

FILE

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV 16-0253-GA-BTX

2016 JUN 24 PM 3:44

Attn: Ohio Power Sitting Board

PUCO

I was recently appalled to hear the proposal to route a major, 30 inch, high pressure (720 psi) gas pipeline through residential areas in Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati (DUKE Pipeline Project - REF: 16-0253-GA-BTX). Neighborhoods affected by the proposed routes include: Amberley Village, Blue Ash, Silverton, Golf Manor, Wyoming, Sycamore Township, Pleasant Ridge, Madisonville, Madiera, Kenwood, and more. Besides the obvious concerns for safety, I am concerned with how Duke Energy is handling this proposal and believe that they need to be stopped.

Key aspects of the proposals include:

- On 23rd June, Duke will submit recommendations for a preferred route and backup route, both of which affect highly populated areas.
- There is no fundamental reason, other than cost, that this pipeline could not be routed through more rural areas where damage would be minimized for an explosion or leak.
- The "blast zone," i.e., damaged or scorched properties, from a pipeline of this size (30 inches) is 2000 feet on either side of the pipe. The blast zone for Duke's proposed "pink route" includes schools, churches, and many other significant neighborhood facilities, not to speak of the houses in these high density areas. Most concerning is that in the event of an emergency, like what happened in San Bruno, California in 2010, could take out emergency responders such as police and fire stations and our nearest hospital.
- Duke Energy has never executed a project like this in such a highly populated area. Their lack of experience is concerning for this project. Additionally, there are no safety regulations for building new transmission lines in already developed areas.
- The 30-inch 720 psi pipeline is possibly the largest-flow highest-compression gas line produced in the US. It can service two million gas customers. Ohio statewide has only 470,000 customers total. The pipeline is being run through densely populated Ohio neighborhoods, which means that Greater Cincinnati bears the safety risk for gas customers as far away as Texas and perhaps Mexico. Ohio Revised Code requires utility companies to prove the need for improvements; the need appears to be smaller than the proposed 30-inch pipeline.
- Duke is accountable for monitoring pipeline safety, not a qualified third party as is true in healthcare, education, industrial safety, food service, barber shops, etc.
- Municipalities and residents at large have never been contacted by Duke. Only property owners with land that Duke needs to buy for pipeline easements have received Duke notices. Duke has not answered any questions posed by a grassroots citizens groups that have started to keep all neighborhoods informed.

I urge you to have the proposed routed re-assessed to be more appropriate and use Rural Routes to achieve the Gas transmission goals.

Regards,

Kevin D. Felder

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business. Technician A Date Processed 6/24/16