

Large Filing Separator Sheet

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EXHIBITS



EXHIBIT

091008 PUCCO

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008
INCOMING FAX

TO: COURT REPORTER
FAX NO: 330- 666-9833

RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR :
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO / OHIO
POWER SITING BOARD - ON 9/10/08

CASE NO: 07-0171-EL-BTX
AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS INC
ATSI AND OHIO POWER SITING BOARD /
GEAUGA COUNTY 138KV TRANSMISSION LINE

Total pages (including cover) : 8

From: Doreen Gentry-Davis / OPSB
(614) 644-7743

07-171-EL-BTX

Sign WP Sheet

For Hearings 9/10/08

Gauger CEI 07-171-EL-BTX

~~SENATOR~~ ~~Tim Grondell~~ 18th Senate District

4 Kristin Oliver (Montessori School DVD)

~~THOMAS~~ ~~EMELKO~~

2 MARSHA CARPENTER MONTVILLE, OHIO

3 Pat Jonath Huntburg

4 Ny Zion

5 Francine Ploten - Huntburg

6 Jae Moroski - Ash County Community
(ASHTABULA)

7 Len James

8 Homer Zion

Public Hearing		
Case No's: Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX		
Public Hearing Testimony	Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall	Previous testimony in this case?
Name (Please Print)	Address	
✓ Joseph J. Tarkenton	1112 Park Ave. Cincinnati OH	No
✓ Michael W. Brakey	3309 Glencairn Road Sherbrooke, Ohio	No
✓ Steve Metheny	16025 Johnson Street Middlefield OH	No
✓ Pocco DiFranco	9289 Madison Rd Montville Ohio 44064	No
✓ Nancy Saunders	12081 Hunt Huntsburg OH 44006	No
✓ Catherine Jean Beardsley	8905 Madison Rd Montville	No
✓ Alex Beardsley Holbert	8885 Madison Rd Montville	No
✓ LARA BROWN	10371 PLANK RD, P.O. BOX 58 MONTVILLE	No
✓ Dayton Off. Press	11530 Madison Rd Hunt+SBorg	

Public Hearing			
Case No's: Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX			
Public Hearing Testimony		Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall	
Name (Please Print)	Address	Previous testimony in this case?	
✓ Eddie Blankenship	11069 Madison Rd. Huntsburg	No	
✓ Sharon Blankenship	11669 Madison Rd. Haverburg	No	
✓ Karen Matheux	10641 Clay St. Moravia	No	
✓ Steve Metheny	16025 Johnson Street Middlefield	No	
✓ Janis Galt	3559 Townley Rd. Shaker Hts.	No	
✓ Linda Bennett	11680 Clay St. Huntsburg, OH	No	
✓ Bowman Beeman	1770 Woodstock Rd. Gates Mills, OH 44040	No	
✓ DAVE MATHEWS	10489 SAWMILL DRIVE HAMBURG, OH 44024	No	

Public Hearing		
Case No's:		
Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX		
Public Hearing Testimony		Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall
Name (Please Print)	Address	Previous testimony in this case?
✓ Chuck Smith	16270 Mayfield Rd.	no
Ken Bunting NOT HERE	8690 Madison Rd	no
✓ GARNERS Bennett	11277 Madison Huntsburg	no
✓ Kathy Vickery	6076 Sidney Thompson	no
✓ Jim Marsic	10441 Kiernd Monroe	no
✓ RICHARD STARK	223 Casfield Dr. Columbus	no
✓ Kathleen Binnig	17405 Thompson Rd, Thompson	no
✓ Carolyn Schue	11670 Madison Rd. Huntsburg, OH	no
✓ Thomas J. Lee (Att'y)	2000 Public Square, S.W. 35001 44114	no

CARE

Public Hearing		
Case No's: Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX		
Public Hearing Testimony		Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall
Name (Please Print)	Address	Previous testimony in this case?
Terry Zion	13975 Claridon Pl Dr. Chardon OH 44024	No
T. Parkerson	10919 Wood Hollow Dr Chardon OH 44024	No
Lorri Pitorek	11895 Madison Rd Hontsburg OH 44044	No
Rachel McKinney	12316 Madison Rd Huntebun OH	No
Clark Adams (Adams)	15889 Stillwell Rd. Huntebun OH	No
RAY ROSENER GER	6232 N. CENTER BURY RD PALENA, OH 44139	No
DR. M. LAHVER	8825 Mayfield Chestersburg OH 44026	No
Blake Montano	18833 Madison Rd. Hontsburg OH 44024	No
Audrey Jensen	17030 Leggett Rd Manduville	No

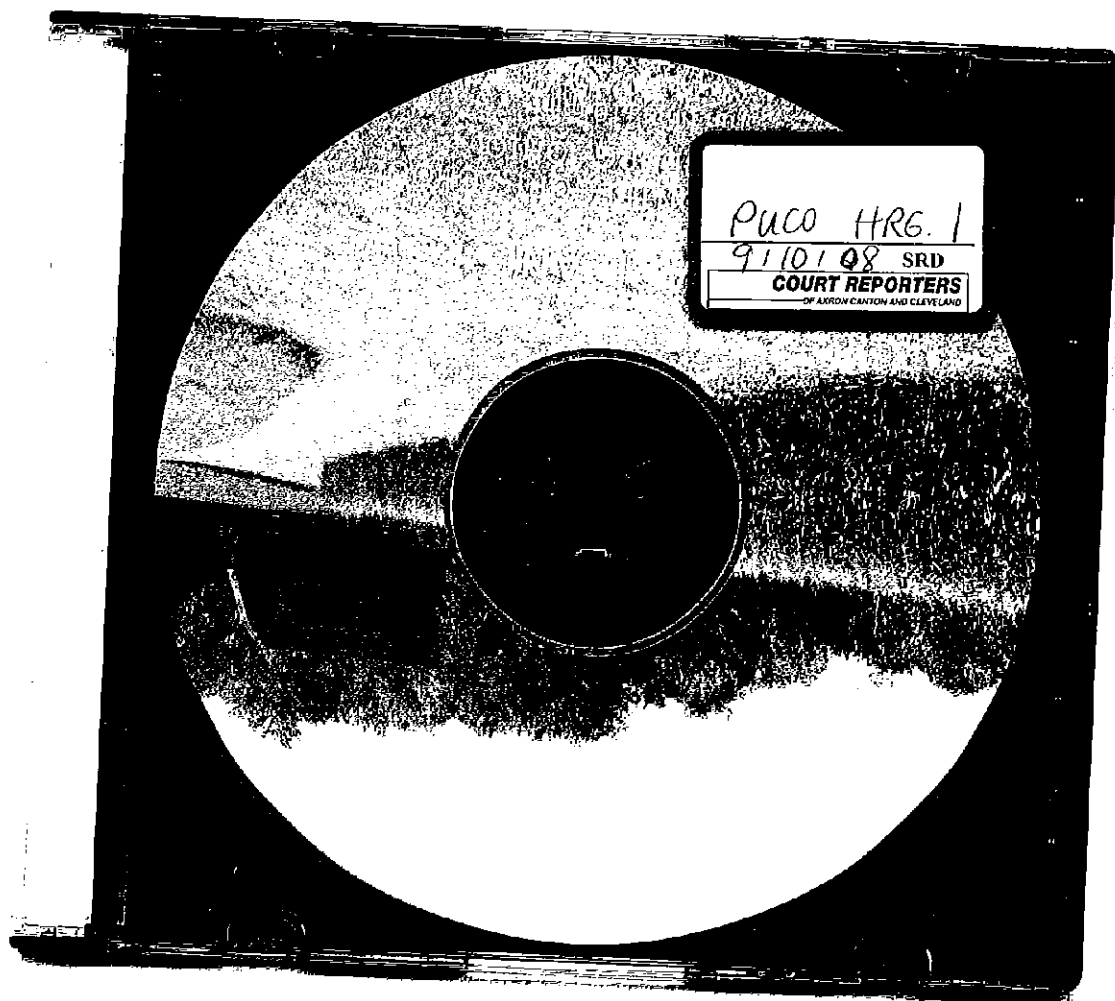
Public Hearing		
Case No's:		
Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX		
Public Hearing Testimony	Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall	Previous testimony in this case?
Name (Please Print)	Address	
Jed Thuring (must leave by 8PM)	12324 Madison Rd. Huntsburg OH	
CLAUDIA BRITT TOWNSEND	17333 MOSELEY RD THOMPSON OH	RI
PAUL PROBAKA	8865 MADISON	No
Susan Mast - NOT HERE	16129 East High St. 44062	no
6:45 PM		

NO RESPONSE

Public Hearing			
Case No's: Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project Case No. 07-171-EL-BTX			
Public Hearing Testimony		Meeting Date: September 10, 2008 Huntsburg Town Hall	
Name (Please Print)	Address	Previous testimony in this case?	
✓ Richard Briggs	12303 MADISON RD HUNTSBURG OH 44130	no	
✓ Adam Ross	8771 Madison Rd. Montville	No	
✓ Michael Ross	8771 Madison rd Montville OH	No	
✓ Cathy Pitorak Sweet	11360 Madison Rd. Huntsburg	No	
✓ David Leuko			

7:20 PM

EXHIBIT



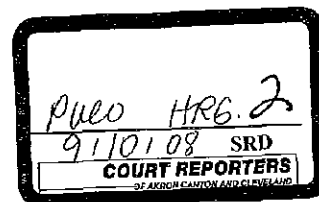
PUCO HRG. 1

9/10/08 SRD

COURT REPORTERS

OF AKRON CANTON AND CLEVELAND

1
2
3 IN RE: Ohio Power Siting Board



5
6
7 Hershey Montessori School Project

8
9 - - - -

10
11 "PEOPLE PLACE AND POWER"

12
13 - - - -

14
15 TRANSCRIBED BY: Pamela S. Greenfield, RDR, CRR

16
17 - - - -

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EXHIBIT

1 NARRATOR: My name's Kristin. I'm
2 15 years old and I go to the Hershey
3 Montessori School in Huntsberg, Ohio. This
4 year my ninth grade biology class spent two
5 months researching and preparing an
6 objective presentation on the impacts and
7 benefits of the power lines that First
8 Energy wishes to construct across the
9 street from our school on State Route 528.

10 After studying First Energy's
11 proposal and researching what these lines
12 will do to the land, we've concluded that
13 putting the power lines through this
14 particular land would not be beneficial to
15 the future of Ohio and its residents.
16 During our studies, we learned about the
17 idea of pedigo geoplace.

18 Pedigo geoplace has a lot to do
19 with learning how to protect your place and
20 what that involves is really getting into
21 what's going on around you and learning
22 about it because you can't really defend
23 something that you know nothing about.

24 In order to get to know this
25 place, we went to our neighbor, Mike

1 Hushak's property, and walked the proposed
2 power line route. On the proposed
3 corridor, we encountered beautiful fields,
4 pristine woodlands and wetlands that serve
5 as a habitat to many species that are
6 undeniably important to our ecosystem.

7 Seeing what wonderful natural
8 resources exist on this property alone, we
9 decided to investigate what the
10 environmental impact of the power lines
11 would be.

12 I think that the implications of
13 this project on the land are negative in
14 almost every way.

15 In reading First Energy's
16 application to the Ohio Power Siting Board
17 and researching the biodiversity that
18 exists on this land, we concluded that
19 First Energy has not taken into account the
20 full impact that the power lines will have
21 on the environment. 40 percent of First
22 Energy's criteria in ranking the routes is
23 based on environmental factors.

24 First Energy's application states
25 that the Ohio Department of Natural

1 Resources Division of Natural Areas and
2 Preserves and the Ohio Department for
3 Natural Resources Division of Wildlife were
4 contacted regarding the potential for
5 occurrence of rare, threatened and
6 endangered species within the project study
7 area.

8 This indicates that First Energy
9 has not conducted a survey of the ecology
10 that actually exists within the actual
11 proposed corridor. They simply have a
12 rough list of what is likely to occur in
13 Geauga County. This lack of definite
14 information is disturbing to me as a future
15 leader of Ohio.

16 Because First Energy has refused
17 to perform their own data collection, my
18 class decided to conduct a bioblitz.

19 Although we did not discover any
20 species designated as "endangered" possibly
21 because of the day's rainy conditions and
22 because the time of year was not conducive
23 to finding wild flowers known to exist in
24 this area, who's to say we shouldn't still
25 work towards protecting them? Protecting

1 only endangered species is a very
2 ineffective way of defending our ecology.
3 I don't see why we should wait until an
4 organism becomes endangered to protect it.
5 What sense does that make? Not only will
6 these power lines be destroying a large
7 amount of biodiversity, but there are also
8 15 streams on the 528 route that will be
9 crossed by the 60 foot construction zone,
10 One of which First Energy has qualified as
11 high quality.

12 On the Clay Street route, there
13 will be 2,570 feet of stream within the 60
14 foot construction zone, two of which are
15 qualified as high quality.

16 Neither of these routes is ideal
17 or even acceptable to construct a power
18 line on as these streams are a necessary
19 part of the area's ecosystem. First Energy
20 says that they have taken these factors
21 into account, but these two options are
22 still ranked as the top two despite the
23 high environmental impact the power lines
24 will still have on both of the areas.

25 40 percent of First Energy's

1 criteria is based on land use. First
2 Energy based most of their land use
3 evaluation on public land such as
4 cemeteries, parks and hospitals.

5 I was kind of struck that they
6 didn't at least use the agricultural land
7 as a gauge for land that's useful because
8 that is something that people make their
9 living off of and it's something that's
10 very important to this part of northeastern
11 Ohio.

12 The major mistake made by First
13 Energy is that these are small farms. Most
14 are somewhere between 100 and 200 acres.
15 When a 60 foot corridor is cut through
16 these farms, it severely impacts the
17 farmer's ability to cultivate their crops.
18 Farming is not a lucrative business to
19 begin with and if their pockets are
20 minimized by the power line, these farmers
21 will have no choice but to leave.

22 This will open the doors for
23 developers to come and build residential
24 areas that require even more power.

25 According to the Geauga County

1 Planning Commission, a recent study shows
2 that every state in the nation is
3 sacrificing irreplaceable prime
4 agricultural land to a fragmented,
5 sprawling pattern of development. About
6 one million acres of agricultural land is
7 being lost per year in the United States.

8 Ohio is ranked number two in the
9 country with respect to the percentage of
10 farmland acreage converted to urban
11 development over the last five years.

12 It is important to remember that
13 food production is a very real thing.
14 Someone has to grow the food. Someone has
15 to harvest it. Currently we import a high
16 percentage of our food from out of state,
17 some even out of the country. With gas
18 prices becoming so high, food will soon
19 reach prices that are unaffordable by the
20 average consumer. At that point we will be
21 left to rely on local farmers. Farmers
22 that, if this power line is constructed,
23 may have moved to other areas making food
24 harder and harder to acquire. How then is
25 agricultural land not scored as one of the

1 most important ways that a land can be
2 used.

3 If we wish to attain the
4 comfortable, well-fed lifestyle that we are
5 accustomed to, we must act now and
6 construct these power lines in a place that
7 will not disturb our future.

8 It's going to be here for a really
9 long time. It's not just, oh, we're going
10 to put this up for a month or two and then
11 take it down. It's going to be here for
12 probably the rest of our lives so I think
13 we have to decide if we want it here and if
14 we need it here for the rest of our lives.

15 These power lines will not just
16 influence the adults in this area right
17 now. We, the adolescents and the children
18 that live here now, are the future of Ohio.
19 Right now, however, the conditions that we
20 will be left with if the power lines are
21 constructed seem pretty dire.

22 What would happen if all of us,
23 those that will be Ohio's future leaders,
24 voters and employees, choose to live in a
25 place with a greater vision toward

1 responsible green energy?

2 When I interviewed my classmates,
3 I asked the question, "Will you choose to
4 live in Ohio as an adult if these power
5 lines are constructed?"

6 No, I would --

7 I wouldn't stay.

8 -- be less inclined to live in...

9 I think it would be a negative
10 influence. It wouldn't be really worth it
11 for me to stay in a state that doesn't
12 really appreciate exactly what's important
13 to the masses.

14 It's definitely going to influence
15 whether I want to stay in Ohio.

16 Everyone in my class stated that
17 they would choose to live in a place that
18 values the needs of its consumers and is
19 striving for green energy rather than in
20 Ohio where CEI is destroying valuable
21 agricultural and wild land.

22 Ohio is not doomed to lose its
23 residents, workers and leaders.

24 If First Energy in conjunction
25 with the current leaders of Ohio choose to

1 construct a sustainable economy and
2 advocate responsible energy, we may very
3 well increase our productivity rather than
4 destroy it as we will on our current path.

5 I think that Ohio and First Energy
6 should put much more emphasis on using
7 green technologies because obviously coal
8 and other expendable resources are not
9 going to be around forever. Putting
10 emphasis on green and creating green
11 infrastructure in Cleveland especially
12 would be not only good for the city but
13 also be intelligent long term.

14 If Ohio supported green energy, we
15 would create more jobs, save money and make
16 less of an impact on the people and other
17 species that live here.

18 By supplying green energy
19 technologies, such as solar panels and
20 windmills, other places would need to
21 purchase them from us. This would boost
22 our economy.

23 I feel that sustainable energy is
24 a necessary step that the world has to take
25 and I am optimistic in thinking that we can

1 do that.

2 We would also need people to
3 install the new energy as well as create
4 the means of producing energy, creating
5 jobs for the future residents of Ohio.
6 This is the positive way to create our
7 future.

8 I hope that First Energy and the
9 Ohio Power Siting Board realize the damage
10 that this project will have on the land,
11 our livelihood and on our future.

