



FILE

Ohio Power Siting Board

August 05, 2008

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Ohio Senate180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

www.OPSB.ohio.gov

The Ohio Power Siting Board
is an Equal Opportunity Employer
and Service ProviderJames M. Galm
3559 Townley Road
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122-5156Re: American Transmission Systems, Inc.
Geauga County-138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project
Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX

Dear Mr. Galm:

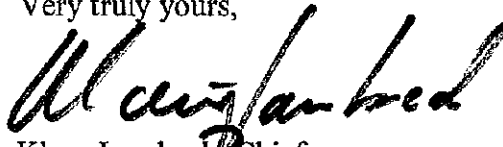
Thank you for your concerns regarding the proposed American Transmission Systems, Inc. / Geauga County -138kV Transmission Line Supply Project. As with the consideration of all transmission projects, local and surrounding businesses, residents, municipalities and officials are invited to discuss the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

Please be advised, to accommodate the residents of Geauga county, those residents who live in the northern portion of the project area should attend the first local public hearing held on Wednesday, August 27, 2008, at 4:30 p.m., at Ledgemont Elementary - Middle School, gymnasium, 16200 Burrows Road, Thompson, Ohio 44086. Residents who live in the southern portion of the project area should attend the public hearing held on Thursday, August 28, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Huntsburg Town Hall, second floor, 16534 Mayfield Road, Huntsburg, Ohio 44046. Interested persons may testify at only one of the two local public hearings.

Further, the adjudicatory hearing will commence on September 2, 2008, at 10:00 at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, 11th floor, Hearing Room F, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

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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AUG 04 2008

30 July 2008

Dr. Alan R. Schriber
Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Office of Chairman
P.U.C.O.

RE: Case number 07-0171-EL-BTX, The Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project.

Dear Dr. Schriber,

On September 28, 2007, American Transmission Systems Incorporated and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (the Applicant) made application to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of the Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project (the Project), Case No. 07-0171-EL-BTX. The application and reports of OPSB Staff and the ALJ will soon be before the Board for consideration.

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 the Applicant.

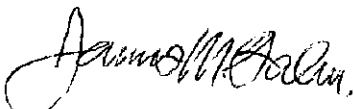
As proposed by the Applicant, the Project will cause severe, unrecoverable damage to my property in a multitude of ways. The most obvious impact is the collection of physical changes required to install and maintain a new utility corridor where no utility corridor has ever existed.

The tragedy of this Project is that creation of a new public utility corridor by taking privately owned property from citizens against their will is so completely and obviously unnecessary. There are pre-existing civil corridors, constructed on public land, that are readily available and capable of supporting a new transmission line that would serve the intended electrical needs. This statement is neither speculation nor wishful thinking. I direct the reader to case number 95-0600-EL-BTX, where the OPSB granted a Certificate of Need for a transmission line project utilizing a pre-existing civil corridor that fulfilled exactly the same electrical need as the Project. The existence of pre-existing civil corridors on public land that can host a facility that would serve the Project's need is a fact. Ignorance of this fact during the siting process would be negligent given that in 1997, at the request of the Applicant, the OPSB granted a Certificate of Need for the use of a pre-existing public corridor to meet this identical electrical need. Now, the Applicant shuns the shared use of that same pre-existing public corridor in favor of a newly created, FirstEnergy-only corridor that requires governmental seizure of private property against the will of private citizens.

Parties have asserted that pre-existing civil corridors constructed on public property are unsuitable sites for a transmission line facility. I ask you to examine the logic that pre-existing civil corridors constructed on public property are unsuitable sites for a transmission line facility. We are told by these parties that land owned by the public, obtained using taxpayer dollars, for the purpose of hosting facilities that serve the public interest is unsuitable to host a public utility facility that will ultimately benefit the public interest. Furthermore, we are told that it is preferential to take private property from citizens against their will and use said taken property to host a public utility facility, when it is an indisputable fact that suitable public property presently exists to host the facility. This is not logic – it is *reductio ad absurdum*.

As a decision maker in the legislative, political or siting process, I am asking you to critically examine the arguments that you will be hearing, not accepting self-serving rhetoric in place of logic. I am asking you to fully understand the facts and to identify the false assertions and their proponents for what they truly are. I am asking you to be true to your mission as a guardian of citizen's rights and Ohio's Constitution and to not fall prey to the whims of pompous corporations that are accustomed to having their way at the expense of people, families and precious natural resources.

Best Regards,



James M. Galm