BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the
Application of AEP Ohio
Transmission Company for a
:

Certificate of Environmental : Case No.

Compatibility and Public : 13-0429-EL-BTX
Need to Construct the 138 kV :
Biers Run-Hopetown-Delano :
Transmission Line Project. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

Before Jay Agranoff, Administrative Law Judge, held at Pioneer School for Disabilities, 11268 County Road 550, Chillicothe, Ohio, Ohio, on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 6:00 P.M.

- - -

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      APPEARANCES:
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             Mr. A. J. Kumar
              AEP Service Corp.
 4
              1 Riverside Plaza
              Columbus, Ohio 43215
 5
                   On behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission
                   Company.
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Tuesday Evening,

December 16, 2014.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: The Ohio Power
Siting Board has assigned for public hearing at
this time and place case No. 13-429-EL-BTX which
is captioned In the Matter of the Application of
AEP Ohio Transmission Company for a Certificate
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need
to Construct the 138 kV Biers

Run-Hopetown-Delano Transmission Line Project.

My name is Jay Agranoff and I am the Administrative Law Judge assigned by the Ohio Power Siting Board to preside over this local hearing. With me this evening are Megan Addison from the Power Siting Board's Legal Department, Mr. Matt Butler who is outside, Mr. John Pauley and Ms. Katie Salvator, who are all from the Ohio Power Sitting Board staff.

We are available if you have any questions concerning the application or any other utility matter. Please feel free to approach one us after the completion of this evening's hearing.

At this point in time we will take the appearances on behalf of the parties in this matter. On behalf of the Applicant AEP Ohio.

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MR. KUMAN: My name is A. Jay Kumar,
I am here on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission
Company. With me is Hector Garcia, he is also
here on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company.

Additionally, I have Bret Schmide.

He is Project outreach. Sean Malone, the project manager. Tama Davis who is the Project Outreach supervisor. Diane Montgomery who is our right-of-way agent. Scott Reed who is also right-of-way. And Jon Buck who is Community Affairs Manager.

And we will be available for questions afterwards. Thank you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. The subject of this evening's public hearing is the application that was filed on January 8, 2014 as supplemented on May 15, 2014; July, 18, 2014; and July 31st, 2014.

Specifically AEP seeks to construct a 138 kV transmission line between the Biers Run substation to the Delano substation. It will

pass through the Hopetown station which is a proposed distribution substation which will replace the existing Camp Sherman station.

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I would note that the adjudicatory hearing as I mentioned before is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on January 6th, 2015 at the offices of the Ohio Power Sitting Board in Columbus.

In this case the Applicant submits that the purpose of the proposed project is to improve and maintain the quality of electric service and reliability to the south central Ohio area. This area includes, but is not limited to, the communities of southern Columbus, Chillicothe, Circleville, Waverly and others.

The Applicant notes that the Circleville-Chillicothe load area is currently served primarily by three 138 kV lines which originate from Columbus, Waverly and Athens areas. The Applicant states that the loss of any two of these lines can result in a system criteria violation in the area.

According to the application the project is located in a rural setting

characterized by mixed agricultural and residential land uses and large wooded areas. Thirty-one residences have been identified as being within a thousand feet of the preferred route, one of which is within 100 feet. The preferred route will cross eight parcels, not including the common route. The south alternate route will cross 33 parcels, not including the common route.

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The north alternate route will cross
18 parcels, not including the common route.

The Applicant plans to start construction in the spring of 2015 with the estimated service date of approximately fall of 2016.

As I mentioned before, the purpose of this evening's public hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the Applicant's application in this case. It is not intended to be a question and answer session, but instead is your opportunity to let the Board know what you think about the proposal set forth in the application, and your preference relative to the proposed, preferred and two alternate

1 routes.

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I would note that the Board's Staff filed its Report of Investigation on December 1st, 2014. This is simply a recommendation of the Board's staff and does not necessarily reflect what the Board's final determination in this case will be.

The Board appreciates your participation in this evening's hearing and we want everyone who is interested to have the opportunity to testify. As I mentioned before, I will call your name as it appears on the sign-in sheet. When I call your name please come forward, please raise your right hand and be sworn in. And then I will ask you to provide your full name and address. Any questions?

If not, why don't we begin. And I apologize up front if I mispronounce somebody's last name. I am very familiar with pronunciations of last names because it happens to me a lot.

Is it Mr. Ray Storts?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't see

24 Ray in here.

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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. How about Mr.
 2
     Scott Cormany? Please come forward, sir.
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                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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                       SCOTT CORMANY
     called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
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 7
     testified as follow:
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your
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     full name and address for the record.
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                  MR. CORMANY: Scott Cormany, 3464
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     Biers Run Road, Chillicothe, Ohio. I just got a
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     small time line here.
                  In June of 2012, most people know
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14
     this, but AEP proposed building 12 acre
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     substation on Biers Run Road. They had two
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     sites, but it was on the same farm. How many
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     people here were notified of that substation
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     being built?
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                  Zero. Right? Very few. Maybe one
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     percent. But we are all affected by the
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     substation. Maybe we should have been made
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     aware of the substation being built, you know,
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     before so we could of had our say then.
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                  But at this point it seems to be
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putting the -- it just seems ridiculous at this point, to have this meeting. We are all affected by this particular substation that was built there. We could of had our say when the substation could of had two sites. A site 1 and site 2. And they did have site 1 and site 2, but they were on the same farm, they were on the same property.

