

April 20, 2008

1

Alan R. Schriber

FILE

DUPLICATE LETTER

To the respected and honored members of the Ohio Power Siting Board—Project no. 07-0171-EL-BTY

We are writing this letter because we are one of the unfortunate families who would be greatly impacted by, what we feel, is unnecessary destruction of prime farmland, wetlands, and woodlands.

We have prime farmland and wetland that will be crossed by the proposed corridor on our 58 acres. We bought it from my Mother with the desire to keep out housing developments and any other projects which would have a negative impact on the land. We thought we would have the power and right to care for the land in the interest of conservation and esthetics. Now FirstEnergy is proposing a project which would devastate two prime fields of approximately 20 acres and a wetland parcel which enhances the drainage patterns of the bulk of our property. We didn't realize that we had no control over our own land. It would never have entered our forefathers minds to do something like this or to have been treated in this uncaring manner for the sake of profitability.

This purposed corridor would cut through a wetland area from which a small creek runs all year long and is a supply of water for the many forms of wildlife. There are various forms of wildlife, such as the endangered bald eagle and osprey, which nest approximately three miles from our house. The migratory flow could negatively affect these species as well as others. We have many different kinds of wildlife, deer turkeys, ground hogs, squirrels, and coyotes. We are in the area where the endangered snowshoe hare was released a few years ago. Where are these animals suppose to go when heavy machinery is brought into the area? Turkeys and deer are gone if they hear any noise. Do you know what a trill it is to see 11 or more deer in your field at one time or 25-45 turkeys? We have only seen this wildlife in the last few years. Civilization is already greatly impeding their natural habitat. Soon there will be no place left and they will all be endangered species.

We can't understand why FirstEnergy is so insistent on this devastation to form a new corridor when others could be used such as route 11. Your approval of the Rachael line which wasn't acted upon within the allotted two years could also be used. Why didn't FirstEnergy act on that opportunity? The need for more electricity was needed at that time by businesses in Middlefield. Carisle and Johnson Rubber, two major manufacturing companies in Middlefield have closed down in the last couple of years, which would free up some more electricity. Is it as great a need as it is made out to be or do they need to do some maintenance work?

There are many concerns such as property devaluation since the 60 foot wide corridor will almost cut through the middle of our property where we have almost a half-mile of frontage on prime building lots. This corridor will also open the door for snowmobiles, dirt bikes, ATV's and trucks. Who will be responsible if someone is injured on this right of way? We will have a hard time controlling this since we can't catch them.

Thank you again for allowing us to express our opinions and great concerns, both for the devastating effects of the new corridor and the added responsibility. Should this application be approved as requested, either the over the land route of 528 or the Clay Street route, its effects would break our hearts, leaving us devastated. Please take into consideration the burden FirstEnergy wants us to bear in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Pat Jonath  
William F. Jonath



Pat Jonath  
11975 Madison Rd.  
Huntsburg OH 44046-9711

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