

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the matter of the Public  
Utilities Commission Act 1990  
(No. 26 of 1990)

- and -

In the matter of complaint by  
Mrs Everette Richards.

PAMADATH J. MENON, A.A.	-	Chairman
HUGH GEORGE	-	Member
JOHN WILLEMS, A.A.	-	Member
ERROL HANOMAN	-	Member
A.M.B. SANKIES	-	Member

**Representation**

Mrs Everette Richards - Complainant.	-	In person
The Guyana Electricity Corporation	-	Mr Rajendra Poonai, Attorney-at-Law.

## DECISION

At the public hearing of this Commission on 22nd April, 1996, Mrs Everette Richards of Barr and Alexander Streets, Kitty, Georgetown, appeared in person and complained about an electrical wire that was drawn across her property, where she lives, by a private person in collusion with GEC or by the GEC in collusion with that person and that it keeps blowing up all her equipment. The electrical wire was drawn without her consent. To quote from the statement given by her at the hearing -

"I live on the north-western side of Barr and Alexander Streets. There is a gentleman who lives on the north eastern side. This man, has run an electric wire from his house along where we live - a high-powered electric wire. They have actually put the post on our property with absolutely no permission from us.

The wire comes from the north-eastern side of Barr Street over Alexander Street to the north-western side to the building that is there, and it runs all the way along our building to the western side of the building. The man operates some sort of commercial activity and it keeps blowing up all our equipment."

2. On that date the General Manager (ag.) of the Guyana Electricity Corporation ("G.E.C.") said -

3.

"Mr Chairman, in any event if we are going to use private property we have to seek the permission of the owner. This is the first time I am hearing of this case, but in any event we are not allowed to plant any pole on anyone's property without their permission."

3. The Chairman of the Commission then directed the G.E.C. to remove the wire if the General Manager (ag.) cannot trace the permission.

4. At the next hearing of the Commission, which was on 30th April, 1996, Mr Linden Edwards, Transmission and Distribution Manager of the G.E.C. stated -

"Mr Chairman, an investigation was carried out. The said structure which Mrs Richards referred to is not the property of the G.E.C."

The General Manager (ag.) of the G.E.C. stated at the hearing that "the pole does not belong to the G.E.C., the connection on that pole also is not the property of the G.E.C."

5. At the same hearing, Mr Darmani, an I.D.B. Consultant attached to the G.E.C. stated -

"The Commercial Department has investigated this matter. Our findings to date show that -  
(1) the pole is not of the type used by the G.E.C. We do not have any record of G.E.C. planting the pole. Secondly, there is a connection on that pole which appears to be leading from and to a businessman's premises, and it looks like a generator connection. The pole is also situated what appears to be outside of the boundaries of the customer's or the complainant's premises. That's the information up-to-date on that issue."

6. Mrs Sheila Holder, representing the Guyana Consumers' Association, pointed out the need for an independent investigator in this matter and Mr Poonai, Legal Counsel representing the G.E.C., agreed to go along with an independent investigator.

7. On 14th May, 1996, the G.E.C. filed before this Commission a statement relating to some of the complaints made against it. In this document, as regards the complaint by Mrs Richards, it is stated -

"On May 2nd, 1996, a further visit was made to the site in question, it was confirmed that the pole or the connecting wires are of the type used by the G.E.C. The connection was not done by the G.E.C."

This contradicts the earlier statements by the General Manager (ag.) of G.E.C.

8. The Commission directed Mr W. Anthony Nurse, an officer of this Commission, and Mr Mark Gomes, Principal, Mark Gomes Associates, to make a local inspection and report to the Commission in respect of the allegations made by Ms Richards. Their report dated 18th July, 1996, is marked as Exhibit C-I. The report was sent to Ms Richards and G.E.C. No representations were received from either of them.

9. From the Exhibit C-I report it is seen that the pole and cable complained of by Mrs Richards were not being used for carrying electricity supplied by the G.E.C.

10. In view of the above, the complaint by Mrs Richards is dismissed. The parties shall bear their costs.

Dated at Georgetown, Guyana  
this 14th day of August, 1996

*Pamadath J. Menon*  
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PAMADATH J. MENON, A.A. - Chairman

*Hugh George*  
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HUGH GEORGE - Member

*J. T. Willems*  
.....  
JOHN WILLEMS, A.A. - Member

*Errol Hanoman*  
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ERROL HANOMAN - Member

*A.M.B. Sankies*  
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A.M.B. SANKIES - Member