12 I hope that those people deciding
13 the fate of this area will look at what
14 could happen to the future of their
15 children and make the right choice, choose
16 to work towards sustainability, towards
17 responsible energy and towards a better
18 future.

19 It's our future that we have to
20 worry about, and if we don't worry about
21 it, then no one else is going to.

22

23

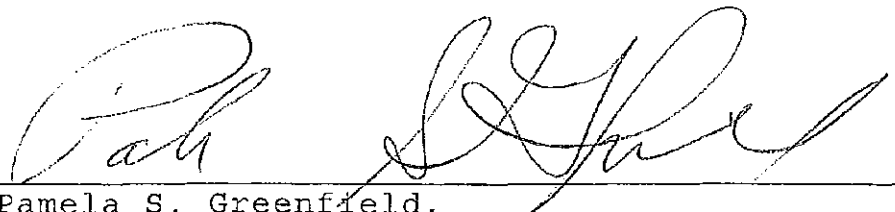
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Pamela S. Greenfield, a Notary Public
within and for the State of Ohio, do hereby
certify that this is a true and accurate
transcript of the DVD presentation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio, this
29th day of August A.D. 20 09.



Pamela S. Greenfield,
Notary Public, State of Ohio
1750 Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
My commission expires July 2, 2013

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REFUSED CASES OF MR. CO., LOUISVILLE, KY.

[illegible]

EXHIBIT

Thank you for allowing me the freedom to share my opinions this evening.

My name is Marsha Carpenter, C-A-R-P-E-N-T-E-R.

My address is 16940 Leggett Road, Montville OH 44064

My love affair with Montville began 26 years ago when my husband and I spent weekends clearing dead brush on our property in Montville while living in Maple Heights Ohio.

We planned on building a home there after we retired.

However we hated leaving the property here so we sold our house in the city and after having the shell put up, built the home where we have lived for 25 years.

Five years later we bought the adjacent land and planted 1,000 blue spruce and oak trees. We learned to build bluebird houses and bat houses at the Geauga Parks Department. We dug a pond and learned about frogs and

herons, turtles and yes even the bats and how to be good caretakers.

We are a quarter of a mile from the cross-country route, we are close. We don't need to belong to CARE or participate. But we know this: we are our brother's keepers and the keepers of the land.

We have become working members in our community; I am a member of the school board. I participate in the Geauga Democratic Party & Women's Caucus, I recently returned from the Democratic National Convention. During that time I had the opportunity to speak personally with Governor Strickland, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, Senator Sherrod Brown and many others regarding the issue of the proposed power lines. I felt I could express myself somewhat better in that manner than in the letters that I had sent them.

I also noted that Denver has also made remarkable strides in becoming "green". Acres of solar panels line miles of

roadway near the city and the airport. The Governor and Mayor gave remarkable speeches about the progress that has been done to save the beauty of their State. It can be done anywhere, it can create jobs, and it can change how Ohio is viewed as a progressive state.

We know power is needed for a community that is about 12 miles from our home. We also know that there are other routes that could be used, routes where you are not cutting down trees that are fifty to a hundred years old. Where there are not families that have owned their land and whose great grandparents purchased their property from the Connecticut Land Company. Where you don't need to relocate families, destroy farms, wetlands and woodlands.

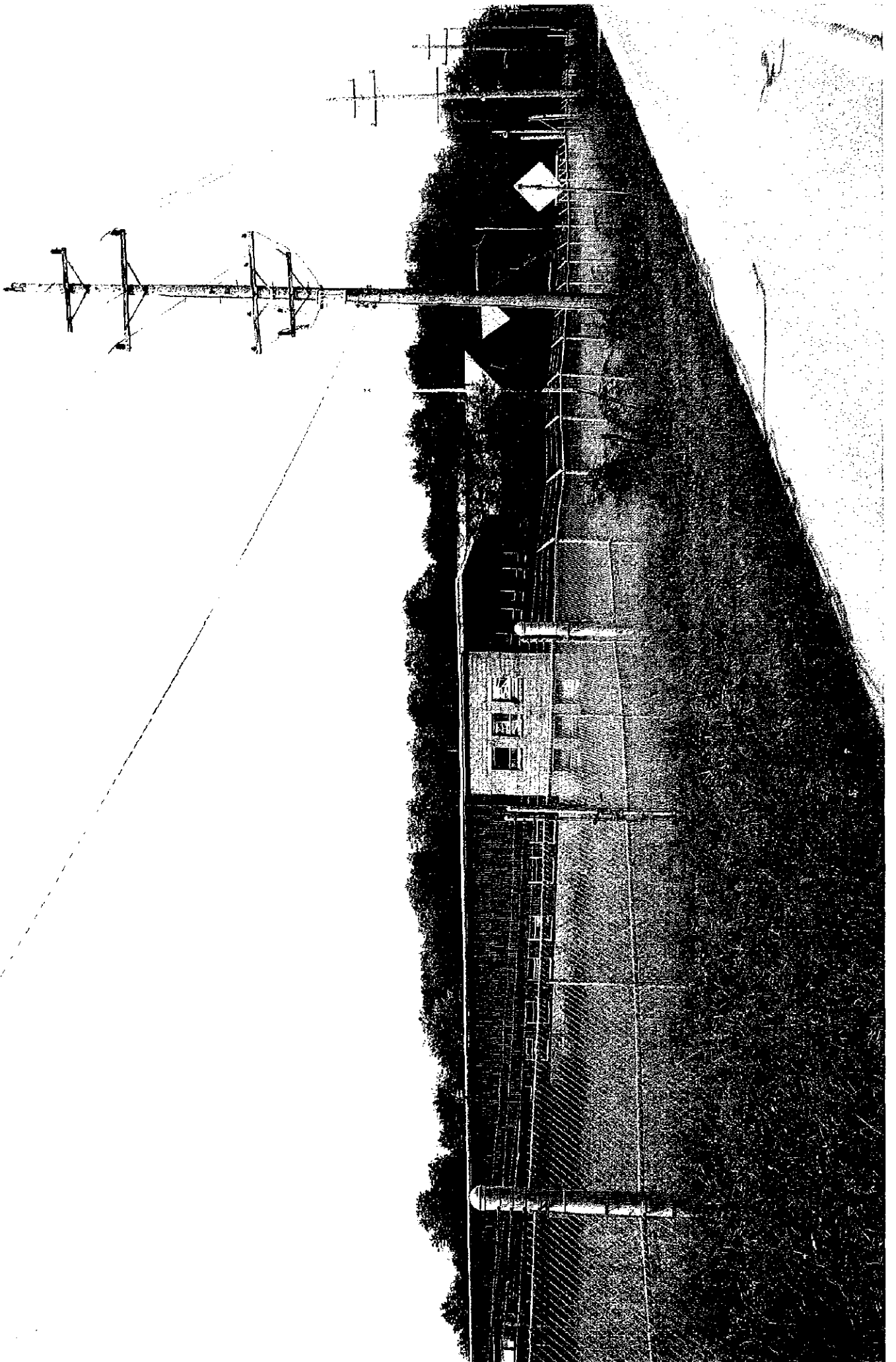
There are routes where the land is already cleared; there are routes that already have public access. I have yet to hear a reasonable answer to my question as to why they are not being used.

Why were the cross country and Clay Street routes chosen? Why did these seem to be the “most convenient routes” for First Energy? Did you think the trees, our front yards, our farmland; our wonderful natural resources didn’t mean anything to us? Did you think that for a few dollars we would FOREVER give away our heritage and our life’s work and see it leave and NEVER return? The answer is a resounding NO! We don’t have the means to fight like larger companies, we don’t have access to people of influence, but we believe saving the natural beauty of our area is worth all the energy and dedication we can give.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak, I know at 67 years of age I have little time to leave some heritage to my children, grandchildren and country. I was once told that I should decide what I wanted to be remembered for when I leave this earth, I hope my words today will be something you will remember and consider.

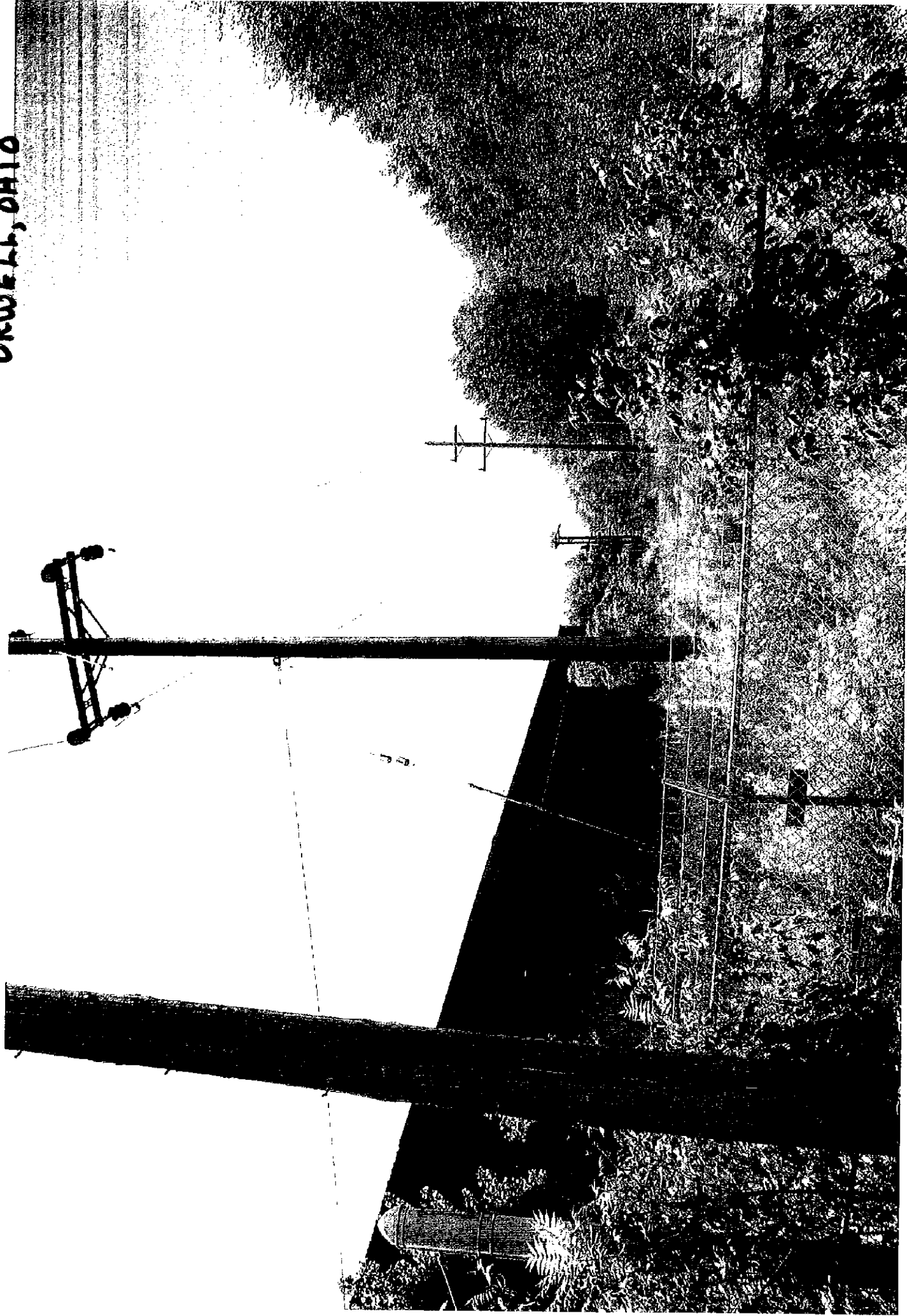
Middlefield needs power – yes. At least a small portion where manufacturing exists. We were told it was an “urgent issue” nine years ago when the Rachael Route was approved. In December of 1998 a statement was made that “the total circuit capacity of 220 MVA under the worst case scenario would not be exceeded until 2039, or for 40 years” Yet, again, you tell us it’s an “urgent issue” Presently three companies have left Middlefield, among them, Johnson Rubber and Carlisle’s, also known as Geauga Industries and Champion Steel in Orwell. Please see photos. *

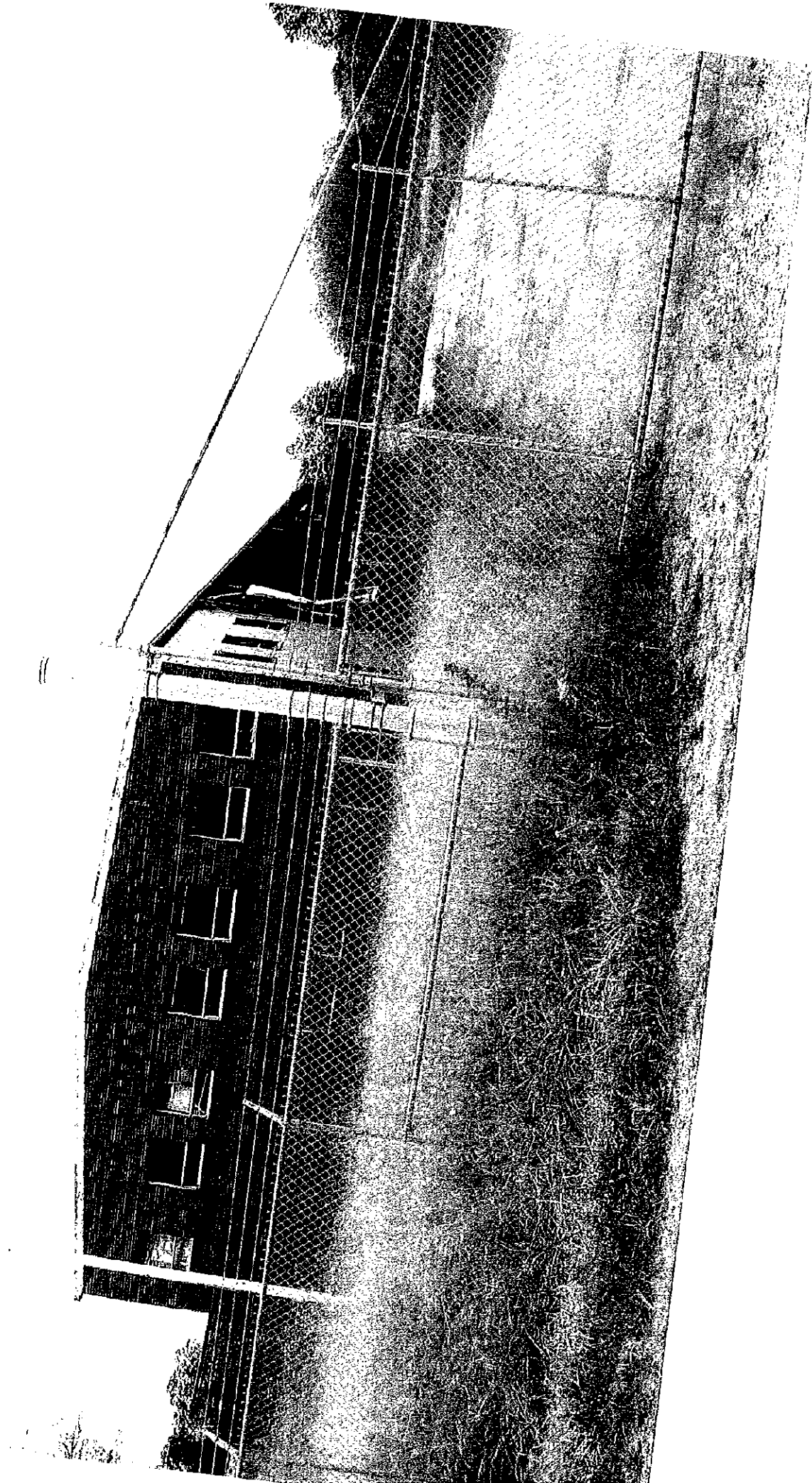
And not for lack of power. Kraftmaid has faced layoffs and it is understood they are facing them again. For lack of power? No! Let’s face it, the economy is faltering, companies cannot employ the same amount of people or keep their doors open if revenue doesn’t come into the doors as well. For the businesses that truly need more power, use corridors that already exist, expand on lines that already are there, place the power closer to the need! Be a good steward of your community.



8247 PENNIMAN ROAD
ORWELL, OHIO

CHAMPION STEEL







2007/06/13

EXHIBIT

CASE #07-071-EL-BTX

My name is Cyrene Zion, 11755 Madison Rd., Huntsburg. I have lived here for 52 years and raised my children here. My farm consists of 72 acres of farmland. My property includes woods, open fields and several wetlands. I have deer, turkey, rabbit and raccoons that provide for hunters and trappers that I allow access on my property. At this time, I only grow hay in my fields.

I do not believe we need more electric in the Middlefield area at this time. Several plants have closed and Kraft-M~~A~~~~I~~~~D~~ has laid off several hundred employees-both office and labor workers.

Sixty feet right away is needed across my land. I'm told approximately 4 poles will be needed with a possible anchored pole. These poles will be crossing natural wetlands. These flow through several other farmlands. They are damp most of the year. During the rainy season of spring and fall, they carry a lot of water.

I would be leery of erosion from the corridor--flooding not only my land but also the neighboring farms. Who will correct this? Is it possible to correct? Do we get sued for flooding our neighbor's land? Who is going to maintain the corridor? Who is going to stop the 4 wheelers, snowmobiles and motorcycles from using the corridor? If First Energy sends a worker to inspect on my property and he's injured, am I liable for his injuries? I don't want that risk or responsibility or possible suit that might follow.

We of CARE have noted several other routes such as Rt. 11, which would help out Andover, Wayne Township, Williamsfield, Cortland and Orwell. We've asked you to consider the old B&O route, now the bike trail, which would only be about 7 miles.

