Complainants' Exhibit

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Citizens Against Clear Cutting, et al.)
Complainants,))
v.) Case No. 17-2344-EL-CSS
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.,)
Respondent)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KIM CARRIER ON BEHALF OF COMPLAINANTS

October 26, 2018

1	Q.	Please state your name and address.
2	А.	My name is Kim Carrier. I live at 4045 Ponder Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45245.
3	Q.	Please describe your educational background.
4	A.	I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in criminal justice and minor in counseling
5		psychology.
6 7	Q.	Are you currently employed?
8	A.	Yes. I am an administrative coordinator and assistant to the CEO with Greater
9		Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services.
10	Q.	When did you purchase your property?
11	А.	I purchased the property in 2004.
12 13 14	Q.	When you moved into your home, were you aware that Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.'s (Duke) transmission lines were located on the property?
14	А.	Yes, it was apparent that the transmission lines crossed over the middle of my
16		backyard. I have also reviewed an easement that Duke has on my property. That
17		easement is attached to my testimony as Attachment A. At the time, I did not
18		know that the lines were transmission lines (as opposed to some other kind of
19		power lines), but I now know them to be transmission lines.
20 21 22 23	Q.	When you purchased your home, were you aware that Duke would need to perform vegetation management on any of your trees as a result of the presence of the transmission lines?
24	A.	Yes. I could see that the power lines ran over my property and I had general
25		knowledge that trees and other vegetation near power lines would be trimmed to
26		provide a clearance between vegetation and power lines.
27		

1 2 3	Q.	Did you expect Duke would seek to clear cut and remove your trees under or near its transmission wires?
4	A.	No. I could tell that the trees had been on the property for some time as they are
5		mature trees. Given that the trees were mature, I assumed that the vegetation was
6		allowed to coexist with the transmission lines. I would have figured that if Duke
7		had wanted to remove these trees previously, they would have done so.
8 9 10	Q.	In the past 14 years that you have owned your property, has Duke trimmed your trees?
10 11 12	А.	Yes.
13 14 15 16	Q.	Since you have been at the property, have trees or other vegetation on your property come into direct contact with the transmission wires above your property?
17	A.	I am not aware of this occurring.
18 19 20 21	Q.	To your knowledge, has Duke's previous vegetation management on your property effectively prevented trees and other vegetation on your property from causing outages or otherwise impacting electric service?
22	A.	To the best of my knowledge, yes. As far as I know, the trees and other
23		vegetation on my property have not caused any outages or otherwise impacted
24		electric service.
25 26 27 28	Q.	Are you aware of any outages that have occurred or other concerns with the provision of electric service as a result of the trees and other vegetation on your property?
29	A.	No. I am not aware of any outages that have occurred or other concerns that have
30		been raised regarding trees or other vegetation on my property affecting the safety
31		and reliability of Duke's electric system. To my knowledge, Duke has never
32		raised a specific concern with the trees on my property and, until recently, Duke
33		has not expressed any concerns to me.

1 2	Q.	How did you become involved in this case?		
3	А.	During the fall of 2017, I received information from Duke that stated they would		
4		be removing trees from my property.		
5 6	Q.	What sort of information did you receive from Duke?		
7	A.	I received a packet of information from Duke that stated that they would be		
8		removing trees pursuant to the terms of the enclosed documents. Copies of those		
9		documents are attached to my testimony as Attachment B.		
10 11 12	Q.	Were you able to speak with anyone from Duke regarding this proposed tree removal?		
13	А.	Yes, I spoke with Tara Tucker, a representative of Duke, over email and by		
14		phone. She told me that Duke would be removing all trees within its easement.		
15		On my property, this meant that Duke would remove all of my trees including		
16		four maple trees, an ornamental magnolia tree, and an ornamental flowering		
17		cherry tree. Ultimately, however, Ms. Tucker agreed to allow me to keep the		
18		ornamental trees, so long as I agreed to trim the trees myself. An email exchange		
19		I had with Ms. Tucker wherein she agreed to allow me to keep ornamental		
20		flowering cherry tree under the transmission wires "for now" if I kept it trimmed		
21		to under seven feet is attached as Attachment C. Ms. Tucker also agreed over the		
22		phone to allow me to keep the ornamental magnolia tree that is further from the		
23		transmission wires, so long as I kept it trimmed to a height of no more than 15		
24		feet. I have prepared a diagram of my property that reflects the positions of these		
25		trees. This diagram is attached to my testimony as Attachment D. Additionally,		
26		photographs of my property are attached to my testimony as Attachment E.		

Q. Referring to Attachment E, can you describe what these photographs are showing? 3

4 The first picture shows two of the three maple trees that are closest to my house. Α. 5 The second picture shows the third maple tree. The third picture shows the 6 ornamental magnolia tree that Ms. Tucker agreed over the phone to allow me to 7 keep and trim to 15 feet. The fourth and final picture shows the ornamental 8 flowering cherry tree discussed in Attachment C that Tara Tucker also agreed to 9 allow me to keep if I trimmed it back to seven feet. As can be seen from the 10 photographs, both the ornamental magnolia tree and the ornamental flowering 11 cherry tree have "Do Not Cut" ribbons that Duke tied to the trees after these 12 agreements.

Q. Are you familiar with Duke's definitions of the "border zone" and "wire zone"?

A. Yes, as those terms are explained in the documents included in Attachment B. As
far as I understand, the "wire zone" includes the area directly underneath the
transmission wires and extending twenty feet on either side of the outermost wire
and the "border zone" includes the remaining portions of Duke's easement.

