

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 785107

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SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY

CHARLOTTE, N.C. March 13, 1918.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY.
AND IN REPLY TO THIS LETTER PLEASE REFER TO THESE INITIALS

⑩
A. G. 156

Major General G. H. Cameron, N. A.,
Headquarters, Camp Greene,
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Sir:-

We are in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant requesting us to move our transmission line where it interferes with your rifle and target practice, relocating said line on the properties as shown on map referred to.

I am instructed to ask you if it would not be perfectly fair and agreeable to the Government to pay for the cost of changing this line temporarily, or until such time as the target and rifle range would be abandoned. First of all the line as it now stands is a part of our regular operating system and transmission lines and is located at this point for a double purpose, one of which is the transmitting of energy from the Mount Holly steam plant, and another potent factor is that this line is only about one-half mile below the Mountain Island development which this company expects to build in the next few years, situated as it will be on Goat Island. As you no doubt know the part of the river bottom now occupied by your Camp and rifle range was entirely submerged by water on July 16th, 1916, but at that time our line was swept away. In case of another very high river, of course your range would be put out of business and the line which we propose to build in the new location would be also submerged. We would, of course, expect to

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Camp Greene

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for General Cameron.

put the line back where it is now in case we should have another flood.

We are asking you to recommend that the Government reimburse us for the actual cost of changing this line, as of course it would necessitate new poles and new wire and other material on a part of the line which we would not expect to take down on the Gaston County side of the river. It would also incur the expense of putting the line back at such a time as the rifle range would be abandoned, and the purchase of right of way on the Gaston County side of the river. We would, however, submit the actual figures of the cost of making this change, which we expect to do at once.

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X15-6
Kamper
Baltimore

We expect to start on this work at once as we are now having some poles shipped in to be hauled out. Kindly let me know whether you would like an estimated cost of this change or whether you would rather we submit the figures of actual cost after the line has been rebuilt.

Yours very respectfully,

SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY,

J. A. Sampson

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FDS.FB

SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY

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1st Ind.

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Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C., March 17, 1918. - To the Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C. Forwarded for consideration as to equity and as to the policy of the War Department.

1. Shortly after assuming command of this camp, February 27, 1918, I received a complaint from the Southern Power Company that their cables were being cut by firing at 1,000 yards on the Camp Greene Rifle Range, distant 11 miles and in the bottoms of the Catawba River. On the following morning, accompanied by the Superintendent of Distribution, Mr. F. D. Sampson, I inspected the range and discovered that the damage was caused by firing at short ranges and skirmish runs. The range has no backstop. The Power Company's lines are behind the targets instead of behind the firing stands.

2. The 3d Division had completed its practice. The target practice of the 9th Brigade and of the units of my division, (all on the priority list of sailings) could not be delayed. After consultation and an understanding with Mr. Sampson and after due consideration I sent a letter to the company requesting them to move their line. (Copy attached.)

3. Mr. Sampson, after having given instructions for the work of transfer to begin, desired to know whether the Government would pay for the expenditure involved in the change. I directed him to submit a letter in the case in order that I could forward it with suitable remarks.

4. The Southern Power Company asserts that, at the time the range was constructed, they were told that their line was in no danger. This appears highly probable inasmuch as certain property owners on the bank opposite the range were informed that their property was not in the line of fire whereas it is obviously exposed to direct ricochets.

5. Arrangements with this Power Company should have been made at the outset; they are not to blame for existing conditions nor am I. Faced with the situation, I took the steps that appeared to me best.

6. I have asked the company to submit a detailed statement of the actual cost of transfer after the work is completed, but forward this letter now in order that it may be of record. Changes in command of this camp are sudden and frequent.

7. In my opinion, the Company is entitled to certain compensation in lieu of damages. The members of the company are men of high standing and with no desire to gouge the Government.

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3 folders

Geo. R. Canine
Major General, N. A.

Received A.G.O. MAR 19 1918

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ER CO: **DECLASSIFIED**
 Authority 785107

March 23, 1918.

JM

FROM: Engineering Branch

TO: Lieut.-Colonel Hartmann
 Maintenance and Repair Branch

SUBJECT: Camp Greene
 Renewal of transmission line on
 Rifle Range.