We've even asked to come down the property lines in the back of my property but you're too cheap to clear the woods yourself. The route down my property is over 14 miles!

I want to keep my farm "green"--no park system, no farm preservation and NO CEI poles!! I intend to leave my farm to my children and grandchildren and I don't want this corridor cutting through THEIR property someday. I am against this issue not only for myself but for my heirs as well.

First Energy has tried to use us as "scapegoats." We're the bad guys for not giving them access. I beg your pardon. First Energy--take a look at yourself. You can not even maintain what you already have. You tried to

put neighbor against neighbor--but we fooled you--we stuck together. You got Chardon involved; you got the township trustees stirred up. You've known for a long time of your trouble. The Mayor of Orwell talked with you over 5 years ago about more power. Kraft-Mand states that they have had problems for over 20 years. Why didn't you do anything about this?

Our county commissioners have not even tried to help us--Shame on them. We are citizens and tax payers of this county. They are only for big business as the Mayor of Middlefield appears to be.

Has the Mayor of Middlefield even considered the idea that the more power and big business he tries to bring into the area will eventually drive the Amish community away? The Amish community means a lot to this area for visitor and tourist purposes. If the Amish decide to leave, they will take away a huge tourist interest in Middlefield and the surrounding areas. This means a drop in sales for all businesses of Middlefield. Then what is the power lines worth?

Our taxes paid for the bicycles trails and the parks. WHO paid for OUR farms? No taxes paid for them--we did. And we should have a say about who can come onto our properties. The eastern part of Geauga County is the last of the rural land. We want to keep it that way--if people need more power then let them move closer to Cleveland and leave our small towns the way they are--rural!

EXHIBIT

Patricia Jonath
11975 Madison Rd.
Huntsburg, Ohio 44046

Our property, a 58 acre second generation farm, will be cut in half by the proposed cross-country route. The 60 foot wide corridor would cut through mostly agriculture land, with some woods and wetland. The impact on the agriculture land will be great by compaction of the soil. You can see this by picture # 1 of the corn field that the gas drilling company used as a driveway twenty some years ago. There is very little corn on the end and what there is, is very short. It takes many years, if ever, to make the soil tillable after heavy equipment has gone on it. Also with a 60 foot swath there will be trespassers, be it ATV's, dirt bikes, trucks, hunters or snowmobiles. They will destroy any crops that might be planted. Trespassers think a hay field is just grass, but someone has bought the seed, fertilizer, and planted the seed. If nothing is planted on the swath it will just grow up to scrub, which is what we have been trying to avoid. Pictures 2,3, & 4 The beauty of the land is the open fields of hay, oats, or corn. They all add much color to the scenery, along with the food they provide for the wildlife. Picture 5 We have many deer, turkeys, geese, and few pheasant that live on our property. We have a small stream that has water year around, which provides water for the wildlife. The proposed transmission line will cross over it, so who knows what will happen to the water supply. The stream is down a pretty steep embankment. We wonder what is going to stop erosion and pollution of fertilizer, since agriculture fields are on both sides? ATSM is suppose to leave the stumps, but most of them are pine trees that will rot relatively quick. My Father-in-law planted the pine trees to stop erosion. With erosion the stream will be

polluted with sediment and possibly gone. Earlier this Spring I found a 2-line salamander in the stream, which means a class 3 headwater stream---the highest quality.

Pictures 6&7 View from our deck. Most of the cross-country route is beautiful land because most of it sets on a high ridge, with a gorgeous view. I have visited many different properties along the route and many of them have this breath taking view. By seeing towers and silos as landmarks you can tell the view is about to the Pennsylvania line. Pictures 8 & 9. We have the most beautiful sunrises. My husband is disabled and this is one of his pleasures ~~is~~ watching the sunrises and the wildlife. The poles and wires would ruin that view. Picture# 10. This is a sunset with the electric wires from 528 showing across the whole picture.

The proposed route would cut our open field on Huntley in half. Picture #11. The poles and wires would be about half way down the field. It will ruin everything there, the view, land quality, our children building on the property, and land resale value. The line will open access thought all our property which will take away our privateness. If I want go out in my nightgown, I can and no one will see me now, but who knows who will be back there with the line going through. That is one of the reasons we bought the property from my Mother-in-law about 20 years ago. We usually see a hot air balloon every year. How many of you have seen one go over your property? A couple of times they have landed in the open field on Huntley, because they can drive up to the basket and load it easier. They won't be able to come anywhere near the electric lines, so this would be history.

When you live in the country you don't need a park, you have your own land that you can walk on or ride your 4-wheeler. Picture #12. We have paths in the woods for that and

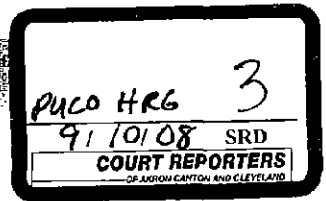
also the deer use them. What is going to happen to all the wildlife with all the changes and noise from the equipment. They rely on the agriculture crops and the tree branches to survive the harsh winters that the snow belt has.

Another problem I wonder about is what happens if a pole gets struck by lightning? We have had 4 buildings within a mile get hit by lightening. How are the firemen going to get back to the pole to control the fire? I have been told there is a lot of iron in the ground that draws the lightning.

I think a pre-existing corridor needs to be used instead of virgin land. We need to save what tillable land we have.

Thank you Judge Stoneking.

EXHIBIT



Picture # 1

Compression of the soil by gas well drilling 20 some years ago. The field still doesn't produce much of a crop as shown in the picture. Jonath



Picture # 2

Beauty of open fields with agriculture crops growing on them. Summer field of oats behind Jonath house. What a beautiful site.



Picture #3

A beautiful field of corn. Summer of 2007 behind Jonath house. The view we have from our house.



Picture #4

Beautiful hay field on Huntley Road taken a few days ago. What a view...
Jonath Field.



Picture #5

Turkeys eating the corn that was left after harvest. Fall of 2007. View from Jonath deck.



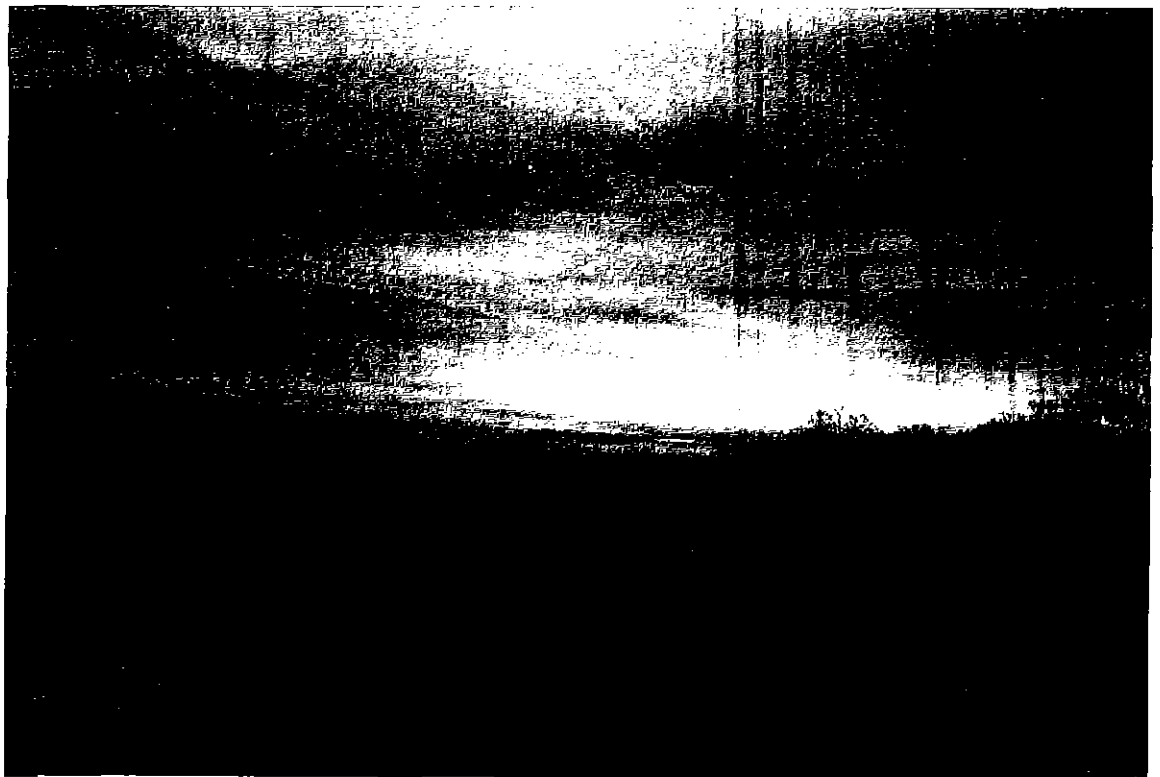
Picture #6

Fall view from Jonath deck 2007. What a site!!!



Picture # 7

Field after the harvest of oats. Picture taken a few days ago from Jonath deck.

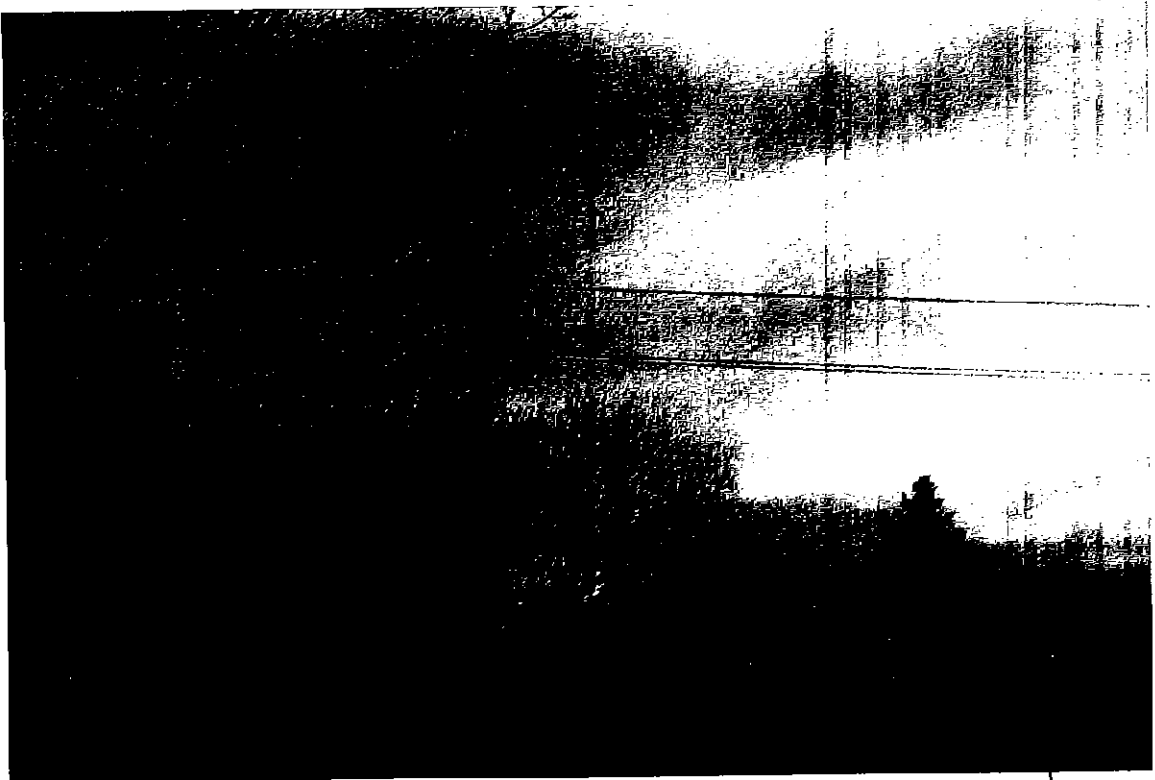


Picture # 8

A beautiful sun rise taken off Jonath deck 2007.



Picture #9
Another beautiful sun rise without electric line in the view.



Picture # 10
A sun set looking west with electric lines from 528 in the view.



Picture # 11

The wide open hay field on Huntley Road that will be cut in half by the proposed electric lines. A destruction of good agriculture land.



Picture # 12

Path in Jonath woods for walking enjoyment and a path for the wild animals to follow. Picture taken a few days ago.

EXHIBIT

Hello I am Francine Rhoten and I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to speak. I am a part owner of a small greenhouse nursery on route 528 and I also work for a large facility in Middlefield, OH. My family has worked very hard to maintain our land and way of life. We are God-fearing, honest people who enjoy the peaceful lifestyle our country setting has to offer. I was not going to speak at any of the meetings but a call has been placed on my heart to do so.

My purpose of speaking today is to present my personal experiences to you to help you with your judgment. I work-in a large facility located in Middlefield and understand the need for additional power to all these plants as well as the surrounding areas.

My main concern is for my property and the beauty of it being compromised. At the very first meeting held in Huntsburg I was told that the power lines were going to go south and Huntsburg would not have accesses to the power going through my property and that Middlefield may and I stress may have accesses and that the power was to go further south.

At this first meeting and others I have suggested putting the line under ground or moving them to a route already established. The answer was always, "No, because it would cost too much and furthermore, other routes were not plausible. This leads me to believe the decision was already made and these hearings now are only lip service to appease the community.

I love my land, as most people in this community do, and would not want to live anywhere else. I have lived in the city and have chosen to reside in a rural landscape that could be a postcard. The beauty of waking in the morning to birds singing and the sunrises take your breath away. In the winter waking to the quiet after a snowfall the feeling is unbelievable.

I ask how am I to let my grandchildren go out into the field, follow the creek, or go into the woods to explore if there are 80 foot poles with ~~183 KV~~ lines running through the land.

138 KV

I ask why is the burden of preventing 4 wheelers, hunters, and other people the property owner's responsibility when I did not ask for the power lines to be put on my property. Let the responsibility of preventing 4 wheelers, hunters, and other people from going where they are not allowed to be on the electric company

I cleared the trees to farm the land that is now in demand. If the lines are placed in the "preferred route," I will have to clear more land in order to gain what would be taken.

All I'm asking is to put the power lines underground so we do not have to look out everyday and see the unsightly poles and lines.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

EXHIBIT



September 10, 2008

Ohio Power Siting Board
Stacy Transmission Supply Project

Dear Board Members:

My name is Lee James and I am the Vice President of Manufacturing for Johnsonite. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Johnsonite has long been a supporter of the Geauga County Community. Being one of the largest employers in Middlefield and Auburn Township we take our responsibilities to our associates very seriously. The vast majority of Johnsonite families reside in this County. We provide a significant source of income to the local communities through shopping, dining in restaurants, and increasing the local tax base.

Johnsonite has four facilities; two warehouses in Middlefield, one rubber manufacturing plant located on 16035 Industrial Parkway in Middlefield, and one vinyl extrusion manufacturing plant located on 16910 Munn Road in Chagrin Falls.

Johnsonite has been able to develop and grow our business in Geauga County because of the talented labor force, the environment, and the availability of resources needed to grow our company. The Johnsonite brand has grown to be recognized as a leader in providing our customers innovative specialty flooring solutions. Tarkett, our parent company, saw Johnsonite's potential and purchased us two years ago. Tarkett is a multi-billion dollar flooring company that has facilities throughout the world.

In the past few years Johnsonite has been impacted from the availability of a reliable power source. We have experienced an average of one to two power outages a month for the last two years. We experience continuous fluctuations in incoming voltage. We have had to shut down our facilities on multiple occasions because our voltage has fallen below 415 volts. We have shutdown our facilities for extended periods at the request of FirstEnergy to avoid a complete failure of the electrical grid. Low voltages and fluctuating voltages cause motors and their drives to fail prematurely, and as a result, we have had several instances where new electrical equipment that should last for 5 years has failed in under one year.

The financial impacts of the equipment costs and the downtime are significant and they do impact our ability to maintain the ability to compete with our competitors. But, the cost of not providing our customers with on time deliveries of quality products deteriorates the very core of who we are. Johnsonite has become a leader by delivering on our promises. We operate all of our facilities on a 24/7 schedule. Any lost time is lost forever and cannot be reclaimed. A power outage of less than one second will stop our production process and result in the scrapping of all in-process materials. The financial losses from scrapping materials, losing production, repairing equipment, and restarting the equipment are important, but the loss of part of a customer's order has a longer lasting cost. When an outage causes us to miss an order the very promise that we have built our company on is compromised.

Johnsonite's dynamic growth has pushed our capacity constraints to its limits. We are ready to significantly expand our vinyl extrusion operations. We are also developing plans to install two new multi-million dollar production lines in our Middlefield manufacturing plant. This significant Capital Investment will also add much needed jobs for the local Northeast Ohio economy. Power capability and reliability is now an important factor in our decisions of where to build new facilities and expand production processes. Power availability should not be a prime consideration in our expansion plans.

Johnsonite takes pride in producing our products with the least amount of environmental impact as possible. We have implemented many energy savings projects to reduce our need for electrical power. Over the last two years we have reduced our power usage while our production has increased. These energy savings will not be enough to overcome the power issues that we face as a community.

We at Johnsonite, respectfully urge the Board to accept FirstEnergy's Stacy Line Proposal as soon as possible to secure our commitment to grow our business and support the local communities of Geauga County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee James', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee James
Johnsonite
Vice President of Manufacturing,

EXHIBIT

My name is Homer Zion, Jr. spelled Z-I-O-N and I reside at 7648 Valley Vista Road, Independence, Ohio 44131.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns related to Case 07-171-EL-BTX currently being considered by the Ohio Power Siting Board.

