

16-253-GA-BTX

FILE

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June 27, 2016

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

The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Duke Energy Ohio 16-0253-GA-BTX

Dear Chairman Hague and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express strong opposition to the Duke Energy proposals for a new 30" natural gas transmission line that would run through the City of Blue Ash and many neighboring communities. The proposed routes, especially the orange and pink routes, would have a negative and direct impact on these existing communities, both on residential and commercial ventures, on hospitals, schools and places of worship, and on future development.

The proposed routes are along highly developed and densely populated areas and major travel routes. Construction, maintenance and repair would be cumbersome in a best-case scenario. An explosion or leak, even if statistically unlikely, is not statistically impossible, and could have a catastrophic impact on very large numbers of people. Two highly publicized gas leaks and explosion in the US have made people uneasy. Going ahead with these routes and having any sort of problem would certainly raise public sensitivities to a level that would make future pipeline projects a nightmare for utility companies anywhere to "sell".

Duke Energy says that they want to be able to safely and economically transmit natural gas to this region. I appreciate their forward thinking on this need. I appreciate their desire to upgrade aging infrastructure. However, I believe they need to reconsider the proposed routes for the sake of the communities they serve. I urge you to ask them to do so.

Thank you,


Susan J. Rice

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