16-253-GA-BTX

FILE

From: Bob Weil [mailto:Bob@weilfuneralhome.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@exchange.state.oh.us>; CentCorridorPipeline@duke-energy.com
Subject: oppose 16-253-GA-BTX Central Corridor Pipeline

Robert A. Weil
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The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to oppose Duke Energy's current plans for the Central Corridor Pipeline (case 16-253-GA-BTX), on the Pink Route in particular and through residential areas in general. Constructing a 30-inch diameter pipeline along residential property is unprecedented for Duke Energy, and raises numerous concerns, especially given the short timeline in which the proposed routes have come together:

Safety: Duke has never installed a pipe of this size along residential property before. This alone is a major safety concern for all potential routes, especially given the history of large pipeline accidents such as the San Bruno disaster, and raises the question of whether this project truly needs to pass through residential areas. During a meeting with Blue Ash residents along the Pink route, a Duke representative said the company prefers not to install on public property because the company would have to move or alter its construction if ordered to do so. While Duke's financial motivations in targeting residential property are easily understood, that still doesn't justify putting private residents at risk of death or injury.

Probable Environmental Impact: We know for certain that installing the pipeline along the Pink Route would be materially harmful to the environment and community, creating more than a minimum adverse environmental impact. The University of Cincinnati Blue Ash has extensively studied the surrounding area as part of its long-term campus plans, and has noted the need to preserve the area that Duke now intends to build on: "The North Woodland and South Woodland areas of campus possess natural woods and riparian features that are both unique to the campus in their current natural state, are necessary to the natural mitigation of stormwater, and are difficult to develop for buildings but that offer significant educational, recreational, and community potential."

Process: Some residents do not recall receiving any notice from Duke regarding its plans ahead of its public meetings in March, and only found out about the plans from neighbors after the meetings took place. In addition, Duke has not published detailed route maps to its website, as its sole proposed route document is missing street details and satellite imagery. Duke representatives have also said they have not reached out to University of Cincinnati Blue Ash about this project, even though it would border or include their property. It seems as if this project is being rushed through the Siting Board without providing enough time for residents to educate themselves and speak out. The question of whether Duke has fulfilled its legal duties to notify affected residents and businesses needs to be investigated before the Siting Board considers any plans.

Quality of Life: The proposed Pink Route of the Central corridor runs through a quiet residential neighborhood, whose residents specifically sought the privacy provided by the natural landscape. The pipeline

construction would cut across the backyard environments of these properties, including mature trees and woodlands, yielding unsightly views and destroying the character of the neighborhood. The majority of homes have decks, porches and landscaped back yards designed to provide residents with a relaxing environment at home in their own backyards. The construction process alone is an invasion of the landowner's privacy with noise, congestion, heavy duty equipment, and debris removal over an extended period of time.

Property Values: A study by the Colorado School of Public Health found that natural gas development hurts property values during construction. While some properties can recover once they are returned to their original condition, the mature forest in our community makes a full restoration impossible. According to the Forensic Appraisal Group, the decline in property value could range from 50 percent of easement value to 30 percent of entire property value. Additionally, reports indicate that some banks may refuse to refinance homes along large natural gas pipelines, and insurance providers may seek higher rates. Some real estate agents also indicate that there is a stigma associated with properties adjacent to natural gas pipeline projects, and this causes properties remain on the market longer as a result.

Questions
In addition to the above concerns, a number of questions about the pipeline project remain, including:

- What alternatives exist to such a large-diameter pipeline, which Duke has never attempted to build in residential areas before?
- Why has Duke not made greater efforts to restrict the pipeline to major, non-residential thoroughfares?
- Duke says it will "walk or drive the line" four times per year to inspect for safety issues and perform corrosion inspections once per year. How often will PUCO audit these inspections to ensure they are conducted properly?
- The San Bruno disaster was caused by excessive operating pressures to meet demand. What safeguards and oversights are in place to ensure this does not happen with the Central Corridor Pipeline?
- What levels of noise can residents expect from the pipeline, both during construction and during normal operation?
- How often does Duke plan to release pressure from the pipeline, and what will residents experience in terms of noise and odor?

I urge the Siting Board, at minimum, to exercise caution and care it evaluates this unprecedented project. Ultimately, I hope the Siting Board will reject the Pink Route, and any other plan that tears up residential neighborhoods and puts residents at risk.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Weil