My mother is the owner of property located at 11755 Madison Road, Huntsburg, Ohio and between she and my late father have owned the property since 1950. The property is undivided and is still in the same configuration as surveyed when Huntsburg was founded in the early 1800's. It consists of 72 acres of farm fields, wetlands and forested areas. It was the home I was born and raised in.

I own a CPA firm in public practice that represents businesses similar to those that have previously testified during the past two hearings from both Middlefield and Orwell. As a businessman myself and a consultant to small businesses, I fully understand the need to have reliable power in order to operate and maintain a profitable and sustainable enterprise. The Applicant has indicated that this NEED is REAL, as evidenced by the application to construct the power lines, as proposed. Reliable electric power to the consumers of Geauga County is not the debate here.

What is in debate is this: Has the Applicant shown that the need for reliable power has been sufficiently debated and considered to determine that the current proposal before the OPSB is the best and most prudent option of those that were offered as solutions? Furthermore, should other alternatives, not even offered, be REQUIRED of the Applicant?

I attended the last two public hearings and heard testimony from three elected officials: the Honorable Mayors of Middlefield and Orwell and one of the County Commissioners of Geauga County, Mr. William Young. Their overall consistent argument was to "hurry" and get this proposal approved in order to assure the business constituents of their respective oversight that reliable power is on the way. In particular, Mayor Poole of Middlefield, cited excerpts of a letter that is available on the CARE website related to power concerns but did not specifically include the entire text of that letter. This letter, written by First Energy and the related minutes it sites, relate to a meeting of the "Middlefield Industrial Group" who met on December 9, 1998 with "FE representatives" and "two members of the OPSB Staff; Leon Winget and Diane Dewell." It is signed by Gavin L. Cunningham as Engineer, Transmission Regulatory Activities. I

have provided this letter in print here in its entirety with the minutes and I wish to submit both the letter and the related minutes of that meeting for complete inclusion in my testimony. I marked this Exhibit A.

In the letter, the subject of the then proposed Rachel 138kV Transmission Line Project (Case No. 95-600-EL-BTX), summarized in the third paragraph I read, in part, quote **“A synopsis of the meeting is provided as an attachment to this submittal. In summary, the implementation of the initial phase of the alternative strategy appears adequate for the present and short-term future. With the use of additional available capacity at Sanborn Substation, this strategy also appears adequate as a potential long-range solution depending on the nature and timing of area/regional load growth issues. FE plans to monitor power supply needs of the area electrical system in the near-term. At this time, however, FE cannot rule out a future need to construct the Rachel 138kV Transmission Line Project.”** The letter goes on to say, and I quote **“Current plans are to update the Middlefield Industrial Group three or four times a year. FE will continue to provide periodic updates for the OPSB Staff. We request this submittal be docketed in the Rachel 138kV Transmission Project File, OPSB Case Number 95-600-EL-BTX.”**

With respect to the minutes cited by the letter and included in the submittal, I quote in part, **“The peak load experienced in the subject area for 1998 was 84 MVA. Two substations, Mayfield and Sanborn, have the ability to provide electrical service to the area with their combined circuit capacity being approximately 200 MVA. However, some system changes will be necessary to prevent line equipment overloads and voltage problems due to future load growth. Relocation of one set of line regulators, addition of two new sets of line regulators and the reconductoring of an existing 36kV circuit are all steps that would prevent line equipment overloads and provide continued voltage stability in the area. Given the largest growth case scenario of a 3.5% area load growth rate, the area system is adequate to serve double the current load of 84 MVA through 2028, or for 30 years. In addition, the total circuit capacity of 200 MVA under the worst case scenario would not be exceeded until 2039, or for 40 years. Attached is a load projection chart entitled “area Load vs. Circuit Capacity” which contains details of the three load growth scenarios mentioned previously.”** The minutes go on to discuss Power Quality Monitoring in both what has been done and what is proposed to be done in the future by First Energy about the issues at hand in the meeting.

With this information as a reference, Mayor Poole's testimony of having been involved in the past since becoming Mayor, and citing that the letter was inaccurate about load projections, I want to testify, for the record, that these projections were based on First Energy's estimates in cooperation with this industrial group according to First Energy's letter. When Mayor Poole indicated that the projections were inaccurate, on what basis does he make this claim? He did NOT cite any such support.

What is quite evident here is that the issue of reliable power is not a NEW subject that just became an issue in early 2007. What seems to be stated by First Energy as sufficient capacity for 30 to 40 years in 1999 is now somehow woefully inadequate after only 9 years. During those last 9 years, I would respectfully request that your Honor, the OPSB Staff and the Board, itself, require the Applicant to submit complete information as to their efforts during that timeframe to address the problems that were cited in the minutes and determine whether their efforts towards this monitoring were indeed, **responsible**.

Their decision in early 1999 to delay the building of the Rachel Line project is now a fact. The businesses of the Middlefield have testified that they are in dire need of quality power. Where has First Energy adhered to the commitments set forth in the minutes cited? They promised solutions to the Industrial Group back in 1999. In consideration of the monitoring that was promised, it seems that prudent management should have consistently been concerned with the options before them, throughout the monitoring timeframe. Allowing the Rachel line application to EXPIRE certainly appears **VERY IRRESPONSIBLE** given what seems to have been already known by the Applicant.

As to the other public officials who have given their testimony, their opinions and concerns were for their respective constituencies with no deference to the people that will NOW be affected by this current proposal, namely the land owners of the proposed routes.

As to the now passed over and expired "Rachel Line", I would just like to say several things. First, you have heard testimony from a group of various citizens that either use the, now existing, bike path or live near it. Most of the concerns suggested by those opposed to this path were, IN PART, the same as the group living near, on, or affected by the Preferred Route and Alternative Route. The common concerns of both "groups" are safety and unsightliness. This however, is where common concerns end.

There IS a distinct difference between those two general groups. The difference does become evident when considering the group that have made arguments against the Rachel Line location have little or no private property rights interests in the land that would be claimed under the Rachel line. Those on the Preferred Route and the Alternative Route are directly affected by the intrusion on their personally purchased and privately owned land. Honorable judge, I believe that this is an extremely compelling difference to be weighed by you and your committee.

Second, the Geauga Park District now suggests it cannot allow any current construction due to a deed restriction committed to when they received it from the County. It certainly seems inequitable and illogical that a deed restriction agreed to by a land owner, in this case the Park District, is a viable legal block to an eminent domain proceeding for the general welfare, especially PUBLIC PROPERTY! In 1999, First Energy had both the case and the authority to have constructed the Rachel Line. It was obviously the “best” route at the time, as determined by them. Since the delay, it now has become significantly less a “preferred route”? This certainly appears odd when considering relative distances of the proposed lines among other things.

To summarize regarding the Rachel Line: Private property rights, especially agricultural property, should have superior consideration to that of public property or existing corridors for the maintenance of the general welfare of the community. The Applicant should be required to support a superior reason for the taking of private property only after exhaustion of existing public corridors and right-of-ways has been done.

While much is said in the Staff Report about the studies performed by URS Corporation, the Report itself suggests that the Preferred Route was 15th best total score when considering the top 15. How can this become the route of choice, I ask?

Basis of Need

Based on the information that I have just testified, I believe that the Basis of Need as required by the Applicant is questionable, disingenuous, distorted or a combination when it comes to the consideration of the needed current project. The Rachel line provided the need, back in 1999 when the Applicant made an informed decision NOT to go forward with this project. While the need may now exist for the Applicant and I am not here to confirm or deny that need, it certainly becomes a significant question to NOW subject

private property land owners to the emotional, economic and physical damage that they will suffer, as a result of the lack of prudent action on the part of First Energy in the past. Let me be clear, I do not advocate the Rachel line as an alternative in pitting citizens against each other. I only point out the relative differences between those who hold strong opinions for these options.

Our Farm

To my mother's farm and my "homestead." I would like to provide several pictures of our farm as flown over in the winter of 2006 and summer of 2007. I marked these pictures Exhibit B. The first picture shows the approximate proposed crossing of the land. The remaining pictures provide you with a perspective of the tranquility and beauty of eastern Geauga County farm living as it is currently. You may further imagine a 60-foot corridor cutting across the open fields and then clear-cut thru the wooded areas and adorned with 80-foot poles and high voltage power lines. The cross country route suggested as the Preferred Route and indicated as such in the Staff Report of Investigation suggests on Page 5, the 4th paragraph, that **"the Preferred Route heads generally northward, shifting to the east or west to avoid sensitive areas or follow the edge of property lines."**

A copy of the Preferred Route noted in Figure 3 of the Staff Report is provided as part of my testimony. I marked this Exhibit C and have highlighted my mother's farm in yellow. For more than one mile from south of Huntley Road to north of Chardon-Windsor Road the proposed path does no such thing as "following the edge of the property lines" but rather cascades across every open field possible, and in so doing, bisects more than 12 properties. This is also highlighted on the Exhibit in pink. My mother's property is one of these particular properties. As agricultural land, some of the fields being crossed are some of the finest agricultural property in Geauga County. One can only question the Applicant's purpose for destroying tillable, agricultural land, while simultaneously severing multiple properties in half.

It always is suggested under eminent domain rights, that fair compensation is an adequate remedy for a landowner's loss. I would ask that true consideration be given to this when considering the "loss of value" both, economically, agriculturally, and the intrinsic value of rural setting. In the case of my mother, a perfectly rectangular agricultural property will be virtually divided into two separate and distinct pieces by a sixty-foot right-of-way draped with electric wires and poles. There will be absolutely no legal roads or highways to access the property "behind" the poles and will require any future use, development, and enjoyment of the property to be permanently scared from this IRRESPONSIBLE pathway. Access to the

back land will require travel under these power lines and no consideration can replace that which will be permanently destroyed by this action of the Applicant.

My mother has lived there since 1956, I was born and raised there, and my children, nieces and nephews still enjoy the use of this property for family events, recreation, camaraderie, and yes even some old fashioned work on the farm, occasionally! There will be no objective ability to value the loss to my mother, or our family for this planned crossing of our family farm. The reason for this is simple: values are always subjective to a specific property in any transaction. There can be no doubt by rational, thoughtful people that the value of my mother's property will be permanently diminished.

In Summary, I would respectfully suggest that the routes being offered be considered as insensitive and irresponsible by the Applicant to those MOST affected by this intrusion: The owners of these properties.

I would like to thank you, the Staff and the Ohio Power Siting Board members for your time to hear my concerns and consider my testimony.

EXHIBIT

file

EXHIBIT A

5

FirstEnergy

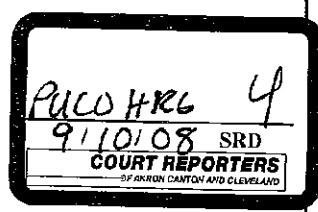
76 South Main St.
Akron, Ohio 44308

January 15, 1999

330-384-5151

Ms. Kim Wissman, Staff Chief
Ohio Power Siting Board
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Borden Bldg., 3rd Floor
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0573

PUCO



0254

Dear Ms. Wissman:

**Standard Application
Rachel 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Case No. 95-600-EL-BTX**

At the Ohio Power Siting Board's (OPSB) August 1998 meeting, FirstEnergy (FE) conducted a presentation that described an alternative strategy implemented in stages that had the potential to indefinitely defer the need to construct the subject project. The three main reasons to construct the Rachel Project were to provide voltage support, to improve system reliability, and to provide for future load capacity.

The initial stage of the alternative strategy consisted of reliability improvements and the installation of voltage control equipment. After completing the initial stage of the alternative strategy, an ongoing effort was established for local monitoring of the transmission supply, and for periodic meetings with area industrial customers on load growth and power quality issues. As an outgrowth of the OPSB presentation, FE was requested to provide the OPSB Staff periodic summaries of customer meetings and implementation status.

On December 9, 1998, FE representatives provided an update the Middlefield Industrial Group meeting concerning power quality monitoring and load growth issues in the area. Also in attendance were two members of the OPSB Staff, Leon Winget and Diane Dewell. A synopsis of the meeting is provided as an attachment to this submittal. In summary, the implementation of the initial phase of the alternative strategy appears adequate for the present and short-term future. With the use of additional available capacity at Sanborn Substation, this strategy also appears adequate as a potential long-range solution depending on the nature and timing of area/regional load growth issues. FE plans to monitor power supply needs of the area electrical system in the near-term. At this time, however, FE cannot rule out a future need to construct the Rachel 138 kV Transmission Line Project.

Current plans are to update the Middlefield Industrial Group three or four times a year. FE will continue to provide periodic updates for the OPSB Staff. We request this submittal be docketed in the Rachel 138 kV Transmission Project File, OPSB Case Number 95-600-EL-BTX. Included is an extra copy of this transmittal we request be time-stamped and returned in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (330) 384-4982.

Sincerely,

Gavin L. Cunningham
Gavin L. Cunningham, Engineer
Transmission Regulatory Activities

attachment
xc w/att:
xc w/o att:

MRBeiting
TCBurgess, LMCavalier, AMStefanovic, SFSzwed

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.
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Middlefield Industrial Group Meeting
Rachel Alternative Strategy Update

In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Johnson Rubber, Mercury Plastics, Bicon, Dillen Products, Polychem Dispersions, Kraftmaid Cabinetry, Carlisle Engineered Products, Gold Key Processing, Jaco Products, and Great Lake Cheese.

The meeting agenda covered two topics as follows:

1. Available Capacity for Future Load Growth
2. Power Quality Monitoring

The following is a summary of FirstEnergy's (FE) update presentation.

Future Load Growth Capacity

An analysis was conducted of area capacity to handle future load growth without construction of the Rachel Project. Three long-term load projections were presented; a normal load growth based on area historical trend of 1.75%, double normal load growth at 3.5%, and a middle load growth of 2.7%. These load projections were then studied to determine the year when the area load doubles. A doubling of the area load occurred in 2044 for the normal load growth rate of 1.75 %; in 2036 for a middle load growth rate of 2.7%; and in 2028 for a double historic load growth rate of 3.5%.

The ability of the area system to accommodate future load growth was then studied. The peak load experienced in the subject area for 1998 was 84 MVA. Two substations, Mayfield and Sanborn, have the ability to provide electrical service to the area with their combined circuit capacity being approximately 200 MVA. However, some system changes will be necessary to prevent line equipment overloads and voltage problems due to future load growth. Relocation of one set of line regulators, addition of two new sets of line regulators, and reconductoring of an existing 36 kV circuit are all steps that would prevent line equipment overloads and provide continued voltage stability in the area.

Given the largest growth case scenario of a 3.5 % area load growth rate, the area system is adequate to serve double the current load of 84 MVA through 2028, or for 30 years. In addition, the total circuit capacity of 200 MVA under the worst case scenario would not be exceeded until 2039, or for 40 years. Attached is a load projection chart entitled "Area Load vs. Circuit Capacity" which contains details of the three load growth scenarios mentioned previously.

Middlefield Industrial Group Meeting *Rachel Alternative Strategy Update*

Power Quality Monitoring

Previous Activities

Power quality issues of most importance to the Middlefield Industrial Group were voltage stability and reliability of service. An extensive line clearing program was instituted to address reliability concerns. To date, \$2.5M has been expended on tree removal and trimming on the circuits in the Middlefield and Ashtabula areas. Efforts continue on tree removal and trimming on the 36 kV lines in the area west of Middlefield. Voltage stability centered on low voltage during on-peak periods and high voltage during off-peak periods. Line regulators were installed on the 36 kV circuits to provide needed voltage stability.

As a result of the efforts outlined previously, the Middlefield Industrial Group has reported improved reliability and voltage stability over previous local system operating experience. Voltage has been maintained within the 2% regulator bandwidth since July 1998, and fewer power interruptions have been experienced compared to the same time period a year earlier.

Future Activities

To monitor power quality in the future, PQ node monitors were installed at selected industrial customers within the area. PQ node monitors were installed at Johnson Rubber, Dillen Products, and Sajar Plastics. Though not currently operational, a PQ node was also installed at Mercury Plastics. Power quality data will continue to be gathered from these nodes and the results reported to the Middlefield Industrial Group.

