

**BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES
POLICY NO. 2003-4
ADOPTED 10/28/2003**

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF UTILITY METERS

BPU will administer a zero tolerance program for unauthorized use of utility meters.

When a customer of Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) deliberately commits, authorizes, attempts, solicits, aids, or abets bypassing, tampering, unauthorized connection, or unauthorized metering that results in damages to the utility; or knowingly receives service provided as a result of bypassing, tampering, unauthorized connection, or unauthorized metering, BPU has the authority to bring civil or criminal action per MN Statute 325E.026.

BPU will charge a three month average bill as a deposit to the customer receiving illegal power and/or water for this utility meter, as well as the energy and/or water charges for the period of illegal tampering, the charges described below, and any other charges BPU deems necessary.

BPU may recover double the costs of the actual billing charges incurred; including the costs and expenses for investigation, disconnection, reconnection, service calls, equipment and employees. Trial costs and witness fees of pursuing possible legal action will also be charged to the customer.