

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 6, 2011

Ms. Jody Noble, Esq.
Duquesne Light Company
Law Department
411 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Re: EB-11-GB-0032

Dear Ms. Noble:

The Federal Communications Commission has received complaints that equipment operated by your utility may be causing harmful radio interference to an operator in the Amateur Radio Service. The complainant is:

(Name withheld)
(Address withheld)
(Address withheld)

(Name withheld) has attempted unsuccessfully to work through your usual complaint resolution process and as a result the matter has been referred to our office. The Commission expects that those responsible for the proper operation of power lines assume their responsibilities fairly. This means that your utility company should locate the source of any interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections within a reasonable time.

As you are aware, the Commission contacted you on March 17, 2005 regarding (name withheld) complaint. You responded on April 26, 2005 and again on June 2, 2005 detailing the steps your company had taken to attempt to resolve the interference to (name withheld) amateur radio station. On July 27, 2009, the Commission again contacted you regarding (name withheld) ongoing complaint and again re-iterated the need for Duquesne Light to address the issue. You responded to the Commission on November 12, 2009 and later on February 11, 2011 again laying out the steps your company had taken to resolve the matter.

Due to the lack of progress in resolving this matter, in May of 2011 the Commission sent out a field agent for an on-site investigation into the continuing problem. The FCC agent was joined by Mr. Mike Gruber of the ARRL and Mr. Mike Martin of RFI Services. This investigation located several significant sources of noise. The FCC field agent used a RF-240-A and a handheld antenna and located six (6) sources of noise within a few hours. The six (6) sources of noise are as follows:

- Pole #209273: The pole is located on Middle Road and is the pole with switches located at its top.

- Pole #206408: The pole is located on McNeal Road, just east of Woodland Circle.
- Pole #237106 and pole #2371707: These poles are located on McNeal Road and are adjacent to one another.
- Pole 357277: The pole is located in the rear of Market parking lot.
- Pole #43883: This pole is located on the intersection of Maine Road and Middle Road.
- The intersection of Woodland Circle and Route 8 has a number of power lines that seem to be exhibiting high noise levels.

Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and Duquesne Light 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 six (6) instances of interference listed above that are reported as being caused by Duquesne Light's equipment.

Likewise, given the fact that the field investigation by the FCC field agent took place under 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 Duquesne Light has undertaken to locate and identify additional sources of interference and what steps Duquesne Light intends to take to correct (name withheld) radio frequency interference. **Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, Duquesne Light 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.**

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me in writing at: 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325 or via phone at 717-338-2577.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith, Esq.
Special Counsel
Enforcement Bureau

cc: Philadelphia Field Office
Northeastern Regional Director