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The same landowners around were affected, the same landowner rights were affected, because it was only one site selected.

And I am sure that AEP followed the letter of the law and somehow they met the criteria for having two sites. But it was really only one site because the same exact people, as I said many times before, are being affected by this one substation. And either of those sites would have affected the same people.

AEP states in their documents online and in the handouts that there is a critical need to reinforce the transmission system to accommodate development in this area and upgrade the transmission system. It seems to me if you want to accommodate development in this area you

should have put it where the development is.

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You should not put it through a wildlife area, you should not put it through rural farm fields where there are no people.

And I understand that if you put it through a wildlife area and you put it in the middle of a farm field you are going to have a lot less people complaining. But maybe that should be a criteria for putting power lines through someplace, where you have the complaints, because that would be serving the most people.

September of 2013 the Ohio Power
Siting Board approved the substation. There are
no plans, grading plans, landscaping plans
associated with this. The other substation that
I found in Ohio is up in Sunbury in Delaware
County, there were two grading and landscaping
plans submitted with that plan.

I asked the Project Manager about that earlier tonight and he said it would be the Ohio Power Siting Board that would recommend a grading and landscaping plan.

I am not sure if -- because, you

know, it's a rural area or, you know, there
was -- it's all farm fields around the
substation, but we did not get a grading plan,
we didn't get a landscaping plan. AEP does not
have to do any of that.

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I have spoken with the project manager, he said that there are plans to plant trees around the site, but they are not required to. So, I do hope AEP holds to that, plant trees to mitigate the visual impact of that site as much as possible.

On May 16th we had a meeting exactly like this one. There was only two transmission routes at that time proposed. It was a north route and a southern route. The southern route went south of 35 by Golf View, the northern route went north of the wildlife area.

You know, at the time I referred to the route, but there was no mention of this yellow route. Blue and yellow. At that time the AEP preferred route was this southern blue route.

They had already discussed with landowners along that route about compensation

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and routing. It seemed like it was well on its way to get the staff's -- Ohio Power Siting

Board staff's approval or recommendation to go along that route.
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ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Cormany, if I could just ask for clarification, when you mentioned the blue route and the yellow route --

MR. CORMANY: The southern -- at that time the southern route that went south of 35 was the blue route, and the northern route was the red route.

ALJ AGRANOFF: So the northern and southern routes as they currently stand were what you just identified?

MR. CORMANY: No. They are different now. Now it's the southern route is still blue, but the northern route is yellow. Hold on. Yes, the northern route is yellow, the route going through the wildlife area is red. And the southern route is still blue.

At the time, I was speaking at the time it was the southern blue route and northern red route.

ALJ AGRANOFF: I just want to bring

you back to the terminology that we have as of today.

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MR. CORMANY: Yes. So it would be the today's southern blue route, which was AEP's preferred route at the time, and then there was a northern route, which is now currently the northern yellow route or alternate route. And no route through the wildlife area whatsoever.

And on AEP's website it actually says right on it, it says why doesn't AEP go along the wildlife area? It is more direct route and would not impact residences.

So, just like the previous statement, there is a critical need to reinforce the transmission system to accommodate development. So why put it in an area that has no development? It makes no sense to me. To accommodate development in this area and update the transmission system.

Okay. So let's go back to what was actually written in the document. It is a much more direct route and will not impact residences. Pleasant Valley wildlife area is managed by the Ohio Department of Natural

Resources Division of Wildlife. This land is public land, it is protected as a natural area and for wildlife habitat. Division regulations restrict construction through this area.

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Now, obviously deed restrictions on the wildlife area, on its use. It also was purchased from the federal government, and this is all just what I have learned. I am not a lawyer, I do not know this to be true, but to the best of my knowledge it was purchased from the federal government. They would need the federal government's Division of Wildlife Service permission to get this power line through here.

The money that was used to purchase the wildlife area by ODNR was actually provided from hunting license fees. There is a stipulation on hunting license fees that says it can only be used for hunting and wildlife reasons.

There is just a lot of reasons why this should not go through the wildlife area.

Back to the time line. Somewhere between May and July of 2014 before this second

public hearing there was a meeting held between AEP and members along that southern blue route. Then there was a meeting on July 22nd. AEP proposed a third transmission route through the Pleasant Valley wildlife area.

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I was disappointed with this process the whole way through. I feel like we have had no options. The site would impact us, me, specifically my wife and my daughter, whether it was site 1 or site 2.

There is another transmission route going north to Circleville, and then this route. So, I don't know how you could have -- I don't know why I keep saying it because it doesn't matter, but I don't know why you would have two sites that impact the same people. It's not two sites, it's one site.

I cannot believe that is

following the law. Second, I realize that the

one site, got hundreds of tall shiny silver

towers. There is five of them that looks

terrible. And then now this transmission line

is going to run right by my parents' house.

