

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

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WEB ID: 108214 AT:07-29-2016 at 10:36 AM

Related Case Number: 16-0253

TYPE: Comment

NAME: Dr. Ashley Kuhn

CONTACT SENDER ? Yes

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INDUSTRY: Gas

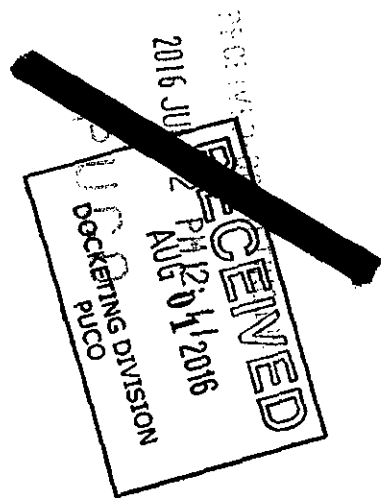
ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

- Company: Duke Energy
- Name on account: Ashley Kuhn
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COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

Ashley Kuhn, PhD David Kuhn 3585 Arborcrest Ct. Cincinnati, OH 45236 Ohio Power Sitting Board Members: We are writing to oppose Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project as currently outlined under case number: 16-0253-GA-BTX. The three proposed routes do not adequately consider 1) cultural and land use, and 2) ecological criteria. These are 2 of the 3 criteria outlined by Duke as being critical aspects of the detailed analysis for and reasoning

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behind the pipeline location and route. Duke claims that: residential properties crossed and nearby, institutional land use, woodlots, wetlands, streams, railroad, and road crossings were considered during the development of the proposed routes. This is difficult to believe as the three proposed routes significantly impact all of the listed categories. For example, the routes that travel through Amberley (Tree City USA) would result in the removal of many mature trees and fragmentation of natural woodland. Destruction and fragmentation of habitats are major factors in the global decline of native populations and species, the modification of native plant and animal communities, and the alternation of ecosystem processes. When fragmentation occurs, three processes take place: a reduction in the total amount of the original vegetation; subdivision of the remaining vegetation into fragments, and introduction of new forms of land-use to replace vegetation that is lost. With these impacts, invasive species often reestablish in the newly cleared spaces. In Cincinnati this would likely mean the proliferation of non-native and invasive species like honeysuckle. Additionally, loss of habitat can result in misplacement of animals and increase migration to surrounding areas in search of sufficient resources like food, shelter and water. A primary concern here would be the impact on the large deer population that lives in the wooded acres of Amberley Village. Increased deer movement, likely across large roads and highways, could lead to increased traffic accidents. Fragmentation, invasive species, and safety issues related to local deer population are issues that we combat in our communities today, largely due to the historical lack of pre-planning and adequate land use management. We believe it can and should be done better going forward. We encourage the Ohio Power Sitting Board Members to thoroughly and equally consider all potential impacts of the proposed pipeline on our community from a holistic perspective. This is an opportunity to be viewed as leaders in energy, community and environmental management and perhaps set precedence for future projects. It may be desirable or easier to choose the most affordable (in terms of upfront capital) or least technically involved routes, but it is imperative to think about long-term implications and the true cost associated with not sustainably managing our community resources – social, economic and environmental. We are happy to provide additional perspective on alternative options, environmental impacts or sustainable management practices. Thank you for consideration of our comments, Ashley and David Kuhn