

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 26, 2009

Mr. Michael D. Garrett, President/CEO
Georgia Power Company
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Re: EB-09-GB-0026

Mr. Garrett:

The Federal Communications Commission contacted your company via telephone call in February of 2007¹ indicating that it had received complaints of harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment maintained by your company.² The interference was reported by:

(name withheld)
(address withheld)
Suwannee, GA 30024

Cell Phone: (withheld)
Email: (withheld)

On May 2, 2007, agents at the Commission's Atlanta field office spoke with another representative of Georgia Power (Mr. Mike Gibson) advising him that this problem, if unresolved, could be a violation of Commission rules and could possibly result in a monetary forfeiture. On that call, Mr. Gibson indicated that he was not familiar with the interference complaint but that he would make himself available for a meeting at the complainant's residence along with a representative of Jackson EMC (the other utility involved in the interference matter) and agents from the Commission's Atlanta field office.

On May 14, 2007, agents from the Commission's Atlanta field office conducted a field inspection. They met with representatives of both Jackson EMC and Georgia Power. During the course of that field inspection, several sources of interference were located. Some of those sources were fixed immediately, but in several instances, the representatives of both Jackson EMC and Georgia Power indicated that they would have

¹ Agents at the FCC's Atlanta field office spoke with Mr. Chris Boyer of Georgia Power.

² While the complainant is not a customer of yours, his residence is within 500 feet of the demarcation line between your territory and that of Jackson EMC.

to return at a later date to correct the problem. The field agents noted that the power companies were to return, indicated that the companies had indicated their intent to continue to work with the complainant going forward, and advised the complainant to continue to contact the utility companies as problems arose. During the latter part of 2007 and into 2008, the licensee continued to experience interference and continued to contact Georgia Power via email to correct the problems.

In November of 2008, the ARRL sent out a representative for an on-site investigation into the continuing problem. The ARRL representative used Radar Engineers noise-location equipment and located four (4) sources of noise within a one hour time period.³ The four (4) sources of noise are as follows:

- Jackson EMC Pole #P5858: The pole is located directly across the street from the complainant's driveway. The beam heading is SE from his station.
- Jackson EMC Pole #66490: The pole is located approximately 100 feet south of Bend Creek Trail on Suwannee Creek Road. The beam heading is SE from the complainant's station.
- Georgia Power Pole (no number available): The pole is located approximately 1000 feet north of Bend Creek Trail on Suwannee Creek Road. It is right next to a brick house mailbox, house number 3515. The heading from the complainant's station is NW.
- Georgia Power Pole #F7245: The pole is located directly across the street from the Georgia Power Pole referenced above. Its heading from the complainant's station is W-NW.

Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and Georgia Power has had ample time to make the necessary repairs, you are directed to respond to the undersigned within 30 days of receipt of this letter detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the two (2) instances of interference listed above that are reported as being caused by Georgia Power equipment.

Likewise, given the fact that the field investigation by the ARRL representative took place under severe time constraints and cannot be considered comprehensive, you are further directed to provide to the undersigned within 60 days of receipt of this letter a written report as to what steps Georgia Power has undertaken to locate and identify additional sources of interference and what steps Georgia Power intends to take to correct Mr. Pelham's radio frequency interference. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, Georgia Power will be required to provide the undersigned with a status update every two (2) weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter.

³ The equipment used during this investigation was: a Radar Engineers Model 240A HF-UHF RFI locator and a Radar Engineers 390-415 Antenna.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 717-338-2577.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith
Special Counsel

Cc: Atlanta Field Office
South Central Regional Director