

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 8, 2011

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

Re: EB-11-GB-0029
Radio frequency interference

Dear (Name withheld):

The Federal Communications Commission has received a complaint of harmful radio interference that is apparently caused by a pool pump located at (address withheld). This interference has been reported by a licensed operator in the Amateur Radio Service. The complainant is:

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

Under FCC rules, such equipment as a pool pump is classified as an "intentional radiator." This term is used to describe equipment that intentionally generates radio-frequency energy and radiates it as part of its normal operation. Under these rules, however, it must not cause harmful interference. If it does, the operator of the device is responsible for correcting the interference, ceasing operation, if necessary, whenever such interference occurs.

To help you better understand your responsibilities under FCC rules, here are the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators:

Title 47, CFR Section 15.5 General conditions of operation.

(b) Operation of an intentional, unintentional, or incidental radiator is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station, by another intentional or unintentional radiator, by industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) equipment, or by an incidental radiator.

(c) The operator of the radio frequency device shall be required to cease operating the device upon notification by a Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference. Operation shall not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected.

Title 47, CFR Section 15.15 General technical requirements.

(c) Parties responsible for equipment compliance should note that the limits specified in this part will not prevent harmful interference under all circumstances. Since the operators of Part 15 devices are required to cease operation should harmful interference occur to authorized users of the radio frequency spectrum, the parties responsible for equipment compliance are encouraged to employ the minimum field strength necessary for communications, to provide greater attenuation of unwanted emissions than required by these regulations, and to advise the user as to how to resolve harmful interference problems (for example, see Sec. 15.105(b)).

Harmful interference to a licensed radio service from a Part 15 device is a violation of FCC Rules. Specifically, the manufacturer is responsible for device certification. The device owner however is responsible for operating the device in such a manner that it does not cause interference. Manufacturers will often bear some of this responsibility as a courtesy to their customers. We encourage the parties and manufacturers involved to voluntarily resolve this matter without Commission intervention.

Please be advised that continued operation of the pool pump is not legal under FCC rules if it is causing harmful interference. The interference must be corrected before its operation may continue. The manufacturer or retail seller of the device may be willing to allow you to return the device and exchange it for one that will not cause interference. Installation of an ac line filter may also help correct this problem. You have 30 days from the date of this letter to resolve the interference to (name withheld) amateur station and report back to this office. Please direct your response to the following address: 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

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

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith, Esq.
Special Counsel
Enforcement Bureau

cc: Tampa Field Office
South Central Regional Director