

FILE

14-253-GA-BTX (2)

Butler, Matthew

From: Paul Dell'Aira <alldellaira@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2016 8:49 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB
Cc: alldellaira@aol.com
Subject: Duke Energy pipeline Re. Case 16-253-GA-BTX

2016 SEP 26 AM 9:49
PUCO

OPSB President and members,

Please accept this letter as it applies to the Duke Energy Central Corridor pipeline project, Case 16-253-GA-BTX. My wife and I are longtime residents of Sycamore Township. We are in strong opposition to Duke's plan to route a high pressure transmission line through the heart of Hamilton County. We do not doubt that routing natural gas from northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania to users and facilities in other parts of the country will require the expansion of pipeline infrastructure. It is of national concern for our country to be energy independent and to have all of our critical fuel supply avenues geographically distributed for security and redundancy. This necessity is evidenced by this summer's gasoline pipeline failure in Alabama and threats to the United States as we prosecute the War on Terror. However, routing through densely populated Hamilton County, to us, seems to be a flawed choice.

A summary of our concerns follow:

1. The Hamilton County leg that is being discussed in this case is but a small section of a larger, inter-state natural gas distribution project. By choosing to apply for each section independently, it would appear Duke is trying to avoid the spirit, if not the letter, of the laws establishing the permitting process. We have asked Duke, using several methods, to explain why this is an intra-state concern rather than an inter-state concern, and they failed to provide a single piece of information one way or the other.
2. Why is it necessary to pass through the most densely populated (other than the central business district) urban sections of the county? For that matter why is it necessary to pass the pipeline through even suburban areas when there exist rural areas in close proximity to the proposed route(s)? Please understand, we are not trying to pass our problem off on other, distant, citizens. We are fully ready to accept the fact that the expansion of critical infrastructures may affect our property directly. We simply believe it is the role of the petitioner (and the relevant government regulators) to prove their point rather than hide behind the power of campaign contributions and eminent domain.
3. What effect will this pipeline have on the property values of the homes close to the route and how are those homeowners to be dealt with? We understand there is a 200 foot notification corridor, but even a cursory search online will show that in the event of a rupture, damage extends well beyond the immediate area of the pipeline. What is the method used to determine the change in salability due to the placement of a pipeline or other infrastructure? What is the increase in insurance premiums? What is the change in quality of life to neighborhoods cut in half by the pipeline corridor?
4. How is the pipeline to be funded? Will the reduced costs to users downstream of the production wells and transmission line pass their reduced costs along to those directly affected by the placement of the pipeline? How much extra would it have cost Duke to avoid highly populated areas? Without these numbers, it is impossible to determine if this is truly the best solution for Duke and its customers.
5. At one of the public meetings, a Duke representative stated that the gas from the transmission lines would reduce the cost and increase availability of natural gas to their LOCAL customers. We have yet to see where the gas from the transmission line would be reduced in pressure and made available to the southwestern Ohio supply grid. This increases our suspicion that the transmission pipeline project is more interstate than intrastate.

Duke has not been forthcoming as to the reasoning of their plan, nor in providing even the most basic information until being pressed by the entire political, media, and citizenry of the county. Now, they have asked to waive the requirements to hold another public meeting and to appropriately notify stakeholders along the route(s). We believe this shows their disregard of the rule of law and the rights of those potentially affected by the project. This leads us to the conclusion that the construction and operation of the pipeline will also be held to the minimum requirements of the law and industry safety standards and further shows their willingness to choose the easy way rather than the right way. We believe this tendency

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on the part of Duke Energy does not bode well for their willingness to work with the political authorities and the private business and homeowners that will be most affected by the construction and operation of the pipeline.

We urge you to deny Duke Energy's application for a pipeline through Hamilton County's most populated neighborhoods. Feel free to contact us to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Paul & Michele Dell'Aira
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