And they babysit our daughter. So we have been

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      impacted greatly by this, and continue to be.
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                  And I honestly feel like we have no
 3
      say. AEP's preferred route seems to be this
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      route through the wildlife area. The staff has
 5
      decided that that is okay. I wish they would
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      reconsider, and choose the southern route.
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      Thank you.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. I
9
      have both Pat and Jean Porter.
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                  MR. PORTER: We misinterpreted the
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      sign-in sheet.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Would you like to
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      testify?
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                  MR. PORTER: No.
                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Tom Lawhorn.
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16
     Please come forward, sir.
17
                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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19
                        TOM LAWHORN
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      called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
21
      testified as follows:
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your
      full name and address for the record.
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                  MR. LAWHORN: Thomas Lawhorn, 3210
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Egypt Pike. My reason for being here tonight is like the last gentleman is to protect my little slice of heaven.

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I am asking for consideration to modify the preferred route. My concern in this is in the second paragraph on the preferred route. The route parallels the northern and eastbound boundaries of the PBW for approximately two miles and turns south along the west side of Egypt Pike, the southern boundary of the PBW which is a common boundary to my property.

I bought, I own my house at 3210

Egypt Pike. I bought the property adjacent next door as an investment to build my retirement home there.

And my concern is that they are going to have these power lines running down right beside my house when there is an option that exists. I would like to request that they at least consider stopping where coming down Egypt Pike about 200 feet short of where they are. There is a little section of woods, if anybody is familiar with that area from AEP, and

then beside the woods is adjoined by a vast field.

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If you feel like you have to go
through the game reserve is cut down the
northern edge of the woods along the field there
which would not interfere with anybody. And I
am sure it's probably not even any additional
cost to do so. The fact that you also would be
supporting the green initiative by saving a lot
of trees. I would have a sliver of woods
between my house and the game reserve.

Another concern is too that when I called the information hotline I was told that it was going to be just wooden post poles, and now that I am hearing that it's potentially going to be much more than just wooden poles there. So I am going to have to look at these things every day, where the reason I built that property was it was a wildlife area that is woods. Okay.

And taking that option away from me, which is going to significantly devalue the price of that piece of property.

The other thing too, I have a lot of

1 trespassers that park across the street at the game reserve. And they are already tresspassing 3 on my property poaching and all it's going to do 4 is create an interstate highway right down that 5 property line on my adjacent property. 6 Those are my concerns. And I would 7 just like the Board to consider modification of 8 the preferred route and stop a couple hundred 9 yards from where it's at and runs down the 10 woods line adjacent to the field on my property. 11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Martha Brittinger. 14 Please come forward. 15 (WITNESS SWORN) 16 17 MARTHA BITTINGER 18

called as a witness, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your 21 full name and address.

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MS. BITTINGER: My name is Martha Bittinger. My address 23597 State Route 104, Chillicothe.

Excuse me for reading the prepared statement, but I have some facts and I wanted to make sure I have them correct. I am the owner of a 52-acre of the section of the family farm that was passed on to me 55 years ago to take care of.

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Our farm is just north of the AEP plant on Delano, and it is also bisected by State Route 159. Your proposed line will make a 90 degree in our field. We have two homes located just west of 159, the location of the original homestead where the pole will be. At the present time we have these encumbrances located at the property.

In 1910 with several additional deeds my great grandfather deeded land to the Norfolk & Western Railroad cutting through a section of the farm that leads to 159. In 1954 Ohio Midland Power acquired a little under an acre in one corner of the farm.

In 1988 AT&T placed an underground cable along two property lines on the western section of the farm.

In 1994 Columbia Gas located another

underground line across the highway. In 1996
into 1998 South Central Power has an underground
easement along the east side of 159, a 10 foot
easement along the north line with all the
anchors being in or near the fence line to
the -- from the railroad west. And they also
have a 10 foot easement along the north line
between the railroad and their station. They
have other additional changes that were made
actually to the station.

In 1997 Ross County drainage easement was placed on the southwest corner in an attempt to improve Delano ditch. And the cleaning of the ditch has been blocked by a neighbor.

Finally in 2005 the land was flooded by the inability of government to be able to negotiate with the neighbor to clean the ditch. So Ross County Soil and Water placed 18 acres of the land in a CRP program.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: What does that stand 22 for?

23 MS. RITTINGER: Conservation
24 Reserve -- I am sorry. Conservation Reserve

Program.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

MS. RITTINGER: The AEP proposal shows a pole placed 10 feet from the north property line on the western section of the farm. Remember, this is a 52 acre farm, with the highway and railroad through it.

I intend to hold firm with my request that the pole be placed on the property line. I have been told that 10 feet would be allowed for farming around it.

Now, any of you that are farmers out there, do you know any existing field equipment that is going to go through a 10 foot opening?

I can tell you right now on all our farms we have had to go and remove the old 16 foot gates because we cannot get the machinery through 16 feet.

Note that the present easements are all either along the fence line, even the underground easements are along fence lines.

