RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

2008 AUG 21 PM 3: Kathleen and Mark Binnig 17405 Thompson Road Thompson, Ohio 44086

RECEIVED

file

PUCO

August 11, 2008

AUG 1 5 2008

Re: Proposed power line path through Geauga County Farmland Page 1

Our Historic Ohio farm at 17405 Thompson Road has been in our family since the 1830's. Our land is in farm land preservation with the state of Ohio and is an agricultural district. Our 16+ acre wood lot has never been clear cut.

First Energy is seeking an easement along the western edge of our property for tree trimming, tree clearing, and for guy wires, which I assume will entail more tree clearing.

The townships seeking more power are Orwell and Middlefield.

Ohio revised code 4906.10 basis for granting or denying the application for the proposed power line path covers 8 points:

Need for the facility

Recently, Johnson Rubber in Middlefield closed.

Middlefield and Orwell may still need more power. If so, it would probably be more efficient to locate the power in one of those communities in the form of a local power plant. There would be less loss of energy and less chance of damage along lines.

In looking at Ohio Senate Bill 221, it suggests businesses should look into being "self generators", should study how to use energy more efficiently, and should look at alternative energy resources.

- 2. Probable environmental impact
- 3. Minimum adverse environmental impact

On our property alone, the proposed lines and clear cut would go through pristine farmland, through designated wetlands, would go over and near two clean creeks, and through never cleared woods. The 60 feet wide clear cut would not only destroy the present natural environment of our land, but would open our land to abuse by trespassers in ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.

> This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business. Technician // _Date Processed

4. Consistent with regional plans for expansion of electric power

I cannot speak to this point from personal knowledge, but if Orwell and Middlefield need more power for industry and development, a local power plant there would seem to make more sense.

- 5. Comply with the revised code
- 6. Serve the public interest, convenience and necessity

The proposed path of the power line does not serve the public interest, convenience, or necessity of the farmland it will mar.

We do not need more power.

We do not want our wetlands and creeks eroded or degraded.

We do not want to mow around guy wires.

We do not want open corridors for trespassers to have easy access to our land. We do not want our woodlands, pastures, or croplands marred by a 60 foot clear cut.

If the power is needed in Orwell and Middlefield, put a power plant there.

7. What impact will be on the viability as agricultural land in an existing agricultural district?

Personal impact on us: A fence row clear cut of trees, a creek crossed, a clear cut through the edge of our wood lot above another creek, guy wires and more clear cuts to work around, open access to trespassers, devalued property, scarred pristine farmland and natural places.

8. Maximum feasible water conservation practices

The proposed power line follows our west property line, more or less. In the path of the proposed line is our west front pasture and the neighbor's land to the west of the pasture, which are designated wetlands. The proposed line would also cross the creek that runs west to east in the front pasture.

When the proposed line goes through our and adjoining woodlots, it clear cuts above another beautiful creek in a ravine.

Disturbing the natural wetlands and clean creeks would not be good water conservation practice.

In conclusion:

There are existing open corridors - the railroad right of was east of Thompson that goes from Ashtabula to Lisbon, or Route 11. Orwell is East of Thompson and the entire proposed route. A power source where it is needed would be more practical in the long run. There would be fewer maintenance issues, and less electricity would be lost in transporting the power. There is no reason to open a new corridor through farmland.

Sincerely, Kathler Bhun

