

FILE

16-0253-GA-BTX

PJCO

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Re: Case ID number (16-0253-GA-BTX)

I am a resident of Hamilton County and adamantly oppose Duke Energy's proposed pipeline running through highly populated and previously established neighborhoods, including Blue Ash, Amberley, Columbia Township (Ridgewood) and Pleasant Ridge.

I would like to briefly share my family's story. I am married to an amazing wife and we have 3 incredible children, ages 9 and boy/girl twins that are 6. In Feb. 2015, our 6 year old son was diagnosed with leukemia. It has been a very difficult and frightening year. There is nothing that can prepare you to getting a phone call like that from your child's pediatrician.

My son's (Liam) condition obviously has nothing to do with this pipeline, but there are actually many similarities in the way I felt when I started to hear and learn about this project. You see, cancer can kill. If something should happen to this pipeline, whether it is natural causes, human error, or something malicious, a lot of innocent people (families) could be killed in an instant. The thought of my children sitting in school at Nativity in Pleasant Ridge or sleeping in their bed in the middle of the night and something happening to this line causing an explosion terrifies me. The thought of losing my son to cancer terrifies me.

Cancer runs through your body. You have no control over it. It destroys the body. If something happens with this pipeline, a very significant amount of property and lives could be taken forever. This pipeline will destroy the way our neighborhood looks with removal of trees (like losing your hair) and the installation of ugly yellow or orange warning posts letting everyone know "hey, there is this enormously dangerous pipe underground". Just as losing your hair tells the world, yes I have cancer, installing this pipeline and the warning posts is like saying this land, the property around it and the people that live around here do not matter.

I beg you to force Duke to investigate and identify other routes around existing, highly populated neighborhoods. Perhaps areas that border highways or existing MAJOR infrastructure or through a more rural less developed/populated area of the region would be more suitable in terms of keeping people safe and protecting property. I understand the proposed routes are likely the most affordable, but there should be a higher value placed on human life and personal property that would be impacted by the currently proposed routes.

I have talked briefly about my personal battles and how it relates to this newest battle. Here are some of my other concerns:

Safety: This gas pipeline is not your typical distribution/service gasline that serves communities. These

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service lines are typically 1 inch in diameter and have a low pressure of 0.5-1.0 psi. In contrast the proposed transmission line will have a very high pressure of 720 psi. The total force of the transmission line will be about 500,000 pounds-inch vs. a service line of about 1 pound-inch! If there should be an accident (and they have happened with too frequent a history), the outcome will be disastrous. The destruction zone will be ~1800 feet around the accident. According to federal records gas companies reported 35 explosions and 32 ignitions at their transmission pipelines since 2010. Since virtually all hi pressure transmission lines are located in rural areas, accident damage has been minimized. One exception was in San Bruno, CA. Urban sprawl brought this population into the area of a transmission pipeline. An explosion in Sept 2010 killed 8 and injured 51, and destroyed property valued at \$550 million.

The most recent accident of a gas transmission line occurred in a rural area outside Pittsburgh (Salem, PA) last month (April)! The closest house situated about 1500 feet away was destroyed. The heat from the raging fire could be felt a mile away. Flames shot up 300 feet. It took one hour to shut off the gas feed. From: Westmoreland Tribune Apr 29, 2016.

Vital Services Compromised: (1) Since one of the proposed routes will be along Ridge, the principal Village thoroughfare, during the period of construction our vital services lifelines (police, fire, and ambulance) will be compromised. The same will occur if there should be an accident along Ridge. (2) Accidents along either of the routes could affect our schools such as Pleasant Ridge Montessori, Cincinnati Hebrew Day, and Atara, houses of worship, recreational facilities, and our homes! This only refers to Amberley Village. Neighboring communities will be similarly effected!

Environmental Issues: The 30 inch transmission pipeline will be buried 3 feet below the surface and there will be an easement of 15 feet on each side of the pipeline. This means there can be no obstructions, i.e., shrubs or trees or new building along the easement. Any existing trees/structures will be destroyed, for example along Ridge Road. There has been no assessment of the stormwater impact to our community.

I want you to ask yourself: How would I feel if I found out my child had cancer and could die? How would I feel if this high pressure gas pipeline were running through my yard or within a potential blast zone of my house or my children's school. This pipeline is much like a cancer to my community and quiet little neighborhood that's nestled in the heart of the big city.

I want to protect my family, my son's, my daughter and my wife. Please help me do that.

Sincerely,

Jim Kaufman
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