

February 4, 2004

Mr. Jeff C. Hafer  
Manager--Network Operations  
FirstEnergy Corporation  
PO Box 15152  
Reading, PA 19612

RE: Radio Frequency Interference

Dear Mr. Hafer:

This is in response to additional complaints of harmful radio interference by Mr. Donald Benedict of Toms River, NJ. As you may recall, the Commission previously notified Mr. Peter Burg of this case by letter on July 11, 2003. The source of this noise at that time was apparently equipment operated by FirstEnergy. For your reference, the complainant reporting this interference was:

Mr. Donald Benedict, NN2Y  
1947 Teakwood Rd.  
Toms River NJ 08753-4547

Based on a letter you sent to the complainant on July 31, 2003, Mr. Benedict contacted the Customer Service Center at 800 662-3115 on the following dates:

August 11, 2003  
August 13, 2003  
October 7, 2003

Despite these attempts to contact the Customer Service Center as suggested by your letter, the interference continues. Please be advised the noise being reported in this case is strong enough to disrupt neighborhood broadcast radio and television services in addition to the Amateur service. Moreover, the noise has been ongoing for a considerable period of time. We would appreciate an effort to contact Mr. Benedict and revisit this case. Please update the Commission within 45 days of receiving this letter as to what progress is being made in locating and resolving this interference

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (717) 338-2502. Technical help is also available by calling Michael Gruber at the ARRL. His number is (860) 594-0392.

CC: Mr. Peter Burg, CEO  
FirstEnergy Corporation  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, OH 44308

FCC Northeastern Regional Director

August 26, 2003

Marsha P. Ryan, Senior Vice President  
American Electric Power Company  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, OH 43215-2373

Dear Ms. Ryan:

This is in response to your February 10, 2003 letter to Mr. Jack Forsythe of the Consumer Information and Governmental Affairs Bureau concerning four radio frequency interference cases that have been reported to the Commission.

Based upon follow-up reports from the complainants in this matter, there appear to be several discrepancies between what they report and what was stated in your February 10 letter. Responses of the complainants were as follows:

Jerry W Daugherty, W9FS  
1921 Catalpa Ave  
South Bend, IN 46613-1904

Mr. Daugherty reports that he has heard nothing from AEP, nor was he aware that AEP believed his case to be closed. As of June 20, 2003, the noise was present at VHF and coming from several different locations. Based on your letter, AEP appears to be under the erroneous impression that his case has been resolved.

James M Kiskis, W8PA  
258 Magnolia Dr  
Gallipolis, OH 45631-1427

Mr. Kiskis reports he has one complaint, rather than three as indicated in your letter. Mr. Kiskis also reports that although the interference has been repaired on two poles, it has returned on one of the poles. He does not know if there are only three noise sources since the sources have not yet been identified.

Mr. Kiskis also reports that Dave Klinec, an AEP interference investigator, was at his residence on June 23, 2003. Klinec stated that he had found more interference points and was reporting them to the line crew for repair. While he was there he connected a spectrum analyzer to Mr. Kiskis' antenna and found strong noise present at 14 and 28 MHz.

William H Hannon, N8PW  
319 21st St NW  
Canton, OH 44709-3911

Mr. Hannon confirms that AEP repaired several poles, including one very significant noise source. Mr. Hannon continues to experience strong noise in dry weather conditions when his antenna is pointed east. He also indicates that he has maintained a noise log.

Regarding shutting off power, Mr. Hannon reports that no residential power was shut off; and that AEP erroneously believed that street lights were the source of interference.

Howard D. McCloud, KC5RGC  
6014 East 57th Place  
Tulsa, OK 74135

Mr. McCloud reports that he is unaware that an AEP technician located a radio tower as a source of noise. The noise source he reported on April 26 was not a radio tower. It was from power lines about one mile from his station, at 51st and Braden in Tulsa. He also reported that source in a letter to Gary Baergen of AEP. Mr. McCloud is not aware that AEP has attempted to correct it.

AEP now apparently maintains that the source of the noise is McCloud's antenna, even when it is disconnected and on the ground. That conclusion is patently defective. The noise continues 24 hours each day. It is relatively strong and can be heard on HF.

While we certainly appreciate the considerable effort that AEP afforded this matter, we are puzzled by the lack of results. In most cases, a noise source can be located easily by trained personnel using the proper equipment. As you can see from the above information, not one of these cases appears to have been successfully resolved. In some cases, the noise being reported is strong enough to disrupt neighborhood broadcast radio and television services in addition to the Amateur service. In addition, each case has been ongoing for a considerable period of time -- in some cases for years. Moreover, the noise source identified in the Howard McCloud case is obviously in error.

We would appreciate an effort to revisit each of these cases. Please update the Commission within 45 days of receiving this letter as to what progress is being made in each case.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-338-2502. Technical help is also available by calling Michael Gruber at the ARRL. His number is (860) 594-0392.

CC:  
Mr. E. Linn Draper, Chairman  
American Electric Power Company  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, OH 43215

FCC Northeast Regional Director