Only the railroad cuts across and crosses 159. The ground between the property line and the proposed pole could not be

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1
     maintained anyway regardless because the CRP
     regulations allow noise only for a very maximum
 3
     of one time per year. Over and over -- I am
 4
     sorry. For some reason I am nervous. I am
 5
     usually not when I talk.
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                  It just seems ridiculous that they
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     can't be moved 10 feet. Over and over the bush
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     hogs, and ours are 15 foot wide, and can you
9
     imagine how I would be able to hire someone to
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     take their lawnmower down and mow the grass that
11
     has been growing for at least 365 days? I don't
12
     know how you could maintain it.
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                  I am willing to sign an easement
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     putting the pole over to the fence line, but I
     am strongly opposed to any attempt to set a pole
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      10 feet out from the fence. Thank you.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Mr. Ray
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     Fischels.
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                  MR. FISCHELS: I thought it was a
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     sign-in sheet.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Ms. Patty
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     Haller.
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                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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PATTY HALLER

called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
testified as follows:

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ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full name and address for the record.

MS. HALLER: My name is Patty Haller and my address is 639 Golf View Drive.

Let's start by saying this puts me in a very difficult position because many of the people who are here today are friends of mine and people that I care very deeply about. So it's very difficult to get up here and address this situation, but there are many facts that I think need to be considered.

We are all in this for what we want to be a positive for this area moving forward. I don't want it to cut into people's fields, I don't want it to cut into their property, I don't want to see values decreased in properties. And I certainly don't want to see businesses have a difficult time because these different routings are going to interfere with the progress moving forward.

So my ultimate statement is I hope

that AEP takes into consideration all of the factors that are going to affect the lives of people who are here and as they move forward they take into consideration all of the things that everyone is bringing to the table; that there are too many lives that are being affected and I want them to make sure that if there is an easier way to get from point A to point B without affecting as many people, as many lives, as much property, that they take that into consideration. And if that means a little jog in an electric line to save peoples' properties, for peoples' farms, or the wildlife preserve or whatever needs to be done that that's taken into consideration.

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And one of the reasons I chose to speak is the line does not go through my property at all. It doesn't border my property, it doesn't cut my property. I am in proximity to it.

I have a six year old daughter and I worry about the health effects of the electromagnetic fields that are created by these lines. So, I would want them to take the path

of least affect to lives by the electromagnetic fields that this is going to create.

I don't like that means the option goes through many farms and any wildlife reserves, but I can say I don't like the fact that some of the alternative routes go by schools and neighborhoods and homes of small children because in Ross County we are one of the leading cancer counties in the State of Ohio already. I would hate to think that trying to save money to make short cuts and routes that were less costly and more effective is going to affect the lives of many of the children that live in this community.

So I just respectfully ask that all those factors are taken into consideration in moving forward.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Mr.

Richard Cormany.

(WITNESS SWORN)

22 RICHARD CORMANY

called as a witness, being first duly sworn,

24 testified as follows:

ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full name and address.

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MR. CORMANY: Richard Cormany, 3287 Biers Run, Chillicothe, Ohio.

I am the unfortunate nextdoor neighbor to the major substation that is being put in. I echo my son. The reason we are all pitted against each other is we were not really provided two alternative choices for this substation in the first place.

Two sides of the same farm. So it's no matter where we put the substation it's going to affect us, the same group of people. But in our case now the substation that is next door to us, the red and yellow power lines will follow the northbound boundary line of our entire farm, and then turn at 90 degrees at the edge of our farm and go the entire length of the farm to the east, southeast, the other side.

So if this is our farm, if
the substation lies here, the power line goes
here, our house is here 250 feet from the power
line, goes to the end of our farm here, and then
proceeds down along the entire side of the farm

to Cats Tail Road. So, it impacts us directly.

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And then it proceeds to the wildlife area. Initially the wildlife area was not even being considered because the game reserve stated that it was basically against the law. I am not a lawyer, but they said it was not possible to run the power line through it.

Subsequently, and at that time the southern route was the preferred route, subsequently, for some reason the state wildlife people came to AEP and said, yes, we would like you to go through our property. We don't know what preempted this change in mind or if it's even legal, but resulted in them, AEP, selecting this red route as their preferred route.

Two objectives of the substation and power line was to increase reliability to electrical users and to provide for increased development and use of electricity.

Going through -- going along the side of our fields and through the wildlife area will -- will be of little use to open fields and no use to any of the wildlife in the reserve.

So the stated purposes of the power line are not

being met by where they would be routing it with the red and yellow lines.

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The blue line, the original preferred line, has been adjusted and modified several times to accommodate concerns of people in that area. And it is going through areas that are developed, but they are also the areas that — are the type of areas that will be using the power.

The other, I hate to say advantage, but there is no advantage to any of this, but to the blue line is that for a good portion of its route it follows the existing power lines and existing right-of-ways and railroad tracks and so forth.

So, these areas have already been impacted by the development and power lines and so forth. And so they would run where the development already exists, as opposed to the red and yellow lines, which here are unimpacted by development.

Once you run a power line through the wildlife area it's forever lost. I mean, you can't reverse that. And the same goes with

the open fields, which I am concerned with, and will be surrounded by.

