

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

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**From:** Mariann Regan [mailto:mariann.regan@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2016 12:43 AM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>; CentCorridorPipeline@Duke-energy.com  
**Cc:** support@ethicalelectric.com  
**Subject:** In Regard to Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX

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

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2016 MAY 20 AM 10:58  
PUCO

To the Board and To Duke Energy:

We have severe concerns about Duke Energy's proposal to lay a 30-inch wide natural gas pipeline through Blue Ash and nearby suburban residential areas. We feel that this proposal is dangerous to Ohio citizens, unnecessary, rushed, and harmful to Duke Energy's corporate reputation. We believe that Duke would be better served to demonstrate a more careful regard for the safety, well-being, and good will of their customers.

Here are some of our concerns. We understand that other citizens are writing you with additional concerns.

**Gas Explosion Terror:** Natural gas explodes into an inferno of flame. All it takes is one spark. The larger the pipe, the more massive and dangerous the explosion. PUCO's own website <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/be-informed/consumer-topics/natural-gas-safety/#sthash.ee8TwdTg.dpbs> gives dozens of safety tips that also serve as an unfortunate "what could go wrong?" list. And many more accidents are possible . . . from a child planting a flower a bit too deeply in her yard, to a workman losing concentration--for just a moment--when welding pipes. Human error is unavoidable. My daughter was six years old, in the first grade, when an entire house blew up from a gas leak, 500 feet away from her school. The roar was deafening. Teachers and children were badly shaken. The school was evacuated. And now Duke Energy is proposing a huge, 30-inch-wide pipeline through the yards of many private residents, near homes and schools and churches. Two of the three proposed pipeline routes originate right across Fields Ertel road from my daughter's current house, less than a football field away from her family. She is now the mother of a two-year-old girl. Her family would live in dread of an explosion.

**Is This Project Necessary?** Is there really a need for an industrial-sized natural gas pipeline running North to South through Cincinnati? Have the residents of the areas near Blue Ash been polled? Have they been asked whether they need more energy specifically from gas? Already Ethical Electric, whose registered trade name is Clean Energy Option, is able to supply the electricity needs of all our homes with a combination of solar and wind power. It will not be long before advances in clean energy will be sufficient for widespread use. Is Duke trying to "create a need" now, sooner rather than later, by digging this enormous pipeline in a hurry, while hastening past community objections? As other writers to the Ohio Power Siting Board have noted, the public meetings for this project seem to have taken place rather hurriedly, without effective notification. Many residents feel that Duke Energy has stolen a march on them, perhaps to accelerate Duke's own revenue.

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**The Reputation of Duke Energy:** Duke Energy is already infamous for polluting North Carolina's rivers with toxic coal ash — especially the Dan River in 2014 — and then ignoring thousands of citizens' petitions for Duke please to clean up the results of its own pollution. Instead of removing its own toxic mess from the environment, Duke went to court. Some believe the courts were originally bribed to settle in Duke's favor. <http://www.southernstudies.org/2015/10/enviros-take-nc-settlement-over-duke-energy-coal-a.html> Yet Duke Energy finally pled guilty to violations of the Clean Water act, after a long controversy. We would ask whether this pattern now going to be repeated in Ohio, with natural gas explosions from a huge 30-inch pipeline, lost lives, devalued property, no recourse for the citizens, and then a public scandal and a prolonged, expensive court case — all because Duke Energy and Ohio officials did not take sufficient time to consider the objections of Ohio residents?

**More Conversations, More Outreach:** Would Duke Energy and the Ohio Power Sitting Board please consider postponing this project until they can hold more informational meetings, allowing more citizens to express themselves and ask pertinent questions? We are simply asking them to stop, look, and listen. Give the citizens time to respond fully. We realize that profits are extremely important to Duke Energy, as to any business, but our own lives and families are even more important to us. In this case, we currently feel threatened by the corporate and political powers with the authority to make this momentous decision at their own discretion, without sufficient input from us.

Sincerely,

Mariann and Richard Regan  
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West Chester, OH 45241