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DUKE POWER  
2700 Homestead Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
**ATTACHMENT 4**

Cal Horton, Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

May 21, 2002

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 23 2002  
BY: *gja*

Dear Cal,

We have been following the recent interest in repealing the ban on fliers on utility poles. We think it is important for interested parties to understand that the poles are private property and are owned by Duke Power, Bell South, and Time Warner Cable. Traffic signaling poles, which are not owned by one of the aforementioned utilities may be owned by the Town or the NC Department of Transportation. As owners of our poles, we respectfully request that they be left unencumbered. Our position is based primarily on pedestrian and employee safety as well as reliability considerations.

Duke Power has as its mission to provide safe, reliable, and reasonably priced electricity. We work to ensure that facilities are installed to National Electric Safety Code standards. We have established maintenance procedures to ensure those facilities remain in good working condition. This includes the poles on which conductors, lighting fixtures, and other equipment are mounted. Our concern with the use of these poles for sign and poster attachments is that, over time, there is a degradation of the integrity of the wood which results in the need to replace the pole prematurely, and results in possible interruption of electric service to customers served by the facilities in question.

Our employees, at times, are required to climb wooden poles to complete maintenance or operational work tasks. Prior to climbing, they are trained to conduct an assessment as to the condition of the pole and their ability to climb it safely. Nails and staples from old and new signs and fliers can cause their climbing hooks to "cut out" of the pole, resulting in a dangerous fall. When they find the pole in a condition that makes it unsafe to climb, they are instructed to forward the job to a bucket crew, adding expense to the job completion. While more and more work is done with bucket crews, there are situations when climbing is the most effective way to complete some job tasks.

In summary, Duke Power supports all reasonable efforts to keep utility poles free and clear of fliers and signs and the fasteners used to attach them. While we recognize the difficulty in enforcing the current ban on such, we also believe that the current limited enforcement has reduced the amount of such activity taking place. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Scott T. Gardner*  
Scott T. Gardner  
District Manager

Copy: Steve Cranfill