

FILE

**Board of Education**

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April 13, 2015

Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Written Comments - Proponent  
Case Number 14-1717-GA-BLN  
NRG Ohio Pipeline Company  
Avon Lake Gas Addition Project

# AVON LAKE CITY SCHOOLS

175 Avon Belden Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012  
www.avonlakecityschools.org



14-1717-GA-BLN

**Superintendent**

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Avon Lake City School District serves approximately 3,800 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. By all measures, Avon Lake schools are rated as one of the top districts in the state and in the nation. Our accolades are not only academic, but athletic and in the fine arts. Avon Lake has been rated one of the top music communities in the country for 10 consecutive years.

These distinctions have not happened by chance. The Avon Lake Schools are an important part of the Avon Lake Community. Together, community members, the schools, and the city have created a tradition that allows for the success of all of our students.

This tradition is based on local values and the expectation these values bring to the school system. Rigor with support allows for high graduation rates, high college attendance, and over 60% of our students receiving college credit before graduating without leaving campus. Avon Lake produces an outstanding student product which draws new families to the area and helps keep property values high (even through tough times).

This tradition and success is based on financial support by our community. Avon Lake City Schools receives less than \$700 per student from the State of Ohio. Our success is based on local support of our schools through levies. To maintain this support we also do/must do everything we can to support economic growth in our city, Lorain County, and our region.

Avon Lake City School District supports the building of the NRG Avon Lake Gas Line. The support is based on the following beliefs.

- The Avon Lake Power Plant remaining open is good for Avon Lake and the region.
  - Abundant electricity is good for economic growth & retention of existing businesses.
  - The NRG-owned plant retaining its value and being in use is good for Avon Lake and Avon Lake City School District. \*\*
- The Gas Line feeds the power plant, but also creates opportunities for future economic growth.
  - Natural gas allows the power plant to generate electricity and is better health-wise for the students of Avon Lake City School District and the residents of Avon Lake.
  - An abundant supply of natural gas to Avon Lake and the region is a positive factor in attracting new businesses to the area.

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*The mission of the Avon Lake City Schools, a district committed to personalized educational excellence, is to challenge all students and develop their individual goals through community partnerships, resources, and technologies which will produce responsible and compassionate citizens.*

Avon Lake City School District supports the building of the NRG gas pipeline as a positive resource to maintain and spur economic growth in Avon Lake and Lorain County. School districts must have a revenue flow that is consistent if they wish to maintain the educational opportunities that will prepare our young men and women to lead us socially and economically in the future. This venture by NRG is important for the area to maintain our current economic base and to develop new opportunities in the future.

**\*\*Avon Lake City School District does not agree with the NRG practice of continually seeking to reduce the value of the Avon Lake Power Plant-both PUPP and real estate. Reduced PUPP and real estate values transfer taxes to the community members of Avon Lake. This transfer of tax responsibility is happening while the power plant continues to function as it has for the past 10 years and with the improvements that are being made to retrofit the plant to be able to burn gas and coal. Avon Lake City School District supports the gas pipeline as a positive improvement for current and future economic growth. Avon Lake City School District does not support NRG's efforts to reduce the value of the plant or any NRG efforts to reduce its tax responsibilities on the plant improvements including the gas pipeline.**

Thank you on behalf of the students of Avon Lake City Schools. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RDS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert D. Scott

Superintendent

Avon Lake City School District

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