Summary

The Middlefield Industrial Group concluded the meeting by stating the group's goals as follows:

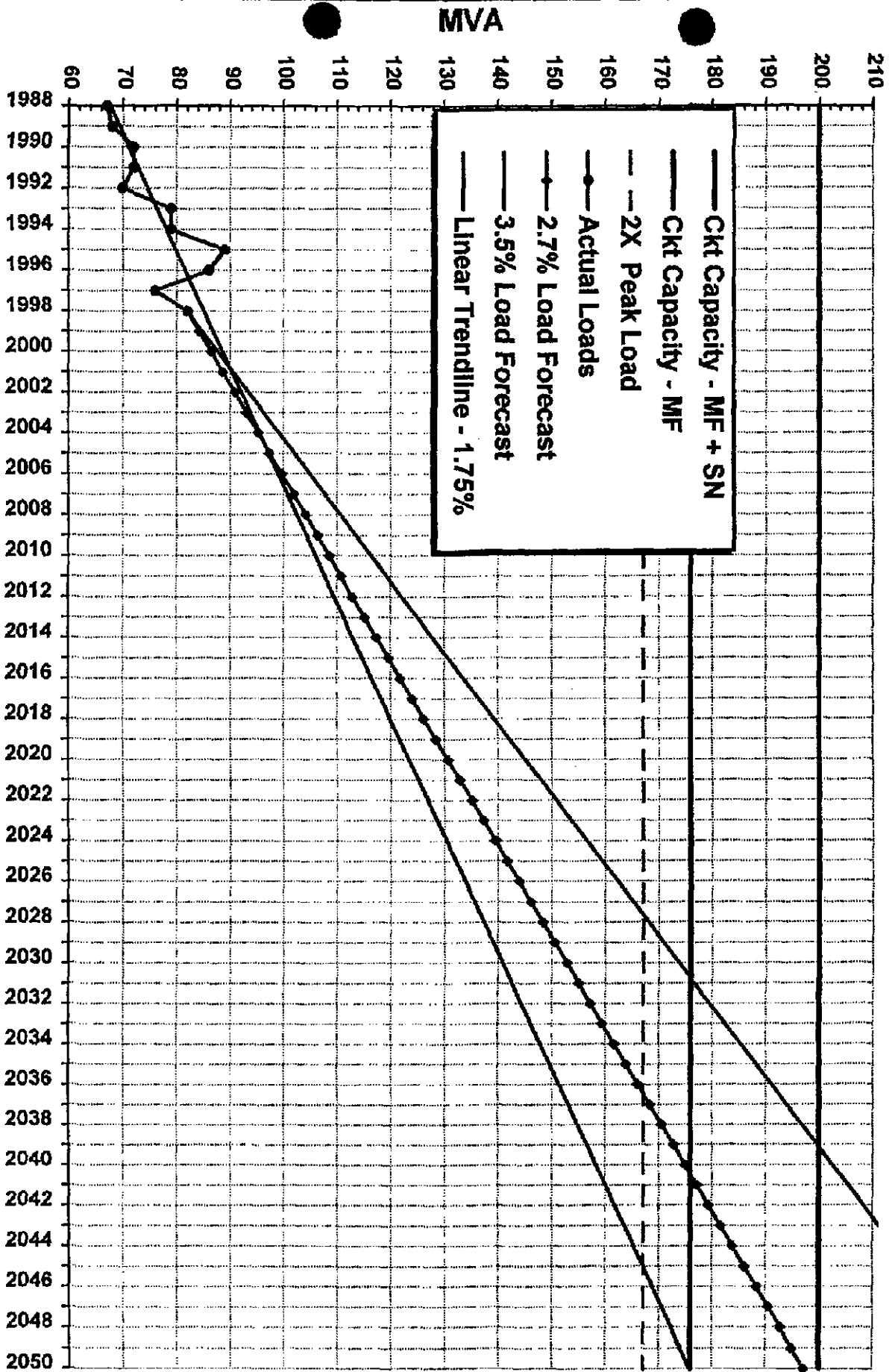
1. Power capacity needed for long-term growth
2. Reliable and quality power
3. Competitive price for power

The general consensus of the meeting attendees was FirstEnergy is committed to

Middlefield Industrial Group Meeting
Rachel Alternative Strategy Update

improving local system operating conditions in the Middlefield Area, in addition to providing adequate capacity sufficient to accommodate long-term area growth at least 30-40 years into the future.

Area Load vs Circuit Capacity

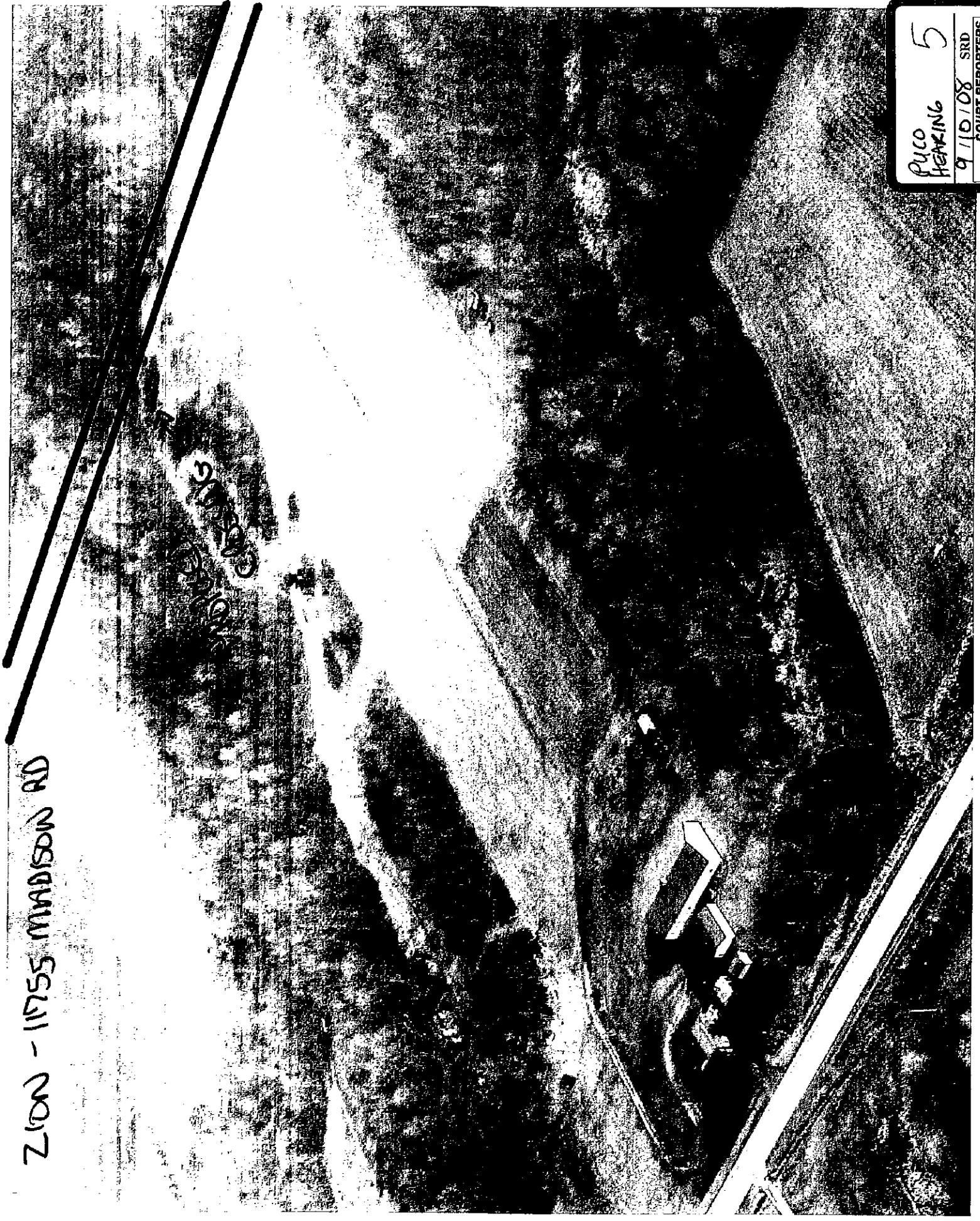


EXHIBIT

PUCO	5
HEARING	
9/10/08	SRD
COURT REPORTERS	
OF ARMY CANTON AND CLEVELAND	

ZION - 11755 MADISON RD

WINDYING



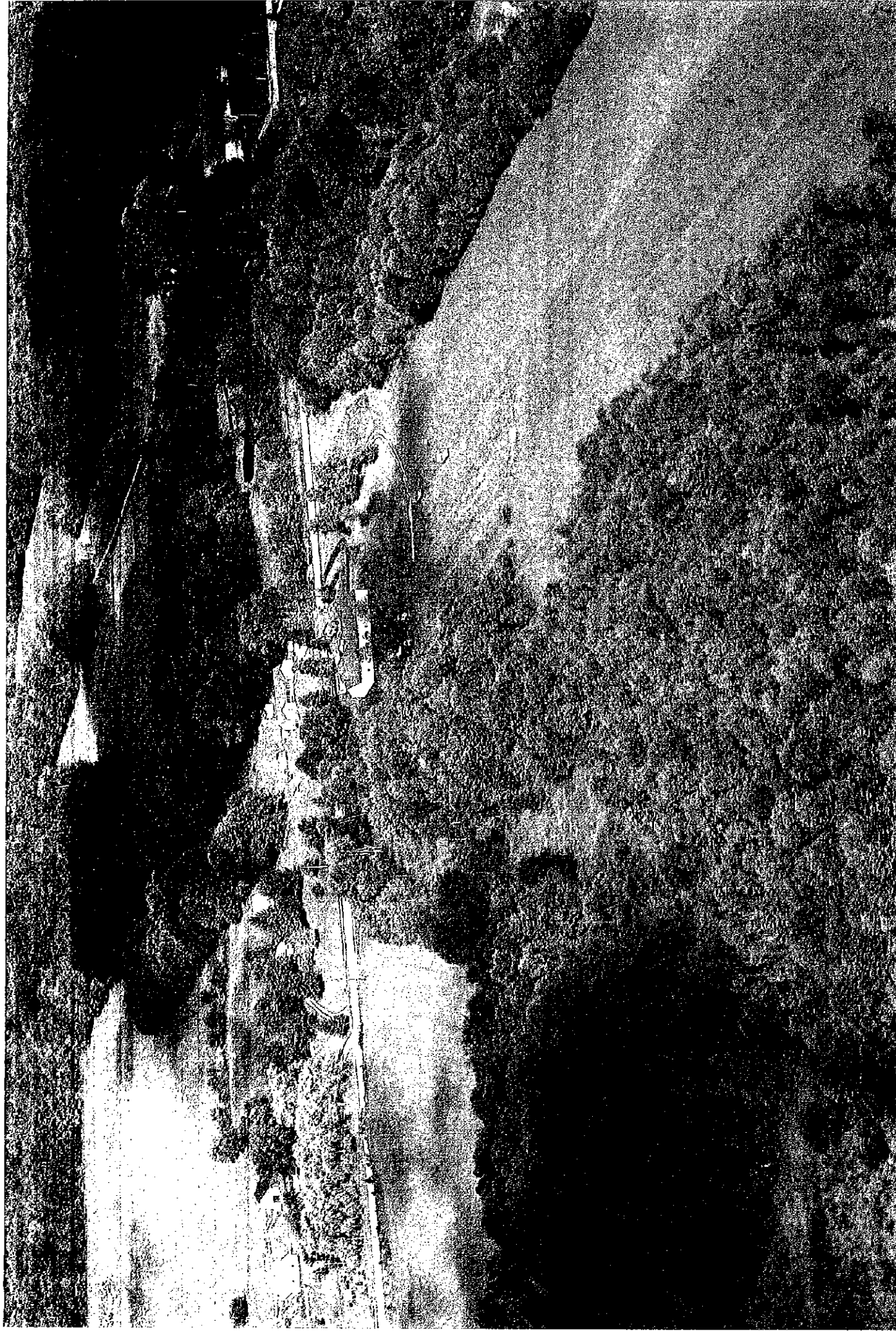
ZION - 11755 MADISON ROAD - HONTSBURG



VIEW FACING SOUTH EAST (FROM NORTHWEST)

2

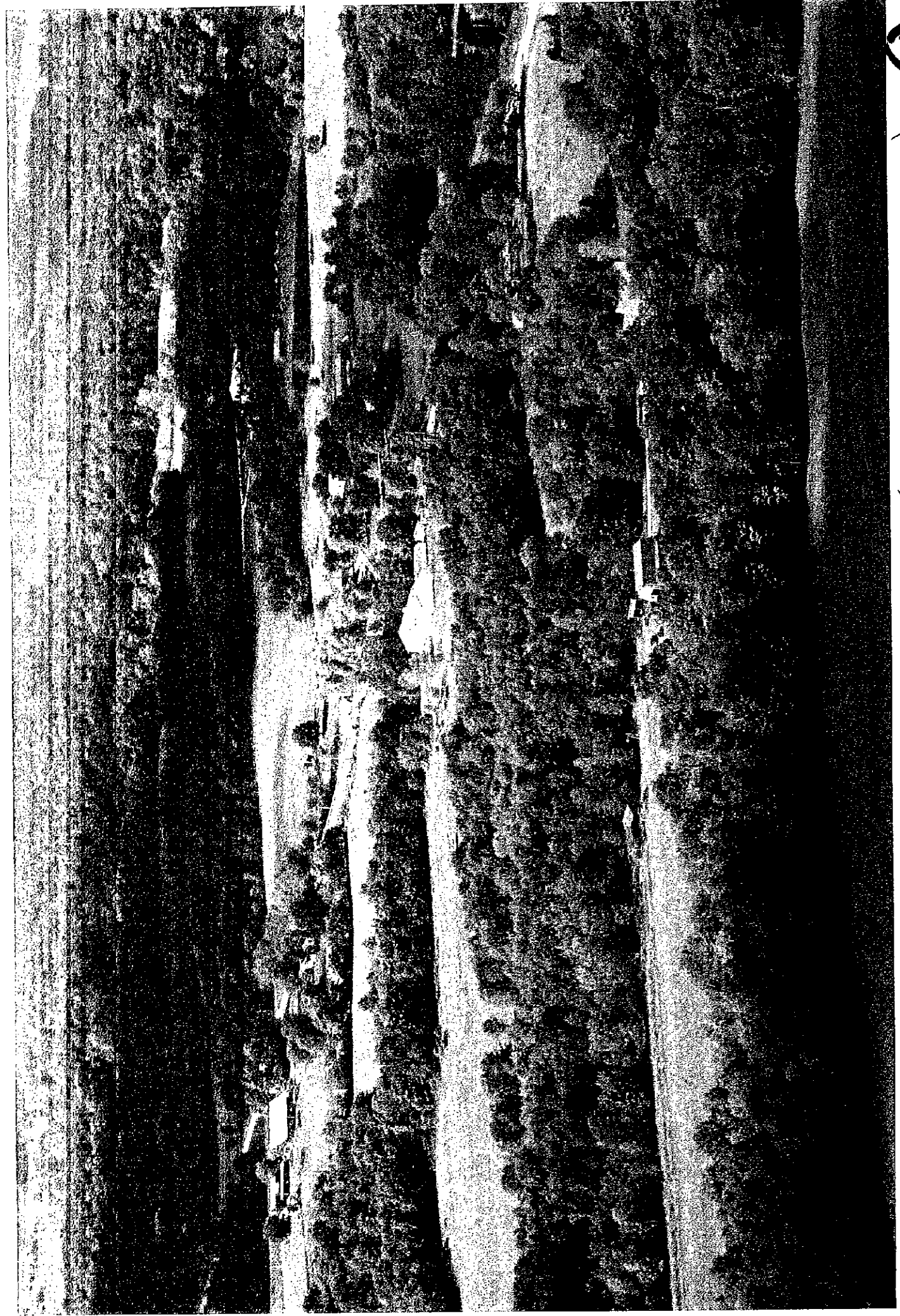
ZION - 11755 MADISON ROAD - HUNTSBURG



VIEW FACING WEST (FROM EAST)

③

210N - 11755 MADISON ROAD, HUNTSBURG

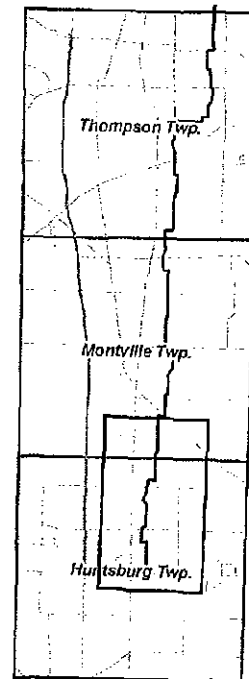


VIEW FACING SOUTHWEST (FROM NORTHEAST)



07-171-EL-BTX

First Energy
Geauga County 138 kV
Transmission Line



Project Area

- Preferred Route
- Alternate Route
- Parcels
- Townships

0 1,000 2,000

Scale in Feet

1:24,000

1 inch = 2,000 feet

NAD 83 SP Ohio North (Feet)

Route data provided by Applicant

All other data provided by
Geauga County Auditor

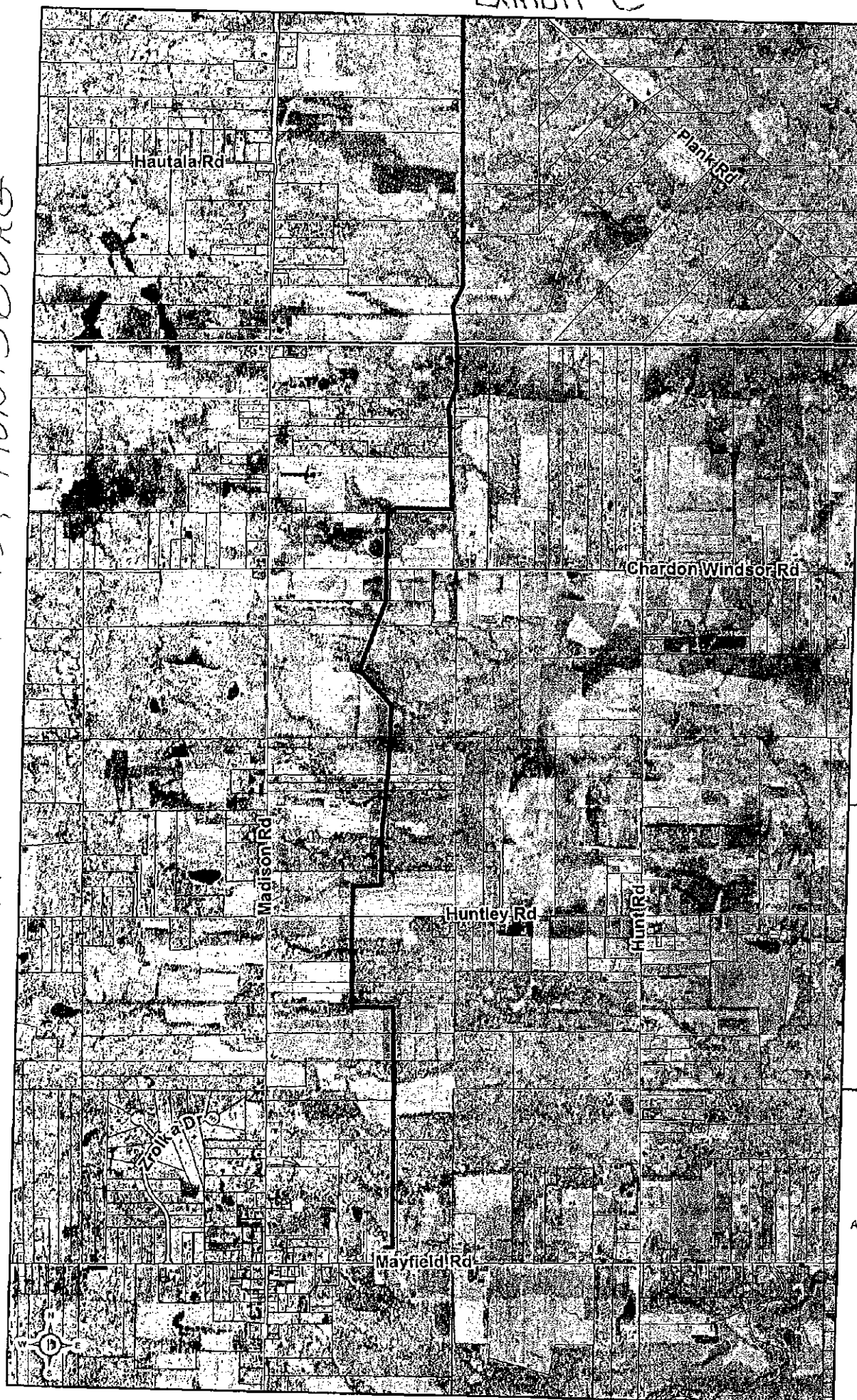
Aerials from Geauga County (2006)

Map created on April 9, 2008

For general reference only

Figure 3
Preferred Route

ZION-11755 MADISON ROAD, HUNTSBURG



EXHIBIT

My name is Robert J Takacs of 112 Park Avenue, Chardon, Ohio.

