

FILE



Ted Strickland, Governor

October 29, 2007

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180 E. Broad Street
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Ohio Power Siting Board

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2007 OCT 31 AM 9:48
PUCO

Michael Youshak
11531 Madison Road, Ohio 44064
Huntsburg, Ohio 44046-9707

Re: American Transmission Systems, Inc.
Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project
Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX

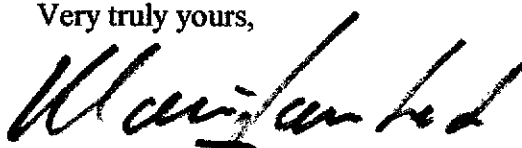
Dear Mr. Youshak:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the proposed American Transmission Systems, Inc. / Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project. As with the consideration of all transmission projects, local and surrounding businesses, residents, municipalities and officials are invited to discuss the present and long-term economical and environmental feasibility of such projects. The response we receive from these entities convey an interest in environmental, ecological and social implications associated with the proposed transmission line.

On September 28, 2007, American Transmission Systems, Inc. submitted an application for the project before the Ohio Power Siting Board. At this time, no public hearings are scheduled. However, once our staff review of the application is complete, the applicant is required to publish appropriate notice of all hearings in local newspapers of general circulation in the area.

As we appreciate all input into the siting process, your document will be shared with members of the Board and placed in the official docket for the case. Further, should you wish to view activity involving this application, please visit our website at www.OPSB.ohio.gov.

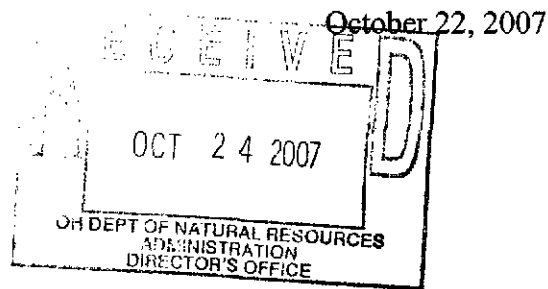
Very truly yours,


Klaus Lambeck, Chief,
Ohio Power Siting Board

KW: dgd

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician 5 Date Processed 10/31/07

Mr. Sean Logan
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-3
Columbus, OH 43229



Dear Mr. Logan,

I am sending you this letter in strong opposition to the new transmission line corridor and the two 138 kV transmission line routes contained therein, as proposed by First Energy for eastern Geauga county. The Ohio Power Siting Board Case Number is 07-0171-EL-BTX for this project.

I own property in Huntsburg Township on route 528 within the eastern proposed overland route. The property is a third generation family farm composed of cropland, creekland preserves, wetlands, and virgin woods. Ours is a small farm, but it is operated with modern conservation tillage and no-till practices, and with regularly monitored fertility programs. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and alfalfa mixed hay. I have spent \$45,000 to \$50,000 on water management infrastructure, such as subsurface drainage tile, surface diversion waterways, and run-off retention basins. Through proper management and appropriate crop rotations, we attempt to absolutely minimize soil erosion, soil compaction and other detrimental events that compromise the long term fertility and productivity of the cropland. Eliminating soil compaction is especially important for successful no-till crops. We try to be good stewards of the land, neighbors and strangers alike notice and watch what we do here. It is not unusual for a complete stranger to stop by and express admiration for how we run and maintain our farm.

So now First Energy proposes the need to obtain a right-a-way through the heart of this property to construct a new transmission line corridor. This proposed corridor zigzags through the eastern portion of the cropland as well as cutting through virgin woods and creek preserves. The construction and maintenance of this transmission line will undoubtedly cause significant and repeated damage to the soil by surface and deep compaction and by the likely interruption of the subsurface drainage systems. Like other small farms in the area, I do not have enough cropland acres to buffer the significant negative effects of this project. In addition there will be a substantial loss of real estate value and an enormous negative visual impact to our place.

