required to pay the disputed portion of the bill which exceeds Customer's average monthly usage at current rates pending the resolution of the dispute, but in no event more than sixty (60) days. For purposes of this rule only, the Customer's average monthly usage at current rates shall be the average of the Customer's gross utility service for the preceding 12-month period. When no previous usage history exists, consumption for calculating the average monthly usage shall be estimated on the basis of usage levels of similar customers and under similar conditions.

313.8 Deferred Payment Plan.

The Cooperative may at its discretion enter into a deferred payment plan for any amount owed to the Cooperative or any portion thereof.

- A. Deferred payment plan. The Cooperative may offer upon request a deferred payment plan to any residential member who has expressed an inability to pay all of his or her bill, if that member has not been issued more than two termination notices at any time during the preceding 12 months. In all other cases, the Cooperative is encouraged to offer a deferred payment plan to residential customers.
- B. Every deferred payment plan entered into due to the member's inability to pay the outstanding bill in full shall provide that service will not be discontinued if the member pays current bills and a reasonable amount of the outstanding bill and agrees to pay the balance in reasonable installments until the bill is paid. A payment of not more than one-third of the total deferred amount may be required as a reasonable amount under this paragraph.
- C. The Cooperative is not required to enter into a deferred payment agreement with any customer who is lacking sufficient credit or a satisfactory history of payment for previous service when that customer has had service from the present Cooperative for no more than

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three months. In cases of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion, the Cooperative may, but is not required to, offer a customer a deferred payment plan.

- D. A deferred payment plan may include a five percent (5%) penalty for late payment but shall not include a finance charge.
- E. If a customer has not fulfilled terms of a deferred payment agreement, the Cooperative shall have the right to disconnect service pursuant to the disconnection rules herein and under such circumstances, it shall not be required to offer subsequent negotiation of a deferred payment agreement prior to disconnection.
- E. The Cooperative will provide the customer with a copy of the signed plan. If the agreement is made over the telephone, the Cooperative shall send a copy of the plan to the customer upon request.

313.9 Billing Adjustment Due to Meter Error.

If any meter is found to be outside of the accuracy standards established by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., proper correction shall be made of previous readings for the period of six months immediately preceding the removal of such meter from service for the test, or from the time the meter was in service since last tested, but not exceeding six months, as the meter shall have been shown to be in error by such test, and adjusted bills shall be rendered. No refund is required from the Cooperative except to the customer last served by the meter prior to the testing. If a meter is found not to register for any period, unless bypassed or tampered with, the Cooperative shall make a charge for units used, but not metered, for a period not to exceed three months, based on amounts used under similar conditions during the period preceding or subsequent thereto, or during corresponding periods in previous years.

313.10 Budget Billing.

Budget billing is available for residential class customers. Under this plan, a customer's bill will be calculated by averaging the current month's bill with the previous 11 months actual billing, plus 1/12<sup>th</sup> of any prior balance shown on the account. To qualify for budget billing, a customer must have a minimum of six months' power use and payment history for the location being served. The account must be paid in full at the time of initiation. Failure on the part of the customer to keep the bill paid as

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detailed within the Cooperative's tariff under Section 313.6, Terms of Payment, will disqualify the customer from participation.

313.11 Cancellation of Agreement.

If Customer terminates service without proper notice or prior to the end of the contract term or Cooperative terminates service due to a default or breach by Customer, in addition to the amount then due Cooperative, there immediately becomes due and payable to Cooperative as liquidated damages and not as a penalty a further sum equal to the minimum amount specified in the applicable rate schedules or guaranteed in the Agreement for Electric Service for the unexpired term of the Agreement for Electric Service, whichever is greater.

