



Ohio Power Siting Board

June 13, 2008

FILE

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180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

www.OPSB.ohio.gov

Elizabeth Wirstrom
511 Brandon Court
Chardon, Ohio 44024

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

Dear Ms. Wirstrom:

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 Lambek, Chief,
Ohio Power Siting Board

KL: dgd

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HON. ALAN R. SCHRIBER, CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

RE: CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH VOLTAGE TRANS.
LINES OVER THE MAPLE HIGHLANDS TRAIL
IN CHARDON.

I CAN'T SAY IT ANY BETTER THEN CHRIS
PARKER'S VIEW "DON'T RUIN OUR TRAIL"

PUBLISHED IN THE NEWS-HERALD.

THE "PREFERRED ROUTE" AND "ALTERNATE"
ROUTE" LOCATED IN GEauga COUNTY THROUGH
RURAL AREAS & PRIMARILY FIELDS WOULD
BE THE LIKELY CHOICE. IN AN AREA WHICH
HAS THE SMALLEST IMPACT ON THE FEWEST
PEOPLE.

PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT CONSTRUCT
HIGH VOLTAGE LINES OVER MAPLE HIGHLANDS
TRAIL!

ELIZABETH WIRSTROM

571 BRANDON ST.

CHARDON, OH. 44024

CC: GOVERNOR TED STRICKLAND

SENATOR TIM BRENDELL

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW DOLAN DISTRICT 98

Don't ruin our trail

Another Viewpoint is a column The News-Herald makes available so all sides of issues may be aired. Chris Parker lives in Chardon.

The proposed use of the brand new Maple Highlands bike path by FirstEnergy Corp. for a new path for power lines is so wrong on so many levels, that it's hard to know where to begin.

The front page article on April 20 brought a lump to my throat.

I really have no idea what Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy consists of. But if anyone thinks that the Geauga County Park District should be swayed by a 100-signature petition into allowing FirstEnergy to basically take control of the path for its own use, they must be easily impressed.

If this particular issue comes down to who can get the most signatures, I have no doubt that those willing to sign any petition against this "plan" would number in the thousands.

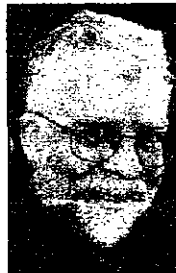
This path is not even 1 year old, and this plan for electric lines shouldn't happen. Here is a wonderful asset, paid for by the voters of Geauga County, with the intention of adding to the quality of all of our lives.

After years of hard work by the Park District, FirstEnergy wants to stroll in and take it over. I wouldn't wait for them to say either "please" first or "thank you" afterwards. They apparently haven't even taken the courtesy of telling the city of Chardon what they are planning to do to them.

Not only is the trail a place to walk the dogs, hike, bike or skate with the entire family, it is also wheelchair accessible. How many such places are there now?

How many do you think there will be 10 years from now, especially if we let this one be destroyed?

I have been an avid user ever since the path was opened to the public. Like many, I need to get outside and work off a few pounds as often as possible, and from the crowds I've seen there, many others feel the same way.



Chris Parker

Another Viewpoint

But it's not just a strip of asphalt. If that's all it took to get people outside, we'd all be hiking and biking in downtown Mentor. What makes the trail is the countryside it goes through.

If you haven't been on the path yet, you owe it to yourself, literally, to check it out. It doesn't go through town, at least not yet. It goes through what's best about Geauga County. It goes through heavily wooded areas and past farmers' fields.

Every time our family visits the path for a short ride or a brisk workout, we see and hear more wildlife and natural beauty than those who live in an urban environment will see in a week.

We go home thinking how lucky we are to live in a county where such places still exist.

As shown in the before and after pictures provided by the Park District, all of this could disappear.

Make no doubt about it, this is an issue about the future of the quality of life in Geauga County.

We just got the bike path.
Don't destroy it.