

Middlefield[®]

Cheese

Hans Rothenbuhler & Son, Inc.
Middlefield[®] Cheese House, Inc.

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May 27, 2008

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2008 MAY 30 AM 11:31
PUCO

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Case # 017-0171-EL-BTX

To Whom It May Concern:

As the owner of Hans Rothenbuhler & Son, Inc. (aka Middlefield Cheese), I am writing in support of the new transmission line that FirstEnergy is proposing to build in Geauga County.

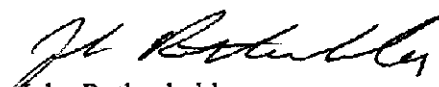
Middlefield Cheese depends on a reliable power source. Our plant supports over 200 families through direct employment or indirect employment of the farmers that supply over 1,500,000 pounds of milk per day. Power outages and poor quality power have caused many problems for us. The frequent outages cause quality defects in our products, have damaged our electrical controls, hurt our productivity and have on numerous occasions caused complete product loss.

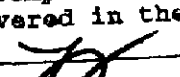
Representatives from FirstEnergy have explained to us that without this new transmission line, providing reliable electric to our area will be a challenge. Their existing circuits and substations are becoming overextended because of high usage and growth. It will be increasingly difficult to maintain voltage levels within the acceptable ranges our equipment demands. We believe that new power transmission lines to the area are a must and are probably ten years overdue.

There have been several proposals set forth to the Ohio Power Siting Board. It is critical that a viable solution be selected so that this process can go on without delay. We would encourage the selection of a solution that will NOT trigger a protracted legal battle that will delay the project even longer.

For years we have asked the utility to do something to improve the situation. We ask that you select a path that is a viable solution to the electrical energy problems we have been having in this area.

Respectfully,


John Rothenbuhler
C.E.O.

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