314. Customer Relations.

314.1 Available Information.

A. Cost of Providing Service.

Upon request for service by a residential applicant or for transfer of service by a customer, the Cooperative informs the Applicant or Customer of the Cooperative's lowest priced alternatives available at the Customer's location. The Cooperative shall provide this information beginning with the lowest priced alternative and giving full consideration to applicable equipment options and installation charges. The Cooperative does not assume responsibility that Customer receives electric service under the most favorable rate schedule. If a change in Customer's load or installation occurs which would make Customer eligible for a more favorable rate schedule, it is Customer's responsibility to notify Cooperative in writing of such changes and request that a different rate schedule be applied. Cooperative is not required to bill Customer under the more favorable rate schedule until a written Agreement For Electric Service is in effect between Customer and Cooperative specifying the new rate schedule. When Customer selects a rate schedule, or changes its installation to be eligible for selection of new rate schedule, Cooperative is not required to make any refunds covering the difference between the charges under the rate schedule in effect and those under any other rate schedule which would be applicable to the same service.

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B. Tariffs.

At each of its business offices, the Cooperative maintains and makes available for inspection a copy of its current tariffs including all rate schedules and rates relating to service. A copy of any applicable portion of the tariff will be provided upon request. Notice of the availability of such tariffs is posted in each business office in the same area where applications for service are received.

C. Meter Reading.

Upon request, the Cooperative advises its Customers of the method of reading meters.

314.2 Customer Complaints.

- A. Upon complaint to the Cooperative by a Customer either at its office, by letter or by telephone, the Cooperative shall promptly make a suitable investigation and advise the complainant of the results thereof.
- B. In the event the complainant is dissatisfied with the Utility's report, the Cooperative advises the complainant of the complaint or appeals process of the Cooperative or of any regulatory authority having jurisdiction.
- C. The Cooperative keeps a record of complaints showing the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint and the adjustment or disposition thereof for a period of two years subsequent to the final settlement of the complaint. Complaints with reference to rates or charges and complaints which require no remedial action by the Cooperative need not be recorded.

314.3 Refund of Deposit and Its Associated Interest During Service Period.

If a Customer has been required to make a deposit, the Cooperative shall pay interest on such deposit at an annual rate set by the Cooperative's Board of Directors annually for the calendar year. Payment of the interest to the Customer shall be annually if requested by the Customer, or at the time the deposit is returned or credited to the Customer's account.

The deposit shall cease to draw interest on the date it is returned or credited to the Customer's account. When the Customer has paid bills for service for twelve (12) consecutive residential billings

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or for twenty-four (24) consecutive commercial or industrial billings without having service disconnected for nonpayment of a bill and without having more that two occasions in which a bill was delinquent, and when the Customer is not delinquent in the payment of the current bills, the Cooperative shall promptly and automatically refund the deposit plus accrued interest to the Customer in the form of cash or credit to a Customer's bill, or void the guarantee. If the Customer does not meet these refund criteria the deposit and interest may be retained. The rates of interest to be paid on customer deposits, and overbillings or underbillings are established annually on December 1 for the subsequent calendar year by the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

The Cooperative shall keep records to show the name and address of each depositor; the amount and date of the deposit; and each transaction concerning the deposit. The Cooperative shall issue a receipt of deposit to each applicant from whom a deposit is received and shall provide means whereby a depositor may establish claim if the receipt is lost. A record of each unclaimed deposit must be maintained for at least four years, during which time the Cooperative shall make a reasonable effort to return the deposit.

If service is not connected, or after disconnection of service, the Cooperative shall promptly and automatically refund the customer's deposit plus accrued interest or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for service furnished. A transfer of service from one premise to another within the service area of the Cooperative shall not be deemed a disconnection within the meaning of these sections, and no additional deposit may be demanded unless permitted by these sections.

### 315. Customer Initiated Discontinuance of Service.

#### 315.1 Customer's Request.

Any Customer desiring to discontinue electric utility service from the Cooperative shall make such a request identifying the Customer, the service location where discontinuance is desired, and the date service is requested to be discontinued. The Cooperative may require such request to be in writing and filed at an office of the Cooperative.

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315.2 Disconnection.

