

Hunter, Donielle

From: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Michelle Rice
<shellaroo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 5:47 PM
To: Docketing
Subject: Divert the Ackerman Pipeline #11-3534-GA-BTX far away from wetlands

Oct 30, 2011

Public Utilities Commission

I recently learned that Columbia gas plans to locate a high-pressure gas line through the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park at The Ohio State University; and the university intends to allow it. These wetlands are among only thirty sites in the United States that have been designated as Ramsar sites of international importance because of their valuable and unique ecological features.

The potential consequences from the planned gas line to this fragile and special area are of great concern. Please reroute the gas line, and protect this special ecosystem.

The US Fish and Wildlife (FWS) service has objected to previous plans to locate gas lines through the Ohio State wetlands. By making these recommendations, the FWS has recognized the value of these wetlands and the potential costs to the environment and native species from the installation of a gas line. The opinion of the FWS should dictate the outcome of this decision. Even in the absence of a catastrophic pipe leak or explosion, pipes conveying natural gas frequently leak to some degree.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. The Ohio State wetlands are a gem for the university and Columbus. It would be a mistake to risk their health when this gas line can be easily diverted. Please relocate this line, and protect this valuable area.

Respectfully,

Dr. Michelle Rice
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