

Extracts from pertinent correspondence between  
Plantation Lakes POA and Santee Cooper / Ms. Carlita Goff  
Current as of: Nov 10, 2019

**July 19, 2019, from Carlita Goff:**

Good morning,

I am responding in reference to the news article and segment that was aired on WMBF yesterday, July 18, 2019, regarding Plantation Lakes Outdoor Lighting. I wanted to provide clarification on a few items mentioned in the article.

There is no cost to remove the poles; further, there is no cost to install a standard (downgraded) light pole and fixture. The \$150 mentioned in the article is for lights that have not met the contract term. Plantation Lakes has met their term. (The only cost we have discussed in the past is a \$30 fee to upgrade a working fixture to LED; fixtures will be upgraded as they fail.)

There is no appeal to "Santee Cooper's rate study committee". When we undergo a rate study, it is a public process, and we have public hearings in the communities we serve. We would have several hearings in the Grand Strand area when we undertake the next rate study. The time frames for the next study and associated public hearings have not been established yet.

We have found pricing for similar lights at Dominion. It's always hard to know how similar the products are, but the pricing is certainly in-line:  
7,500 Lumens (MV) (175W) (Acorn, Round, or Octagonal Style)\* \$ 16.07/month  
14' Smooth/Fluted Aluminum (Mounted Height) \$ 23.85/month

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Thanks,  
*Carlita*

Carlita P. Goff, PE  
Supervisor, Area Distribution Engineering – Garden City & Conway  
Santee Cooper  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
(843) 651-1598 Ext. 3808  
[cpgoff@santeecooper.com](mailto:cpgoff@santeecooper.com)

August 1, 2019

Ms. Carlita Goff  
Supervisor, Area Distribution Engineering  
Santee Cooper  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Ms. Goff,

Thanks for your emails of July 19 and July 25. They provide helpful information, as have each of your messages over the past several years. You represent Santee Cooper well, demonstrating courtesy and professionalism.

Although we had carefully read Rate Schedule OL-17, the fact that Santee Cooper doesn't charge \$150 per pole to remove them (*after* the initial period of obligation is fulfilled) is not clearly spelled out in the document nor apparent to us, so thanks for the clarification.

***QUESTION #1: Based on our monthly rental fee of \$22.30 per pole, it appears we have the poles described in OL-17, Exhibit A, Line 17. While recognizing that Santee Cooper retains ownership of the poles, does the "\$1101-\$1301" mentioned on line 17 refer to the initial cost/value of the pole?***

Regarding transition to LED lights: Your July 19<sup>th</sup> email states "The only cost we have discussed in the past is a \$30 fee to upgrade a working fixture to LED; fixtures will be upgraded as they fail." I note, however, in your 10/17/2018 email to Roger Elsasser, our former POA president, you mentioned further details, namely:

- That "The Plantation Lakes HOA President will need to sign a new Heritage Rental Lighting Agreement for the new LED lights, which starts a new 7-year contract."  
***QUESTION #2: Where, in documents available to us, does it mandate a 7-year contract for LED light installations?***
- That "...there is a 50-light limit per customer..."  
***QUESTION #3: We have 228 lights...how would we arrange to convert the others?***
- That our monthly light & pole rental cost would rise from \$34.00 each to \$36.22, and therefore, "...switching to the equivalent LED light is not cost effective."  
***QUESTION #4: LED lights are universally understood to be more energy-efficient and to have dramatically longer useful life than their predecessors. Where and how are the long-term savings passed along—at least in part—to us as the customer?***

Regarding the Santee Cooper rate study committee: We recognize there is no appeal, other than public involvement, during the hearings that precede adoption of a revised schedule. ***Frankly, we are minimally concerned about minor adjustments to the rates being charged but VERY interested in a process that could dramatically reduce our lease costs—or better yet—lead to HOA/POA ownership of the existing poles!***

**Santee Cooper's Aug 8th response to Plantation Lakes POA letter of Aug 1, 2019:**

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions and provide more information on our rental lighting program. I have provided answers to your series of questions. I can provide more detail and explanation once we schedule a follow-up meeting.