We are not the users, the wildlife is not the users of these power lines, yet we are being asked to bear the impact of the power lines. So, that is my objection to the red route and the yellow route. The red and yellow combined routes encompass our farm — well, not actually. They run the boarders, two of the four sides of our farm, and then split Cat Tail Road and run through the game reserve, which is at least against the intent of the reserve, if not against the premise and the rules under which it was established.

So I would like the power board to consider -- or the Siting Board to consider that impact on the wildlife area and the pristine fields that the rest of the red and yellow lines would impact.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Mr.

Darren Price.

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(WITNESS SWORN)

24 DARREN PRICE

called as a witness, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

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ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full name and address for the record.

MR. PRICE: Darren Price, 444 Golf
View Drive, Chillicothe, Ohio. I have some of
the same feelings as the previous speaker about
it's unfortunate we are all facing this
situation that we are. I think some things to
keep in mind as we look at this, while we
wouldn't wish this on any other area, we look at
the options that have been afforded to us, we
look at the impact to my family, our friends and
our neighbors, along that south alternate route,
we have major concerns there.

And that is why our support is for the current preferred route that goes through the wildlife area. Initially when you look the impact to our homes, we have an unabated view of the hillside behind us, and that is all well and good to think we all have property that we are proud of and enjoy the views that are there, and that is certainly important because it does provide us unabated view. And when we

bought the property, purchased it, that was the reason we purchased it.

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We specifically purchased that property because of its location. And as has been mentioned when you put a 100 foot monolith tower behind your property then it destroys that.

So, from that perspective I think we would all agree we all see that impact on various areas. To me the bigger impact though is on people. And start looking at the impact as far as there is a recognized impact with the electric and magnetic field hazards, and there is evidence to support that there is increased evidence of the influence on children.

And with the potential along that alternate south route of passing within, and it says here 33 parcels, that is where it crosses, that is not the homes that it impacts.

Within our subdivision there is over 60 homes there, and that is -- I can evidence that by a petition we all signed back in May of 2013, the impact is there. And also that line would cross in very close proximity to schools.

So we have young children there going to be exposed to this on a daily basis.

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Along with that Tom Jackson who is a PhD, which I think gives him some credibility, he is the president of Real Estate Property
Analytics Corporation, he stated that whenever you have property and there is power lines going on your property it drops the property value at least 10 percent. So that is a concern.

Once again when you have the bigger concern being the safety and health of our children and us. And as Patty mentioned, this area has a high incidence of cancer, and by running these type of lines through the probability is an increase in that. So that is certainly a concern that we have.

And reflecting back on the Power
Siting Board, they issued a report. Within that
report they talked about the preferred route
impacting eight parcels as far as crossing
through that. And the north alternate route 18,
the southern route 33.

The other thing that I found that has spoken even more volumes is there is no

1 consideration about the impact to the environment. Based on this report by the Power 3 Siting Board the least amount of impact is along 4 the preferred route. So we look at the north 5 route, look at the south route, the 6 environmental impact and the impact of the 7 Pleasant Valley Wildlife area, the least 8 environmental impact is to the Pleasant Valley 9 Wildlife area. 10 So if we have a smaller impact on 11 home values we are going to have a less impact 12 on the environment, and less impact on people, 13 to me that route should be the preferred route 14 which is currently listed on the map that we 15 were shown this evening. I would like to offer that as my 16 17 testimony in regard to this project. 18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. Lieutenant Colonel John Venneman. 19 20 (WITNESS SWORN) 21 LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN VENNEMAN 2.2 2.3 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 24 testified as follows:

MR. VENNEMAN: Lieutenant Colonel John Venneman, 534 Golf View, Chillicothe.

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I would like to begin by quoting from a letter put out from the Regulatory

Services of AEP, particularly an attachment to it. When we use the term the wildlife area a lot of red flags go up, but according to AEP's own research it says here "Threatened and endangered species affected by the preferred route, zero."

So to go through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife area will not affect any sort of threatened or endangered species or anything else.

And I would like to also reiterate Mr. Price, about the affect of the electromagnetic fields, specifically the high incidence rates of cancer among children.

To go to the southern alternate route would put the lines by Unioto school, and that would jeopardize the health of 2,000 children. Now, these 2,000 children, we are talking about elementary, middle, high school, potentially 13 years out of their lives exposed

to these fields in the school, not to mention the teachers who may have 30 years of exposure.

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Well, there is a question about the effects of the exposure. To not take this into account, to put -- to use the southern alternate route and not the proposed route, would be totally irresponsible and foolish.

To say also that because electricity helps people, therefore, people should suffer, you are saying people should have cancer and leukemia rather than putting it through an area with no people.

In addition to the 2,000 children and faculty, going back to AEP's attachment as far as the residences affected by the lines, the preferred route, which is the logical route, would affect within a 1,000 feet 26 residences.

The southern alternate route 251.

So in addition to the 2,000 children and faculty you want to jeopardize the health of the 251 families who are trying to make their lives in their homes.