Following receipt of Customer's request for discontinuance of service the Cooperative shall disconnect service. Where practicable disconnection is made on the date requested by the Customer, however, the Cooperative shall not be obligated to make disconnection earlier than the second full business day following receipt of Customer's request.

316. Cooperative Initiated Discontinuance.

Unless a dangerous condition exists, or unless the Customer requests disconnection, service shall not be disconnected on a day when personnel of the utility are not available to the public for the purpose of making collections and reconnecting service.

316.1 Reasons for Discontinuance.

The Cooperative may discontinue service to a Customer under any of the following circumstances:

A. Nonpayment of a Bill.

If the Customer fails or refuses to pay a delinquent account for electric service (whether or not based upon estimated billing).

or

B. Breach.

If Customer fails or refuses to perform any obligation under the terms of the Agreement for Electric Service or a deferred payment agreement.

or

C. Interference with Service.

If Customer violates any rule pertaining to the use of electric service in a manner which interferes with or is likely to cause interference with electric service to other Customers or operates nonstandard equipment, provided that the Cooperative has made a reasonable effort to notify the Customer and provided there has been a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation.

or

D. Failure to Make Application for Service.

If Customer fails or refuses to make application for service in accordance with these rules in Customer's true name.

or



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E. Refusal of Access.

If Customer fails or refuses to provide the Cooperative reasonable access to its facilities located on Customer's premises.

or

F. Backbilling.

If Customer fails or refuses to timely pay any billing authorized by these rules resulting from previous underbilling (whether caused by meter inaccuracy, failure to register, misapplication of rates or otherwise). Correction of billings for meter inaccuracy shall be made for the period of six (6) months immediately preceding removal of the inaccurate meter from service for testing or from the time the meter was in service since last tested, but not exceeding six (6) months.

or

G. Hazardous Condition.

When a hazardous condition exists in Customer's installation or equipment.

or

H. Failure to Comply with Deposit Arrangements.

or

I. Service Connected Without Authority.

or

J. Meter Tampering.

If Cooperative's meter which serves Customer has been tampered with or bypassed, the Cooperative may discontinue service. For purposes of this section, meter tampering, bypass, or diversion shall be defined as tampering with an electric meter or equipment, bypassing the same, or other instances of diversion, such as physically disorienting the meter, objects attached to the meter to divert service or to bypass, insertion of objects into the meter, and other electrical and mechanical means of tampering with bypassing, or diverting electrical service or there has been a theft of electric service (Section 31.04 of the Penal Code of the State of Texas) or criminal mischief for having damaged or tampered with the Cooperative's property (Section 28.03 of the Penal Code of the State of Texas).

The Cooperative may charge for all labor, material and equipment necessary to repair or replace all equipment damaged due to meter tampering or bypassing or other service diversion, and other costs necessary to correct service diversion where there is no equipment

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damage, including incidents where service is reconnected without authority. An itemized bill of such charges must be provided to the customer. The Cooperative may also estimate and bill the member for electric service over the entire period of meter tampering, meter bypassing or service diversion.

316.2 Notice of Disconnection.

A. Proper Notice Prior to Disconnection for Nonpayment.

If a Customer fails or refuses to pay the Cooperative in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement For Electric Service, Service Rules, applicable rate schedule, deferred payment agreement, or guaranty agreement, then proper notice shall be given prior to disconnection. Proper notice shall consist of a separate mailing or hand delivery at least ten (10) days prior to a stated date of disconnection, with the words "termination notice" or similar language prominently displayed on the notice. The information included in the notice shall be provided in English and Spanish as necessary to adequately inform the Customer. Attached to or on the face of the termination notice or electric bill shall appear a statement notifying the Customer that if they are in need of assistance with the payment of their bill or ill and unable to pay their bill, they may be eligible for payment assistance or special payment programs such as deferred payment plans, disconnection moratoriums for the ill, or energy assistance programs, and contact the local office of the Cooperative for information on the available programs. If mailed, the cut-off day may not fall on a holiday or weekend, but shall fall on the next working day after the tenth day. Payment at a utility's authorized payment agency is considered payment to the utility. The Cooperative shall not issue late notices or disconnect notices to the Customer earlier than the first day the bill becomes delinquent so that a reasonable length of time is allowed to ascertain receipt of payment by mail or at the utility's authorized payment agency.