***QUESTION #1: Based on our monthly rental fee of \$22.30 per pole, it appears we have the poles described In OL-17, Exhibit A, Line 17. While recognizing that Santee Cooper retains ownership of the poles, does the "\$1101-\$1301" mentioned on line 17 refer to the initial cost/value of the pole?***

The monthly rental charges in OL-17 are indexed to the initial material cost of the pole; this is the most convenient way using easily available information to document the rates. The Low Country fluted pole is currently \$1260 based on the last invoice price (material cost only). However, the cost of the pole is only one factor in the total cost to install a street lighting system. Other components include engineering design, crew labor to install the pole foundation and the pole, material and installation cost for the underground street light wiring system, and applicable corporate overheads. The pole cost itself is less than half of the initial installed cost. The rate also includes maintenance and interest over the life of the pole. By design, the total cost would be paid for over the projected life of the average pole. With our lease program for poles and lights, we take care of all maintenance and replacement of capital items at the end of their life. We have benchmarked our lighting cost against three other neighboring utilities and have found our costs to be in-line; in fact, we were one of the lowest.

***QUESTION #2: Where, in documents available to us, does it mandate a 7-year contract for LED light installations? [and] that "...there Is a 50-light limit per customer..."***

The OL-17 lighting rate covers the basic concept of the lighting contract for standard lighting, and it is also the rate and policy in effect for long-term, post-contract lighting like in Plantation Lakes. At initial installation of any light or lights, a lighting agreement is signed. This lighting agreement specifies the minimum lighting contract period for various light types. LEDs have a seven-year minimum contract. See paragraph 6(a) of the attached Heritage Collection Rental Lighting Agreement. In our benchmarking, other utilities had contracts between 10 and 25 years; ours is the shortest.

Our internal policies stipulate a limit of 50 lights per year per customer for conversion of existing, working lights to LED. There is also a \$30 fee per fixture. We already change out failed fixtures to LED fixtures when required, and over time, all fixtures will be converted to LED – at no additional charge.

***QUESTION #3: We have 228 lights...how would we arrange to convert the others? That our monthly light & pole rental cost would rise from \$34.00 each to \$36.22, and therefore, " ...switching to the equivalent LED light Is not cost effective."***

Last week, a failed fixture was changed out to LED. At this time, you have 227 metal halide fixtures and 4 LED fixtures. If you wish to proceed with accelerating the change-out to LEDs, just let me know. You would need to prioritize which 50 you would like changed out this year, and we will initiate a lighting agreement for those 50 lights. Please note, you will likely not be able to tell a difference in the HID (High Intensity Discharge) lights and LED lights. As you enter your neighborhood and pass the main fountain, you will see three lights on your right and three on your left. The first of the three on your right is LED, and it looks identical to the other two during the day and at night.

The pricing listed above in the question is not correct. You would actually save \$0.76/month with LED fixtures. Please see the breakdown below:

<b>Fixture</b>	<b>Fixture Charge</b>	<b>kWH Usage</b>	<b>Energy Charge@ \$0.0661/kWh</b>	<b>Fixture and Energy Charge</b>
Hampton 175W MH	\$11.70	73	4.83	16.53
Hampton 80W LED	\$13.92	28	1.85	15.77

***QUESTION #4: LED lights are universally understood to be more energy-efficient and to have dramatically longer useful life than their predecessors. Where and how are the long-term savings passed along - at least in part to us as the customer?***

LEDs are much more energy efficient (as shown in the above table), and they are projected to have a longer life. However, they are more expensive. Therefore, the monthly fixture rental charge is more expensive. In some cases, the energy savings is enough to offset the extra cost (as in the case of your light), and in other cases it is not. LED prices are continuing to fall, and we expect the next rate study will have rates that reflect this trend.

***QUESTION #5: Who should we contact to further explore [a purchase] option, and how soon might we be able to meet?***

I will be glad to set-up a meeting to discuss this option. Prior to that, we need to do some internal analysis and have discussions with our accounting staff to help determine the current value of the lighting system installed within Plantation Lakes. Even a ballpark estimate will take some analysis, especially with regard to standard utility accounting practices. To date, no customer has purchased their existing outdoor lighting system from us, so there is no existing policy or procedure in place.

I would not recommend requesting LED change-outs per question 3 until a final decision is made on the purchase of the system because new LEDs will greatly increase the current value of the lighting system.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed. I estimate that we can meet in 2 to 3 weeks to discuss the purchase option.

Sincerely,  
*Carlita*

Carlita P. Goff, PE  
Supervisor, Area Distribution Engineering – Garden City & Conway  
Santee Cooper  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
(843) 651-1598 Ext. 3808  
[cpgoff@santeecooper.com](mailto:cpgoff@santeecooper.com)

**Plantation Lakes Aug 23rd reply to Santee Cooper's Aug 8<sup>th</sup> letter:**

Ms. Goff,

Thanks for your substantive reply to our letter [of August 1<sup>st</sup>]. The info you provided was indeed helpful.

