



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: 0746

For Release: Sept. 11, 2007

P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Elsa Jimenez

Phone: 787-729-6876

Email: Elsa.Jimenez@saj02.usace.army.mil

FAX: 904-232-2237

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE PERMIT IS A POSITIVE OUTCOME FOR ENVIRONMENT

San Juan, PUERTO RICO - One of the largest producers of pre-cast concrete products in Puerto Rico, Power Poles, Inc. has entered into a negotiated consent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, agreeing to pay a \$502,717.20 civil penalty for violation of the Clean Water Act. Further, in a novel agreement, Power Poles, Inc. will also pay into an escrow account an additional \$2 million for in-lieu-fee mitigation, to be administered by a non-governmental environmental organization.

“This is the first time an agreement such as this has been reached and will result in enhancement and conservation of valuable wetland resources in Puerto Rico,” said Noel Mendez, assistant district counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

Power Poles, Inc. was found in violation of the Clean Water Act for having placed an estimated 180,000 cubic yards of fill in jurisdictional wetlands. The lawsuit, US vs. Power Poles, Inc., consent and notice of lodging were filed on August 31, 2007.

Jacksonville District has an ongoing compliance inspection program throughout Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Compliance with both the standard general conditions and any special conditions attached to a permit are evaluated and, if in violation, permit holders may be fined, required to restore property to its original condition, or both.

- End -