I feel that we should support the preferred route. It is the logical route, and

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     it is the logical route to help the lives and
     the health of the people.
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                  Thank you for your time.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Robin
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     Hand.
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                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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8
                         ROBIN HAND
9
     called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
     testified as follows:
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11
                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your
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     full name and address.
13
                  MR. HAND: My name is Robin Hand,
14
     359 Anderson Station Road.
15
                  My wife, speaking of Unioto and the
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     effect that the southern route, the blue route,
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     would have. My wife is a teacher at Unioto
18
     Elementary.
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                  I have five other neighbors and
20
     myself. Myself, I have a 10 acre parcel and
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     this southern route, the blue route, would butt
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     up to my property line along with my neighbors.
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                  We have sent letters to the Siting
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     Board and we have sent letters to AEP. So we
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obviously support the preferred route, the red route, and I am in support of the red route.

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So my friends in Golf View, I understand where you are coming from. We are going to have the electromagnetic field on the rear property line. And that is why we don't want the 138 kV line there.

Also someone said that we may benefit by that, but I don't know about anybody else, but on Anderson Station Road I am served by South Central Power. So in no way, shape or form does AEP putting a 138 kV line behind my property benefit me nor any neighbors, it hurts our property value and exposes our children and grandchildren to EMS.

And just so some of you know that are opposed to the other routes, many of us on the southern route, the blue route, I am getting a 69,000 kV line on my rear property line and there is no Siting Board to fight this with.

It's going to be there.

I have written letters to everybody. Siting Board only handles voltages over 100,000, but I have written letters on that 69 kV and

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      it's going to be there anyway.
 2.
                  So I am trying to keep two of these
 3
      lines off my rear property line. So I
 4
      appreciate your time, I appreciate consideration
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      that many of us here are opposed to the southern
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      route and support the red preferred route
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      through the wildlife area because it affects
 8
      much less human life. Thank you.
9
                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Ron
10
     Peecher.
11
                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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13
                       RONALD PEECHER
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      called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
      testified as follows:
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16
                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your
17
      full name and address.
                  MR. PEECHER: Ronald Peecher.
18
      live at 213 Cat Tail Road.
19
20
                  ALJ AGRANOFF: In Chillicothe?
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                  MR. PEECHER: Yes.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.
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                  MR. PEECHER: My property is
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      affected and we were not given the opportunity
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to even negotiate where the right side or left side of the power line is going to go. We had a red side and blue side to vote on here and it's all the same piece of property.

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The power line affects my farm and my sister's farm. On the north side of the line we have 317 acres, my south side, my two sisters, and in the beginning the preferred route was on the south side. They started doing the boring and at that time there was a -- people got together and got with AEP. They had a prior meeting at Holiday Inn.

At that time when it was decided that the power line go through the game preserve. Nobody on the blue side, the north side had any opportunity to defend us at all.

And in the beginning we said the Indiana bat was an endangered species, and somehow this disappeared along with the wetlands on the north side. I don't know what happened there, but that is how it got to go on the other side.

I have approximately nine power poles. My friend has got a couple. My friend,

Richard Cormany's house, I believe called me and said there would be seven to nine power lines.

And that does affect our view also.

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So far, I have not been, nobody to my house from AEP, only contractors come. And I don't know why, but to me if this is an AEP project how can you turn it over to a contractor? Don't make any sense to me.

I had a meeting with them, first meeting I got the contractor came there and then somebody finally showed up from AEP. And then about three weeks later I finally got a gentleman in the back come talk to us.

But, after all this they tell me there is no way that it's going to be changed. But I don't know what the answer is. If I fight with one side I affect my sister, she fights it affects me. My grandfather and my father had cleared the land on both farms. And exactly where they want to put the line is where our property was cleared.

To me they are going to offer us a minimum amount of money and not consider anything going in on the amount of money my

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     grandparents, father spent clearing these
                But, farming and taking away our
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     ability to make our money on the field because
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     they tell me I can go ahead and plow anyway just
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     like the lady said, ten feet. Well, that is
 6
     fine if I can get a tractor around a telephone
 7
     pole.
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                  But, I don't know what the answer
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      is. I know they need the power line, but PJM
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     who is supposedly behind this line says we need
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     this power line for -- to keep our power grid
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     operating. They already have two routes in that
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     area right now, and they are trying to put the
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     third one in. To me it's unnecessary.
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                  I guess it's going in anyway, but
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     should be some way somebody can fight what they
17
     are doing.
                  That is all I got to say.
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                  ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.
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     next name I have is I believe a David Sheridan.
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                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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2.2
                   DAVID PHILIP SHERIDAN
2.3
     called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
24
     testified as follows:
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ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full name and address for the record.

MR. SHERIDAN: 847 Anderson Station

Road. David Philip Sheridan. Chillicothe,

Ohio.

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I am here the same as the rest of
you, I was a bit confused. Supposedly by my
property there is going to be a 69 kV line. My
neighbor next to me was told they are going to
buy your property. You must sell. Get out.

They did so, it was their homestead, they did exactly that. The final hour AEP said, no, we don't want you now. But they have already sold, already moved out and resold the house. Don't make sense.

If they are going to run it like that why did they tell these people they were going through their property and now they are not.

