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Cincinnati, OH 45212
06/23/2016

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
In regards to: Case #16-0253-GA-BTX

PUCO

To Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,

I am writing to express my concerns about Duke Energy's proposed 30 inch, high pressure (~600 psi) gas transmission pipeline and to urge you to stand up for the residents of Greater Cincinnati and reject this proposal (DUKE Pipeline Project - REF: 16-0253-GA-BTX).

As you know, there is a proposal for three possible routes through residential areas in Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati. Neighborhoods affected by the proposed routes include: Amberley Village, Blue Ash, Silverton, Golf Manor, Wyoming, Sycamore Township, Pleasant Ridge, Madisonville, Madeira, Kenwood, and more. This proposal has been in the works for months, yet only recently gained broad public attention through media and grassroots communication. This gives the impression that Duke Energy wants to fast track their proposal with little opportunity for public scrutiny.

The three proposed routes run through dense residential areas, vital business districts, and adjacent to schools and places of worship. A pipeline-related accident would disrupt the fabric of any one of the aforementioned communities, not to mention the immediate impact your decision will have on property values and the positive momentum behind strengthening and improving the desirability of many of these communities.

I do not believe that the community need for such a pipeline has been adequately explained by Duke Energy. The proposed pipeline is possibly the largest-flow highest-compression gas line produced in the US. It can service two million gas customers. Ohio statewide has only 470,000 customers total. Ohio Revised Code requires utility companies to prove the need for improvements; the need appears to be smaller than the proposed 30-inch pipeline. I ask you to adhere to your mission and question whether this proposal represents sound energy policy and develops infrastructure for the direct benefit of Ohio's citizens. I believe that it does not and will not in its current form.

Duke Energy has stated that safety is their top priority. A necessary part of any safety program is thorough change management risk assessment and risk mitigation. Duke Energy can not eliminate all the risks to the public. They can, however, minimize the risk and repercussions of an explosion or leak; I believe that any objective observer would conclude that in this case the public risk is best minimized by routing this pipeline through more remote areas. For Duke Energy to say that they evaluated thousands of routes and concluded that these three were optimal leads me to believe that they valued cost higher than safety. I think government needs to take a stand when corporate profits supersede the public's safety and benefit.

I urge you to acknowledge the overwhelming local opposition to Duke Energy's proposal, recognize the negative impact of this project on urban neighborhoods, demand accountability and justification for an oversized pipeline, and request a more appropriate routing to achieve the Gas transmission goals.

Sincerely,
Milka Thompson

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