Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

January 18, 2012

EPA File No. 07R-11-R4

Mr. Rafael Deleon, Director
Office of Civil Rights (MC 1201A)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Deleon:

On January 3, 2012, you referred an administrative complaint from [redacted] to this office for review and action. The complainant expressed concerns regarding exposure to power lines placed near her property. In your referral, you suggest that the FCC has subject matter expertise over the allegations relating to power lines. While the FCC does regulate radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure from the radio transmitters it authorizes, and is familiar with related issues of extremely-low-frequency (ELF) EMF exposure from power lines, it does not regulate ELF EMF exposure from power lines and has no authority over the placement of power lines.

Generally, we expect that power line placement and ELF EMF exposure is a local issue under the authority of the appropriate state public utilities commission, in this case the Georgia Public Services Commission. Also, the EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) maintains expertise in this area and has regular contact with the FCC on these issues. Thus, while we can offer technical assistance to EPA where appropriate, we suggest that ORIA be consulted on any formal response dealing with ELF field exposure.

Sincerely,

Julius P. Knapp
Chief
Office of Engineering and Technology

cc: Ms. Karen Randolph, External Compliance and Complaints Program
Office of Civil Rights (MC 1201A), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

JAN 23 2012