

FILE



Power Siting Board

John R. Kasich, Governor
Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman

Board Members
Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Ohio Development Services Agency
Director, Ohio Department of Health
Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Public Member
Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio Senate
Executive Director
Kim Wissman

April 10, 2014

Murray R. Johnson
Co-Owner of Hilltop Farms of Chillicothe, Ohio
539 South Park Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Re: Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Case No. 13-0429-EL-BTX

Mr. Murray R. Johnson,

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) regarding American Electric Power Transmission Company's (AEP Transco) proposed Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project.

Your correspondence in regards to the project has been docketed in case number 13-0429-EL-BTX. It is noted that you are opposed to the Blue Route of the project and are in favor a route through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area.

When reviewing an electric transmission application, OPSB staff investigates each route to determine many criteria, including the impact on the continued agricultural viability of any land in an existing agricultural district. Additionally, geological features and soil types are reviewed by the Staff to ensure that sound engineering practices are employed in order to mitigate potential runoff and/or soil compaction.

I have attached and enclosed materials describing our electric transmission siting criteria and public participation in the OPSB process. Further information about this case may be found on the OPSB website at www.opsb.ohio.gov. The OPSB website also hosts an interactive map developed with data from the application that portrays the proposed Preferred and Alternate routes.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the OPSB at (866) 270-6772. Again, thank you for your interest in this case.

Very truly yours,

Todd Snitchler, Chairman
Ohio Power Siting Board

RECEIVED - DOCKETING DIV
2014 APR 10 PM 2:31
PUCCO

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business
Technician AS Date Processed 4/10/14

March 31st, 2014

Ohio Power Siting Board
Attention: Chairman Todd Snitchler
180 East Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Dear Chairman Snitchler and the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I'm writing to you with regards to AEP's application for the Biers Run-Hopetown-Delano Project, 13-0429-EL-BTX.

I am asking that you please review the application and vote to ~~reject~~ the proposed BLUE Line and instead look at the alternative options of either the RED Line or more appropriately the route through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area.

Our family has its roots in the farmland of Chillicothe, Ohio. Hilltop farms has been in our family since the 1840s and has been continuously farmed for the past 170 years over many generations. We now look to the future and my children hope to be able to farm this land when they get old enough. I hope that they will become good stewards of the land just as my ancestors have been.

The one thing that we know is that once farm land is sold to developers or taken away by encroaching cities and power lines, it never goes back to being productive farm land from which corn is grown for feeding cattle or for fueling your car. Good farmland is important for the future of America and by allowing AEP to put the proposed power lines across our fields will limit our ability to produce the crops that our farm needs to be productive.

You've heard these stories before so there is nothing new I'm sure that I can tell you. However, our family farm is being affected more than most because the proposed BLUE Line crosses over and through not just one field but many of our fields just by the design of the route.

Power lines are important to the future of America and I know that. However, rather than go through productive farmland, I would ask that you please review the maps and work with AEP in approving a route through Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area which is more direct and less destructive to farms, families and communities.

Why should Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area be restricted from power lines when farms don't have that same protection? Every day farms across America are being lost to encroaching cities, developers and power companies. Please help us and our neighboring farmers preserve our land and **vote NO to the BLUE Line and instead encourage AEP to find a way to put the power lines through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area.**

Sincerely,



Murray R. Johnson
Co-Owner Hilltop Farms of Chillicothe, OH
Mailing Address
539 South Park Road
La Grange, IL 60525
Cell – 708-243-7133 / e-mail: murrayjohnson@hilltopfarms.com