Also, I would like to know if this
69 kV which is supposedly going by my property
and will affect my property along with my
neighbors, going to be single pole construction,
or in the business we used to call it Christmas

tree construction, and what right-of-way do they want from the center of the line out on both sides? How far distance are they going to ask for easement so they can maintain the line. How far is it going to go.

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And No. 2, I can't understand why, I have not contacted these people, I received a letter from an attorney stating that AEP is going to take part of my property and if I didn't do something about it they would do it by emanate domain.

Well, AEP has not contacted me nor my neighbors. All we got was this letter from this firm, lawyer firm, which if worst comes to worst I don't intend to use them, I am going to use my own lawyer, if I have to do so.

But my understanding is why we have had several proposals through our property and they keep changing after they had caused these people to lose their homestead, was actually told to sell, you got X amount of days to get out, they did so, they cleared it out, they got out and come to the last minute and said, sorry, we don't want you.

We were told at that time because they found Indian artifacts. If you live in our area the Indians were all over the place. And I don't care where you dig or where you are going to hunt in our area you are probably going to run into some of their remains. So that didn't hold water either.

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And then this summer they had surveyors come through on the edge of our area between myself and the neighbors and I went out and I said, hey, guys, can you tell where you are going? Yep, right here where you see these flags. Down through the corn field.

Great, that don't bother anybody there. Then get letters from the lawyers stating, guess what, they don't know what they are talking about. Don't make sense to me.

What I would like to know is apparently I know from working for this company that they do not consider 69,000 transmission line anymore. 138,000 is all they consider.

So what I want to know is 138,000 going to affect us where we are at? It's obvious a 69 is going through, but where? That

1 is all I want to know, sir.

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Thank you for your time and I hope all my neighbors get answers as well.

4 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Murray 5 Johnson.

(WITNESS SWORN)

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MURRAY JOHNSON

9 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
10 testified as follows:

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your 12 full name and address.

MR. JOHNSON: Murray Johnson, 539
South Park Road, LaGrange, Illinois 60525.

Good evening, everyone. My name is Murray Johnson, and my family has been actively involved in talking with many of you folks, sending e-mails to many of you. And I would like to thank everyone for coming out today.

Whether you are on one side of the fence or the other side of the fence I think this is very healthy and very important that we have this dialogue, this conversation and communication.

And at the end no one wins. We all in some way or another are going to feel like we have lost, because whether it's the 138 line going through or if it's the 69, we are all being affected one way or to other.

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We hope that somewhere along
the line that the benefits of the work that is
being done will benefit the energy users
somewhere across the country, but for right now
all we can do is think about ourselves.

I am a little bit different than everyone else here, and I recognize that, because I don't live here. I live in Chicago. But my family has had a farm here for over 150 years, and we have been farming that now for five generations and we are moving into our 6th generation.

We are not going anywhere. I may not live here physically, but I am here and I flew in this afternoon just because this is that important to me to be here and I am going back tomorrow.

So I may not seem like I am part of the group because I don't -- that I am not

looking at lawyers, but this is affecting our family financially, and the legacy that goes on forward to my children and my grandchildren in the future.

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So it is -- I am passionate about it, and that is the reason why my sister and I have been advocates of this communication from the very beginning.

With that in mind I would like to thank the Siting Board and I would like to thank the folks at AEP. I know it's been a bumpy road, I know that there has been frustrations, I know that there is sometimes the feeling of lack of communications and why does one person find something else out and someone else is finding out another piece of news.

And I know it has also been frustrating that sometimes we are told that the lines are going one way and then we find out they are going a different way. It's been extremely frustrating.

But, with that in mind I actually want to thank AEP for being flexible. They have been open. They have had several of the these

meetings here at Pioneer Hall here, and I have tried to be at most every one that I could.

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They have also been good about listening when we have tried to present a reasonable approach of looking at things from a different perspective. From the very beginning they have said to us that everyone here is going to say not on my yard. Go to someone else's yard because my yard, my fields are more important.

I recognize completely my fields are not more important than your homes. My farm is not more important than your children's school or anything else.

So, I appreciate the fact that everyone is here having a conversation and talking about this. It will affect all of us one way or another, and no matter what as it was noted that the 69 volt will be going through many of our fields and there is no siting board that would be able to -- that we can stand up and talk to about that.

So, we just hope that AEP and the folks who are working on that are sensitive

to the needs that we have as families, as farmers, and as friends putting this together.

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But I do want to stress the fact that I am in favor, if there has been ever any doubt, of having the red line. And I do apologize, I know that it affects other families. There is no doubt that it does.

But as the numbers have said it does affect less people than it does the blue route or the yellow route. And I am very sensitive to that; that it is important that instead of saying not on my property, someone else's, if we can be sensitive to the fact that it does affect less people.

The other thing that I want to be sensitive to is that it seems logical to have the red route as opposed to the blue route or the yellow route. It's less acreage, less land that is being used up, and it's a more direct route.

Now, one of the things, since I don't live here, I have spent a lot of time researching and going through all of the data and the reports. And because of that I have got

in my car and spent a lot of time driving every one of these routes backwards, forwards and to try to understand where the route is going through. And when it was initially presented to us that it could not go through the wildlife area, I am a big fan of the national parks, I am a big fan of land that is set aside for forest preserves, and protecting the wildlife.

