



June 21, 2011

Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: PUCO ESP Case #11-3549-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

As an economic development organization, the Warren County Port Authority has had the opportunity to work with Duke Energy (Duke) on several occasions. Through their activities within the community, Duke has demonstrated their leadership, financial assistance and efforts to spur development within the region. It is partnerships and cooperation among the public and private sector that will position Ohio for success through job creation and retention. The management team at Duke has demonstrated their understanding of this need through their activities within Southwest Ohio.

In 2010 Duke created a new program called Site Readiness. Our county was chosen as a pilot project for a 200 acre site near a major interchange along Interstate 75. The technical efforts and financial assistance offered will assist the local community in positioning this tract of land for success and job creation. Our office, along with the local community participant, better understands the strengths and weaknesses that will allow this site to become competitive with site selection experts. In addition, Warren County was selected again for an Industrial Park in the City of Mason in 2011. We are excited to start the process and look forward to many more projects in future years.

As the economy recovers, collaborative efforts between the public sector and companies like Duke will be important to attract jobs to Ohio. Duke has demonstrated their commitment to collaborative initiatives through the Site Readiness program. All together, this program has impacted five sites in 2010, six sites in 2011 and I look forward to its success in future years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Martin Russell'.

Martin Russell
Executive Director
Warren County Port Authority

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