

DUPLICATE LETTER

07-0171-EL-BTX

Mark and Kathleen Binnig
17405 Thompson Road
Thompson, OH 44086
440-298-3914

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

2008 FEB 22 PM 12:07

PUCO

FILE

February 18, 2008

Klaus Lambeck, Chief
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Dear Mr. Lambeck:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the most recent revision of the path of the transmission line American Transmission Systems, Inc. proposes to construct in Geauga County.

The main route being considered for the transmission line will be along the edge of our farm. First Energy is seeking an easement from us to "clear selected trees which may pose a danger of falling into the line. Rights for a guy wire may also be required."

The proposed 60 foot wide clear cut area will create an open pathway on the edge of our property, inviting trespassers on snowmobiles and off road vehicles.

Our property is in **Farmland Preservation** with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This farmland easement keeps the land in agriculture production in perpetuity. An additional easement may require the Ohio Department of Agriculture's approval.

Our woods, which also would be affected if the line goes through, is hunted in cooperation with the **Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife**, which operates to protect our state's "wildlife species, habitats and outdoor opportunities."

The proposed 60 foot clear cut area will damage the natural beauty and fragile ecology of the woods, creeks, and fence rows on our property.

Our property is also recognized as an **Ohio Century Farm** since it has been in the same family for nearly 200 years. The house was built in 1868, the barn in the 1830s, and the school house in 1856. We believe the Power Siting Board is obligated to require ATSI to find and implement an alternative route to transmit power to other parts of Geauga County that will not permanently damage the

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 AND Date Processed 2/22/08

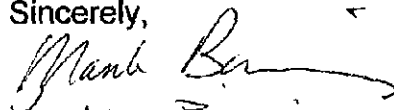

natural beauty of our farm and forever diminish its value and the value of the other farms in the proposed path of the transmission lines.

An existing right of way, along a road, highway or old railroad right of way, can be used and would avoid the problems the transmission lines will create for the farmland owners in the proposed path of these high voltage lines.

There is a need for more power in other areas of our county, but there is no need to destroy farmlands and woods in order to deliver the power to industrial areas.

We have worked to preserve the natural beauty of this historic Ohio farm and we do not want it to be marred by high voltage wires. We urge you to require ATSI to find and use a less damaging route.

Sincerely,

Mark Binnig
Kathleen Binnig

cc. Lee Fisher, Director, Ohio Department of Development
Geauga Board of County Commissioners
Senator Timothy Grendell, Ohio Senate
Kimberly J. Horton, Real Estate Representative, First Energy
Christopher Korleski, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Erwin Leffel, Trustee, Thompson Township
Sean Logan, Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Office of Farmland Preservation
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Century Farm Program