I have a BSEE from Ohio University and have worked for more than 35 years in private industry solving problems. I started my career with Dalton, Dalton, Little, Newport Architects and Engineers working on highway design, water treatment plants, housing complexes, military facilities and many hospitals. I have worked for Structural Fibers in Chardon and helped to design and build many machines that produce their tanks that provide drinking water all over the world.

I worked for Avery Dennison for to many years. Avery is a six billion dollar company with production facilities all over the World. As part of my job I have personally worked with major electric utility companys in Ohio, California, Indiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Luxembourg.

I have nothing but respect for the huge power companies that provide the great service we experience every day, when we turn on a bathroom light, watch TV or play on a computer. Electric power is civilization as we all know it.

That being said, if I get thru this presentation, I will be surprised if I have electricity when I get home. When "power" is in the name of a company it is real and it exists. They always get what they need and a lot of what they want.

I really have to apologize to my neighbors in Chardon and Geauga County because it was not until a few weeks ago, at the urging of my wife, that I really began to study this problem. But on the other hand I can provide you with a fresh look at what has been causing a lot of consternation in the State of Ohio.

FirstEnergy Corporation has consolidated the high voltage transmission systems of The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), Ohio Edison Company (OE), Toledo Edison Company and the Pennsylvanna Power Company under the umbrella of a wholly owned subsidiary, that is, American Transmission System Incorporated. The high voltage power distribution system in this area was consolidated on 1 September 2000.

ATSI transferred operational control of its transmission facilities to the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (Midwest ISO) effective 1 October 2003. This may have had something to do with the 14 August 2003 blackout that effected 4.3 million FE customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and a big piece of Canada. Big companies can make big mistakes.

It is very necessary to gain some understanding of an extremely complex system and the problems First Energy faces in providing this reliable service to all of us. There are two maps, a drawing and two pages of text that are essential to this understanding I'll explain each in succession.

< Provide Copies >

Page No 1 is map of First Energy's electrical distribution for Northeast Ohio, I modified a version of their "Existing Electrical Facility Map". All the "dotted lines" are the high voltage transmission lines that supply power to the Northeast Ohio area. The only important thing to realize at this point is that there is not any "dotted lines" running north and south between Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties. There are not any high voltage transmission lines between the CEI and Ohio Edison in Northeast Ohio.

Prior to the consolidation by ATSI each system CEI and OE had developed more or less independently. Cooperation and sharing of electric generation capability and customer load are an essential part any electric distribution network.

CEI supplies power to most of Northeast Ohio. The extent of their system was basically Orwell. This is why Orwell, Middlefield and many more of our neighbors are experiencing problems today. They represent the “old fringe” areas of the CEI electric power grid.

Being on the “end of a line” has some serious implications as the businesses in Middlefield and Orwell have expressed. Every time the electric power even “blips” it shuts down their machines, stops their process and really can damage critical equipment. Their support of any plan that First Energy offers, that promises improvement is in their view protecting their factories and livelihoods and is totally justified.

These power “blips” are the result of the design of a good electric distribution system. It is in essence the way the electric system protects itself from lightning strikes and tree branches that fall into the lines. The farther out in the system the more “blips” you will experience. These are essential and unfortunately “the nature of the beast”.

Geauga and Ashtabula Counties are currently serviced from the Mayfield Substation in Chester township and the Sanborn Substation in Saybrook Township in Ashtabula County. I’ve marked them with circles on Page No 1. You can see that both these substations are quite a distance from Orwell and Middlefield.

Page No 2 “ Figure 2 Initial Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties Route Corridors”. This is the most interesting drawing in the thousands of pages in this study. To be honest I have no idea why ATSI and FE left it in. I believe that an engineer working for URS in San Francisco knew his business, knew good design practices and had left it as a message for someone like me to find it. It is part of the Documentation “Geauga County 138kv – Transmission Line Supply Project – September 2007 Volume I”. Prepared by URS Corporation For ATSI and the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. OPSB Case No. 07-0171-EL-BTX.

Page No 3 is the accompanying text. To summarize the study identified and evaluated a corridor in Ashtabula and Trumbull countries that could extend ATSI's existing circuits in both CEI and OE service territories that could supply a new substation in Ashtabula County, in Orwell and had a technical potential to address the need for the project.

ATSI and CEI determined that the appropriate technical solution was to focus on extending an existing ATSI 138kv transmission line to supply a new electrical load center of CEI's Mayfield-East. This site was specified as part of the "Rachel 138 kv Transmission Line Project" Case No 95-0600-EL-BTX" by CEI in 1995. This is long before the consolidation by ATSI in 2000.

Page No 4 shows the area of this part of the study. Those two vertical Lines that are marked "A" and "B" are in approximately in the same locations transferred from the drawing on Page No 3. As you can this covers a much larger area of this State and therefore should be a matter of consideration to the PUCO and the OPSB since they both have "Ohio" in their titles.

Earlier I mentioned that there were not any high voltage transmission Lines north and south in this area. That means there are no high voltage transmission lines connecting CEI and OE in this area. It is amazing that ATSI showed very little interest in this part of the study since they are responsible for control both CEI and OE. High level interconnections between two companies like this represent good design and exponentially increase the reliability of the combined electric networks.

Further on Page No 4 I have sketch in ATSI and CEI's solution to the Problem. The "preferred" route paralleling Route 528 and the "alternate" down Clay Street. In the scope of consideration of this project they represent a very short "set of jumper cables". It does marginally recognize the need for improved service in Middlefield and Orwell and very little else.

“The route selection study began with a technical requirement from ATSI to connect a new substation along Mayfield Road with the existing Ashtabula-Mayfield 138 kv transmission line in Geauga or Lake County (depending on the tap point).” I have included a copy as Page No 5. Remember this is a CEI solution that is over thirteen years old.

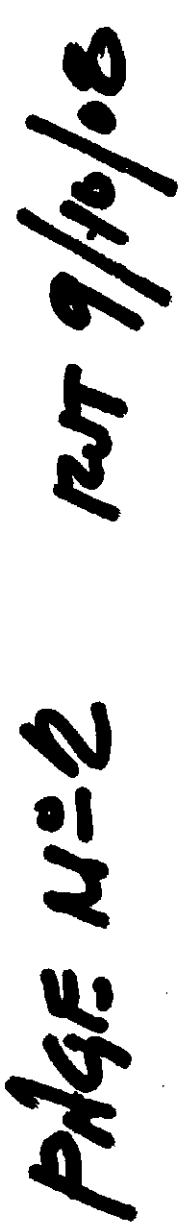
I hate to think of the “manhours” that have been spent of this project. All the work FE, CEI, ATSI and URS have gone thru to present the “Gauga County 138 kv Transmission Line Supply Project”. All legal expenses that have been incurred. All the letters from my neighbors in Gauga county who are defending their homes and properties. All the work that the PUCO and OPSB have done and will have to complete in the future before this problem is resolved.

The documents are beautiful piece of work however all the efforts in opposing this plan are totally justified. This project as presented by ATSI and CEI is seriously faulted. Their solution does not recognize their own potential. Does not significantly improve their system. It provides no benefit to the people of Gauga County that it so seriously affects. Big Companies can indeed make big mistakes.

In conclusion I would like to say that this evaluation does suggest taking the problem and moving it to “some else’s backyard”. But consider that the people in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties that would have to make a significant sacrifice of their properties would directly benefit from that sacrifice. This is a much different set of circumstances the people on RT 528, Clay Street or Chardon who may be asked to sacrifice their land or town for no personal benefit at all.

Thank you very much for listening. I hope I have given you all a different technical point of view in an extremely difficult set of circumstances that we find ourselves in.

< take questions >



ATSI

Illustrative Company
a holding company

Garage Doors for the Electric Transition

FIGURE 2
INITIAL ASHTABULA AND TRUMBULL
COUNTIES ROUTE CORRIDORS

LOG NO. 104622

Urethra

subtransmission and 138 kV transmission circuits, and terminated at the location of new substations in the Parkman and Middlefield Village areas.

Figure 2 shows the corridors identified and evaluated in the Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties corridor screening evaluation. This evaluation identified potential routes of new transmission and subtransmission circuits that could extend from ATSI's existing circuits in both CEI's and OE's service territories that could supply a new substation in southern Ashtabula County and conceptually had a technical potential to address the need for the project. The routes identified in CEI's service territory initiated at multiple locations along ATSI's existing 138 kV circuits located in Ashtabula County. The routes in OE's service territory initiated at multiple locations along ATSI's existing 138 kV circuits located in Trumbull County. The evaluation considered both terminating the transmission line at a new substation in southern Ashtabula County and supply the new substation along a transmission line that extended through the entire area.

The screening evaluation information collected and analyzed was provided to the Applicants and was included as part of the Applicants evaluation of project alternatives. The Applicants determined that the appropriate technical solution was to focus on extending an existing ATSI 138 kV transmission line to supply a new 138 to 36 kV substation located near the electrical load center of CEI's Mayfield-East and Sanborn-South 36 kV circuits.

2.1.2 Study Area Delineation and Substation Locations

The identification of the study area for the route selection process was driven by the identification of end points for the proposed electric transmission line. The study area delineation was based on a combination of data collected for the preceding area screening study work, a review of United States Geologic Survey (USGS) maps, state and county road maps, aerial photographs, and visual observations of the area. Constraints such as major water bodies, urban areas, transportation routes and existing utility corridors, and the locations of the relatively fixed end points played key roles in determining the study area dimensions and routing selections.

**ASHPURNA
GENERATING STATION**

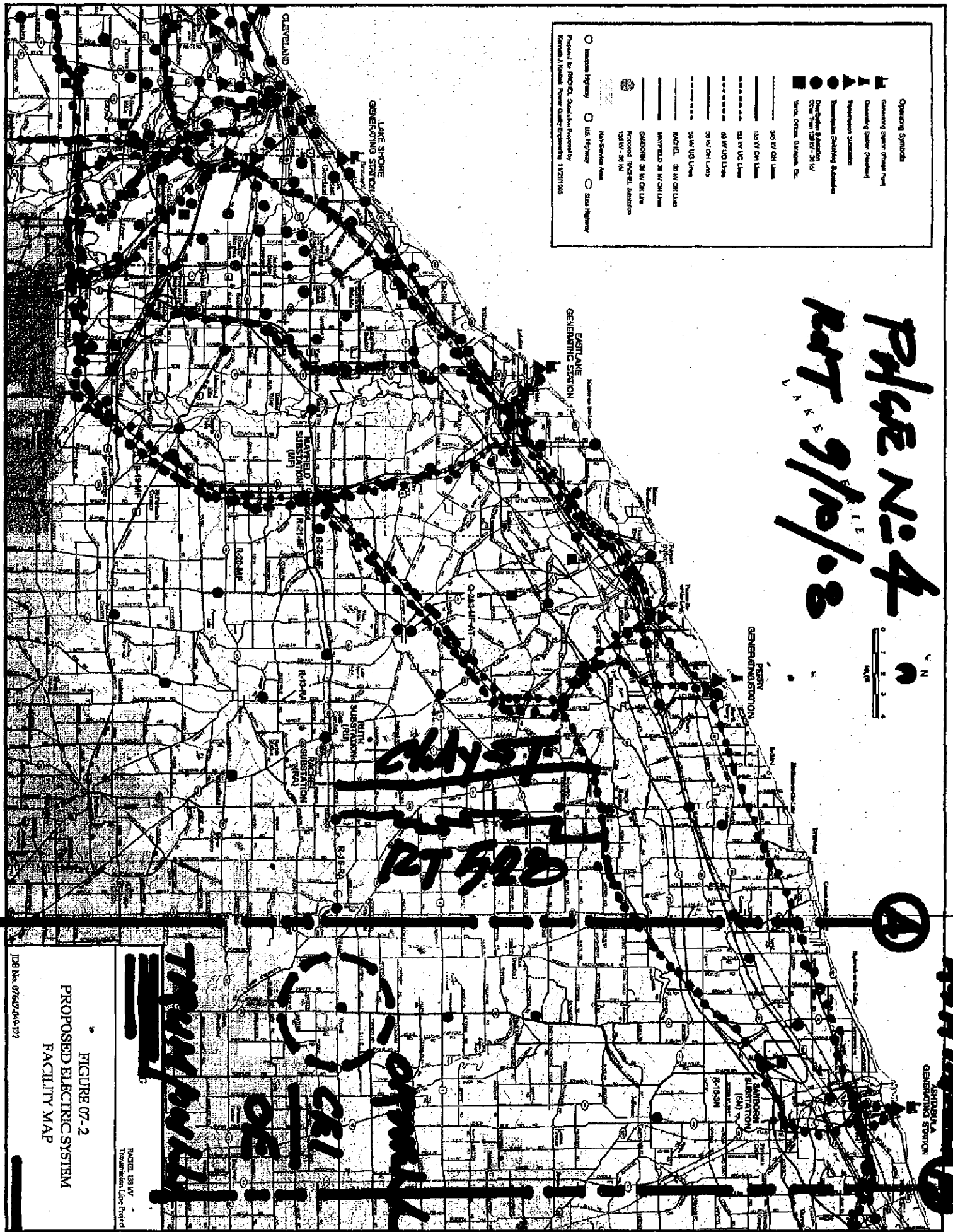
THU

1961

1961

FIGURE 07-2
PROPOSED ELECTRIC SYSTEM
FACILITY MAP

DOB No. 07647-049-122

[illegible]

proposed routes were also provided with partial copies of the aerial photo mapping of the routes showing their property and were encouraged to draw on the aerial photo mapping as necessary to better convey specific comments about the project near their property.

The Applicants have reviewed and considered each provided participant comment. URS was asked to consider and evaluate comments related to the routing of the proposed routes. Several comments resulted in minor modifications to the proposed routes. These modifications were not considered to significantly change the character of the routes.

7.0 IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED AND ALTERNATE ROUTES

Based on the final route scoring, the detailed windshield reviews, and the Public Information Meetings, the cross country route (called the East Route in the public information meeting) was selected as the Preferred Route. This route keeps the transmission line away from large concentrations of the population while keeping ecological impacts to an acceptable level. No unique habitats or exceptional ecological resources were identified along the Preferred Route. Public opinion at the two public information meetings was weighted heavily in favor of selecting the cross country route as the Preferred, and recognizing that there were more voices along Clay Street than in the more rural cross country area, this weight of opinion was taken into consideration.

The Clay Street route, known as the west route at the Public information meeting, was selected as the Alternate Route. Clay Street provides a direct route from the potential substation site to the existing transmission line. The route does not pass through densely populated town or villages and there are no major intersection developments. Resident population is relatively sparse compared to the other road corridors and access for construction and maintenance would be excellent.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The route selection study began with a technical requirement from ATSI to connect a new substation along Mayfield Road with the existing Ashtabula-Mayfield 138 kV transmission line in Geauga or Lake County (depending on the tap point). Existing linear corridors were carefully evaluated along with alternative cross country options. Based on the four categories of attribute data collected (i.e. land use, ecological, cultural and engineering), the best overall scoring corridor was Clay Street. The numeric scores also favored State Route 608 but subsequent field inspection revealed significant engineering

Overview of Middlefield Power Quality Concerns – 1982 to Present

For September 10 Siting Board Hearing in Huntsburg
Hearing on the Stacy Transmission line

Brief History of Power Quality Issues for Middlefield Businesses

Michael W. Brakey

I am president of Brakey Consulting Inc. and I presently reside at
3309 Glencairn Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Dec., 1977 I joined Johnson Rubber and worked in a number of energy related
capacities over the following 22 years, until 1999.

Feb., 1999 I left Johnson Rubber and started by own company to focus on energy
related issues for concerned Geauga County businesses around
Middlefield. We formed an energy group called simply MICA. M-I-C-A
stands for the Middlefield Industrial and Commercial Association.
Johnson Rubber was one of our founding members.

