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Power Siting Board

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Kim Wissman

March 11, 2014

Dr. John L. Fortney and Mrs. Jan Buchanan Fortney
401 West Second Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Re: Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Case No. 13-0429-EL-BTX

Dr. & Mrs. Fortney,

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) regarding American Electric Power Transmission Company's (AEP Transco) proposed Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project. Your correspondence in regards to the project has been docketed in case number 13-0429-EL-BTX.

The OPSB process is a well-documented, highly visible process. A public informational meeting was held for this case on May 13, 2013 at the Pioneer School of Developmental Disabilities. Further, case filings made by the AEP are available on the OPSB website at www.opsb.ohio.gov. The OPSB website also hosts an interactive map developed with data from the application that portrays the proposed Preferred and Alternate routes. Finally, the Applicant is required to place one paper copy of their application in local libraries so that the public can have another avenue to review the proposals.

A local public hearing will be held in the case at a date scheduled by the Administrative Law Judge after the project is deemed to be complete. I have attached a fact sheet describing how local residents can participate in the OPSB process. Information about this hearing will be published by the Applicant and available on the OPSB.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the OPSB at (866) 270-6772. Again, thank you for your interest in this case.

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Very truly yours,

Kim Wissman, Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

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Technician je Date Processed MAR 11 2014

180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

(866) 270-6772
www.OPSB.ohio.gov

To: Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)

From: John L. Fortney MD and Jan Buchanan Fortney, Buchanan Farm

Date: March 4, 2014

Subject: Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano Transmission Line Project, Ross County, Case 13-0429-EL-BTX

We are writing this letter to voice our opposition to American Electric Power's (AEP) proposed "Blue Line" route through Ross County. Further, we would like to endorse the letter written by Brenda Johnson, posted on the OPSB website on 3/3/2014, as exactly reflecting our views. The proposed route makes no sense and adversely affects many homes, farms and Unioto School. Although we prefer the Red route to the Blue route, we object to both. It is clear the optimal path would be through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area (PVWA) that was not considered by AEP as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) refused to seek approval from the federal government. The reasoning they used in their rejection letter seems misguided and unreasonable. We also take issue with ODNR having the ability to serve a blanket "no" to considering a line through the preserve, as they are a voting member of the OPSB. This seems to be a clear conflict of interest. We would hope, and expect, ODNR will have no vote on this project.

The Buchanan farm has been in the family since the mid 1800's. It has been an active farm throughout, originally raising livestock and producing grain. The farm currently is devoted entirely to growing grains. This spring the farm is addressing erosion problems by building waterways and making diversion channels. Since the transmission line will traverse much of the land involved, it will adversely affect this project and cause additional problems by producing soil compaction issues and future erosion problems. Considering the above, we are opposed to the Blue Route as it is currently proposed. The line would

result in a significant loss of farmable land, decrease yield, reduce property value, and will ruin the aesthetics of a beautiful farm.

The entire process of choosing the two routes (preferred and alternate) has been anything but transparent. To hold only one public meeting before submission of the application is unacceptable. Many of those potentially affected by the routes were unaware of the meeting, and others had conflicts preventing their attendance (including us). Once aware we were on the preferred route, we engaged with AEP to understand why the route was chosen, and why alternative routes were not considered. Answers have been evasive or nonexistent. Obtaining detailed maps to understand the entire route has been impossible. Maps provided in the application are poorly reproduced and difficult to read. To date we still are unable to determine exactly where the line travels. Our hope is the OPSB would require power companies to conduct multiple public meetings and provide detailed, readable material for those potentially affected by a project of this magnitude.

Finally, our recommendation is for the board to reject both routes and send AEP back to develop a new plan. Both proposed routes impact multiple farms, residences and the blue route, a school. As the route through the PVWA would address many of these issues, it should be considered in this project.

Sincerely,

John and Jan Fortney
401 West Second St.
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601