

FILE

16-1558-EL-BLN

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August 22, 2016

Dear Siting Board Personnel,

As allowed by Rule 4906-2-12, Ohio Administrative Code, my tenant, Lori Stahl and I, James Phillippi, owner of 374 Cole Road, are petitioning the Ohio Power Siting Board in reference to Case No. 16-1558-EL-BLN. The nature of our petition is threefold.

- (1) We are requesting the Cole 345kV Substation Project be moved northward on the site toward the railroad track so that it is placed opposite the AEP-owned ground on the east side of Cole Road, as much as possible, instead of directly opposite the Phillippi house.
- (2) The access road to the Cole Substation Project needs to be relocated away from the front of the Phillippi house.
- (3) Landscape plantings such as spruce trees need to be installed as a screen in front of the Cole Substation Project to improve the curb appeal in the neighborhood.

First of all, the Cole Road Substation Project needs to be moved as far northward on the site as possible. 374 Cole Road will face the width of the project as it is currently planned. While it may not meet the many requirements for a National Historic Place designation, 374 Cole Road does have a legacy and connection to the history of the area that deserves consideration. Elijah Spring fought in the Union Army under General William T. Sherman in Savannah, GA. When the war ended, Elijah settled on the west side of Hamilton Ditch and south of the railroad track near a cow trail (Amity Road.) He met and married his wife who lived in a log home where the Phillippi house stands today. Elijah owned all the land that AEP now owns on Cole Road. Upon Elijah's death, the farm was divided into five parcels: one for each heir. Alfred bought out the other heirs and put the farm back together. Alfred left the farm in two parcels to Elmo and his brother. Elmo bought out his brother to once again put the farm back together and worked it until his death in 2001. Elmo and his wife, Geneva built the existing home in 1920 from a Sears and Roebuck kit. Geneva occupied the home until 2005. I am a fourth-generation farmer whose family originates in the local area as well. I farmed the acreage purchased by AEP with Elmo Spring for many years, and most recently with my son. I purchased the homestead from Elmo's grand children in 2007

Secondly the front door of the Phillippi home is located approximately 75 feet from the proposed entrance to the Cole Road Substation Project. This project greatly reduces the value of my property. I can't imagine who would be willing to purchase it since it will be located opposite AEP's Cole Substation. According to the maps and drawings, it does not appear necessary for the proposed southern entrance to be located so close to the front door, and directly opposite the home's driveway! The construction and service traffic will create a significant disruption to the home and its occupants. Cole Road is narrow and has not been modified by the township to accommodate the large trucks that are being used by AEP. Due to the proximity to the road to the house, the truck traffic and noise has, and will continue to pose an increased danger and disturbance to Lori and her family.

Thirdly there should be a screen of vegetation planted to soften and improve the appearance of the Cole Substation from the road that includes spruce trees. Residents of Cole Road live here because of its rural look and feel. AEP could be better neighbor by beautifying their property and causing the least amount of distraction possible to a once peaceful rural road.

Respectfully,

James Phillippi

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