As an energy consultant for many Geauga businesses, I have been
asked to present letters of support for the Stacy transmission line by
some of the local businesses that were unable to attend this last local
hearing.

Brief History of Power Quality Issues for Middlefield Businesses

These letters are from: Duramax Marine, Dillen Products, Flambeau Products, Middlefield Cheese, and Normandy Products.

These letters have either been written to the Power Siting Board and/or other community leaders.

As with the other industry representatives who've testified in the local public hearings on this issue, they all carry the common theme that the need for reliable power is critical for their operations

I believe I am in a unique position that I believe I can bring a historical perspective of power quality issues Geauga businesses have be challenged with since the early 1980s.

1981 Plain Dealer article indicates 80% of all Geauga industry in Middlefield.

Spring, 1982 Due to high cost of energy I take on the role of energy czar at Johnson Rubber and work closely with head electrician, Steve Metheny.

1983 Severe voltage variations impact newer technologies. Significant waste generated. Harmful to advanced extrusion technologies.

Brier History of Power Quality Issues for Middlefield Businesses

June, 1984

Dick Smith, CEI's industrial rep, indicates electrical loading in Middlefield is at projected 1995 forecasts in 1984. System is overloaded.

Due to high weekend voltage, often times incandescent light bulbs changed on Monday mornings.

July, 1986

Tremendous scrap on extrusion processes and new technology. Power quality worsens.

Around the same time, as Ray Warner, former executive vice president of Johnson Rubber testified, at the second local Stacy hearing held in Huntsburg, we eliminated any consideration of Japanese joint venture in Middlefield due to ongoing concerns of power quality and supply issues. We were fortunate ultimately work closely with Ohio Economic Development to locate this joint venture, DTR Industries, in Bluffton, Ohio.

Jan, 1988

Consider moving some extrusion technology out of Middlefield. More labor intensive molding and injection technology favored in Middlefield due to less dependence on power quality. This would ultimately support of Johnson Rubbers undoing twenty years later.

Jan, 1989

Combinations of voltages and power interruptions damage expensive microwave and injection equipment software. \$5,000 repairs on microwave magnetrons alone.

Brief History of Power Quality Issues for Middlefield Businesses

Oct, 1992 First organized meeting of Middlefield companies with CEI @ JACO
Products with Dick Smith and Dave Shockey of CEI

Nov, 1994 New CEI management acknowledges major power quality issues.

Apr, Jul, Nov, 1995 Series of major meetings to determine short-term
improvements to power quality issues.

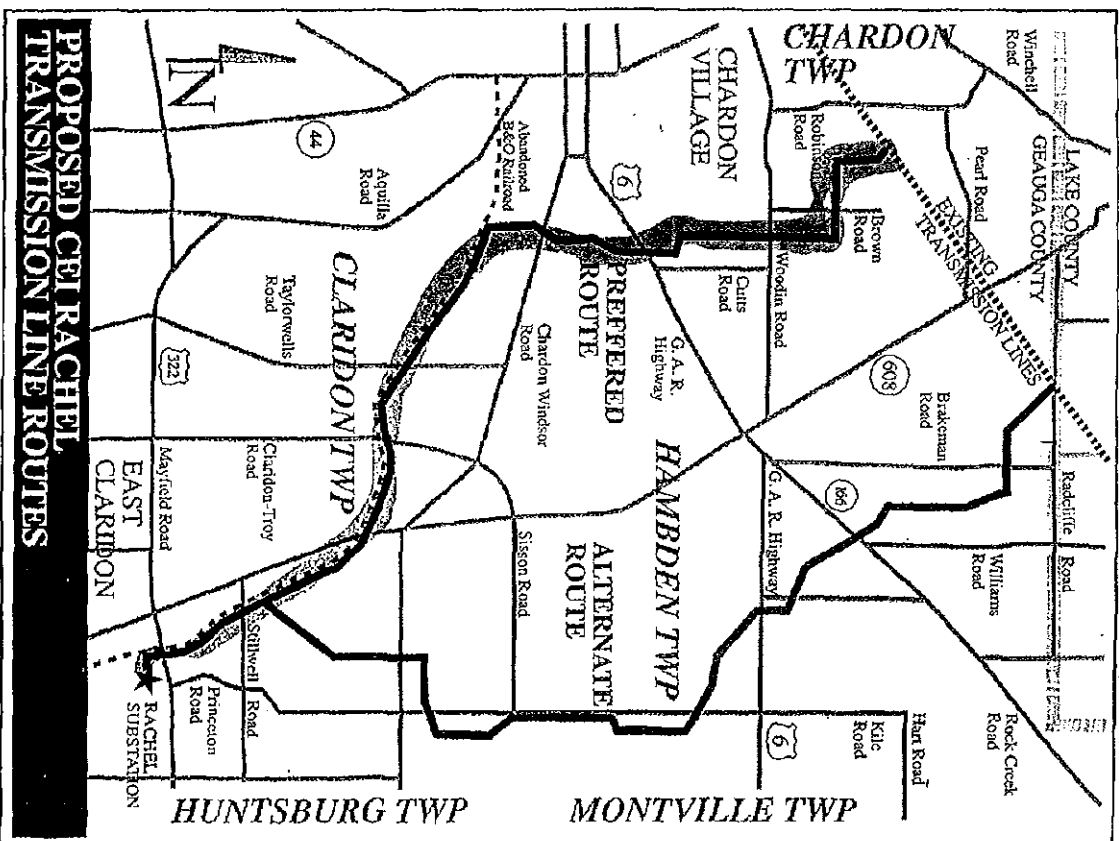
Jan, 1996 Follow-up review of short-term improvements for Middlefield

Sep, 16, 1996 Announcement of intention of merger between Ohio Edison and
Centerior to form FirstEnergy

Oct, 1996 Meetings to review critical importance of Rachel Transmission Line

**Nov 7, 1996 -
Local PUCO public hearings on Rachel**

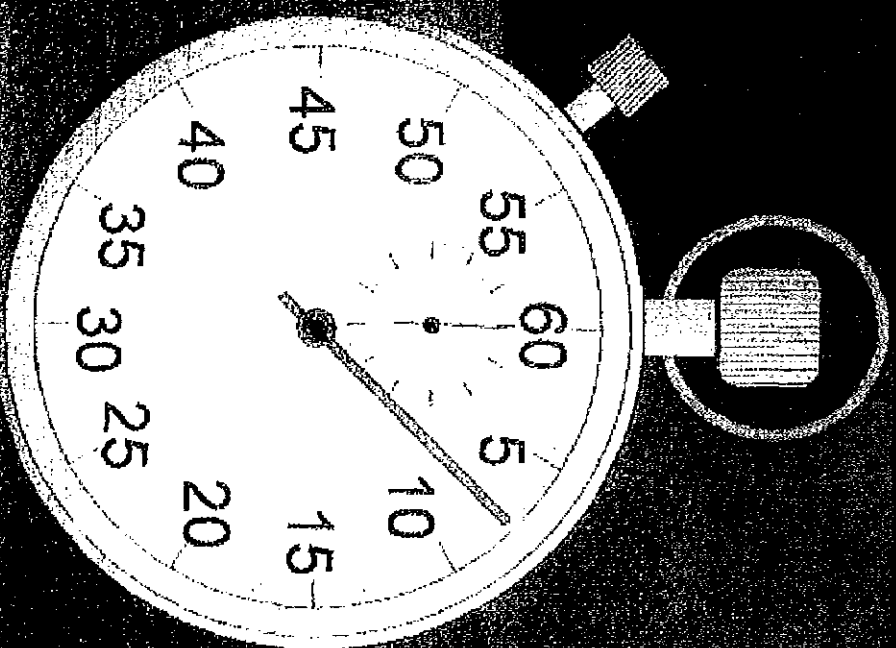
**Nov 12, 1996 -
Columbus PUCO public hearings
on Rachel**



WHY THE JOHNSON RUBBER CO. SUPPORTS THE RACHEL POWER LINE FOR GEAUGA COUNTY.

Overview of the Past & Present Electrical Problems, 1976-1996

Michael Brakey
Manager of Special Projects



Feeling May, 1997

Today's in the

Power-line battle continues

Country transmission line with reality

**CEI's
Power
line
a go**

**Regulators OK
Rachet's route**

PA. 17, 1997

So, what happened to the approved Rachel Transmission line?

Sep, 16, 1996 Announcement of intention of merger between Ohio Edison and Centerior to form FirstEnergy

Ohio Edison asked to see if they could utilize their “rural” expertise to overcome many of the power quality issues plaguing Geauga County and Middlefield.

Our Middlefield group were receptive and agreeable to seek out all alternative options before pressing for a major transmission line.

The Rachel certificate was set aside. Between 1997 and 2002, power quality was improving but...

...power requirements continued to grow all along the entire Mayfield system in multiple counties including Geauga County.

Power quality problems began to worsen again after 2002.

Return of Major MICA/FE Meetings on Power Quality in Middlefield

Dec. 11, 2003 Review of Nov 11 blackout in Burton & Middlefield that alarmed everyone. Were we headed in wrong direction?

Nov. 2, 2005 FirstEnergy expending a lot of funds on quality. Unfortunately quality was worsening between late 2004 and 2005, despite all their efforts.

June 15, 2007 Power quality and reliability continue to fluctuate while demand for power continues to grow. We are drawn to the conclusion we have no alternative but to revive the 138 KV transmission line proposal. It will be called Stacy.

Dec. 11, 2007 The MICA group formally files its support with the Ohio Power Siting Board and other stakeholders.

May 23, 2008 We're still waiting for approval of a transmission line that will provide reliable electric service to the region.

In June 2008, after a rich 113 years history in Geauga County, Johnson Rubber was forced to closed its doors.

One of Johnson Rubber's rich legacies is that it has spun off many businesses throughout Geauga County over the last century including my own.

You have heard from many local Geauga County businesses in support of Stacy in these local hearings.

In closing, to keep Geauga County as one of the best locations in the nation to start a family, start of business, and grow both, I implore the Ohio Siting Board to approve the Stacy Transmission line and build it as soon as possible.

Thank you.

**Michael Brakey
President**

**Brakey Consulting, Inc.
(216) 751-1758**



**Hans Rothenbuhler & Son, Inc.
Middlefield Cheese House, Inc.**

15815 Nauvoo Road
Middlefield, Ohio 44062
Phone: (440) 632-5228 • Fax: (440) 632-5604

August 26, 2008

RE: Case # 017-0171-EL-BTX

As the owner of Hans Rothenbuhler & Son, Inc.(aka. Middlefield Cheese), I am writing in support of the new transmission line that FirstEnergy is proposing to build in Geauga County.

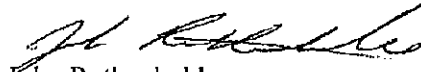
Middlefield Cheese depends on a reliable power source. Our plant supports over 200 families through direct employment or indirect employment of the farmers that supply over 1,500,000 pounds of milk per day. Power outages and poor quality power have caused many problems for us. The frequent outages, cause quality defects in our products, have damaged our electrical controls, hurt our productivity and has on numerous occasions caused complete product loss. Even minor momentary flashes in the power, costs us nearly an hour to recover from. Speaking environmentally, power outages have impaired the wastewater treatment process and have caused upsets that have taken as much as a week to recover from.

Representatives from FirstEnergy have explained to us that without this new transmission line, providing reliable electric to our area will be a challenge. We can attest to the steady degradation of the power quality over the past several years. Their existing circuits and substations are becoming overextended because of high usage and growth. It will be increasingly difficult to maintain voltage levels within the acceptable ranges our equipment demands. We believe that new power transmission lines to the area are a must and are probably ten years overdue.

There have been several proposals set forth to the Ohio Power Siting Board. It is critical that a viable solution be selected so that this process can go on without delay. We would encourage the selection of a solution that will NOT trigger a protracted legal battle that will delay the project even longer.

For years we have asked the utility to do something to improve the situation. We ask that you select a path that is a viable solution to the electrical energy problems we have been having in this area.

Sincerely,


John Rothenbuhler
CEO



Flambeau® INC.

A MEMBER OF THE NORDIC GROUP OF COMPANIES

15981 VALPLAST RD. P.O. BOX 97
MIDDLEFIELD, OH 44062 U.S.A.
Phone 440.632.1631
Fax 440.632.1581
www.flambeau.com

A QS and ISO Certified Company

May 30, 2008

RE: Case #07-071-EL-BTX

Attn: The Ohio Power Sitting Board

My name is Jason Saucy, and I am President of Flambeau, Inc., located in Middlefield, Ohio in Geauga County. I am writing you in support of the new transmission line First Energy is proposing to build in Geauga County and to urge you to act to expedite the approval process to make this transmission line effective for use for the benefit of industry and economic development for the region and the state of Ohio.

Flambeau's presence here in Geauga County dates back to 1940 when the first part of our facility was built by the Vichek Tool Company. Since then our business has grown steadily, and we have been a reliable employer who today employs about 180 people here in Middlefield. The type of business we are in—plastics processing—demands reliable and affordable electric power. We cannot afford power outages that cause disruption to our production processing and ability to service our customers. We continue to compete in a world with greater choices, many from out of the state of Ohio and from foreign countries. Our customers strongly consider the reliability and consistency of service we provide them, both with production and professional support, and if we can't get the job done they are not reluctant to look elsewhere. In addition to helping existing businesses, the improved electric capacity and reliability provided by the proposed new transmission line may serve to attract new businesses and development to the region.

Representatives from First Energy 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 high usage and growth, and it will be increasingly difficult to maintain voltage levels within the required ranges to operate our equipment.

My company would certainly support locating new power lines in a path that does the least amount of disruption to natural habitats and costs the least amount to install and maintain with the understanding that the objective of the power line installation is to significantly increase the affordability and reliability of the power supply to businesses located in this area. A major consideration for the location and expansion of any business like mine is the availability of affordable and reliable electrical power. If the citizens of Geauga and surrounding counties want to have economic opportunities supplied by employers who provide jobs within the local communities and if the various governmental bodies want to insure the continuance of the tax receipts paid by such businesses and their employees, the parties that bear responsibility for closure on this issue need to take action quickly. I think First Energy has properly researched determining a proper route for the proposed new transmission line. This project is necessary for continued support of existing businesses and for future growth. Our region has struggled for years with electric service that is less than satisfactory.

Flambeau operates nine different plants in seven different states in the US, and our plant in Middlefield, Ohio has the least reliable power supply and the second most expensive power rates of all our plants. The regular and continual interruptions from power outages we experience cost us significant amounts of expense every year. The only plant we have that has more expensive electrical power is located in southern California, and the ridiculously high cost of power in California is not one to respectably compare against for any region serious about growing its economic and jobs base.

First Energy has done what it was required to do by providing both a viable "preferred" (cross-country) route and an "alternate" (Clay St.) route for the location of this new transmission line. Either route would be acceptable for Flambeau's needs. The OPSB needs to certify either the "preferred" or "alternate" route without further delay. Any potential expansion and retention plans we have for our Middlefield plant will be greatly affected by what gets resolved in the near future in terms of providing more affordable and reliable electrical power right here in northeast Ohio. We have been pushing for a solution like this new transmission line will provide, and we need your support and action to see it is effected without any further delay.

Thank you for your consideration and effective action.

Sincerely,

Jason Saucy
President
Flambeau, Inc.

Pursuing Excellence with People Who Care

BARABOO, WI COLUMBUS, IN MADISON, GA MIDDLEFIELD, OH REDLANDS, CA WELDON, NC
INTERNATIONAL: PLASTICOS FLAMBEAU – SALTILLO, MX FLAMBEAU EUROPLAST – RAMSGATE, UK



DURAMAX MARINE[®] LLC

www.DuramaxMarine.com

August 22, 2008

RE: Case #07-071-EL-BTX

Attention: The Ohio Power Sitting Board

My name is Paul C. Miller Jr. I am the Chairman and CEO of Duramax Marine LLC which is physically located in Troy Township, Geauga County in spite of the Hiram mailing address. I am writing you in support of the proposed new electrical transmission line to be built here in Geauga County. I urge you to expedite the approval process to make this transmission line effective for use for the benefit of industry, economic development, and the citizens of Geauga County and Northeast Ohio.

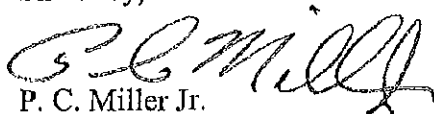
Duramax Marine LLC can trace its' history back to 1895 through various predecessor companies. We moved our business to our current location from Middlefield, Ohio in 2001. Virtually 100% of our output is sold outside of the State of Ohio and approximately 20 to 25% of our output is exported outside of the USA.

Electrical power has, historically, been problematic, for manufacturers, as well as, for the citizens of Geauga County. The transmission of reliable electrical energy has not kept pace with the needs of industry and our fellow citizens here in Geauga County.

Our business depends on our ability to serve our world wide customers. Our business has grown because our customers have learned that the men and women of Duramax Marine reliably and dependably serve the needs of those customers whether with products, information or solutions for problems those customers are encountering. All of the services Duramax Marine provides to a global customer base depends upon reliable and dependable electric power.

On behalf of the families of the men and women of Duramax Marine LLC, our global customer base, and our up stream and down stream supply chain, I urge you to move forward with the approval process for the new electrical transmission line here in our home County, Geauga. Your approval will be a strong voice for the future of our families and the businesses that they depend on for their support and security.

Sincerely,



P. C. Miller Jr.



May 19, 2008

Mr. Dan Weir
Middlefield Village Administrator

Dear Mr. Weir:

It has come to our attention that there seems to be some question as to the companies in the Middlefield area that support "The Geauga County 138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project" as proposed by the local utility company, FirstEnergy, and as recommended by Brakey Consulting Company. I want to assure you that Dillen Products is a supporter of this project.