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B. Disconnection Without Notice.

Utility service may be disconnected without notice where a known dangerous condition exists for as long as the condition exists or where service is connected without authority by a person who has not made application for service or who has reconnected service without authority following termination of service for nonpayment or in instances of tampering with the Cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing the same, or other instances of diversion. Where reasonable, given the nature of the hazardous condition, a written statement providing notice of disconnection and the reason therefor shall be posted at the place of common entry or upon the front door of each affected residential unit as soon as possible after service has been disconnected.

C. Disconnection After Reasonable Notice.

- (1) Electric service may be disconnected for violation of Service Rules pertaining to the use of service in a manner which interferes with the service of others or the operation of nonstandard equipment, if a reasonable attempt has been made to notify the customer and the customer is provided with a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation.
- (2) Electric service may be disconnected for nonpayment of a bill or Breach of an Agreement for Electric Service; for failure to make application for service; refusal of access; failure to pay a bill to correct previous underbilling; if reasonable notice is given.
- (3) Reasonable notice shall consist of a separate mailing or hand delivery at least ten (10) days prior to a stated date of disconnection with the words "termination notice" or similar language prominently displayed on the notice. The information included in the notice shall be provided in English and Spanish as necessary to adequately inform the customer. If mailed, the cut-off day may not fall on a holiday or weekend but shall fall on the next working day after the tenth day.

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316.3 Postponement of Disconnection—Medical.

The Cooperative will not discontinue service to a delinquent residential Customer permanently residing in an individually metered dwelling unit when that Customer establishes that discontinuance of service will result in some person residing at that residence becoming seriously ill or more seriously ill if service is discontinued. Each time a Customer seeks to avoid termination of service under this rule, the Customer must have the attending physician (for purposes of this rule, the term "physician" shall mean any public health official, but not limited to, medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and any other similar public health official) call or contact the Cooperative within 16 days of issuance of the bill. A written statement must be received by the Cooperative from the physician or health care provider within twenty-six (26) days of the issuance of the Cooperative's bill. The prohibition against discontinuance of service provider by this rule shall last sixty-three (63) days from the issuance of the Cooperative's bill or such lesser period as may be agreed upon by the Cooperative and the Customer.

The Customer who makes such a request shall enter into a deferred payment plan.

316.4 Effect of Discontinuance of Service.

A. Customer's Obligations.

Discontinuance of service shall not relieve Customer from any obligation to the Cooperative or lessen or change any obligation in any manner.

B. Cooperative's Rights.

Discontinuance of service shall not reduce, diminish, or eliminate any legal right or remedy accruing to the Cooperative on or before the date of discontinuance, nor shall discontinuance operate as a waiver of any legal right or remedy.

Failure of Cooperative to discontinue electric service at any time after default or breach of this tariff, or to resort to any legal remedy or its exercise of any one or more of such remedies does not affect the Cooperative's right to resort thereafter to any one or more of such remedies for the same or any default or breach by Customer.

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316.5 Dismantling of Cooperative Facilities.

The Cooperative may, upon discontinuance of electric service to Customer, dismantle and remove all lines, equipment, apparatus, or other facilities which the Cooperative may have installed to provide electric service to Customer. Alternatively, the Cooperative may abandon in place in whole or in part its underground lines and equipment in lieu of removing such facilities.

316.6 Liability for Discontinuance of Service.

The Cooperative shall not be liable for any damages of any kind or character resulting from discontinuance or disconnection made pursuant to these rules.

316.7 Refund of Membership Fee.

Within a reasonable time after discontinuance of service the Cooperative shall make reasonable efforts to refund Applicant's membership fee if Applicant is no longer required to maintain a membership.