Kindly note record and attached blue print 6122-6, made by J. B. Spratt, C. E., November 17th, which shows lay-out of range and location of Southern Power Company's 44,000-volt line about 200 yards beyond 1000-yard targets. This is not an official print, but is evidently the one referred to in General Cameron's letter. It is apparent that without a back stop the line would be endangered. If the range was laid out on the basis of this print and was approved, it would seem that the Southern Power Company were not consulted, as they would certainly have seen the danger to this line.

This office has no direct information to support the view that Southern Power Company was told that their line would not be endangered. Major Clarence H. Greene, Constructing Quartermaster and Major Ara Cushman, who are both now at Camp Greene, may have information on this point.

It is recommended that the Constructing Quartermaster consult with Mr. F. M. Laxton, a local electrical engineer, who is familiar with Southern Power Company practice and their costs, regarding the fairness of the Southern Power Company's bill for moving their lines after the work is completed. Mr. Laxton is recommended because of his ability and fairmindedness.

J. S. Strickson
 Advisory Engineer on
 Electric Power

JSH:BAR

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COMPANY

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Mar. 26th, 1918.

Captain Knight:

Reference the various communications relative to the interference of the high tension transmission lines at Camp Greene, with the target range.

1. The various papers in communication with this case have been examined, and it appears necessary that some action shall be taken to remove the danger of interference with the high tension transmission lines beyond the target range at this post.

2. Apparently there was a grave oversight in not considering this phase of the question when the target range was originally laid out. An examination of the blue print in this office would indicate that there is considerable likelihood that these lines would be injured, or perhaps put out of commission, in which case there would probably be considerable loss due to the shut down of manufacturing establishments in this section.

3. There is not enough information submitted with these papers, so that a definite recommendation can be made as to the best solution, or a reasonable estimate of the cost necessary to make changes to avoid these difficulties.

4. It is unfortunate that these matters have not been brought to attention of this office ^{earlier so that} ~~earlier~~ more time could be given to the study of the question.

5. In order to avoid serious delays and correspondence, and to arrive quickly at a proper solution and just settlement of the cost for these changes, it is recommended that an engineer from this office be sent to Camp Greene with authority to investigate these conditions, and to make a complete report on the same, with recommendations as to the settlement of the entire matter.

WBL:SNW

asc
G.O.P.
E.V.D.

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War

COPY

SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY

Charlotte, N.C.

April 5, 1918.

Major General Geo. H. Cameron, N.A.,
Camp Greene,
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

Complying with your request for detailed expenditure for the building of transmission line on temporary location, we here-with submit a detailed bill of actual expenditure made by our Com-pany at cost, including material and labor making said change.

On last Saturday, March 30th, a representative, Mr. Lamb, of the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington called upon the writer and we went over the change made and looked over the situation thoroughly. He expressed a desire that the Company, if possible, should deduct all materials that the Company could use at the time the line would be taken down at the expiration of the war of the lease made by the property owners to the Government, we have shown this deduction on the bottom of our statement, allow-ing full price at 100% for all wire and material that has no appre-ciable deterioration in-say a period of five years, we have allowed 50% deterioration on the insulators which we find have a life of about five or six years; we have allowed no depreciation on the poles and cross arms, which have a probable life of five or six years,

out of business and the line which we propose to build in the new location would be also submerged. We would, of course, expect t

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inasmuch as it would not pay us to take these poles and cross arms and use on them on another job as would be the case with the wire, hardware and insulators. The charge of \$1604.63, provision made for labor-taking down line at the expiration of the lease or at the time that the rifle range would be abandoned - is made up of the items as shown under the classification of labor making change, as we assume that labor conditions will not vary much within a period of three to five years.

We hope that this statement is thoroughly in accord with what you desire, and that it will be plain to you and to the Government.

We have now connected the line and we are using current over the new section.

We would also like to be assured by you that the machine Gun targets, as shown on your map, will not be used, as part of this new line would be in direct line of fire from the Machine Gun targets across the river on property for which you have no lease, and which you stated at the time we walked over the range you did not believe would ever be used.

Yours very respectfully,

SOUTHERN POWER COMPANY,

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FDS.FB

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WER COMPANY

CHARLOTTE? N. C. 3-31-18

SOLD TO United States Government,
Major. Gen. Geo. H. Cameron, U.S.A.
Headquarters, Camp Greene, N.C.

