

Power line suits could be tried together

By **CHANDA TEMPLE**
News staff writer

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Lawyers for both families, who are suing Alabama Power Co. over the August incident, on Tuesday asked Circuit Judge Joseph Booemaker to try the cases together to

decrease paperwork, reduce expenses and to receive consistent rulings. Both suits have near-identical claims and allegations.

However, Alabama Power lawyer Teresa Minor argued that it's too early to decide whether to try the cases together.

Boohaker on Tuesday consolidated pre-trial proceedings in both cases, but has yet to rule on whether the cases will be tried simultaneously.

William Ward Webb, 4, and Zachary

Thomas Downard, 7, were playing in a partially dry creek bed in the 3500 block of Spring Valley Court when they touched a live Alabama Power wire Aug. 16. The 7,200-volt line killed Zachary instantly. William was badly injured.

The line, which was about three inches above the creek, was tugged down by a fallen tree.

The Webb family's lawsuit said the power

► See **Suit**, Page **3C**

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