We agree with your suggestion that we defer a decision regarding LED change-outs until after our discussion with you and other appropriate Santee Cooper officials about assuming ownership of the lights and poles.

You suggested setting up a meeting, and indeed, we look forward to discussing this process! You mentioned needing several weeks to prepare. Therefore, would it be feasible to meet on September 9 or 10? We welcome your thoughts regarding a place and time.

In advance of that meeting, to help us assess what such a transition would entail and the costs of contracting ongoing maintenance, we ask that you provide the following:

1. The schematics—including the underground wiring—to control and power our existing poles and lights
2. Confirmation that Santee Cooper would allow us to continue using existing underground wiring

3. Confirmation that Santee Cooper owns the pedestals upon which the light poles are fastened.
4. Assuming we would need the outdoor lights metered, we understand we may need to install metered services with load center panels, perhaps on a pedestal at each applicable feeder section utility transformer. ***Please confirm the branch circuit feeds originate from associated utility transformers.***

Finally, please note that two addressees of your previous messages--Roger Elsasser and Matt McCormick, (past POA presidents)--no longer serve on our Board. However, Josh Chastain and Courtney Bergman are current members of our Board of Directors. Feel free to continue including them as info addressees of our correspondence.

We look forward to receiving the information requested above and your suggestion regarding a time and place to meet, as these are important steps in finding a mutually acceptable solution to this important matter.

Our Plantation Lakes Board of Directors has reviewed--and concurs with--this letter.

***Santee Cooper's Aug 30th reply to Plantation Lakes' Aug 23rd letter***

Hello,

Please find responses to your questions below.

“You suggested setting up a meeting, and indeed, we look forward to discussing this process! You mentioned needing several weeks to prepare. Therefore, would it be feasible to meet on September 9 or 10? We welcome your thoughts regarding a place and time.”

Normally, that would have been enough time. Our Accounting personnel are working on some critical items related to the state of South Carolina's Department of Administration, and it appears they will not be available to assist us with this initiative until late next week. It would be better to set up the meeting on or after September 16, 2019. However, as we get closer, we can adjust that date forward or backward as needed. I will update you closer to September 9th.

“In advance of that meeting, to help us assess what such a transition would entail and the costs of contracting ongoing maintenance, we ask that you provide the following:

“1. The schematics—including the underground wiring—to control and power our existing poles and lights”

Our GIS Dept. is developing a customized PDF map that would have just the information you would need for your analysis – basically our transformer locations, the light pole locations with pole numbers, and the #6 duplex wiring for the lighting circuits. Please give us a few more days to adjust this as necessary to make sure it is useful.

“2. Confirmation that Santee Cooper would allow us to continue using existing underground wiring.”

We will not just sell the lights. We will also sell you the #6 120V duplex underground wiring that serves the street lights. It will be yours to use as you see fit. The other primary wiring and the 120/240V triplex wiring will remain ours.

“3. Confirmation that Santee Cooper owns the pedestals upon which the light poles are fastened.”

We do own them at the present time, but they will be part of the sale.

“4. Assuming we would need the outdoor lights metered, we understand we may need to install metered services with load center panels, perhaps on a pedestal at each applicable feeder section utility transformer. *Please confirm the branch circuit feeds originate from associated utility transformers.*”

You will need the outdoor lights metered, and you will need to install metered services and approved disconnects. All lighting circuits originate from a transformer location or secondary pedestal location. It is at these head-end locations where you would need to install a meter and an approved NEC (National Electric Code) disconnect. After the meter and disconnect, all the facilities would be yours upon purchase, including the #6

duplex wiring, conduits, light bases, light poles with internal wiring, and light fixtures.

I would like to also advise that once you purchase the lighting system from Santee Cooper, it will be yours to fully maintain. Plantation Lakes will be responsible for all lighting maintenance, which includes the replacement of any bulbs that may stop working and poles, fixtures, or wiring that may need to be replaced.

Once I receive the customized map from our GIS Department and the information that we requested from our Accounting Department, I will be in touch to set up our meeting. Have a great Labor Day weekend!

Kind Regards,  
*Carlita*

Carlita P. Goff, PE  
Supervisor, Area Distribution Engineering – Garden City & Conway  
Santee Cooper  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
(843) 651-1598 Ext. 3808  
[cpgoff@santeecooper.com](mailto:cpgoff@santeecooper.com)

**Santee Cooper's Sept 10<sup>th</sup> letter:**

Good morning,

I hope all is well, and you and the Plantation Lakes community had no adverse effects from Hurricane Dorian.

