

**Line Noise Interference at Amateur Radio Station W1VTP
Starting ~ May 12, 2012**

Contacts:

FCC: Laura Smith, Esq.
Special Counsel Enforcement Bureau
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Telephone: 717-338-2577

Public Service of New Hampshire
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Telephone: 800-662-7764 (Keep hitting "0" to get by the dumb computer voice prompts)

Problem: high line noise on 80 meter amateur radio band.

- Noise floor has increased from typical -110 dBm at input of Flex-Radio 5000 to -100 dBm. This level of noise interferes with weak stations and makes stronger stations difficult to listen to. Called PSNH May 15, 2012 about the problem. Trouble ticket 631272100 was generated.
- As of May 18 the noise was still present. Called PSNH and advised "Sandy" that the problem had not been fixed. Requested that someone on the line crew call me regarding the matter. She advised that normally the line crew did not call back concerning these matters. I insisted that they do so - so that I can proceed with troubleshooting at my end. I advised "Sandy" at this time that I will be looking for an attempt to resolve the noise. If noise is not resolved I will be writing a letter to FCC regarding the matter. She took my cell number with the idea that someone on the line crew would call me back regarding the matter.

See Endnote regarding a past action against another power utility that had not responded to complaint of interference to an amateur radio stationⁱ

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ⁱ Dear Mr. Evanson:

On August 17, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission notified Allegheny Power that it had received complaints from (name withheld) that equipment operated by your utility might be causing harmful radio interference to his amateur radio equipment. (Name withheld's) contact information is as follows:

(Name withheld)

(Address withheld)

(Address withheld)

Tel: (Telephone number withheld)

The August 17, 2009, letter advised Allegheny Power that the interference, if unresolved, could be a violation of Commission rules. For this reason, we encouraged Allegheny Power to voluntarily resolve the matter without Commission intervention. The letter specifically stated, however, that if it became necessary for the Commission to facilitate a resolution, the Commission might investigate possible rule violations and address appropriate remedies, including monetary forfeitures. To date, Allegheny Power has not reported back to the Commission as to the status of the interference matter. Moreover, (name withheld) reports that there has been no reduction in the radio frequency interference.

In order to avoid enforcement action on this matter, you have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of this letter to respond to this office at the following address: 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The response must contain a statement of the specific action(s)

taken to identify and eliminate the source(s) of (name withheld's) radio interference. Your response must also include a carbon copy to (name withheld) so that he can confirm any statement that you make regarding resolution of the interference. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 717-338-2577.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith, Esq.

Special Counsel

Enforcement Bureau

cc: Philadelphia Field Office

Northeast Regional Director

Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.