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17-2224-EL-CSS

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October 23, 2017

Ohio Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV
2017 OCT 26 PM 12:00
PUCO

Re: EMERGENCY STOP CUT ORDER REQUEST FOR CLEAR-CUTTING BY DUKE ENERGY

There is a 15-mile overhead electric transmission easement dating from 1951 that runs from Beckford power station in Clermont County on the Ohio River to Port Union substation in West Chester Township, Butler County. The easement also traverses many neighborhoods in Hamilton and Warren Counties, including my neighborhood – Terwilligers Run in Montgomery and Symmes Township, Hamilton County. My property is not located within the 100' easement area, but it is located within 200 or 300 feet of the easement area.

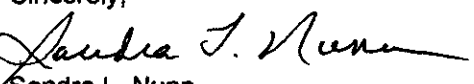
Homes in Terwilligers Run were built in the mid-1980's. It has been Duke's and its predecessors' past practice to trim vegetation within the easement area that may interfere with the power lines on a 4 to 6-year cycle. The language of the easement permits this type of maintenance, to which we do not object.

Recently, however, we learned that Duke plans to clear-cut all vegetation within the 100-foot easement area (something akin to strip mining) and spray an unknown herbicide to prevent regrowth of vegetation. Apparently, Duke has received a poor rating on its maintenance of vegetation and is attempting to improve its rating as well as reduce its long-term maintenance costs, without taking into consideration the adverse effects on other interested parties that this clear-cutting will have. Duke has refused to meet with neighbors as a group and will only talk to individual property owners. Duke representatives originally told some (but not all) of the affected owners in Terwilligers Run that the clear-cutting would begin in early November. We have since learned that the work may begin as early as October 30. Thus, we are requesting an EMERGENCY STOP CUT ORDER for clear-cutting in the 100' easement area that Duke has in Terwilligers Run (as well as all other affected neighborhoods along the 15-mile easement route) until the complaints of those owners whose properties are directly affected can be acted on by PUCO.

Duke has apparently applied to PUCO (Case No. 16-915-EL-ESS) to change the rules governing how it maintains vegetation within easement areas, but the application has not yet been considered. I do not believe this clear-cutting plan is a reasonable use of Duke's easement, when periodic trimming has sufficed for the past 30+ years in Terwilligers Run, and for over 60+ years elsewhere since the time the easement was established in 1951. I believe Duke has a legal responsibility in the use of its easement to minimize harm caused to properties on which its easement is located.

The proposed clear-cutting would have a devastating effect on property values, not only on the properties within the easement area where clear-cutting is proposed, but also throughout the entire neighborhood. Not only would trees in wooded areas be removed, but also manicured landscaping in people's yards is in jeopardy. The transmission lines traverse creeks in many areas. Removal of all vegetation will result in erosion of creek banks and flooding. Also, needless loss of habitat for birds and other wildlife will result if Duke's plan is allowed to proceed. I am very concerned about the use of pesticides, especially on hillsides and creek banks.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for an emergency stop cut order.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Nunn

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