Dillen Products is one of the major employers in the area and has been an important part of the community and its heritage for more than 20 years. Indeed, we hope to grow and remain a reliable contributor to the local economy— in terms of jobs, expansion and community involvement. To do so we, like the many other companies in the area, must have new power transmission routes that are affordable, reliable and allow our business to operate efficiently, thus serving our customers and returning benefits to the region as is expected of a good corporate citizen like Dillen and our parent company, Myers Industries.

We know that the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB), based on engineering studies and input from the regional supplier, FirstEnergy, took many areas into consideration when proposing the project: 1) Environmental Constraints – wetlands acreage, existing woodlots and threatened species issues; 2) Cultural Attributes – historic sites, archaeological sites and known cemeteries; 3) Land Use Attributes – proximity to schools, churches, housing and sensitive land such as parks and wildlife refuges; and 4) Engineering Attributes – road crossings, route length and number of turns.

It is my understanding that the goal in any route selection in rural areas is to maintain the integrity of the surrounding area by involving the fewest parcels of land while deploying a dependable power source to the community.

Dillen Products and Myers Industries are proud to support this measure that will allow us to operate and grow in the Middlefield community. And please be assured that we take our corporate citizenship responsibility most seriously as a vital part of supporting the long-term economic health of the region— to the benefit of all parties involved.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (440) 632-0230.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Thomas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Thomas
Managing Director
Myers Industries Lawn & Garden Group
Dillen Products Headquarters



September 8, 2008

To: The Ohio Power Siting Board

To whom it may concern,

Normandy Products has been manufacturing plastic pipe and fittings for over 35 years in Middlefield. We currently have 12 plastic injection molding machines and 1 plastic blow molding machine. Normandy has 34 full time employees running the plant 24 hours, 5 days a week.

Our injection molding machines have state-of-the-art CNC controls that require a good, clean, consistent power supply. When we lose power or experience those "blinks" in power outages, the machines shut down. We mold Poly Vinyl Chloride. PVC degrades when overheated, causing premature wear and corrosion to the screw and barrel. It can cost close to \$20,000.00 to replace the screw and barrel on our largest machine.

Two years ago Normandy Products replaced their entire water cooling system with again, a state-of-the art Turbo-Core chiller. This 140-ton chiller replaced 200 ton's of water tower cooling and 40 ton's of chiller. The compressor shaft turns at 30,000 rpm. When one of those "blips" in the power occurs, we run the risk of shutting down the plant.

WE NEED GOOD CLEAN RELIABLE ENERGY TO RUN THIS FACILITY!

As a manufacturer in the town of Middlefield, I am in support of the Stacy project. If Normandy Products is to grow, the supplying utilities must grow and improve as well!

Respectfully,

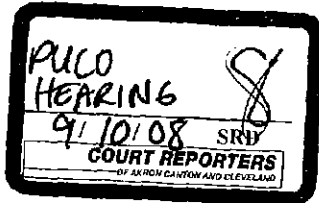
Carl Krysiak
Director of Operations
Normandy Products
Middlefield, Ohio

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Phone 440-632-5050 • Fax 440-632-1055

www.normandyproducts.com

EXHIBIT



Considerations for ORC Section 4906.10(A)(2)

Nature of Probable Environmental Impact

Rocco DiFRANCO

READ
HIGHLIGHTED
PORTIONS INTO
RECORD

The Staff has reviewed the environmental information contained in the record compiled to date in this proceeding and has supplemented its review with site visits to the project area and discussions with employees and representatives of the Applicant. As a result, the Staff has found the following with regard to the nature of the probable environmental impact:

- 1) Five residences are located within 100 feet of the Preferred Route and 43 residences are located within 100 feet of the Alternate Route. Along the Preferred Route, 84 residences are located within 1,000 feet, while 299 residences are located within 1,000 feet of the Alternate Route.
- 2) Of the 5 residences within 100 feet of the Preferred Route, none are located within 30 feet of the proposed centerline. As such, the Applicant has indicated that no residential structures would need to be removed from the r-o-w of the Preferred Route. Six residences are located within 30 feet of the proposed centerline of the Alternate Route. The Applicant states that these 6 residences would need to be removed from the Alternate Route r-o-w.
- 3) The Preferred Route crosses 57 streams totaling approximately 5,000 linear feet. The Alternate Route crosses 23 streams totaling 988 linear feet. Impacts associated with these crossings could include erosion from vegetation clearing, sedimentation from storm water runoff, water temperature increase and loss of habitat.
- 4) There are two ponds within 100 feet of the Preferred Route; one pond will be crossed. There are six ponds within 100 feet of the Alternate Route, but no ponds will be crossed by the route. No impacts to ponds on either route are expected.
- 5) The Preferred Route crosses 64 wetlands totaling 13,744 linear feet. The Alternate Route crosses 30 wetlands totaling 2,662 linear feet of wetland. Impacts to wetlands include permanent loss of trees and other habitat, habitat fragmentation, soil compaction, surface water flow disruption, and aesthetic impacts.
- 6) Approximately 63 acres of woodlot would be cleared for the Preferred Route and 15 acres would be cleared for the Alternate Route. In addition to significantly altering or eliminating existing vegetated communities and associated woodland wildlife populations, tree clearing poses impacts to the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of soils. Soil productivity and nutrient regime are important functions in forested wetlands. Significant impacts to soils can alter the function of forested wetlands as well as the function of non-wetland forest communities.
- 7) Implementation of the Preferred Route could expand access to high quality streams and wetlands, and to large forested areas, by ATV users and other off-road vehicles, which could lead to potentially extensive and significant adverse aquatic and terrestrial resource impacts. Because it borders an existing roadway, this would not be an issue for the Alternate Route.

- 8) Trees are present along many of the streams where they would be crossed by either the Preferred or Alternate routes. These riparian trees help maintain the bank stability by holding soils in place and by reducing the volume and energy of rainfall reaching the forest floor. The tree and other vegetation types along streams banks also provide shading and food for wildlife species. The shading helps reduce direct sunlight to the streams, which reduces algae blooms. The shading also helps control water temperature. The amount of dissolved oxygen in the water is higher when the water temperature is cooler. In addition, the leaves, fruits and seeds, as well as resident insects from the streamside vegetation serve as a food source not only for birds and mammals, but also for the macroinvertebrates and fish species in the streams.
- 9) Tree clearing will be required at stream crossings for both the Preferred and Alternate routes. Removal of trees and other vegetation along a stream increases the direct sunlight to the streams, increases water temperature and reduces the food source for birds, mammals and aquatic species. These are long-term impacts and cannot be mitigated because the right-of-way will be permanently maintained. Although lower-growing vegetation species will be re-established eventually in the right-of-way, these species will not provide the same type and amount of shading or food supply as do the existing trees.
- 10) Riparian vegetation removal will also lead to increased downstream sedimentation because of streambank erosion. Sediment (from erosion) impacts the overall health of a stream because it can reduce water quality through turbidity. The increased sediment can bury the substrate and microhabitats in which the macroinvertebrates lay eggs and develop into larvae. When sediment buries the substrate, the macroinvertebrates are smothered. Loss of macroinvertebrates results in a loss of food source for the larger consumers, which results in a chain reaction that impacts all organisms within that aquatic ecosystem.
- 11) There are certain streams along the Preferred Route (S001, S023, S024 and S025, for example) that have very narrow riparian areas. A relatively large portion of the riparian areas along these streams will be permanently altered, leading to increased erosion, channel widening, and a basic change in their overall water quality function.
- 12) The larger streams that have wider riparian areas will be impacted in a different way from the smaller streams with thin riparian zones. While the smaller riparian areas will be permanently removed, the larger riparian areas will be fragmented, which may lead to a change in the function of the forested communities through which the streams flow.
- 13) All vegetation within the 60 foot right-of-way and adjacent to the right-of-way that presents a danger to the line or access to the line will be cleared. The right-of-way will be permanently maintained, meaning that presently forested wetlands will be converted to non-forested (i.e., lower quality) wetlands.

- 14) Because of the large quantity of tree clearing, the wetland soils will be subjected to increased exposure to sunlight, which can cause the soil to lose moisture, especially during periods of little or no precipitation. The loss of trees and other large vegetation can increase fine sediment loads within the wetlands. The change in soil moisture, vegetation, increased exposure to sunlight, and sediment runoff could impact the wetlands' pH, dissolved oxygen, nutrient levels and levels of toxins.
- 15) Interior wetland habitat may be altered to form edge habitat. Wildlife and plant species that are adapted to the current interior habitat would then be at risk because of the changed habitat. The wildlife species that are adapted to interior habitat must move to other, available interior habitat if they are to survive. The new edge habitat within the wetlands will be at high risk from invasive plant and animal species, which often gain an initial "foothold" in such newly-disturbed areas.
- 16) There are no nature preserves, state parks, wildlife areas or scenic rivers in the vicinity of the project site. Further, there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated Critical Habitat within the vicinity of the proposed project.
- 17) A records survey at ODNR did not indicate the presence of any protected plants within either proposed route.
- 18) The Preferred Route includes numerous wetlands, streams, and wooded areas. The project area contains habitat supporting numerous common reptile, amphibian, bird, and mammal species. Included among these species are several commercial and recreational species, such as re-introduced wild turkey populations. Species along the project route will likely be impacted, both directly and indirectly, during the construction and operation of the proposed electric transmission line. Impacts to wildlife could include the loss of habitat, increased habitat fragmentation, temporary and permanent displacement, and direct mortality due to construction activities. Interior forest species will be most negatively impacted by the cleared right-of-way in wooded areas, while species which tolerate/prefer edge habitats and early successional habitats may be impacted positively.
- 19) Because the Alternate Route follows an existing road corridor, fewer pockets of suitable wildlife habitat are expected to be impacted when compared to the Preferred Route. Forest fragmentation is expected to be significantly less with the Alternate Route, as the required tree clearing would be along existing edges rather than bisecting wooded areas.
- 20) Threatened or endangered species historically in or near the project site include:
 - (A) Plants: There is no evidence of listed plant species within the study corridor for either proposed route.
 - (B) Birds: Both the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) have historical ranges that include at least portions of the project area. However, the habitat along both potential routes is inconsistent with the needs of these two species, and therefore no impacts to the bald eagle or piping plover are expected as a result of the project.

The yellow-bellied sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), a state endangered woodpecker species, has been recorded in Geauga and Lake counties. Their preferred habitat consists of wooded areas with deciduous trees such as aspen and birch. Direct impacts to these species are not likely due to their mobility. Younger, less mobile birds could be directly impacted if tree clearing occurs prior to fledging, which is of greater concern with the Preferred Route, due to the more extensive tree clearing required. However, the Applicant currently expects to conduct all tree clearing from October to March, a period which would avoid the nesting season of the yellow bellied sapsucker. Indirect impacts are possible as a result of habitat loss associated with planned tree clearing, but similar habitat would remain adjacent to the project r-o-w.

- (C) Reptiles and Amphibians: There are no recorded threatened or endangered reptile or amphibian species within the project area.
- (D) Mammals: The historical ranges for the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), both state endangered species, include the project area. Once believed extirpated from the state, sightings of both species have been generally increasing over the past decade predominantly in forested sections of eastern Ohio. No evidence of these species was observed during field reconnaissance. If present, the mobility of these species should limit the potential for direct impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the project. Further, their tolerance for habitat heterogeneity should limit any indirect impacts associated with converting some amount of forested habitat to more open, field-like habitat.

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species, is a tree-roosting species during non-winter months and has a summer range that historically includes the project area. The Applicant has identified some segments of both routes that possess potentially suitable habitat for Indiana bats, while other segments do not appear to have the typical necessary habitat characteristics (i.e., understory too thick, trees too small). Tree clearing would be required for construction of the planned electric transmission line along either route, but particularly so for the Preferred Route. In addition to clearing during construction, the r-o-w would be maintained so as to prevent re-growth of any trees that could impair the line's operation. Tree clearing could represent the loss of habitat for the Indiana bat, if present along the route. The Applicant has proposed to conduct any tree clearing outside of the Indiana bat's typical roosting season for Ohio. Adhering to this clearing limitation should limit direct impacts to the Indiana bat, but could still represent indirect impacts in the form of reduced habitat.

The proposed project is within the range of the snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), a state endangered species. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources initiated a reintroduction program in northeast Ohio for the snowshoe hare during 2000. Habitat along segments of the Applicant's Preferred Route is believed to be suitable for the snowshoe hare, with tree clearing and subsequent forest fragmentation expected to have a negative impact on habitat availability.

(E) Aquatic Species: The eastern pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*), a state endangered mollusk species, has historically existed in Geauga County. However, there are no records of this mollusk occurring near the project area and therefore no impacts to this species are expected.

(F) Dragonflies: The American emerald dragonfly (*Cordulia shurtleffi*), the frosted whiteface dragonfly (*Leucorrhinia frigida*), and the racket-tailed emerald dragonfly (*Dorocordulia libera*) have historically existed in the counties for which this project is planned. No direct impact to these species is expected due to their mobility.

- 21) One recreational land use, a golf course, is located within 1,000 feet to the west of the Preferred Route. Two recreational properties are crossed by the Alternate Route. Approximately 3,000 feet along the edge of a golf course property is crossed by the Alternate Route. A park property, not presently utilized as a park or recreation use, is also crossed by the Alternate Route. This property is owned by the Geauga County Park District.
- 22) No institutional land use is located within 1,000 feet of the Preferred Route. One institutional land use is crossed by the Alternate Route. This property has an observatory structure located on it, approximately 800 feet west of the Alternate Route centerline.
- 23) Industrial land use crossed by the Preferred Route includes properties associated with quarry operations. An active gravel pit operation and concrete manufacturing facility are located within 100 feet of the Preferred Route. A scrap yard is also located within 100 feet of the Preferred Route. The Alternate Route crosses nearly 500 feet of a concrete materials operation property. No commercial uses were identified within 1,000 feet of either the Preferred or Alternate Routes.
- 24) Four Agricultural District parcels are located within 1,000 feet of the Preferred Route. Two of the Agricultural District parcels are crossed by the Preferred Route, totaling approximately 3,900 linear feet. Twenty Agricultural District parcels are within 1,000 feet of the Alternate Route. Eight Agricultural District parcels, totaling approximately 4,600 linear feet are crossed by the Alternate Route.
- 25) The Applicant states that roughly 30% of the Preferred Route (approximately 23,800 feet) crosses agricultural fields, while 25% of the Alternate Route (approximately 16,000 feet) crosses agricultural fields. Construction impacts to agricultural fields will primarily be confined to the r-o-w and would include potential crop loss during construction, vehicular soil compaction resulting in disturbance of underground field drainage systems and the possible reduction of productivity.
- 26) From a construction and operations standpoint, the Alternate Route would be easier to install and maintain than would the Preferred Route, given its proximity to Clay Street and the ease of access that provides, particularly when responding to emergency outages. On the other hand, the construction and operation of the Preferred Route poses significant challenges, due to its difficult access, especially during unfavorable weather conditions.

Social Impacts

Land Use

The Preferred Route is approximately 14.7 miles in length, and generally follows a cross-country alignment. The Alternate Route is approximately 12.1 miles in length and generally follows a rural road (Clay Street) alignment. The Preferred Route would cross 87 properties, and the Alternate Route 182 properties. The majority of properties impacted by the Preferred Route are larger in nature. These parcels consist of agricultural land uses with some residences located on them, as well as parcels that are undeveloped or in a natural state. The majority of properties impacted by the Alternate Route are smaller parcels in comparison to the Preferred Route, and generally residential in nature.

The Preferred Route has 84 residences within 1,000 feet of the centerline. The Alternate Route has 299 residences within 1,000 feet of its centerline. Five residences are located within 100 feet of the Preferred Route, and 43 homes are located within 100 feet of the Alternate Route. The Applicant has stated that no residences are located within the r-o-w for the Preferred Route. Six residences are located within the r-o-w of the Alternate Route, and these houses would need to be demolished or removed from the r-o-w. The Applicant states that when r-o-w for the line along either route cannot be obtained through negotiations, appropriation will be pursued.

There is an additional impact on residences outside of the r-o-w, but within 100 feet of the transmission line. These are properties that the Applicant would not purchase; however, these homes would still have all the impacts of the 138 kV transmission line located within 100 feet of their residential structure. Mature trees and other incompatible screening vegetation would be totally removed, exposing their houses to traffic noise and significant aesthetic/privacy losses. The Preferred Route has five residences within 100 feet of the proposed line. Four homeowners on the preferred Route requested that the line be located where it is, (see Aesthetics section below). The Alternate Route has 43 residences within 100 feet of the proposed line. Staff believes that the selection of the Preferred Route represents far fewer impacts to residential properties.

Two recreational properties and one institutional land use would be crossed by the Alternate Route. The Preferred Route will cross the corner of one recreational land use. Both routes would impact properties with existing private grass airway strips. The Preferred Route will cross approximately 7,700 more linear feet of agricultural land than the Alternate Route. Impacts associated with crossing agricultural land include temporary impacts related with access and crossing, and loss of crop production where poles would be placed.

Aesthetics

Aesthetic impacts for the Preferred Route include the introduction of man made structures and a new cleared 60-foot r-o-w in a predominately natural setting. Conversely, the Alternate Route will impact residential screen and frontage trees along Clay Street, changing the landscape of the rural road. The Applicant would incorporate existing distribution lines into the design of either route when practicable. The Applicant has proposed to develop a landscape planting plan where residential landscape screening is removed, in front of structures within 100 feet of the centerline of the Preferred or Alternate Routes. The Applicant proposes to utilize single wood pole