

FILE

Susan S. Stegman  
6476 Grand Vista Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

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The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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PUCO

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To whom it may concern:

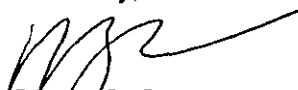
I vehemently oppose the proposed construction of a 30" natural gas pipeline through densely populated Cincinnati-area neighborhoods by Duke Energy. It presents a deadly hazard to people who live, work and go to schools and churches in these wonderful neighborhoods. There are multiple documented cases of explosions and fires from similar pipelines. Transporting gas at a high pressure of 720 psi is an inferno in-waiting! However, the risk can easily be mitigated. The pipeline should be routed through less densely populated areas where the risk of harm to people and property is significantly less.

In addition, I question the need for this pipeline in term of it benefitting Ohio residents. Having a pipeline with this capacity is not necessary for the quantity of Duke customers in the Ohio region. We should not bear the risk, particularly in highly populated neighborhoods, for gas that will be transported to other areas of the country.

Pipelines can reduce home values by 15% and make home insurance more expensive. Is Duke going to bear the full cost of their pipeline and reimburse homeowners for all indirect costs?

The simple fact that homeowners wishing to sell their property are required to disclose to potential buyers that their home is adjacent to this proposed pipeline should be evidence enough that it is legally recognized as an environmental hazard. Why should a home or business owner have to personally bear the financial responsibility of Duke Energy for something they did not want, was potentially forced upon them through eminent domain and offered absolutely no benefit...only a life threatening risk?

Sincerely,

  
Susan S. Stegman

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