

FILE



Deer Park Community City Schools

Deer Park Schools - "Achieving Excellence Together"

16-253-CA-15TX

(2)

September 16, 2016

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

Re: Case Number 160253GABTX

PUCO

2016 SEP 21 PM 2:30

Dear Members of the Board:

As the Board of Education of Deer Park Community City Schools, a public school district located in north central Cincinnati; specifically serving students in the city of Deer Park as well as portions of the city of Silverton and portions of Sycamore Township, we have serious issues with the proposed Duke Central Corridor (Case Number 160253GABTX) Extension Gas Pipeline and believe that we are obligated to comment on this project.

Deer Park Community City School District serves approximately 1,300 students in grades PreK-12 in three schools. As the state designated authority charged with reviewing, and ultimately ruling on the coming permit from Duke Energy for the proposed natural gas lines, it is important for you to understand and carefully consider our reservations regarding the locations of these proposed natural gas pipelines.

There are three proposed pipeline routes under consideration. Two of these routes, specifically, the Pink Route and the Orange Route concern us because we are charged with ensuring the safety of each and every student, staff member, and visitor to our schools.

As currently proposed, the Orange Route, could impact all three of our schools. Holmes Elementary, Amity Elementary and Deer Park Jr/Sr High School are the primary educational locations for our entire district. The current Orange Route will pass within five hundred (500) feet of Amity Elementary School, two thousand five hundred (2,500) feet of the Deer Park Jr/Sr High School and three thousand (3,000) feet of Holmes Elementary School. As referenced above, the closeness of proximity of this proposed Orange Route to all our school causes concern for the safety of our students.

In addition, the Orange Route would run through or near a significant portion of our densely populated residential areas and would run parallel to and cross beneath an active railroad line. Duke Energy has stated that the high pressure gas line would be installed at a depth of three to four feet. Railroads usually require utility lines in the vicinity of their track to be buried at least ten (10) feet below grade. Any derailment on this section of track could very easily impact the

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high pressure transmission line and cause catastrophic damage to a wide portion of the immediate vicinity.

The second route of concern, the Pink Route, would pass through a residential area of our district, causing concern for the safety of the students and the families living there. Additionally, it passes in close proximity, two hundred (200) feet, to an elementary school in a neighboring school district. It is our opinion that the placement of this pipeline, designed to pump natural gas at high pressure, in highly concentrated residential areas and close to schools, poses potential danger to our students and our families.

As residents of the Deer Park Community City School District and parents and grandparents who have students in the district, we know there is a need to provide the region with an ample supply of natural gas. However, placing a natural gas line in such close proximity to our schools and through our residential neighborhoods poses a daily safety concern for our students and families. As a result, we are respectfully requesting that when the proposals for the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline are before you, you will, as the authorizing board, thoughtfully consider alternatives not in close proximity to the schools within the Deer Park Community City Schools.

Respectfully,

Board of Education
Deer Park Community City Schools

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