For material and labor account changing location temporarily of
our Mount Holly, Mooresville, H.T. Transmission Line account same
Being damaged from time to time by U.S. Troops at Rifle Range on
Catawba River as per list attached.

\$4.191.18

copy of incl.

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copy

HEADQUARTERS CAMP GREENE
Charlotte, N.C.
April 7, 1918

Southern Power Company,
Charlotte,
North Carolina.

Gentlemen:-

I have your letter of April 5th with enclosure, which I am forwarding today to the War Department for action.

In reference to the machine gun range on the river it is impossible for me to furnish you with a statement which will in any way bind my successor, but I can assure you that there is very small probability of the machine gun range ever being used, inasmuch as satisfactory ranges have been established in the camp.

Very truly yours

Geo. H. CAMERON

Major General, N.A.

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694 - ME-Util. (Camp Greene)

Ext Ind.

Construction Division, War Department, April 24, 1918 - To the Adjutant General of the Army.

1. Returned, recommending that authority be given for the expenditure of \$4,191.18 from appropriation "Supplies, Services and Transportation, C. M. C., 1918", for constructing a branch pole line about the target range to avoid injury from gun fire.

2. It was necessary that the work should be done at once in order that the Southern Power Company should not be obliged to shut down some manufacturing plants and that the training on the target range could proceed without interruption. It will be noted that a very liberal salvage value has been allowed for the material used, and that the new line and its maintenance will remain with the Southern Power Company.

3. Funds for this purpose are available under the General Liability approved by the Assistant Secretary of War December 14, 1917.

By authority of the Secretary of War

By: R. C. MARSHALL, JR.

Colonel, C. M. C., U. S. A.

Officer in Charge of Construction Div.

By:

C. D. Hartman

Lieut. Colonel, C. M. C., U. S. A.

CRS/CLL/K

Authd on MR of 4-24-18 20

Encls ✓

[Signature]
APR 25 1918
MAILED

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AGO 676 Camp Greene (Misc.)

02A

April 27, 1918.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION:

Subject: Expense for moving transmission line on Rifle Range, Camp Greene, N.C.

The Secretary of War directs the attached papers be returned to you for more definite information as to why the Government should bear the expense of this project. Did not the lease of this land require the Company to move their lines if found necessary? If not, was the subject touched upon in any way in the original leases for this property?

Henry Jorvey,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Acting Asst. Chief of Staff,
Director of Operations.

COPY FOR
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

684 Camp Greene

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664-RR-Util. (Camp Greene)

May 25, 1918.

Officer in Charge of Construction Division.

The Chief of Staff.

Expense for moving transmission line on Rifle Range,
Camp Greene, N.C.

1. Referring to your memorandum dated April 27th, asking if the lease of the land owned by Mary Williams did not require the Company to move their lines if found necessary, and if not, was not the subject touched upon in any way in the original leases for this property? Considerable delay has been occasioned because it was necessary to secure from the Camp a copy of the lease, which has been received this date.

2. The following quotation is an extract taken from the lease:

"That the said parties do hereby mutually covenant and agree to and with each other as follows:

1. That the said lessor shall, and by these presents does hereby lease, demise, and let to the lessee the following-described premises, to have and to hold the same with their appurtenances, unto the lessee, for the term beginning with January 1st, 1918, and ending with June 30th, 1918, at the rate per year and under the conditions named below, viz:

An undivided one half interest in the following described property:

Beginning at a point on the Thompson Ford Road run thence North 22½ degrees East 148½ feet to a cedar stake, thence North 41 degrees 25 minutes West 1316 feet to a cedar stake, thence North 17 degrees 52 minutes West 759 feet to a cedar stake, thence North 54 degrees 55 minutes West 1320 feet to a cedar stake, thence North 87 degrees 56 minutes West 568 feet to East bank of Catawba River, thence in a Southwesterly direction follow the meandering of the aforesaid river to the Thompson Ford Road, thence in an Eastern direction following the North side of the aforesaid Thompson Ford Road to the place of beginning, containing in all 36 acres more or less lying and being in the County of Hooklenburg, in the State of North Carolina.

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Nara CP

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Box 96 B