

FILE

16-253-GA-BTX

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Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

March 7, 2017

RE: Case 16-0235-GA-BTX, Duke Energy Central Corridor Extension Gas

Dear Power Siting Board Members:

We are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to Duke's Central Corridor Pipeline Extension because it exposes an urban area to significant risks, and despite Duke's argument, it is **NOT NECESSARY**. In the public meetings, Duke said it was necessary because old propane plants will be closing. These propane plants only supply a small percentage of fuel, and in view of the projected decreasing population of the Cincinnati region over the next decades, Duke Energy could certainly find another way to make up for the loss of the propane plants. It could find other routes in sparsely populated areas or, better yet, consider alternative energies instead.

The superintendent of Sycamore Community Schools, Dr. Forsthoefel, opposes Duke's pipeline proposal. My city, Blue Ash, opposes it so strongly that it will formally intervene, as does the City of Cincinnati. Many diverse people and organizations are united in their opposition to this proposal. Why would Duke Energy push this project knowing that so very many people oppose it? Is there a motive that Duke Energy is not disclosing?

Despite Duke's promise to use state-of-the-art technology, risks of gas leaks are inevitable. At the January 26, 2017 public meeting, a woman whose home adjoins an existing Duke pipeline described to Gary Hebbeler, General Manager of Gas Field and Systems Operations for Duke, a gas leak in her backyard **ONE MONTH AFTER THE LINE WAS MONITORED BY DUKE**. Hebbeler minimized her experience with his rote response that he would have to get back to her about this. The promise to monitor carefully, as this one example illustrates, only goes so far. Risks have to be accepted when necessary, but in this case, it is not necessary to locate this new pipeline in our densely populated area, so accepting this risk is unjustifiable.

Please do not allow this project to go forward, as it elevates Duke Energy's bottom line above the best interests of many communities. Please send Duke Energy back to the drawing board to come up with a better plan, instead of letting it move forward on a project that is so very offensive to large communities of people.

With sincere thanks for your consideration,

Grace and Tony Severyn

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