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June 10, 2016

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Asim Z. Haque
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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RE: Case Number 16-0253-GA-BTX

Dear Chairman Haque,

I have only recently become aware of Duke Energy's intent to install a 30" natural gas transmission line that will carry 720psi of natural gas through several local neighborhoods. I am writing this letter to express my complete opposition to this project.

My hope is that by reading this letter, you can see this dangerous project through the eyes and experiences of the people that it will impact.

My husband and I are 4 year residents of Pleasant Ridge; and directly in the blast zone for one of the proposed lines (pink). We currently live less than 200ft from where this line is intended to be buried. The blast zone is over 1000ft; which tells me that if this project is approved, my husband and I will be living in fear on a daily basis. Fear that there will be a problem with this line because of the enormous amount of pressure and natural gas that it will be carrying. Fear of losing our beloved pets and treasures, and our home itself. Fear that we will be home if anything were to ever go wrong with this line.

Just over 5 years ago, we lost our apartment and all of our belongings to a fire. A fire that was caused by negligence on the complex owner's part. We have experienced what it is like to no longer have a place to call home, to feel safe, and to know that we have somewhere to go after a long day at work. When buying our home, we were so excited to have somewhere to call "home" again, and create a place to feel safe and secure from the outside world. I sincerely hope that you will not allow Duke to take away this sense of security that we have finally regained following that tragedy.

I struggle to understand how a 30" pipeline carrying 720psi of natural gas is being built on the premise of "helping the community" when all that it appears to do is have negative impacts on the people and land that surround it. The proposed line and construction will negatively impact our home values, but also increase our insurance rates. Our community has wonderful old trees that will be removed that are part of the charm that we in Pleasant Ridge all hope to maintain. The line has the ability to supply 2 million homes; but Duke has less than five hundred thousand customers in the entire state of Ohio. Why would they need the ability to supply 4 times more than the need, unless this project intends to develop further into an interstate line?

It would appear as though Duke truly has not done their research in regards to these plans. This (pink) line also runs directly through the land of Emerald Hilton Davis. The residents of Pleasant Ridge fought tirelessly for years to create change and cleanup from the toxic chemicals that were dumped for over 50 years on this land. How would it make any sense at all to dig up all the contaminants to then insert a highly flammable line? The company also stores significant amounts of chemicals within their building which would ultimately create an even larger issue were there to be an incident. This is a disaster waiting to happen.

While I understand that the above may be speculation and not based on fact, it is a fact that Duke Energy has never undertaken a project of this magnitude in a highly populated area before. Errors are inevitable. Mankind is not infallible. In February 2014, in Knifely, Adair County, Kentucky, a gas pipeline exploded. The 30-inch natural gas pipeline was about 100 feet from a highway and buried 30 feet underground. When it exploded, large rocks and sections of

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pipeline flew into the air, leaving a 60-foot crater. The current proposal only puts this gas line at 3-4 feet underground and within feet of our homes. One can only imagine the damage that it would cause were someone to accidentally dig too far in their own yard.

In a report from the Pipeline Safety Trust that was done for the Gas Research Institute in October 2000 by C-FER Technologies, they provided important information about the "blast radius" of a pipeline explosion. The report stated that "the rupture of a high-pressure natural gas pipeline can lead to outcomes that can pose a significant threat to people and property in the immediate vicinity of the failure location."

Some statistics that have been cited by one individual in regards to gas line incidents:

- 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.

Duke indicated that they would be managing their own lines to ensure safety. Duke recently pled guilty to nine (9) *misdemeanor violations of the Clean Water Act following a spillage incident in North Carolina*. They also admitted to failures at five of their power plants over several decades. This incident stands as an important learning point for us in Ohio – Duke Energy has a history of environmental negligence. U.S. Attorney Thomas Walker was quoted saying, "Duke Energy's crimes reflect a breach of the public trust and a lack of stewardship for the natural resources belonging to all of the citizens of North Carolina." How can we as a community trust that Duke will be accountable for ensuring our safety and the safety of these enormous gas lines?

Please remember, the blast radius is upwards of 1000 ft. This is about 70sq acres when you go full circle. Imagine these 70sq acres filled with homes being flattened because of an incident occurring. In our neighborhood, the average plot size is about .25 acres. That's nearly 300 homes that could be impacted; and ultimately hundreds more children and adults.

When you go home this evening, look around your neighborhood; then ask yourself, "is this something that I would want to live near? For my family or loved ones to live near?" Would you want this 30" pipeline, carrying 720psi of natural gas going through your neighborhood, by your children's schools, or your place of worship?

Why would such an immense project be needed to "meet the needs of the community" that would actually create a community living in fear? It would appear to me, that it is meeting the needs of Duke's pocketbook and not MY community.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter of opposition to this proposed project. I encourage you to tell Duke to move these proposed lines to a safer, less densely populated area to ensure the safety of thousands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariel Van Fleet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ariel Van Fleet