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16-253-GA-BTX

From: Heather Sturgill [mailto:sturgill.heather@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2016 2:34 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: 16-0253-GA-BTX

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PUCO

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board,

It has recently come to my attention (with considerable concern) that Duke Energy, as part of Texas Gas Transmission, LLC's (Texas Gas) natural gas pipeline interstate extension, has proposed installing a 12 mile long 30" natural gas distribution pipeline running through a large portion of the Eastside of Hamilton County.

I am less than pleased with this pipeline for several reasons.

First, this is NOT a venture that is meant to go directly into the homes of Hamilton County, but is instead meant to provide natural gas for sale through interstate commerce and travel through our county onto other destinations. Yet, we are expected to assume all of the risks involved in having this pipeline placed in our midst.

2nd, but more important, there is a major concern for the public's safety and welfare. Here are some statistics that have been cited by one individual:

- From 1994 through 2013, the U.S. had 745 serious incidents with gas distribution, causing 278 fatalities and 1059 injuries, with \$110,658,083 in property damage
- From 1994 through 2013, there were an additional 110 serious incidents with gas transmission, resulting in 41 fatalities, 195 injuries, and \$448,900,333 in property damage.
- From 1994 through 2013, there were an additional 941 serious incidents with gas all system type, resulting in 363 fatalities, 1392 injuries, and \$823,970,000 in property damage.
- A recent Wall Street Journal review found that there were 1,400 pipeline spills and accidents in the U.S. 2010-2013. According to the Journal review, four in every five pipeline accidents are discovered by local residents, not the companies that own the pipelines.

The NTSB's Pipeline Accident Report states that there are 122 recent accidents with natural gas pipelines, the greatest damage and risk coming from the 30" lines, such as the one proposed herein. To get a better idea of the scope of the damage and destruction, look at the news stories and pictures of from the San Bruno, CA pipeline explosion from 2010.

In addition, I am certain that Duke Energy and/or Texas Gas has not informed you of the 30" natural gas line explosion that occurred in Salem Township, Pennsylvania a mere NINE days after your meeting; the explosion being described in terms of being an "inferno" and "massive fireball." Fortunately, this explosion occurred in a rural area and injuries were limited. However, the farm wherein the explosion occurred had over 40 acres of farm land seared and had a blast which had a radius of about a half-mile. See Pittsburg's Trib Live paper from April 30, 2016. The cause of the blast is still undetermined.

According to reports from Pipeline Safety Trust a blast radius for a compromised 30" pipeline has ranged from 500' to 1450'. This proposed pipeline has the potential to travel within the perimeters of Blue Ash Elementary, Raymond Walters University, KinderCare daycare, Summit Park which is the site of many large (100,000+) celebrations such as Taste of Blue Ash and Red White and Blue Ash, Chabad, Wise Temple,

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Rockdale Temple, Adath Israel Synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, Mercy Hospital, Kenwood Mall, Zion Benevolent Baptist Church, large apartment complexes, hotel(s), many gas stations, and countless private homes. I shudder to image the type of carnage that could occur within any 500' to 1450' radius if something should occur along the line.

While I understand that you may be saying to yourself that all these factors are speculative, I would say in retort that Duke Energy has NEVER undertaken a project of this magnitude in a highly populated residential area before. Furthermore, it is better to be proactive and prevent the potential for damage before it occurs then to deal with the fallout after it has occurred.

Next, there is a grave concern not only for accidental disasters but for man-made disasters. Not to engage in histrionics but in today's cultural climate that must always be a concern. Many of the neighborhoods involved have a large Jewish population and the Pink route in particular travels near five Synagogues/Temples, a Jewish Community Center, and as an added bonus elementary school with over 500 children/faculty and college with over 5,000 students. What a target enriched environment for persons seeking to do the greatest amount of harm?

When you go home this evening, look around your neighborhood. Imagine 40 acres of homes - approximately 80 half-acre homes - being flattened. Know that the average gas pipeline that goes directly into one home is approximately 1/2" in diameter, and that this pipeline is 60 times greater. Also know that the gas line that feeds into one home is approximately 1.5 PSI, while a 30" pipeline transports 720 PSI daily, so immense and can power 492,000 homes!

Ask yourself, is this something I would want near my loved ones and children? Also ask yourself why a pipeline of this size is needed, and why should we trust Duke Energy to install when it has never installed a project of this size in a highly populated residential area before? Moreover, ask yourself if it is prudent to hurriedly approve a project like this without knowing why the recent explosion in Pennsylvania occurred.

Anyway, I thank you again for taking the time to allow me to express my concerns. I sincerely hope you will take all of this into consideration and will aid in supporting your communities. As you can see, oppositions have been filed by State Representative Devers and many other community leaders.

If there is any additional you may need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing back from you, and hope you will join our cause of NOPEcincy.org in opposing this pipeline.

Sincerely,
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