316.8 Refund of Deposit.

After disconnection of service, if service is not reconnected, the Cooperative shall refund promptly and automatically the Customer's deposit, plus accrued interest on the balance, if any, in excess of unpaid bills for service furnished.

316.9 Disconnection Prohibited.

Disconnection by the Cooperative is prohibited for the following reasons:

- A. Delinquency in payment for utility service by a previous occupant on the premises;
- B. Failure to pay for merchandise, or charges for nonutility service provided by the Cooperative;
- C. Failure to pay for a different type or class of utility service unless fee for such service is included on the same bill;
- D. Failure to pay the account of another customer as guarantor thereof, unless the Cooperative has in writing the guarantee as a condition precedent to service;
- F. Failure to pay charges arising from an underbilling occurring due to any misapplication of rates more than six months prior to the current billing;

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- F. Failure to pay charges arising from an underbilling due to any faulty metering, unless the meter has been tampered with or unless such underbilling charges are due under the Commission's substantive rules (relating to Meters);
- G. Failure to pay an estimated bill other than a bill rendered pursuant to an approved meter-reading plan, unless the Cooperative is unable to read the meter due to circumstances beyond its control.

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317. Definitions.

The following terms, when used in this Tariff for Electric Service, have the following definitions:

- 317.1 Actual Billing. The amount charged to a customer in accordance with the terms of the Cooperative's tariff.
- 317.2 Actual Cost. The total cost of all construction including not only the labor and materials used in constructing the extension but also engineering, right of way acquisition and clearing, and all other costs directly attributable to the extension or project.
- 317.3 Actual Usage. Refers to historical records on power use consistent with the actual billing to a customer at a specific point of delivery.
- 317.4 Adjusted Unit Cost. The average price paid for construction material and labor costs.
- 317.5 Agreement for Electric Service. A written contract between Cooperative and Customer under which Cooperative provides electric service.
- 317.6 Codes. Codes governing electrical installations.
- 317.7 Conductors Considered Outside of Building. At the option of the Cooperative, conductors may be considered outside of a building or other structure under any of the following conditions: (1) where installed under not less than two inches of concrete beneath a building or other structure, or (2) where installed within a building or other structure in a raceway that is enclosed concrete or brick not less than two inches thick.
- 317.8 Connected Load. The combined electrical requirement (i.e., the sum of the capacities and/or ratings) of all motors and other electric power consuming devices installed on the Customer's premises.
- 317.9 Contribution in Aid of Construction. A cash payment by Customer to Cooperative in order to prevent burdening other Customers through capital expenditures by Cooperative.
- 317.10 Cooperative. Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., its successors and assigns.

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- 317.11 Current Billing. The most recent amount charged to a customer in accordance with the terms of the Cooperative's tariff.
- 317.12 Current Usage. The power consumption for the customer's most recent billing period at a specific point of delivery.
- 317.13 Customer. An individual, partnership, association, joint venture, corporation, trust, governmental agency or other entity who is receiving, who is an applicant for, or who is receiving the benefit of electric service at a specified point of delivery.
- 317.14 Customer's Electrical Load. The power and energy of all motors and other electricity-consuming devices on Customer's premises which are operated simultaneously from electric service provided by the Cooperative.
- 317.15 Customer's Electrical Installation. All conductors, equipment, or apparatus of any kind on Customer's side of the point of delivery, except Cooperative's metering equipment, used by Customer in taking electric service.
- 317.16 Demand. The rate at which electric energy is used at any instant or averaged over any designated period of time.
- 317.17 Demand Interval. The specified interval of time on which a demand measurement is based. The Cooperative's demand interval is normally 15 minutes.
- 317.18 Distribution System. Cooperative's primary and secondary voltage conductors, transformers, switchgear, connection enclosures, pedestals, services, and other associated equipment used to provide electric service.
- 317.19 Dwelling Unit. A room or rooms suitable for occupancy as a residence containing kitchen and bathroom.



