www.golfmanoroh.gov • g.schwartzberg@golfmanoroh.gov

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March 14, 2019

Laurie Stevenson, Director Ohio Environmental Protection Agency 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 Columbus, OH 43215

On behalf of the Village of Golf Manor Council, residents and business owners, I am writing to you regarding the proposed Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project (Case No. 16-253-GA-print) Understand the project is designed to bring an increased volume of natural While we understand this goal, as well as the need infrastructure, we remain companies to the project infrastructure, we remain companies to the project infrastructure, we remain companies to the project infrastructure. infrastructure, we remain concerned that the proposed, preferred route by the Power Siting Board, will be located in our densely populated neighborhood.

In Golf Manor, this project will be disruptive to properties impacted in both the short and the long term. We and our constituents are concerned about the safety issues related to this natural gas pipeline as well as the proposed removal of trees and proposed barriers and future serviceability of land acquired in impacted areas.

We would remind the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Duke Energy that lower median income, smaller urban communities, such as Golf Manor, work diligently to contain expense for taxpayers while providing critical services. A project of this magnitude will not only disrupt the peace of the community during construction, but will leave Golf Manor with the responsibility, cost, and aftermath of managing any catastrophic event that may take place due to the failure of Duke Energy's pipeline.

Safety is of critical importance. The potential harm in such a densely populated area is of alarm to elected officials and residents alike should there be a failure of the pipeline. As mayor, I am concerned

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at the lack of engagement with local first responders, in particular the Little Miami Joint Fire & Rescue District, our fire service provider, or any safety organization, regarding the support Duke Energy will require or impose upon this Village should this project be built. I anticipate that valuable economic resources will need to be diverted from other essential needs to additional training and equipment required to support any catastrophic failure of the pipeline.

Finally, as the Board, PUCO and Duke Energy decide what best routes will be taken, we encourage you to consider the financial impact this project will have on residential and business property values, property insurance rates and the quality of life in the Village for our residents.

I strongly encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Duke Energy to reevaluate the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project and find better alternatives that do not rip apart the fabric of our densely populated and settled community in the heart of Hamilton County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Greg Schwartzberg** 

Mayor

Village of Golf Manor, OH

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Grace Severyn 9419 Bluewing Terrace Blue Ash, OH 45241



Ms. Laurie Stevenson 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 Columbus, OH 43215

March 14, 2019

Legal Office MAR 19 '19 pwl 157

RE: Case Number 16-0253-GA-BTX, Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Proposal

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

PLEASE attend the OPSB's Public Hearing next Thursday, March 21 on the matter of the Central Corridor Pipeline Extension, Case Number 16-0253-GA-BTX, in Blue Ash, Ohio.

The last OPSB public hearing on the matter of the Central Corridor Pipeline Extension took place on June 15, 2017. NOT ONE VOTING MEMBER from the Ohio Power Siting Board bothered to attend. This dereliction of duty sent a rather clear message that OSB members at that time did not intend to give any real consideration to the public interest.

We are not talking about opposition from a few "not in my backyard" residents. There is overwhelming public outcry from the community as a whole. There is, in fact, <u>strong opposition by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County</u>, as well as the communities of <u>Amberley</u>, <u>Blue Ash</u>, <u>Columbia Township</u>, <u>Deer Park</u>, <u>Evendale</u>, <u>Golf Manor</u>, <u>Madeira</u>, <u>Pleasant Ridge</u>, <u>Reading</u>, and <u>Sycamore Township!</u>

As an OPSB board member, you have a responsibility to go beyond "rubber stamping" corporate proposals. Please attend the hearing on March 21 so you can appreciate the reasons for serious, widespread, and long-standing public opposition to the pipeline extension. I listened to 7 hours of testimony during the last public hearing — ranging from well-informed factual and technical analysis of need and alternatives to the pipeline to heart-wrenching testimony from people who will suffer in many ways from a large pipeline being placed VERY near to their homes, schools, churches, synagogues, and workplaces.

PLEASE attend to hear why the proposed pipeline is NOT NECESSARY -- less intrusive alternatives exist -- and how horrendously offensive Duke's proposal is to the vast majority of residents of Hamilton County. PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON YOUR NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH!!!

With sincere and humble pleas for your help,

Grace Leverin

Grace A. Severyn

10386 Giverny Blvd. Cincinnati, OH 45241

March 14, 2019

Laurie Stevenson, Director OH EPA 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

We are writing to express our strong objection to Duke Energy's plans for a pipeline extension in Hamilton County (Case 16-0253-GA-BTX). Our opposition is based on the following points:

- Duke Energy says that the pipeline is necessary to meet rising demand for natural gas in Hamilton County, but there is absolutely no evidence to support such an assertion, nor has Duke provided any. Population in Hamilton County has been declining and is projected to continue to decline over the foreseeable future. In addition, high efficiency appliances in homes will also reduce natural gas usage over the coming years. The only reasonable explanation for such a pipeline is that it will be a high capacity transmission line to transport natural gas to destinations further south beyond Hamilton County and the Ohio border. But such transmission lines are never newly constructed in densely populated areas. They are routed through areas where the risks to lives and property are minimized.
- Even if there were such a need, routing a high pressure 20-inch pipeline through heavily populated areas is obscenely risky. Terrible accidents and explosions have occurred all too often with such high-pressure lines, and both the preferred and alternate routes that Duke is proposing would place at least tens of thousands of citizens in Hamilton County in grave danger. Our own property lies 170 feet from the proposed green route (which the Ohio Power Siting Board has recommended). This means that if an explosion occurs near our home, we would have zero chance of escaping death. The green route would also place the pipeline within 150 feet of at least one elementary school in Evendale. How in good conscience can the QPSB place so many innocent lives at risk for so little benefit to anyone other than the financial coffers of Duke Energy? If an accident should occur (and it is almost inevitable over the lifespan of this pipeline), the loss of life would be truly catastrophic. If a new pipeline is necessary to transmit natural gas across the country, then a route should be selected that would place a minimal population at risk. There are surely many other potential routes that would be much less physically dangerous and damaging to the economic health of the community than the two routes proposed by Duke. We urge the OPSB to consider alternative routes rather than simply rubber stamping Duke's ill-conceived proposal.
- In addition to the extreme danger of the pipeline, even without an accident, there will be enormous economic damage to the people who live within proximity to the new pipeline. Property values are certain to decline precipitously once a high-pressure line is installed. These losses could easily number in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to individual property owners, which is enough to send them to the brink of financial ruin or beyond. Again, how in good conscience can the OPSB, which should be representing the needs of the citizens of Ohio, allow that to happen, solely for the sake of the greed of Duke Energy?

- Duke has stated that a new pipeline is necessary to replace and upgrade old infrastructure. If that is so, then why not simply replace existing pipelines/facilities where they are rather than add disruption and destruction where none currently exists? This to us also suggests a cover-up of Duke's real reason to construct the new line: to transmit gas to destinations further south.
- In addition to health and financial damages, there would also be enormous environmental damage with the construction of such a pipeline. Has anyone counted how many beautiful and invaluable trees would be lost and never replaced if a new pipeline is installed? Along Glendale-Milford Road alone (the green route), there are numerous beautiful oak trees that would be lost forever if the pipeline goes through. It's impossible to place a value on these trees.

Duke has not been forthcoming to the citizens of Ohio throughout this process. They do not have our best interests at heart, but only their own financial interests. Our lives are thus in the hands of the OPSB. We implore you to deny Duke's request for a pipeline extension for which there is no need and which will create such long-lasting damage and risks to health and economy. It boggles the mind that reasonable people would ever consider such a plan as Duke is proposing. The only explanation is simple greed.

Sincerely

Michael Kim Roos and Minsun Kim Roos

10386 Giverny Boulevard Evendale, Ohio 45241

CC: Brittney Colvin

10386 Giverny Blvd. Cincinnati, OH 45241

March 14, 2019

Mary Mertz Director OH DNR 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-3 Columbus, OH 43229

Dear Ms. Mertz:

We are writing to express our strong objection to Duke Energy's plans for a pipeline extension in Hamilton County (Case 16-0253-GA-BTX). Our opposition is based on the following points:

- Duke Energy says that the pipeline is necessary to meet rising demand for natural gas in Hamilton County, but there is absolutely no evidence to support such an assertion, nor has Duke provided any. Population in Hamilton County has been declining and is projected to continue to decline over the foreseeable future. In addition, high efficiency appliances in homes will also reduce natural gas usage over the coming years. The only reasonable explanation for such a pipeline is that it will be a high capacity transmission line to transport natural gas to destinations further south beyond Hamilton County and the Ohio border. But such transmission lines are never newly constructed in densely populated areas. They are routed through areas where the risks to lives and property are minimized.
- Even if there were such a need, routing a high pressure 20-inch pipeline through heavily populated areas is obscenely risky. Terrible accidents and explosions have occurred all too often with such high-pressure lines, and both the preferred and alternate routes that Duke is proposing would place at least tens of thousands of citizens in Hamilton County in grave danger. Our own property lies 170 feet from the proposed green route (which the Ohio Power Siting Board has recommended). This means that if an explosion occurs near our home, we would have zero chance of escaping death. The green route would also place the pipeline within 150 feet of at least one elementary school in Evendale. How in good conscience can the OPSB place so many innocent lives at risk for so little benefit to anyone other than the financial coffers of Duke Energy? If an accident should occur (and it is almost inevitable over the lifespan of this pipeline), the loss of life would be truly catastrophic. If a new pipeline is necessary to transmit natural gas across the country, then a route should be selected that would place a minimal population at risk. There are surely many other potential routes that would be much less physically dangerous and damaging to the economic health of the community than the two routes proposed by Duke. We urge the OPSB to consider alternative routes rather than simply rubber stamping Duke's ill-conceived proposal.
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Sincerely.

Michael Kim Roos and Minsun Kim Roos

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