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PUCO

By this letter, I hereby state for the record my objection, in the strongest possible terms, to the Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Project, PUCO case number 07-0171-EL-BTX, as proposed by FirstEnergy Corporation and as currently under review by the Ohio Power Siting Board. I am asking for your assistance in securing workable modifications to the project to overcome the devastating adverse effects that it would have on my property.

I am the owner of a beautiful parcel of land in eastern Geauga County, in the proposed transmission line corridor, along the preferred route within that corridor. My property is part of a perfect environment of rural traditions, productive agriculture, outdoor sport opportunities and unspoiled natural beauty. There are precious few places like northeastern Geauga County that remain anchors of productive family-oriented agricultural business, untouched bastions of unspoiled beauty, outdoor sports paradise, natural order and rural heritage.

The power line corridor proposed by CEI would damage my property in severe, unrecoverable ways. Creating the proposed sixty foot wide clear-cut utility corridor would decimate precious woodland, wetland and outdoor sports preserves. Productive agricultural areas would be severely damaged due to soil compaction and destruction of natural drainage patterns for which there is no reasonable compensation. The inherent desirability and value of my property, largely due to its natural, unspoiled, traditional beauty, would be ruined. This damage is fundamentally a consequence of CEI's creation of a new utility corridor through absolutely virgin, unspoiled land.

Based on the extremely adverse effects that Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Project as proposed by FirstEnergy Corporation would have on my land, and the unavailability of any reasonable way to compensate for those adverse effects, I am forced to conclude that the project as proposed is not acceptable.

There are workable alternative locations for the proposed transmission line. Pre-existing civil corridors, such as highway and rail corridors, exist that could and should be used for the proposed transmission line rather than creation of a new corridor through virgin land. State Route 11, only 15 miles east of the proposed new corridor, is an ideal pre-existing civil corridor and a "made to order" location for the proposed transmission line. The route of the previously engineered and once approved Rachel transmission line along the B&O railroad grade is another viable pre-existing civil corridor. I am confident that the engineering talent exists within FirstEnergy to utilize these preferred, pre-existing civil corridors for the new transmission line.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my argument overwhelmingly against the Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Project as proposed by FirstEnergy. I look forward to your support of an outcome from the Ohio Power Siting Board process that favors the future of my land, family, lifestyle and the cherished unspoiled rural paradise that is Thompson, Montville and Huntsburg townships.

Sincerely,

Zinaida Lepedest
Signature

4/2/08
Date

Zinaida Lepedest
Name

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