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16-253-GA-BTX 5

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**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Case # 16-0253-GA-BLX

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2016 MAY 24 PM 1:43  
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*"We wanted to be transparent." – Sally Thelen, Duke Energy re: Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project*

We need your help in getting specific answers to our concerns about a natural gas superhighway being built next to our homes, schools, offices and places of worship. Duke Energy is abusing its power of eminent domain to force this massive pipeline through communities in Hamilton County with a complete disregard for the stakeholders who are supposedly the beneficiaries of this pipeline.

Our group Nope! (Neighbors Opposing Pipeline Extension) includes citizens from all of the communities impacted by the pipeline, including Amberley, Blue Ash, Cincinnati, Deer Park, Evendale, Golf Manor, Madeira, Montgomery, Reading, and Silverton and Sycamore Twp and more. We do not believe a pipeline of this size should be built through densely populated and residential areas. Even with safety precautions in place, accidents happen. If an accident were to happen in densely populated areas the consequences would be catastrophic. We have asked Duke to consider alternative routes, or smaller pipelines and they have been unresponsive.

Duke claims that they have been transparent, but that is simply not true. No stakeholders other than Duke have been involved in any aspect of the development of plans or criteria for selecting the routes. No stakeholders have truly been informed about the pipeline. While Duke might have followed the letter of the law by sending out 2400 letters to people from whom they would need an easement, these letters were disguised as junk mail and often not even sent to the right person.

We have gone door-to-door to hundreds of homes that would be impacted by the pipeline and absolutely no one knows about it.

We have many fundamental questions and concerns about this pipeline that continue to be unanswered. Can you please help us get answers to the questions below and ask Duke to consider alternative routes through industrial corridors and or rural less populated areas?

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Technician SM Date Processed MAY 24 2016

## **Re: Questions about Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project.**

### **Funding**

- How much does this pipeline cost?
- How is this project being funded and over what time period? How much of the costs are the project will be recovered through increases in utility rates?
- What specific tax abatements or subsidies are being utilized to pay for the project and what is the value of those?
- What specific grants or other government funds are being used to pay for any aspect of the project and what is the value of those?
- Why are you investing so much in a permanent infrastructure that is not sustainable?

### **Planning**

In the documents and presentations, Duke has indicated this project is the first of several pipeline projects being planned by Duke Energy for our area.

- Why isn't a holistic picture of what is being planned being shared and discussed with the community leaders and citizens?
- Why do we need a transmission line with so much pressure if this is only for Hamilton County? The compressor station that supports this pipeline appears to be located in Lebanon. It can build enough pressure to move natural gas 40-100 miles.
- What are the other pipeline projects Duke has mentioned and how do they related to the Central Corridor Pipeline? Are they high pressure/high capacity transmission lines? Will they be connected to this transmission line? Will this transmission line extend beyond the station in Norwood/Fairfax? Where? How many miles of pipeline are being planned? How does the placement of the Central Corridor Pipeline influence where other pipelines will be located? If these pipelines are interrelated, shouldn't this be approached in a holistic manner?
- What is the maximum capacity per year that can be transmitted through this pipeline? How much natural gas is currently transmitted to the stations in Norwood and Fairfax?
- Once the gas reaches Norwood/Red Bank Facility, how is it decompressed?

- Where is gas through this pipeline stored and in what form? How much storage capacity is available? What will happen with excess capacity that cannot be stored?

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Why have NO stakeholders been involved in the planning and design of this system?

- How long has Duke been planning the Central Corridor Pipeline?
- If this pipeline is for the benefit of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, why haven't its citizens been given the opportunity to provide input into what is delivered and how it is delivered before Duke has narrowed down the route options to 3 unacceptable choices?
- Why hasn't Duke informed City and County Governments about their plans, so that they can evaluate financial and resource decisions in this context. For example, the City of Blue Ash invested millions of dollars in Summit Park. Now one of the proposed routes could require the entire front section of the park to be dug up for the pipeline. While Duke says they will "restore" areas to their original condition or better, the money that was invested in developing some of the park will have been thrown away. That money could have been used to serve the community and our schools. Will Duke be compensating the cities for the waste that has been incurred as a result of not informing its constituents?
- Why did Duke disguise the notice it is legally required to provide as advertisements/junk mail, rather than important documents?
- Why did Duke send required legal notice to random people in City and County Government, rather than City and County Leaders?
- Why won't Duke answer specific questions that are asked by its Stakeholders?
- Please provide a list of all the names, addresses and contact details of the 2400 individuals and businesses to whom Duke sent notice about the pipeline and information sessions.
- Why weren't individuals, communities and businesses affected by the pipeline informed about the project, so they could have an opportunity to have input? For example, parents with children in schools along the route, School Districts, Daycare centers, Healthcare facilities, multi-family dwellings, apartment residents, shopping districts?

### **Decision Making:**

- Please describe the specific criteria that are being used to determine the location of the transmission lines and their weighting factors.

- Of the “literally thousands” of options considered by Duke, how many were rejected for scheduling/timing, cost reasons, and ease of obtaining easements?
- Why isn't the pipeline being located in less populated areas or industrial throughways? Why isn't this pipeline being routed around the city?
- What are the specific reasons for rejecting the I-71 and I-75 corridors?
- What was so unique about the 3 routes that made them the best options?

### **Safety**

- Why should the public feel that Duke is committed to keeping them safe, when they don't follow Industry Best Practices or Project Management Best Practices?
- Why hasn't Duke engaged with community emergency response organizations to insure there are adequate resources – do they have adequate equipment, will additional financial resources be needed for training and staffing, have they evaluated emergency access routes in the event an incident? What about medical facilities that would be needed to support people injured in the event of an accident?
- Why is Duke building a transmission line this size in densely populated areas, when this is a known problem/issue? After San Bruno incident, Department of Transportation recognized that transmission lines in densely populated areas represented a major safety concern. When there is a failure or accident in a pipeline of this size in densely populated areas, the consequences are catastrophic. In fact DOT is developing regulations for transmission lines already in the ground, which are now in densely populated areas as a result of urban sprawl. Why would you replicate a known problem? Accidents still happen with both old and new transmission lines.
- Do all leaks in the pipeline have to be repaired? If not, who decides which ones get repaired and which ones don't?
- What are the specific health concerns that have been identified for individuals located along a transmission pipeline?
- Will gas from fracking be transported through these pipelines? What specific chemicals associated with fracking will also be moving through the pipelines and leaking from them? What are the health risks associated with those?
- Will there be vibrations or noise from the pipelines?
- How many pressure valves are located along the 12 mile stretch of pipeline? How often are those valves used? What are the safety issues/concerns associated with them?
- What is the psychological impact of being forced to reside by a safety hazard?

- In the event of a major natural gas leak, how much natural gas will move through the pipeline before it can be shut off?

### **Needs/Benefits**

- In materials, Duke has indicated a specific need for flexibility? What is the concern?
- What other options for providing the needed “flexibility” were considered? Why were they rejected?
- Don’t you have peak shaving facilities in place already that provide flexibility? Why aren’t those sufficient? Could those be used in combination with a smaller pipeline to meet the flexibility needs? What are the plans for those?
- Of the 3 20” pipelines that are routed under the Ohio River from Kentucky, what is the pressure and capacity of each of those?

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**Neighbors Opposing Pipeline Extension**