



Ohio Power Siting Board

June 4, 2008

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www.OPSB.ohio.gov

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Michael R. Newton, President
MASCO Retail Cabinet Group (Kraft Maid)
P.O. Box 1055
15535 South State Avenue
Middlefield, Ohio 44062

Re: American Transmission Systems, Inc.
Geauga County-138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project
Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX

Dear Mr. Newton:

Thank you for your concerns regarding the proposed American Transmission Systems, Inc. / Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project. As with the consideration of all transmission projects, local and surrounding businesses, residents, municipalities and officials are invited to discuss the present and long-term economical and environmental feasibility of such projects.

Please be advised, the local public hearings have been postponed. This postponement is to allow both the Applicant and the Power Siting Staff an opportunity to review the impacts of the Maple Highlands Bike Trail right-of-way and utilization of an abandoned railroad corridor through the City of Chardon as a viable route selection for the proposed transmission line.

Once investigations of this route consideration are complete and the hearings re-open, the applicant will publish appropriate notice in local newspapers of general circulation in the area. Interested persons may testify at only one of the two local public hearings.

As we continue to appreciate all input into the siting process, your document will be shared with members of the Board and placed in the official docket for the case. Should you wish to view activity involving this application, visit our web site at www.OPSB.ohio.gov. Again, the Board thanks you for your interest.

Very truly yours,

Klaus Lambeck, Chief,
Ohio Power Siting Board

KL: dgd

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Re: Case # 07-0171-EL-BTX

Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

As the President of Masco Retail Cabinet Group, I am writing in support of the new transmission line that FirstEnergy is proposing to build in Geauga County.

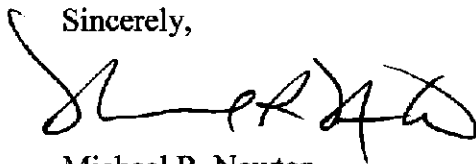
Over the years our business has grown at a steady rate. Our manufacturing facility in the Middlefield area employs several thousand workers and we cannot afford to have them idled for any reason. Now more than ever, our precision equipment demands reliable electric service, as even momentary outages, voltage spikes or low voltage conditions can cause product line delays having to restart or repair damage to sensitive manufacturing equipment or cause the quality of our products to be impaired. In addition to helping existing businesses, improved electric reliability and capacity will be a selling tool in bringing new development to the region.

Representatives from FirstEnergy have explained to us that without this new transmission line, providing reliable electric service to our area will be a challenge. Their existing circuits and substations are becoming overextended because of higher usage and growth, and it will be increasingly difficult to maintain voltage levels within the acceptable ranges our equipment demands.

We think the company has done its homework in selecting the proper route for the new power line. While we can understand the concerns of residents who live near the proposed routes, we believe the project is necessary and should be built. Our region has struggled for years with electric service that we believe to be less than satisfactory. We believe this new project will help improve the quality of the electric service and hope you expedite the approval process. Certification of either the "preferred" (cross-country) route or "alternate" (Clay St.) route is the best way to bring a new supply of energy. The OPSB needs to certify either the "preferred" or "alternate" route without further delay.

For years we have asked the utility to do something to improve the situation. Now that they have proposed a solution, how can we be against it?

Sincerely,



Michael R. Newton
President
MASCO Retail Cabinet Group (KraftMaid)