

FILE

ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

ROBERT J. BOHLAND, CMFGE

June 14, 2008

DUPLICATE LETTER

Attention: Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Gentlemen:

As an energy management consultant to Saint Gobain Crystals located in Newbury, Ohio (Geauga County), I have been asked to write you in support of the new 138 KV transmission line that FirstEnergy is proposing for the Middlefield/Burton area in Geauga County: Reference Case Number 07-0171-EL-BTX.

Over the years, Saint Gobain Crystal's business has continued to grow steadily. As a result of that growth, they are in the process of moving almost all their production from the Newbury Industrial Park, where they have leased ten buildings for many years to a new, central location a few miles away in Troy Township where most of their manufacturing will be under one roof. Reliable, quality electric energy is critical to their operation which consists of growing sodium iodide crystals for use in various detection devices. Growing crystals and manufacturing them into detectors is a delicate, time-consuming operation. The cycle time in growing crystals may take up to several months without interruption.

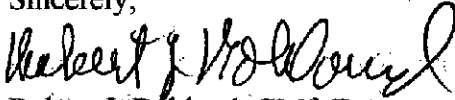
During some of these past years, FirstEnergy/Cleveland Illuminating has not been able to supply uninterrupted, quality power for those lengths of time. It has become increasingly difficult to maintain voltage levels within the acceptable ranges the equipment and processes require.

With the increase in demand for electric energy in the area, the 138 KV transmission line proposed by FirstEnergy is truly needed to improve the capacity, quality and reliability of power for existing businesses and bring additional development to the area in the form of new business.

We applaud FirstEnergy's selection of a preferred (cross-country) and alternate (Clay Street) route for this new transmission line. While we understand the concern of those residents who live on or near the proposed routes, we believe this project is necessary and needs to be built. Selecting a third route proposed by the "CARE" group will only cause unnecessary and avoidable delay due to almost certain litigation. A protracted delay could cause termination of this project completely which will benefit no one.

We urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to certify as soon as possible either the preferred or alternate routes as proposed by FirstEnergy. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Bohland, CMfge

Copy: Hooper Blair, Saint Gobain Crystals

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