

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

April 18, 2016

RECEIVED-BOOKING

The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad St.
Columbus OH 43215

2016 MAY -9 PM 2: 04

PUCO

STAGGE
6151 ST. REGIS DR
CINCINNATI, OH
45236

Re: Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Project

To Whom It May Concern:

We recently learned that Duke Energy plans to construct a 30-inch diameter steel natural gas pipeline that will originate from an existing gas transmission line near the intersection of Hamilton, Butler and Warren counties and terminate in either the Norwood or the Fairfax area. Upon review of limited mapping provided on the Duke Energy website¹, it appears as if the "Orange Route" alignment (and associated "Blue Alternate Route" alignment) will travel close to our home, located at 6021 St. Regis Drive.

As homeowners and residents of Sycamore Township, we have grave concerns with both the Orange Route and Blue Alternate. Most notable, our concerns include:

Project Need. A 30-inch diameter gas transmission line is a significant buried linear asset that has a high consequence of failure if it were to rupture, as evidenced in San Bruno, CA in September of 2010². Failure of an asset like this can cause widespread damage, including death. ***The information provided by Duke Energy does not include any mention of alternatives to a large-diameter pipeline nor does it include a complete assessment of the economic need to embark on a project that has significant construction impacts to the community.*** Further, the concept of locating a large transmission line in a heavily populated corridor seems to run counter to the experts who provided opinion in the wake of the San Bruno disaster.³

Impact to old growth trees. The construction of a 30-inch diameter pipe at a depth of 4-ft (crown) will require the excavation of a wide trench (10-ft wide, or greater) to a depth of 7 to 8-ft. An excavation of this magnitude will likely result in the removal of many old growth trees found along Rosemary, St. Regis Drive, Euclid, and Ken Arbre. Removal of these old growth trees will eliminate a natural barrier to the noise from I-71 and will dramatically change the appearance of the neighborhood that will take years, if not decades to restore. ***Removal of old growth trees through the construction of the pipeline will have a significant and adverse impact on the value of our homes.***

Neighborhood safety during construction. Excavation of the trench for installation of the pipeline will require the use of large construction equipment, including a track hoes, dump trucks, and support vehicles to haul supplies (pipe material) and large equipment (trench boxes) to the site. Installation of the pipeline (40-ft sections) will likely require a large crane to properly

¹ <https://www.duke-energy.com/pdfs/CCPipe-Proposed-routes.pdf>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_San_Bruno_pipeline_explosion

³ Comment from Brigham McCown, the former head of the Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704190704575490151786040796>

This is an article from the largest newspaper in the
region and it is the only one that has been
document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician le Date Processed MAY 19 2016

place the pipe in the trench. Backfilling and paving over the gas line once it has been installed will require dump trucks, asphalt pavers, and support equipment. Countless families with small children live along the proposed alignment near Rosemary, St. Regis, Euclid, and Ken Arbore. ***As parents of small children, we are very concerned about the movement of this heavy equipment up and down our street and within close proximity of the yards and driveways our children play.*** Further, we are concerned about the impacts of the construction equipment on the road surface for the streets that will be used to access the construction site with this large equipment.

Impact to existing utilities. Information provided by Duke Energy did not indicate the exact alignment of the gas line, but there are likely to be significant conflicts with existing, large diameter sewer infrastructure, water infrastructure, telecommunication lines, and existing gas services. ***Relocation of some portions of all of these utilities may be required which will further exacerbate the construction impacts, and the potential issues regarding site safety and removal of old growth trees.***

Impact on St. Vincent Ferrer. Limited mapping indicate that the pipeline will travel near St. Vincent Ferrer which has both a Catholic grade school and a church community. Concerns regarding the safety of children who attend the school and parishioners who attend service on Sunday is also of concern to us. ***Further, the timing of the construction could significantly impact their annual church festival, which is one of their largest annual fundraising events. Not being able to hold the festival would have a significant and adverse impact on the finances of this institution.***

Impact to Jewish Hospital. Both the proposed "Orange Route" alignment and the alternate "Blue Route" alignment will travel along Galbraith Road, in front of Jewish Hospital and medical professional buildings located on the north side of Galbraith, across from the hospital. Construction will likely impact access to the hospital for patients and ambulances. ***We have concerns regarding the impacts of this construction on the operation of this essential facility that our family has historically used for minor medical emergencies.***

Impact commerce and business. The "Orange Route" alignment will travel to the east of the Kenwood Town Centre and the alternate "Blue Route" alignment will travel to the west. This is one of the largest shopping malls in the Midwest and the construction of the pipeline either to the east or west of the mall will have a significant impact on mall access. In addition, the pipeline could impact small businesses along Kenwood Road, both north and south of Montgomery Road. ***Limiting access to these businesses during construction could have a significant adverse impact on their livelihoods and the tax base Sycamore Township relies on to provide basic services.***

Traffic Considerations. The "Orange Route" alignment and the alternate "Blue Route" alignment will travel along and adjacent to significant traffic corridors, including the intersection of Kenwood and Montgomery Road and the Montgomery Road and I-71 interchange. Traffic is typically very heavy along these roads, and can be especially heavy during the holiday shopping season. ***We have concerns about the construction impacts and the ability of our neighbors to move freely around the township, especially fire and rescue equipment that often travel on these corridors to bring patients to the Jewish Hospital or access the interstate to respond to traffic accidents that occasionally occur.***

History of working with Duke Energy. Duke Energy is a large, reputable utility company. However, our past experience working with Duke Energy construction contractors has been less

than satisfactory. Prior to the replacement of the gas main in our street, we would frequently experience gas leaks in our home. Duke Energy's emergency crews would readily address the reported leak, but typically left a large, open pit in our front yard for months. The restoration contractor did not perform simple due-diligence to account for the expansion and constriction of the clay associated with this excavation. This resulted in differential settlement issues in our yard and under our driveway. Efforts to resolve the issue with Duke Energy and their construction contractors were largely unsuccessful since the contractor passed blame before fully investigating the observed defects. **We have concerns that Duke Energy's construction contractor will not fully commit to their obligation to restore the site, post-construction, given recent experience at our home.**

Should the need arise, we are willing to meet with representatives from the Ohio Power Siting Board to further explain our concerns with this project and the proposed "Orange Route" alignment.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Grant, P.E.

Kathryn R. Grant, P.E.

cc. Mr. Greg Bickford, Sycamore Township
Mr. James Olberding, Duke Energy
Concerned Neighbors and Business Owners in the Kenwood Area

We also would hate to see the trees that are
older taken down bypassing the wall to "hide" it.
My husband and I also have an access road
we could build on the side of the Austins
home and the expressway wall. We have
considered it to get cars in and out easier.
We are greatly opposed to this route.

[Signature]

[Signature]