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The Ohio Power Sitting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PUCO

Dear State of Ohio Power Sitting Board:

Project number 07-0171-EL-BTX is the proposal of a 138Kv power line through Eastern Geauga County. First Energy has proposed to run the power line along State Route 528 in Huntsburg, Montville, and Thompson townships. The power line will run through the properties and farms of many families in our small community. My family personally owns a seventy acre farm located on State Route 528. The proposed line will cut our property in half. I want to bring to attention the possible health risks of a 138Kv line in a residential and agricultural area. Possible side effects can be an increase in cancer rates, depression and suicide, and respiratory and cardiovascular conditions (Henshaw, 2002).

According to the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Agency there is more evidence to implicate electric and magnetic fields with adverse health effects than there is evidence to implicate second hand smoke (Henshaw, 2002). Dr. Robert Becker, an expert in the field of electromagnetic fields for over 40 years, warns "EMF's could turn out to be a far worse environmental disaster, affecting far more people, than toxic waste, radiation, or asbestos." (Lawrence, 1996, p.2) The major health concern is a decrease of melatonin in the body due to the energy fields created by high voltage lines. Melatonin is produced in the body by the pineal gland and is a natural anti-cancer agent and antidepressant. In a study on public health risks from our electric distribution system, an association between leukemia, brain, lung, and skin cancer and high voltage lines has been formed (Henshaw). In an area within 400 meters of high voltage lines, a 30% increase of lung cancer and leukemia, and a 60% risk of skin cancer is speculated. This increase is due to corona ions that are released from the lines that attach themselves to air pollution particles, which are then inhaled into the body. At 300 meters downwind from a power substation, a 90% level of charged aerosols at ground level was measured (Henshaw). Secondly, an increase up to 40% of depression and suicide within 150 meters of a power line has been confirmed. With a decrease in melatonin produced, the human mind slips into a state of depression. Depression then leads to an increased rate of suicide. A study from the United Kingdom suggests 9000 excess cases of depression and 60 excess cases of suicide per year (Henshaw).

I appreciate you taking your time to listen to my concerns of the possible erection of a 138Kv line in my community. This project would be devastating to the health and farm lands of a small community. There are less populated pre-existing corridors that could be used. The long-term health risks are greatly increased not only for adults, but for our kids as well. With these possible health risks, would you want your kids growing up near this power line?

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Technician TM Date Processed 3/13/2008

Sincerely,

Robert W Jonath Kent State University College of Nursing
11975 Madison Rd
Huntsburg, Ohio 44046

References

Henshaw, D. L. (2002). Does our electricity distribution system pose a serious risk to public health? *Medical hypotheses*, 59(1), 39-51. Retrieved February 08, 2008, from MEDLINE database.

Lawrence, N. (1996, April/May). Do high-voltage power lines cause cancer?: studies link electromagnetic fields to illness. *Midwest Today*, 16. Retrieved February 08, 2008, from MEDLINE database.