

FIL FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

From: Ron Hirth [mailto:R.Hirth@golfmanoroh.gov]
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX - Duke Energy Pipeline Project

June 13, 2016

TO: The Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Village of Golf Manor Council, residents and business owners, I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project (Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX). We understand that this project is designed to bring an increased volume of natural gas into the Cincinnati area. While we understand this goal, as well as the need to continuously improve the utility service infrastructure, we remain concerned that the proposed routes for the pipeline run through densely populated neighborhoods, including the Village of Golf Manor.

Here in Golf Manor, this project would be disruptive to properties impacted in both the short and the long term. We and our constituents are concerned about the safety issues related to natural gas pipelines as well as the proposed removal of trees and proposed barriers and future serviceability of land acquired in impacted areas.

We are requesting that the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Duke Energy to keep in mind that smaller urban communities, such as Golf Manor, work diligently to contain expense for taxpayers while providing excellent critical services. A project of this magnitude will not only disrupt the peace of the community during construction, but will leave Golf Manor with the responsibility, cost, and aftermath of managing any catastrophic event that may take place due to the failure of Duke Energy's pipeline.

Safety is of critical importance. The potential harm to the environment and loss of life in such a densely populated area is of alarm to elected officials and residents alike should there be a failure of the pipeline. As mayor, I am concerned at the lack of engagement with local first responders, in particular the Golf Manor Fire Department, or any safety organization, regarding the support Duke Energy will require or impose upon this Village should this project be built. I anticipate that valuable economic resources will need to be diverted from other essential needs to additional training and equipment required to support any catastrophic failure.

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Finally, we would request that as the Board, PUCO and Duke Energy decide what best routes will be taken, you carefully consider the potential financial impact this project will have not only on not only government's ability to be fiscally responsible, but also on residential and business property values, property insurance rates and the quality of life in the Village for our residents.

Again, I encourage the Ohio Power Siting Board, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Duke Energy to reevaluate the Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project and find better alternatives that do not rip apart the fabric of these densely populated and settled communities in the heart of Hamilton County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Hirth
Mayor,
Village of Golf Manor, Ohio
513-531-7491
r.hirth@golfmanoroh.gov

