

FILE To: Ohio Power Siting Board
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RECEIVED-SOCKETING DIV

2014 AUG 22 PM 2:23

PUCO

Date: August 13, 2014

Re: 14-0469-EL-BTX: West Milton-Eldean 138kV Transmission Line, Miami County

I first learned of this project when I received a letter on July 23, 2014 with a request for permission to enter my farm to conduct field studies. The request stated the study would be along the westerly side of my property. When I received the detailed map of the proposed routes, I was appalled to find the westerly side was not a side at all, but a diagonal across the property at a 45 degree angle from northeast to southwest. There is also a red line on the north side separating one section of the property from the rest. All over America family farms are disappearing. I am the third generation of one family still farming this land. The farm house my brother and I grew up in was sold when my grandmother was in her 80's so we no longer live on the farm, but that in no way diminishes our hope to continue farming the land.

DP&L's information letter states "the application will include a preferred and alternate route", yet this diagonal yellow route cutting across my actively farmed land is the only route proposed on the map. Where is the alternate? The information letter also states "routes largely follow road right-of-way (often where electric distribution lines already exist)". There is no road and there are no electric lines currently crossing this field at a diagonal (or on any side). Similarly, there is no road and no electric lines where the red line cuts our farming entity into separate sections a second time.

The proposed poles and lines will make farming the land exceedingly difficult, if not impossible. The farm equipment currently used to farm the land is 120 feet wide so dodging poles is an issue. The land has aerial applications, so planes will have to fly under the wires to be just above the crops as well as attempt to miss the poles. The right of way of 75 feet (37 1/2 feet on each side of the pole) will cut a huge diagonal swath across the farm. The corner poles at both ends of the diagonal will require a large area for guy wires or 6 feet diameter cement pads. The fields are fully tiled and disruption of the tile system will also cause loss of crops. It will take years for the land to recover from the damage caused to the field by the construction and maintenance of the poles and/or lines. The more obstructions and damage, the fewer crops that can be grown. Rich productive farm land will be lost forever.

I feel as if DP&L is targeting me in a personal attack to ruin my farm. When I look at the detailed maps I see no other farms with a diagonal route slashed across them and the top part chopped off. The proposals show no other farm with a single proposed route and no alternate route selected. Other farms have the routes following the borders of their farms instead of cutting a single farm into 3 pieces. Why is my property being targeted unfairly?

DP&L should follow their own information letter and provide an alternate proposal, instead of only one route, and place their routes along a road right-of-way where electric lines already exist, such as

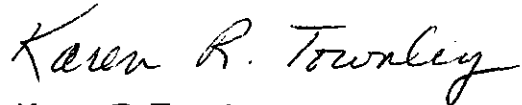
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down Washington Road and McCurdy Road instead of across my field twice, creating three sections from the one entity and ruining the land for farming.

Please revisit the West Milton to Eldean Power Line plan. I am opposed to the project as currently planned using my farm as the only route (shared blue and red) on the diagonal cut and also as the red route on the second cut through my property.

Please consider this my formal comments on this project,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen R. Townley". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Karen R. Townley