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Message:

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Related Case Number: 16-0253

TYPE: Comment

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ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

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(no account name provided?)

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COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board, RE: Case #16-0253-GA-BTX I am a resident of Evendale, one of many densely populated local communities that would be adversely impacted by the proposed alternative project route. I would be directly impacted by the proposed green route. Directly as it will take my entire front yard, including 3-100 year old oak trees; depending on the easement rules, the proposal could take my home via eminent domain too as it is less than 30 feet from the sidewalk. This is the only home my children have ever known and the only asset we have. I attended an informational session and asked several questions of their representatives; some were helpful and a few were absolutely terrible. One representative in particular that Duke assigned to the easement table was disrespectful, unsympathetic to questions, and honestly completely unprepared for representing their company--- as this is a very emotional topic for many, it would benefit Duke to put their best representatives forward as the face of their company in the future. As part of this session, we received a detailed view of the proposed green route as it would affect our property; the route actually turns in on my double lot property; the worst possible scenario. The incompetent or untrained easement rep said the easement would be 25 feet on each side and that "it was no big deal as no residential homes would be effected" . We showed him the picture of our double lot property below that we had just received from their survey table and he literally panicked and was quite rude and tried to say that he didn't mean "no homes" etc. Our question to Duke was and remains, "If the proposed green route is selected, will they be planning on starting eminent domain proceedings on our home and yard?" A 25 or even 20 foot easement is in our living room. Duke has NOT RESPONDED to multiple email requests for that answer. No matter what Duke's fancy attorneys would have you believe about working with the communities and properties effected, I can assure you that this is not the case and an investigation of their claims to be doing so will clearly show their utter disrespect of the very people they are claiming to be

trying to help. With every encounter or letter, the threat of eminent domain is always mentioned. Why would they "work with" owners when they can just take what they want? Along the green route, the majority of those effected are the poor and the elderly--vulnerable populations that deserve the same protection as those that could actually afford an attorney to help protect their rights. Duke made quite the savvy business decision when it removed the pink route from its draft proposal... the pink route is where every single founding member of NOPE, the neighbors against pipeline expansion group, lives. It is clear that Duke hoped that this would cut the voice of the community off and they can proceed with their rape of the environment unchecked. Recently we learned that mortgages like ours and probably hundreds of other people effected are owned by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The provisions of the loan paperwork prohibit permitting the presence of hazardous substances on the property, and defines hazardous substances to include flammable petroleum products; loans could be called in in violation of the mortgage agreement. Have you considered how this will affect the property owners on this route; like most Americans, we would be in foreclosure if required to pay in full. I oppose all of the current pipeline routes for a number of reasons but the following three reasons are paramount and listed below. . 1. Imposed Public Safety Risks and Objectionable Project Need with Current Routes. 2. Probable Severe Negative Environmental Impacts with Unreliable Accountability. Installing the pipeline along the green route or frankly any of the proposed routes would have more than a minimum adverse environmental impact. Communities like Evendale, Blue Ash Amberley Village and nearby established, densely populated communities have mature greenspaces, old growth trees, diverse wildlife, riparian features necessary to the natural mitigation of storm water, and well-established water runoff channels that have intrinsic value but also enhance the communities' quality of life and the property values of residences. Their destruction in the green route would have more severe environmental impacts than an alternative rural route in a less established area of farm land. Environmental impacts of this pipeline along these routes will be unprecedented and taking in to account that the routes have some of the most mature trees in the area, the impact will extend for the rest of our lives and our children's lives. According to the easement requirements of a pipe this size, trees, scrubs, and plants can NEVER be replanted and restored so the pipeline can stay clear. The impact is timeless. What adds to my environmental damage accountability concern is the fact that your company has been fined over a hundred million dollars in North Carolina for severe environmental damage and on January 18, 2012 PUCO ordered Duke Energy Ohio to pay a fine of \$500,000 due to lack of compliance with natural gas pipeline safety standards. The perceived lack of safety compliance resulted in a 2010 apartment explosion in Lebanon that injured seven people and caused an estimated \$1 million in property damage. Despite their marketing rhetoric about environmental stewardship and natural gas pipeline safety concerns, the reality is quite different. I am sorry to say that respectfully, my concern about unreliable corporate accountability is intensified by the public record of Duke Energy's environmental and pipeline safety irresponsibility that was brought to my attention recently. 3. Severe Household and Community Short Term and Long Term Economic Costs. A study by the Colorado School of Public health found that natural gas development hurts residential and commercial property values during construction. While some properties can recover once they are returned to their original condition, the mature forest in the Evendale Village community makes a full restoration impossible. According to the Forensic Appraisal Group, the permanent long term decline in property values could range from 50% of easement value (half of my yard) to 30% of the entire property value. Since I would be on the "incineration zone" of the gas pipeline -- literally the pipeline would be right outside my front door--right

outside as in inches--with the green route, it will likely decimate the largest single investment I have – my home. These economic costs are likely to be compounded because of home insurance rate increases and the refusal of some financial institutions to refinance homes along large natural gas pipelines. Several pending sale homes in the area have already been cancelled because the buyer backed out due to the pending pipeline plans. Ask yourself, "Would I ever knowingly live on a high flow natural gas pipeline?" It would be like living on a volcano.... Sure it might never erupt but it is like rolling the dice on your families' safety and happiness. The pipeline hazard will likely dampen community economic development, incentivize relocation, and result in a loss of tax revenues. Personally, my family and I will be ruined as we will not allow our children to sleep on top of a pipeline that could kill them or live at a construction site for over a year. Certainly none of their friends would be able to visit out of safety worries, no more family gatherings, no laughter, just fear of what could happen. A home without safety and happiness isn't a home at all and we would be forced to abandon everything, likely to foreclosure as the bank will clearly call in the loan for a worthless property. I have worked my whole life and dedicated my career to helping others as a pediatric nurse. My husband also served for 12 years as an Army Ranger; we pay our bills on time, we vote, we practice good environmental stewardship, we are raising 2 respectable and thoughtful children, we donate our time and financial resources to our church and community. We have been good model citizens. And now with this pipeline, we could be looking at foreclosure, bankruptcy, our children changing schools, etc – with no way to recover given our age and the long term effects of these projects. These pipelines are put in unpopulated rural areas for many reasons; please consider the lifetime impacts and deny the application as submitted. Respectfully submitted, Candice Overly

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 16-0253-GA-BTX**

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Mrs. Candice Overly