

FILE

16-0253-GA-BTX

Attached is an opposition letter in regards to Duke Energy's Pipeline through the City of Reading.

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To: Ohio Power Siting Board
From: Patrick Ross, Safety Service Director, City of Reading
Robert "Bo" Bemmes, Mayor, City of Reading
Date: June 27, 2016
Re: 16-0253-GA-BTX Duke Energy Pipeline Extension

I am writing another letter following up on an earlier letter I wrote in opposition to the Duke Energy Pipeline Extension through the City of Reading.

I am writing as Duke has updated their route map as of June 23, 2016. The green route through the City of Reading remains an option that the City of Reading is completely opposed to for several reasons.

First, this portion of the route goes directly through small residential streets with homes extremely close together. While we realize Duke will be as safe as possible when constructing and having a new pipeline, the fact remains that accidents do happen and this pipeline runs through the very heart of our community exposing many residents, property owners, and businesses at risk. These are narrow two lane roads Duke has chosen as a route and on top of the safety concerns, this would cause traffic nightmares for our large businesses and residents. Our community's high school football, soccer, and track and field are all immediately adjacent to the new route. Also, our community pool, several youth softball and soccer fields, our community center which houses youth basketball, volleyball, and senior citizen groups utilizes the Haffey Fieldhouse which is on West Street which the new route goes directly down. There is only one way in and out of these locations and they are used year round. Having the route constructed through this area would be a nightmare for our residents and all our organizations. As the green route continues through Reading, it is extremely close to our most densely populated part of town. It does not make any logical or common sense that this route would even be considered.

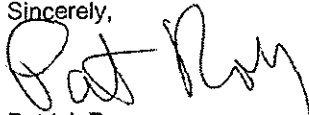
Our other major concern which I expressed in my prior communication with the Power Siting Board is the enormous negative economic impact this route would have on the City, County, and State. I expressed this great concern already with the route going south on Third Street, especially south of Benson Street as this is home to the Reading Life Sciences Site. This is an Ohio Department of Development "Jobs Ready Site" location in which over two million dollars of State funds and one million of local match has been invested in this area for development to bring high paying life science industry jobs. The Pipeline would make redeveloping this location impossible. Many millions of dollars of capital investments and millions of dollars of wages would be lost, most likely to another state on the east coast. I expressed this concern already with the Siting Board and Duke itself and yet this route still goes right through this location.

Upon seeing the new maps, it became very clear that the routes were changed and the new route would stop future development by one of our largest employers. This is something Duke would not be aware of, but there is land privately owned by one of our ten largest employers who is discussing with the City building a brand new manufacturing building on the land that the Green Route goes directly through. This building would bring tens of thousands of new revenue to the City, County, and State. This site specifically is toward the City's northern boundary which can be seen on Map 5 of Duke's proposed routes. As you head south from this location, the pipeline goes through the former Dow Chemical Plant (2000 West Street) which is under new ownership. The new owners are in the midst of redeveloping this site to bring new development. The pipeline would hinder the owner's ability to make this a great redevelopment site which would harm not only the City of Reading, but the State.

In conclusion, I wanted to again express my opposition as the Chief Administrative Official from the City of Reading. The green route pipeline would greatly hinder and stop any future economic development in the City of Reading anywhere near the route. The route in Reading is very densely populated with residents and wide variety of businesses and would put these people and companies at risk unnecessarily. If this pipeline is determined to be a necessity, we strenuously object to the green route for the reasons I have highlighted in this brief letter as well as my earlier correspondence. We hope the Siting Board members will take the safety concerns as well as the negative economic effects the pipeline would have on the City of Reading and State of Ohio.

I will be happy to answer any questions or clarify specifics about locations for the members.

Sincerely,



Patrick Ross
City of Reading
Safety Service Director
513-376-2501



Robert "Bo" Bemmes
City of Reading
Mayor
513-509-8619