

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

June 23, 2016

Re: Case ID no. 16-0253-GA-BTX

To members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

This is regarding the above case, in which Duke Energy proposes placing a 30-inch high-pressure gas transmission line through a long stretch of residential neighborhoods in Hamilton County. We live in the fairly densely populated Cincinnati neighborhood of Pleasant Ridge, on Fairhurst Avenue, near one of the proposed routes that Duke envisions implementing for its gas line. There are about 20 homes within about 350 feet of where the pipeline could be – some are multi-family. So that's a few dozen people on one street alone, completely at the mercy of Duke's hopefully fail-proof gas line. Pleasant Ridge Montessori school could also be in the potential cross-hairs of an errant high-pressure gas line. And this thing will run for miles, through many heavily populated areas.

The two examples of high-pressure gas line explosions, in California and in Pennsylvania, aren't exactly ancient history. It's rather amazing that Duke, a large corporation with the ability to engage engineering experts on more feasible gas distribution solutions, would even propose these routes for this type of gas line.

I am hoping your board will tell Duke to head back to their drawing boards – encourage them to be trendsetters, even, in seeking solutions that do not put so many thousands of people in potential danger. I appreciate being able to flip a switch and have light, heat or air conditioning. Duke seems to do a great job of making that happen; but their customers also keep them in the black, as this excerpt from a *Wall Street Journal* article (Feb. 18, 2016) says:

"In all for the fourth quarter, Duke reported a profit of \$477 million, or 69 cents a share, up from \$97 million, or 14 cents a share, a year earlier. Excluding discontinued operations, among other items, earnings per share rose a penny to 87 cents, short of the 91 cents analysts predicted."

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Lots of folks in my part of Ohio will be very interested in hearing how your board responds to Duke's request. I think Duke needs to be reminded that this is an *opportunity* to do right by their customers, even as it stands to add to its eventual profits.

Very sincerely,

Jean Kinney
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