To say that I am concerned and upset by this proposed project hardly describes my reaction. I have not invested decades of time, hard work, and many thousands of dollars improving my land and refining my farming practices so that First Energy can plow a sixty foot corridor through my farm. As proposed, the corridor will ruin its soil, damage its infrastructure, jeopardize its productivity and profitability, and spoil its intrinsic natural beauty.

Farming is my business and my profession and it is one of the only growing industries in Geauga county and northeast Ohio. All indications are that within the next twenty years we will need every single acre of available productive cropland to provide the food, fiber, and biofuel that this country will need. These products cultivated by the farming industry constitute the most basic needs of the American public and their importance can never be questioned. How is it then possible that my

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agricultural business, profession, and contributions are subordinate to First Energy's seemingly arbitrary choice of transmission line corridor? More than arbitrary, it would appear that cropland has been deemed completely expendable in planning this transmission line route since it courses deliberately from one field to the next throughout its extent, thereby providing First Energy an easy and less expensive means to accomplish its plan. I say enough is enough with considering cropland, especially from small farms, an expendable resource. I am therefore adamantly opposed to this project as proposed.

I believe there are workable, reasonable alternative corridors, which are much less intrusive and would not impact people's lives, properties, and livelihoods in a manner even close to that of the current proposal. I am asking the Ohio Power Siting board to please evaluate three alternate corridors, two of which being pre-existing civil corridors:

- 1) The Route 11 corridor from the existing 138 kV transmission lines that cross Route 11 just north of Interstate 90, south to Mayfield Road and then west to a new substation at Orwell. The surrounding parts of Geauga and Ashtabula counties would be supplied via existing or upgraded 36 kV sub-transmission lines radiating west and south.
- 2) The old B&O railroad corridor previously named the Rachel transmission line route. This corridor is co-located with the Geauga Park District bike path. With modern subsurface technology, the northern portion could be constructed to absolutely minimize impact and eliminate the need for maintenance. Surface poles could be used along the bike path portion which travels through a long-standing, pre-existing, significantly intrusive civil corridor.
- 3) The Geauga-Ashtabula county line. The impact here would be shared by residents of both counties, but would be practical only if the majority of property lines followed the county lines.

In this letter, I have described my family farm, detailed the negative effects that the proposed new transmission line corridor would have on my farm, and proposed workable, reasonable alternative corridor locations. Unfortunately, this letter can only hint at my outrage and despair over the prospect of the proposed new transmission line corridor cutting through my family farm. My hope is that your influence over the process and compassion for my situation will ultimately result in a different, more workable corridor location.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Youshak
11531 Madison Road
Huntsburg, OH 44046-9707
(440) 636-5294

October 22, 2007

Governor Ted Strickland
Governor's Office, Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

000071 OCT 24 5

Dear Governor Strickland,

I am sending you this letter in strong opposition to the new transmission line corridor and the two 138 kV transmission line routes contained therein, as proposed by First Energy for eastern Geauga county. The Ohio Power Siting Board Case Number ~~107-01-71~~ 107-01-71-EL-BTX for this project.

I own property in Huntsburg Township on route 528 within the eastern proposed overland route. The property is a third generation family farm composed of cropland, creekland preserves, wetlands, and virgin woods. Ours is a small farm, but it is operated with modern conservation tillage and no-till practices, and with regularly monitored fertility programs. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and alfalfa mixed hay. I have spent \$45,000 to \$50,000 on water management infrastructure, such as subsurface drainage tile, surface diversion waterways, and run-off retention basins. Through proper management and appropriate crop rotations, we attempt to absolutely minimize soil erosion, soil compaction and other detrimental events that compromise the long term fertility and productivity of the cropland. Eliminating soil compaction is especially important for successful no-till crops. We try to be good stewards of the land, neighbors and strangers alike notice and watch what we do here. It is not unusual for a complete stranger to stop by and express admiration for how we run and maintain our farm.

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Sincerely,



Michael S. Youshak
11531 Madison Road
Huntsburg, OH 44046-9707
(440) 636-5294

Note:
This letter was received from *OPNR* office on *10/29/07*
OPSB received and responded on *10/29/07*
NO ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE
PROVIDED. *du*