

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

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2016 JUN -2 PM 1:42

From: Boger, Ethan [mailto:eboger@belcan.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 11:46 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: 16-0253-GA-BTX: Duke Central Corridor Extension Gas Pipeline

Sirs,

I am writing out of concern about the proposed routing of the subject pipeline. I live at 9779 Troon Ct, Blue Ash, Ohio 45241. One proposed route, the so-called Pink Route, would place the pipeline literally 100 feet from our doorstep (at the corner of Cooper and Plainfield Roads) and would continue in close proximity to other residential neighborhoods, the UC Blue Ash campus, the Blue Ash elementary school and the Hunt Road shopping Plaza in Blue Ash. I am concerned about the risk of a major gas explosion that might harm many people.

There have been numerous transmission line failures. The most recent occurred just days ago in Westmoreland County, PA. A Texas Eastern transmission line — 30 inches in diameter, similar to the diameter proposed by Duke — burst open, shooting flames into the sky that could be seen for miles. A 25-foot section of pipe was blown into the air and landed 100 feet from the site of the explosion. Note: my house is 100 feet from the Pink Route. The pipe had been inspected in 2012 with no indication of damage. Inspections are not foolproof. Therefore, the risk of a catastrophic event is very real.

Natural gas transmission lines carry gas at high pressure. The pipe is made of structural steel tube segments that are welded together. The steel is subject to corrosion both from the outside due to moisture in the soil and from the inside due to the corrosivity of the gas mixed with water and other contaminants. The welds connecting the pipe segments are not generally 100% inspected and can contain cracks that may propagate to failure due to the pressure cycles in the pipe. The stress in the pipe may also be increased due to natural shifts in the supports over time. If a crack grows through the wall, gas leaks out and can collect underground, which is both a safety and an environmental hazard. The purpose of inspections is to measure pressure drops in the pipe that might indicate a leak, but, it is evident from recent incidents such as the one in Westmoreland County that this method is not foolproof.

As a corollary to the safety concern, I am concerned about the impact of this pipeline on the value of my property and the value of other adjacent properties. In other words, I and my neighbors are concerned about the safety and economic impact on our community.

For the reasons explained above, I urge the OPSB to reject the proposed Pink Route.

Ethan Boger
Belcan

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Technician DM Date Processed JUN 02 2016