Please find attached the customized map for Plantation Lakes showing the rental lights and poles, #6 UD duplex secondary wiring, padmount transformers, and secondary pedestal locations for yours and the Plantation Lakes Board's review.

Santee Cooper personnel, especially our Accounting Department, are still preparing and finalizing documentation for FEMA over the next two weeks with regards to Hurricane Dorian. Let's plan to meet the week of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please let me know which day of that week best fits your schedule. I have previous obligations on Tuesday morning, October 1, 2019, but I am available for the rest of that week. I will wait to hear from you.

**Plantation Lakes' Sept 16<sup>th</sup> reply:**



Ms. Goff,

Thanks for your letter of Sept 10th and for the customized map you attached.

We look forward to a meeting with Santee Cooper staff, as you suggested, the week of Sept 30th.

In advance of this meeting, we ask that you provide additional details regarding the wiring and support components supporting our street lights and poles. We understand that utility-installed, owned, and maintained street lighting is not subject to the same codes and inspections required of privately owned systems. **Therefore, having specific details of the existing wiring and related components is essential to our understanding if the current system will pass rigorous inspection and meet national electrical standards with which we must comply.**

**Santee Cooper's Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> message:**

Good morning,

Yes, our meeting is confirmed for tomorrow morning at 10:30 A.M. at the Plantation Lakes Clubhouse. John Curtis, Noah Rohr, and I will be in attendance at the meeting to represent Santee Cooper. We look forward to meeting with you.

Best Regards,  
Carlita Goff

**Santee Cooper's Oct 10th follow-up to our Oct 4<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

Good evening,

Unfortunately, the Shakespeare pole representative is on vacation this week, so we will not receive a response regarding the life expectancy of the fiberglass poles until he returns to the office next week. We also need to verify a few more items with our Accounting Department personnel. Based on responses from these two groups, we will provide you with the previously requested information from our October 4, 2019 meeting by **next Friday, October 18, 2019**. However, I expect that you will hear from us sooner.

Additionally, I have hard copies of the larger maps that we discussed, and I will put those in the mail to you. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Kind Regards,  
*Carlita*

**Plantation Lakes' Oct 16<sup>th</sup> letter, requesting Santee Cooper to straighten 42 poles:**

Ms. Goff,

Thanks for your recent message advising us we will have your full response by this Friday, Oct 18th, to items we discussed at our Oct 4th meeting.

A topic introduced at that meeting was our observation that over the past several years a number of our leased light poles have developed a noticeable "lean", some more prominently than others. You mentioned that if we would provide the pole identifying numbers, you would have a Santee Cooper maintenance crew address this concern.

Members of our Street Lights Committee canvassed the community and noted all poles with an observable "lean", (see attached list). Some of these poles--such as those at our community entrance and others--are leaning substantially and present a less-than-professional appearance. The "list" or "lean" of other poles has not progressed that much.

When I asked if Santee Cooper had developed a standard criteria for determining when a pole should be straightened, you indicated you didn't believe this criteria had been established. It may be that correcting poles noted with even a slight deviation from vertical would be prudent before it becomes more acute.

We would appreciate your maintenance personnel checking the poles we've indicated on the attached list and making a recommendation regarding which should be straightened at this time.

And thanks in advance for the other responses we will soon receive from you and your staff.

Best regards,

**Santee Cooper's Oct 19<sup>th</sup> letter, responding to various requests:**

Hello,

I wanted to acknowledge that I have received the list of leaning poles in Plantation Lakes subdivision. One of our line crews will begin working on straightening all of those poles next week.

Additionally, we have most of the information that you requested from our October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting, but we still have some key people that need to provide responses, and they were out of the office last week. As soon as I receive this information, I will send

answers to your questions for you, the Board, and the Street Lighting Committee to review.

The maps of the lighting system for the Plantation Lakes development were mailed last week. Please confirm that you have received a set of 3 maps from me. If you have not received them, then I will hand deliver them to you.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Carlita Goff

**Plantation Lakes' Oct 24<sup>th</sup> letter, acknowledging receipt of the maps and pressing for the remaining critical information:**

Ms. Goff,

Thanks for sending the large map--in three sections--of our outdoor lighting installation, which we just received.

We now await the responses to our previously raised questions. You mentioned that key people needed to provide that information were not available last week. Please provide an update regarding when we will receive this.

Sincerely,

**Santee Cooper's Oct 24<sup>th</sup> reply to Plantation Lakes' letter earlier that day:**

Good afternoon,

I am glad to hear that you received the maps.

Additionally, our line crews have completed straightening all of the poles that you provided in your list, as well as a few others that they found.

I am still waiting for responses from the key people that I mentioned in my previous e-mail. As soon as I hear from them, I will expedite a response to you. Again, thank you for your patience.

Kind Regards,  
Carlita Goff

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We at Plantation Lakes had been told by another HOA that, following a severe storm, they requested Santee Cooper to straighten a number of light poles that were leaning as a result of the storm's heavy rain and wind. **Santee Cooper**

***declined, stating that this was storm damage and that the HOA should seek a remedy through their insurance company.***

Armed with this info, we were careful to request Santee Cooper's assistance at a timeframe ***not*** associated with any major weather event and clarify that our poles had progressively been leaning over a prolonged period of time. The result: Forty-two+ poles were quickly straightened at no direct expense to us (other than exorbitant monthly lease costs!)

***Santee Cooper's Oct 29<sup>th</sup> letter, the first indication of "...some legal issues that have surfaced...":***

Good afternoon,

I would like to schedule another face-to-face meeting with you and the former meeting attendees. There are some legal issues that have surfaced that we need to discuss. My Supervisor, Mr. James, and I will be present at the meeting, which we are proposing for this **Friday, November 1, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.** at the Plantation Lakes Clubhouse, if it is available. We should not need more than an hour to discuss the matters at hand. Please let me know if this date and time works best for you and the Board members.

Thanks,

***Santee Cooper's Oct 30<sup>th</sup> message, discussing arrangements for a pending meeting:***

Hello,

We would like to have a conference call with you and the previous Plantation Lakes Board October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting attendees or your designees for those persons that may want to attend in person at our Horry-Georgetown Division Office on Friday, November 1, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. I will provide the dial-in conference call number once it has been set up.

Please let us know who will be on the conference call and who may attend the meeting in person.

Kind Regards,  
*Carlita*

***Plantation Lakes' Oct 30<sup>th</sup> reply, asking for the specific legal issues in writing, in lieu of a meeting:***

Ms. Goff,

As mentioned in our phone conversation yesterday, neither an in-person meeting or conference call is feasible for us on Friday morning due to principle participants, including myself, being out of state and/or enroute to out-of-town locations. That was the reason I suggested we schedule a call for today or tomorrow, preferably around 9 am.

Since it appears that is not feasible for you, and since I'll not be back in town until Nov 9th, please forward the information you referred to regarding legal developments via email by COB tomorrow, Oct 31st. We are aware of the interim hold on Santee Cooper being able to divest assets and it may well be that your updates provide pertinent details regarding this. We will carefully consider what information you provide and respond in a timely manner.

Additionally, at our Oct 4th meeting, you verbally provided original cost figures and the current non-depreciated value of our outdoor lighting system, promising to get that and other information we requested to us by the following Friday, Oct 11th. Your Oct 11th interim response asked for an additional week, but as you know, we've not yet received that information. Please include that response when sending the info regarding legal matters.

Respectfully,

**Santee Cooper's "bombshell" Oct 31<sup>st</sup> communication, advising Plantation Lakes that the outdoor lighting ownership transfer option (previously discussed at length) was NOT an option available to us:**

...Thank you for your patience in awaiting our response to your questions. As we mentioned in the meeting, this was uncharted territory, and there have been several issues we needed to check and verify. Although this was an unusual request, in an effort to be responsive to you as our valued customer, our distribution engineering team began investigating a possible sale of the lighting system. After researching the request, and specifically after meeting with the internal legal team, Santee Cooper has determined that we will be unable to sell the lighting assets to Plantation Lakes.

Santee Cooper (formally known as South Carolina Public Service Authority) is governed by South Carolina Code Title 58 Chapter 31 "Public Service Authority" (copy attached). SC Code Section 58-31-30(B) states "Without prior approval from the General Assembly by act, the authority must not sell, transfer, lease, dispose of, or convey any property, real, personal, or mixed, of the authority used in the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity, beyond that property considered to be surplus." This lighting asset is an installed and functioning outdoor lighting system

asset generating monthly revenue for Santee Cooper, and does not meet the statutory definition of “surplus”. It is also neither obsolete nor scrap material.

Further, under the terms of the present Department of Administration (DOA) process enacted to consider a sale of Santee Cooper, at this time Santee Cooper cannot engage in the sale of a system asset unless it is in the usual and ordinary course of business and consistent with past practices. Santee Cooper has not sold other similar lighting systems in the past; thus, even if permitted by Santee Cooper policy, the sale would not be permitted now by the DOA and its advisors.

This leaves Plantation Lakes with three options:

1. Continue to lease the lighting system as you do today;
2. Since the term has been met, you may cancel the lighting contract with us, and we will remove the lighting system; or
3. You may request that we install lower cost poles and/or lights. We can complete the change-outs as resources allow, but will guarantee 50 per year. This would involve a new lighting contract.

At the October 4, 2019 meeting and in the e-mail below, you asked for specific answers regarding original cost figures, the current non-depreciated value of the outdoor lighting system, and other related information. This requested information is no longer pertinent now that we have determined that the lighting system cannot be sold. If you have additional questions, please let me know. Thank you for your patience while we researched this request.

Respectfully,  
*Carlita*

Carlita P. Goff, PE  
Supervisor, Area Distribution Engineering – Garden City & Conway  
Santee Cooper  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576  
(843) 651-1598 Ext. 3808  
[cpgoff@santeecooper.com](mailto:cpgoff@santeecooper.com)

---

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

**The above email from Carlita has far-reaching ramifications!** It requires us to adjust our strategy going forward--namely...most likely focusing on building our case (and

support base) to obtain legislative approval after the State representatives re-convene in January 2020.

We are in discussions, as we speak, with our State Representative, Tim McGinnis, regarding possible strategies moving forward. It may be the best thing for us--and other HOAs--to garner support, publicity, etc., *in advance* of the State Assembly re-convening in January to get them to approve ownership transfer to POAs like ours. Santee Cooper would vigorously object, of course, but as we know, there are overwhelming arguments for this being the fair & right thing to do!

We are getting increasing support and questions from other HOAs in Carolina Forest and beyond. (We're scheduled to provide a project update at the Civic Association's annual meeting on Nov 20th.)

It certainly seems that seeking approval for ownership transfer remains the ONLY viable option for us to pursue...and we believe it's still feasible. Like the famous Marine Corps motto: "The difficult we do immediately...The impossible just takes a little longer!"

Meanwhile, it would be helpful that everyone—individual HOA residents and Board members alike--think through *other* related matters that need to be resolved, such as an addendum to HOA/POA insurance policies (or a separate policy) to cover risks such as (1) damage to the outdoor lighting system if Santee Cooper-owned transformers blow, causing extensive damage to our POA-owned system, (2) establishing a modest but realistic Reserve Fund to replace inoperative lights, etc. (from monthly savings resulting from reduced lighting costs)....as well as *any other* contingencies not yet considered!

We had hoped to resolve this matter amicably through Santee Cooper directly without further involvement of others.

Such is not to be the case. However, we believe the Santee Cooper engineering division personnel we've been dealing with were indeed acting in good faith, unaware until after our October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that a legal obstruction was buried in an obscure South Carolina Code preventing property transfers without General Assembly approval. Nevertheless, we intend to politely, respectfully, but firmly convey to all parties that we believe ownership transfer to be an imminently fair solution supported by overwhelming facts and logic, and that we will likely seek support via (a) lobbying efforts to various State Representatives, (b) open letters to the Governor & new Santee Cooper CEO, (c) interaction with the press and TV, and (d) through a focused social media campaign.

Be a part of this key initiative! Do you have a skill that can help us reach our goal, work ourselves out of a job, and then celebrate by dissolving this ad hoc activity? We're looking for:

- **Researchers** – to find answers to key questions like:
  1. How many HOAs are serviced by Santee Cooper?
  2. How many voting residents does that represent?

3. How many HOAs have made lease payments that equal or exceed the original cost of their outdoor lighting system?
  4. What are the other utility companies servicing South Carolina residents?
  5. What are the comparative sizes of each (number of customers)?
  6. Etc., etc.
- **Publicists** – to help coordinate press releases, interviews, appointments with key officials
  - **Administrative assistants** – to coordinate communication between HOAs, capture questions being asked by HOA reps, etc.

***We sincerely believe this is our best shot at reducing POA outdoor lighting expenses--for Plantation Lakes--by \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month. Your cost reduction could be substantial as well!***

Please email CF-CA with your thoughts, comments, and suggestions.

Very respectfully,

~ Plantation Lakes Ad Hoc Street Lights Committee

---