

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

9678 Ash Court, Blue Ash, OH 45242

May 30, 2016

The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

2016 JUN -3 PM 2:01
PUCO

RE: Case No. 16-0253-GA-BTX

Dear Members of the Board:

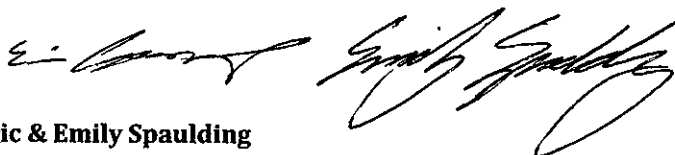
As residents of Blue Ash, Ohio, we are writing you to voice our opposition to the proposed Duke Central Corridor Extension Gas Pipeline (Case Number: 16-0253-GA-BTX). Our understanding from the information available to date is that two of the three proposed routes for a high pressure, 30-inch pipeline will travel less than 1000 feet of schools in Blue Ash's Sycamore Community School District. Furthermore, all three routes will be in close proximity to densely populated suburban neighborhoods, including many homes, day cares, and places of worship and business.

As the recent explosion of a similarly sized pipeline in rural Pennsylvania demonstrates, high pressure natural gas transmission is risky and the results are catastrophic when something goes wrong. From the news articles I read about the event, the pipeline in Pennsylvania had been inspected as recently as 2012 and there were no areas identified requiring repair, such as from corrosion or leaks. As best we know now, it complied with all federal and state regulations. Yet this pipeline still exploded on April 29, 2016, which left a crater that measured 12 feet deep and 50 feet across. The ensuing fireball scorched 40 acres of land. One could only imagine the destruction and loss of life that this blast would have caused if it occurred within a few hundred feet of homes and schools rather than in rural farmland.

Without any further determination of the cause of this explosion in Pennsylvania, we are left with the conclusion that existing federal regulations involving high-pressure gas pipelines, regardless of how well they are followed or how often the pipelines are inspected, are insufficient to fully mitigate the risks involved in their use. It is therefore prudent to question whether they should be approved to be placed in highly populated areas at all, such as through the city of Blue Ash.

As a Board, you are responsible for not only benefitting the economic interests of the state and utility companies but also for the safety of the communities that you impact with your decisions. I hope you will soberly consider the far-reaching effects of approving a pipeline, such as the one in question, if it were to explode at a future time. As a family, we believe we are justified in our concern about the inherent risks of high pressure natural gas pipelines to our community and urge you to reject the currently proposed routes for the Central Corridor Extension. Given its status as a de facto monopoly in supplying energy to this part of Ohio, Duke Energy should have more than enough resources to find reasonable alternatives to meeting the energy needs of our region without placing many of its residents in harm's way.

Sincerely,



Eric & Emily Spaulding

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