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# General Electric offered \$3 million to settle discrimination suit filed by Monroeville residents

Published: Monday, December 13, 2010, 8:30 AM Updated: Monday, December 13, 2010, 12:42 PM

**Brendan Kirby, Press-Register**  
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## COURT REPORT

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MOBILE, Ala. -- General Electric Co. agreed to pay \$3 million to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit brought by black laborers from the Monroeville area, according to federal court records.

Attorneys on both sides have declined to comment on the settlement reached last month a day before a civil trial was set to begin. But a transcript of the Nov. 29 settlement conference indicates that the plaintiffs agreed to the \$3 million figure.

The plaintiffs agreed to waive any future claims against GE, its employees or anyone associated with them.

They also agreed to sign confidentiality agreements prohibiting them from discussing the settlement or any of the allegations they made.

GE did not admit any wrongdoing in agreeing to the terms, according to the transcript, which was released last week.

Sixty-two people sued two years ago, alleging discrimination by Baghouse Associates, a company that GE bought in 2004.

The laborers, all but one of whom lived in the Monroeville area, worked for Lacy Enterprises, which supplied workers to Baghouse Associates. The workers traveled to power plants and heavy industrial operations in various places throughout the country to change filters.

The plaintiffs alleged that their GE supervisor subjected them to a barrage of racial slurs and insults, denied them breaks to use the restroom or treat injuries, and arbitrarily fired or suspended black workers because of their race.

The lawsuit also alleged that GE tolerated the mistreatment and canceled the contact with Lacy Enterprises when its owner complained.

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December 13, 2010 at 8:41AM

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**dukeofthesouth**

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Is anyone suprised at this at all? I feel that the people that sued will only see a little change after the lawyers get their pay. So did this change anything but keeping nusiness away from alabama.

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**ARealisT**

December 13, 2010 at 10:08AM

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Geez, I guess I should have sued when I was discriminated on. But then again I am white, so its fine. I would lose anyways.

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ARealis, so you were discriminated "on" ? I've never heard that before..... people are usually discriminated "against". You would lose because you can't phrase it properly.Hahahaha

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