

ACCESS FEE... Seems that every now and then we get several calls inquiring about the access fee listed on your monthly bill. We hope that the following explanation helps you understand what this charge is needed for. This list is just a “tip of the iceberg” look at what makes up your access fee. Consider that your cooperative has 919 miles of overhead line, 860 miles of underground line, 8178 meters and 10 substations.

- Substations (Spicer)-----654,917.44
- 3 Phase Riser-----4,139.00
- 1 mile 3 phase overhead line-----60,000.00
- 3 phase line with circuit breakers-----12,000.00
- Single phase underground transformer-----2,900.00
- Single phase riser-----2,450.00
- Single phase overhead transformer-----2,600.00
- Transformer at a farm-----9,100.00
- 3 phase vault-----2,144.00
- 3 phase underground transformer-----10,400.00
- Bucket truck-----200,000.00
- Electric meters-----30.00-800.00

The access charge covers the fixed cost of providing the minimum amount of equipment necessary for a customer to access the electric grid. Everyone shares the costs of facilities because the system operates as a whole and providing reliable service to everyone is what a cooperative is all about. As a rural electric cooperative, we cannot spread our fixed costs over as many members as some of our neighboring electrical utilities do. We have many less members per mile than the larger utilities and so we simply do not have as many members who can share the costs of these facilities, but we still need to serve our members with the same quality of service.

Most businesses, such as your phone, internet and television service providers all have fees including: surcharges, invoice fees, usage fees, etc. to provide you good service. When it comes to your electricity costs, think about what it all provides to you and your family each day. The access fee is needed in order to continue to provide great service to you, the member-owners of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative.