

Santee Cooper Broadband Principles

- **Enable Expansion of Broadband Services** - Provide access, consistent with the Act, to certain Authority resources, including poles, conduit, rights of way, and excess fiber capacity, to communications service providers in order to facilitate their delivery of more widespread broadband services within the State, with an emphasis on unserved and underserved areas.
- **Access** – Offer access to these Authority resources to communications service providers on a non-discriminatory basis, subject to safety and operational considerations including capacity, engineering, and the operational integrity of the Authority’s water and electric systems.
- **Reliability** – The reliable delivery of power is paramount to all other uses of the Authority’s transmission and distribution infrastructure. All non-electric uses must not jeopardize reliability to the power system and must adhere to the Authority’s safety, engineering and operational standards.
- **Pricing** – Offer communications service providers access to the Authority’s excess fiber capacity at market rates and on terms and conditions that are not harmful to competition, while rates for pole attachments will be cost-based.
- **No Cost Shift** – Avoid shifting to the Authority’s electric and water customers those costs associated with offering access to the Authority’s facilities to communications service providers.
- **Engagement** – Engage federal and state officials responsible for full broadband access, communications service providers who are working to provide broadband in unserved and underserved areas, counties and municipal entities as appropriate, and other electric utilities who may have broadband resources that could be jointly leveraged along with the Authority.
- **Transparency** – The Authority will publish and report on the use of its resources to enable broadband in a public forum.