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So I was respectful of that. But then one day I went up and took a look at the wildlife area, and I realized that maybe there is some misconception of what the wildlife area is. And so I have spoken with many of our neighbors and the farms and asked them if they have been there, and many of the neighbors have never been to the wildlife area.

In fact, the folks at AEP, many of them have not seen it. So I personally drove some of the folks from the AEP around the wildlife area. And what I saw is not Yellowstone National Park. Yosemite National Park.

It is not even considered the Bad

Lands. It is -- from some people I know it is a

wonderful retreat. And I don't want to take that away. It is important to have those areas set aside.

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But it is far better to have some wires going across this land area than it would be to affecting the families and farms that it would if it were going across the blue route.

So, if you have not been to the wildlife area, Siting Board, I encourage you to take a look at exactly what is there, or from what I discovered is not there. There are no lush trees, there is no lush land.

It is a nice area to go for a walk unquestionably, but it is not enough to justify having the power lines go in front of a family's home for their viewing, or something that goes past schools. It's important that we be respectful, but the wildlife area is not being affected whatsoever by having the power lines go through there.

So again in closing thank you,
Siting Board, for listening to us, but more
importantly thank you everyone who has come out
and voiced your opinion one way or the other.

1 And as was said by Patricia at the 2 very beginning when I came in, this is hard for 3 everyone, and I hope at the end people can still 4 be friends and neighbors and work together. 5 But I think we have accomplished a lot just by 6 having these conversations. Thank you very 7 much. 8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. John 9 Doerres. 10 (WITNESS SWORN) 11 12 JOHN DOERRES 13 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 14 testified as follows: 15 ALJ AGRANOFF: State your full name 16 and address. 17 MR. DOERRES: My address is 1532 18 Professional Drive, Chillicothe, Ohio. I am not 19 involved directly with any one of the lines 20 except the substation and the line that goes through what most of you know as the wildlife 21 2.2 area. 2.3 Both of these areas were part of 24 Camp Sherman. The historical disturbance that

might be -- admittedly there is no Indian feathers attached that I am aware, but someone mentioned early they are everywhere.

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So we have no, to my understanding, legal recourse other than the respect of those who wish to preserve a bit of the history of what actually made Chillicothe and Ross County possibly what it is today; good, bad or indifferent.

One thing in particular, when I did mention to folks and made AEP -- thought I made them aware, I know I made the Siting Board aware, but not in a formal manner, that these were two portions of what was Camp Sherman. And I jokingly mentioned when going over it with them I am glad they missed the trenches. Most unique.

This Camp is unique in many ways,
but I am not here to give a history lesson,
don't want to take the time either. You all
have other interests. But they did miss them,
but they didn't even know they were there.

It's never be mentioned. I will be interested to read the report. And someone else

mentioned earlier about the wildlife area, and yet there is nobody, and I dare say most of you, I know two or three here that do know, that that was part of Camp Sherman.

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Not let's get back to the other part which us up and down all of 104, and the main portion which is the proposed area of the Hopetown substation.

Still haven't figured out why they call it the Hopetown substation. Maybe somebody else objected to that. I am not aware they had any kind of public meeting or required to. So I have been told about that substation and those who attended that meeting on behalf of government officials that I have talked to, I guess two words when I explained what the area covers.

It's wow and amazing. Then they follow it up with an explanation "I didn't know that." They have lived here as long as I have, so I made the classic example of assuming. Not anymore.

brief as I can, was the nerve center of the Camp for the years it was in operation. It was the Division Headquarters, it was telegraph headquarters, the personnel office.

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It had a 4,000 set YMCA Auditorium, had the KFC Hall for about 1,500. It had the Jewish Center. It had the Red Cross office, which the Red Cross was started here because of Camp Sherman.

A few other areas. It had the main post office. We do still have the library. It's the original for all the Army and Navy Camp. It's the last building of Camp Sherman.

I don't want it restored. I think it's a good example of how these places were built, but, this land in one sense of the word is as sacred as anything across the road, which still trying to figure out what remains there. And that is no offense to those people.

So not knowing I was going to speak
I guess I better cut to the end and if somebody
has a question. Are they allowed to ask
questions?

ALJ AGRANOFF: No, they can speak to

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you after.
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MR. DOERRES: Oh, they will, I am sure. So I will give all of you an assignment, I don't have enough cards with me, pass the word on, the substation did have two other areas which it could be relocated, and it should be. More footprints cross that land than the poem which we are all aware of, "Footprints in the Sand."

There were estimated 250,000 pairs of feet marching across that land. It was the cultural center. The YMCA administration office, the personnel office, Arrow Squadron. You name it.

You can e-mail me if you wish at muse@campsherman.org. Thank you.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. Less
18 Park.

MR. PARK: I am here just to listen.

ALJ AGRANOFF: No problem. Those

are all the names that I have on the list. Is

there anybody else in attendance who desires to

23 testify?

Okay. If not, I certainly

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in

Case No(s). 13-0429-EL-BTX

Summary: Transcript in the matter of the AEP Ohio Transmission Company hearing held on 12/16/14 electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.