

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

Robert D. Welch

4945 Kenridge Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Phone: 513.205.3031 | Fax: 513.984.3055

E-mail: bobwelch0@icloud.com

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

Subject: Central Corridor Pipeline; Case 16-253-GA-BTX

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose Duke Energy's plan to build a 30-inch high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline through the city of Blue Ash. Portions of this pipeline will cut through residential neighborhoods, backyards, and woods, and may also run alongside several schools, a major shopping center, day care centers, hospitals, synagogues and churches.

Duke Energy has never before installed a pipeline of this size along residential and highly populated property. Only three proposed routes are suggested which we assume are the cheapest and fastest to build. What about other routes that may cost more money but cause less destruction of residential property and less potential for lives lost in the event of an accident? This is a major safety concern for all potential routes, especially given the history of large pipeline accidents such as the San Bruno disaster and the most recent example outside Pittsburgh. It is unclear why Duke is unable to restrict the pipeline to larger thoroughfares and non-residential areas, or use smaller pipelines with a proven track record for safety. Some residents in affected areas have not been notified by Duke about its plans, as apparently required by the Ohio Power Siting Board, and Duke has not published detailed route maps to its website. 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.

Duke's plans call for a minimum 30-foot clearing in which its pipeline can be installed. Doing so in residential areas will cause irreparable damage to their respective communities, cutting through forests, destroying old growth trees, and ruining yards. As an example, one route creates a path through woods owned by University of Cincinnati Blue Ash. The university itself has vowed not to build on this area due its educational, recreational, and community potential, along with its storm water mitigation properties. Duke's plan appears to disregard the university's wishes for this property.

According to < <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/cincinnati-population/> > Cincinnati Population 2016: Cincinnati has had a steadily declining population for several decades. While the worst of the decline seems to be over, Cincinnati is still steadily losing residents. Why then is it necessary to bring more gas lines south to Cincinnati from the east-west gas lines in northern Hamilton County?

Sincerely,



Robert D. Welch

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