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- 317.20 Electric Service. Electric power and energy produced, transmitted, distributed, provided, or made available by Cooperative at the point of delivery.
- 317.21 Energy. The measure of how much electric power is provided over time for doing work. The electrical unit is the watt-hour, or kilowatt-hour.
- 317.22 Estimated Billing. The average of the actual billing for the three most recent customer bills, where available.
- 317.23 Estimated Usage. The average of the actual usage for the three most recent customer bills, where available.
- 317.24 Inspection Authority. Generally, an incorporated city or town, but may be an agency of the county, state or federal government.
- 317.25 Kilowatt. 1,000 watts; abbreviated "KW."
- 317.26 Kilowatt-Hour. 1,000 watt-hours; abbreviated "kWh."
- 317.27 Load Factor. The ratio, usually stated as a percentage, of actual kilowatt-hours used during a designated time period to the maximum kilowatts of demand times the number of hours occurring in the designated time period.
- 317.28 Maximum Electrical Load. The maximum power and energy of all motors and other electricity consuming devices on Customer's premises which are operated or expected to be operated simultaneously from electric service provided by Cooperative at one point of delivery, measured in kilowatts.
- 317.29 Meter. A device, or devices, together with any required auxiliary equipment, for measuring electric service.
- 317.30 Permanent Installation. Any installation that is:

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- A. Constructed on or permanently affixed to a concrete slab or concrete piers (not blocks) and which is actually used or occupied on a permanent full-time basis; or
- B. Any other structure which meets all of the following criteria:
  - (1) The structure which must be impractical to move. Mobile homes with wheels, trailer hitch, and axle removed are considered impractical to move;
  - (2) The structure must be actually used or occupied on a permanent full-time basis;
  - (3) The structure must be located on property owned or leased by the Customer;
  - (4) The structure must be permanently connected to a water system and must also be permanently connected to a sewer or septic system.

317.31 Person. Any individual, partnership, association, joint venture, corporation, trust, or governmental entity.

317.32 Point of Delivery. The point where Cooperative's conductors are connected to Customer's conductors.

317.33 Power. The rate at which electric energy is provided for doing work. The electrical unit of power is the watt, or kilowatt.

317.34 Power Factor. The ratio of real power, in kilowatts, to apparent power, in kilovoltamperes, for any given load and time, generally expressed as a percentage ratio.

317.35 Raceway. Tubular or rectangular channel or conduit for containing electrical conductors, which may be exposed, buried beneath the surface of the earth, or encased in a building or structure.

317.36 Rate Schedule. A statement of the method of determining charges for electric service, including the conditions under which such method applies.

317.37 Service Availability Statement. A statement from the Cooperative designating the acceptable location of the Customer's service entrance conductors, the proper location of meters and metering equipment, the type of service available which will be made available at the specific location under consideration at the capacity of the service to be provided.

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- 317.38 Service Drop. Overhead conductors that extend from Cooperative's overhead distribution system to the point of delivery where connection is made to Customer's electrical installation.
- 317.39 Service Entrance Conductors. Conductors provided by Customer extending from Customer's electrical equipment to the point of delivery where connection is made.
- 317.40 Service Rules and Regulations; or Service Rules. Any service rule or regulation of the Cooperative approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and contained in Section III of these tariffs.
- 317.41 Tariff(s). All provisions of this document including but not limited to provisions regarding (1) Utility Operations; (2) Rates and Charges; (3) Service Rules and Regulations; and (4) Forms.
- 317.42 Temporary Electric Service. Electric service provided to Customer for a single, continuous period of time which is less than twelve consecutive months except that construction power, even though provided for a continuous period of time in excess of twelve months, is considered to be temporary electric service.
- 317.43 Watt. The rate at which electric power is provided to do work. One watt is the power represented by a current having a component of one ampere in phase with and under a pressure of one volt.
- 317.44 Watt-Hour. A unit of work or energy equivalent to the power of one watt operating for an hour.