

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

2016 JUN 15 PM 12:37

PUCO

RESERVED FROM PUCO

3

**From:** Overly, Candice Fletcher [mailto:Candice.Overly@cchmc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 12:46 PM  
**To:** PucO ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** letter in opposition to Dukes Central Corridor Pipeline Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to strongly encourage you to intervene on behalf of residents of Hamilton County to amend the proposed routes of the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project (Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX) and reroute elsewhere outside of urban areas. I am a resident of Evendale, one of many densely populated local communities that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project. I would be directly impacted by *the proposed green route*. Directly as it will take my entire front yard, including 3-150 year old oak trees; depending on the easement rules, the proposal could take my home via eminent domain too as it is less than 30 feet from the sidewalk. This is the only home my children have ever known and the only asset we have. I suppose taking the whole home is better than leaving us with a worthless 1/2 although the entire prospect of a utility company taking everything I have and destroying our lives and financial futures for its own greed truly sickens me. I oppose the current pipeline routes for a number of reasons but the following three reasons are paramount and listed below. As a representative of the state of Ohio's best interests, I frankly feel as though your action is required and I **respectfully implore you to consider the impact this pipeline will have on these communities before casting your vote.**

**1. Imposed Public Safety Risks and Objectionable Project Need with Current Routes.**

Since explosions of comparable natural gas transmission lines have occurred in San Bruno, CA and Pittsburgh, PA, resulting in the loss of human life and limb, destruction of property values, and extensive environmental damage, the unilateral imposition of these public safety risks on densely populated local communities appears to me to be unwarranted. To my knowledge and based on Duke representatives public documented comments, Duke Energy Corporation has **never** installed a pipeline extension of this size in a comparably densely populated residential area. It is particularly alarming because the very concept of locating a large natural gas transmission line in a heavily populated corridor runs counter to the specific expert advice provided in the wake of the San Bruno disaster.

During a meeting with residents along the proposed routes, a Duke Energy representative said the company prefers not to install on public property because the company would incur financial costs if ordered to move or alter its construction. Transmission lines like this normally run along existing easements made for the transport of hazardous materials like along railroads etc and these construction requests are thankfully federally governed. Duke prefers to sneak it thru without all the regulations and oversight. Cincinnati will receive ZERO benefit from this pipeline, will incur all the risk and the destruction of our neighborhoods while Duke is totally fine with imposing death or injury risks on private residents, families and community institutions solely to control financial costs.... This is unconscionable. I believe that the public interest of protecting the right to life of so many residents is prepotent and should trump the special interest of corporate profitability. Therefore, I oppose the project and its current routes.

**2. Probable Severe Negative Environmental Impacts with Unreliable Accountability.**

Installing the pipeline extension along the green route or frankly any of the proposed routes would have more than a minimum adverse environmental impact. Communities like Evendale, Blue Ash Amberley Village and nearby established, densely populated communities

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
Technician Am Date Processed 6/15/16

have mature greenspaces, old growth trees, diverse wildlife, riparian features necessary to the natural mitigation of storm water, and well-established water runoff channels that have intrinsic value but also enhance the communities' quality of life and the property values of residences. Their destruction in the green route would have more severe environmental impacts than an alternative rural route in a less established area of farm land. Environmental impacts of this pipeline along these routes will be unprecedented and taking in to account that the routes have some of the most mature trees in the area, the impact will extend for the rest of our lives and our children's lives. According to the easement requirements of a pipe this size, trees, scrubs, and plants can NEVER be replanted and restored so the pipeline can stay clear. The impact is timeless.

Duke is going to tell you that 'it will be ok' and 'we are a great company' and people have to yield to the needs of the many, commonly called public use. This pipeline destroys the environment here, and it supports destroying it elsewhere as this pipeline will allow them to do more *gas flacking* which as you know is a highly controversial method to extract gas faster to bring the gas to market. If Duke had an environmental conscious at all, they would be looking at sustainable energy sources like wind and solar.

What adds to my environmental damage accountability concern is the fact that Duke Energy has been fined over a hundred million dollars in North Carolina for severe environmental damage and on January 18, 2012 PUCO ordered Duke Energy Ohio to pay a fine of \$500,000 due to lack of compliance with natural gas pipeline safety standards. Duke Energy's lack of safety compliance resulted in a 2010 apartment explosion in Lebanon that injured seven people and caused an estimated \$1 million in property damage. Despite Duke Energy's rhetoric about environmental stewardship and natural gas pipeline safety concerns, the reality is quite different. My concern about unreliable corporate accountability is intensified by the public record of Duke Energy's environmental and pipeline safety irresponsibility.

### **3. Severe Household and Community Short Term and Long Term Economic Costs.**

A study by the Colorado School of Public health found that natural gas development hurts residential and commercial property values during construction. While some properties can recover once they are returned to their original condition, the mature forest in the Evendale Village community makes a full restoration impossible. According to the Forensic Appraisal Group, the permanent long term decline in property values could range from 50% of easement value (half of my yard) to 30% of the entire property value.

Since I would be on the "incineration zone" of the natural gas pipeline extension -- literally the pipeline would be right outside my front door—right outside as in inches—with the green route, it will likely decimate the largest single investment I have – my home. These economic costs are likely to be compounded because of home insurance rate increases and the refusal of some financial institutions to refinance homes along large natural gas pipelines. Several pending sale homes in the area have already been cancelled because the buyer backed out due to the pending pipeline plans. Ask yourself, "Would I ever knowingly live on a high flow natural gas pipeline?" It would be like living on a volcano.... Sure it might never erupt but it is like rolling the dice on your families' safety and happiness. The pipeline hazard will likely dampen community economic development, incentivize relocation, and result in a loss of tax revenues.

Personally, my family and I will be ruined as we will not allow our children to sleep on top of a pipeline that could kill them or live at a construction site for over a year. Certainly none of their friends would be able to visit out of safety worries, no more family gatherings, no laughter, just fear of what could happen. A home without safety and happiness isn't a home at all and we would be forced to abandon everything, likely to foreclosure as the bank will clearly call in the loan for a worthless property. I have worked my whole life and dedicated my career to helping

others as a pediatric nurse. My husband also served for 12 years as an Army Ranger; we have paid every bill on time, we vote, we practice good environmental stewardship, was are raising 2 respectable and thoughtful children, we donate our time and financial resources to our church and our community. We have been good model citizens. And now with this pipeline, we could be looking at foreclosure, bankruptcy, our children changing schools, etc – all unwelcome events with no way to recover given our age and the long term effects of these projects. I understand that everyone has a story and that you have to make decisions that can be unpopular to some but I just wanted to show you the inside story of what Duke's actions and your decisions will do to some families. These pipelines are put in unpopulated areas for many reasons and the people of Cincinnati and Ohio should be given just as much consideration.

As more information about this proposed project becomes available and as Duke Energy Corporation becomes more transparent about their process and routes, I will remain active concerned, affected citizens and will respond accordingly. I urge the Board and Duke Energy Corporation to transparently consider alternate routes that would better minimize the aforementioned risks, impacts and costs to the individuals and communities and not just company profits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Overly  
4026 Glendale-Milford Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241