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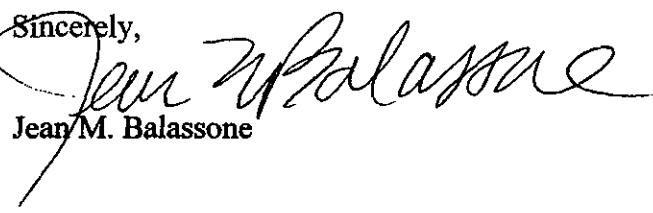
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

While I have not been able to attend the informational open houses, I have questions and concerns about this proposed natural gas pipeline and how it will affect me, my property, and my neighborhood.

CONCERNS: My property sits on 1.37 acres of which most is the woods behind my house. A large section of trees was cut down behind my neighbor's house a few years ago, and the increase in highway noise is quite noticeable. Further tree removal would exacerbate this noise pollution problem--creating a much less livable backyard space as well as reducing the value of our cul-de-sac properties when it comes to selling them (a serious issue as my property value has actually continued to rise during the real estate market drop). My neighborhood of Madeira is a highly sought after community, and I would hate to see this pipeline decrease its value, as well. Also, I am currently under contract with a landscaper to design an outdoor "living room" space as well as to create a backyard area that would qualify as a "certified wildlife habitat." Such an investment will be wasted if the woods are disrupted by the pipeline. Lastly, tree removal would not only reduce the animal life (which is abundant with deer, fox, coyote, etc.), but it would also reduce the shade benefit I get from the trees. I enjoy an extremely low energy bill due to the location of my house in its surrounding environment and am reminded of it monthly with a letter of congratulations from Duke Energy. The Central Corridor fact page states environmental issues as one of the factors in choosing a pipeline location, so I hope the fact that the woods are a big area uninhabited by *people* isn't one of the factors guiding you to our area?

Hopefully, my concerns are unnecessary, but a recent letter informing us that our properties may be visited soon by Duke's design firm makes me fearful. Please reconsider and opt NOT use to the proposed Orange Route for the pipeline.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Balassone

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