- Q. With regard to the trees and bushes that you identified earlier, and to the
 best of your knowledge, are the trees and bushes located in the border zone
 or the wire zone?
- A. Attachment D, the diagram of my property, indicates the location of the trees and
 specifically notes my estimation of which trees are located in the "wire zone" and
 "border zone."
- 27
- 28

1 2 3 4 5	Q.	To your knowledge, prior to informing you that your trees would need to be removed, did any Duke representative conduct an analysis or assessment on your property to determine whether the removal of your trees and other vegetation is necessary for the safe and reliable provision of electric service?		
6	Α.	No, not to my knowledge. After my conversations with Tara, however, someone		
7		did come and put "do not cut" ribbons on the two trees that we discussed.		
8 9 10	Q.	Did Ms. Tucker or anyone else from Duke ever come to your property to actually look at your trees?		
11	А.	A contractor from Duke came to my property while I was at work and left		
12		documents with my father (who was at my house at the time). A contractor also		
13		came to my property and measured the distance from the wires and marked the		
14		"border zone" and the "wire zone." As far as I know, no other Duke employee or		
15		representative has been at my property to look at these trees. Ms. Tucker and I		
16		only communicated by email and over the phone.		
17 18 19 20 21	Q.	To your knowledge, did the Duke representative conduct an analysis or assessment on your property to determine whether the removal of your trees and other vegetation is necessary for the safe and reliable provision of electric service?		
22 23	A.	No, not to my knowledge.		
24 25 26	Q.	Since your involvement in this case began, have you seen Duke performing vegetation management in your neighborhood?		
20 27 28	A.	Yes, I have.		
20 29	Q.	What sort of vegetation management was being performed?		
30	A.	There were individuals trimming trees in my neighbor's yards that were near the		
31		transmission lines. Some of the trees near the transmission lines were trimmed,		
32		while others were removed.		
33				

1 2 3	Q.	To the best of your knowledge, had any of the owners of the properties where the trees were being trimmed filed a complaint against Duke?
3 4 5	A.	No, not to my knowledge.
6 7 8 9	Q.	To the best of your knowledge, had any of the owners of the properties where the trees were being trimmed obtained any sort of order from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or a court that compelled Duke to only trim (rather than remove) the trees in question?
10 11 12	А.	No, not to my knowledge
13 14 15 16	Q.	Do you know if any of the trees that were addressed in January have subsequently caused any outage or other disruption to the transmission lines?
17 18 19	A.	Not to my knowledge, no.
20 21 22 23 24 25	Q.	If it were determined that Duke needed to maintain a certain amount of clearance between trees and other vegetation and the transmission wires, would you be opposed to Duke or its contractors trimming your trees and/or other vegetation to attain the clearance determined to be necessary to ensure safe and reliable transmission of electric power?
26	A.	No, and I would have no objection to its occurrence on my property. This has
27		happened in the past on my property and more recently on my neighbors'
28		properties. I am not opposed to it happening in the future. As a Duke customer, I
29		want safe and reliable electric service, and trimming vegetation appears to have
30		successfully ensured that goal during my 14 years at my current property.
31	Q.	Does this conclude your testimony?
32	A.	Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing testimony

was served on October 26, 2018 by electronic mail upon the parties listed below.

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Brian W. Dresse

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Robert A. McMahon (0064319) Eberly McMahon Copetas LLC 2321 Kemper Lane, Suite 100 Cincinnati, Ohio 45206 Telephone: (513) 533-3441 Fax: (513) 533-3554 bmcmahon@emclawyers.com

Counsel for Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.

Terry L. Etter Assistant Consumers' Counsel Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel 65 East State Street, 7th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 Telephone: (614) 466-7964 terry.etter@occ.ohio.gov

Counsel for the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Set 3920 Jacob Schaufler GRANT OF EASEMENT 200 Clermont County Recorder's Office.

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The center line of a 100 foot right of way and easement is described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the west boundary line of the grantor's property, which point is 233.0 feet north of the southwest corner of said property measured along the west boundary line; thence from said beginning point northeastwordly 483.98 feet to a point, which point is 50 These sets of the west boundary line of the grantor's property measured perpendicular thereto; thence northwardly turning an angle of 6° 25' to the left perallel to and 50 feet east of the west thence northwardly turning an angle of 5° <> to the lett parallel to and julies the set of the set lins.

DEED SENTARY		THEFE STATEMENT
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I will a state of the right to exit, trim or remove any trees, averhanging branches or other obstructions both within and without the limits of the second described right of way and essenced which in the opinion of the granuos's engineers may endanger the asferty of or insertions and maintenance, and the state of the second described right of mays and grans over the above described right of mays and denos over the above described right of mays and ensenced and an interaction. Said Company, is successors and animas, shall pay all demages to growing erops, buildings or other structures shall be greated. No buildings or other structures while be greated within the limits of the above described right of way and essences in any manner or the limits of the structure of a structure of the structure of

The Comparison of the state of the property of the second state o REG. FOR RECORD AUG. - 9. 1950 NO. _ 26 6.2AT 22 : 4 YP 'e EDGAR C. MOSBACKER, RECORDER, CLERMONT COUNTY, UHIJ STATE OF. Of Berger Barger and a Notary Public in and for said County, us: Justob X Personally abjeared Barger and a Notary Public in and for said County, Martin Schucer and Schule County of Schule Schule Schule Schule Martin TESTINGONY WHEREOF, 1 have barewness to be Heary roboticity not and card for the used STATE OF Schule Notary Public, McCouport County, and the second second A STATE my com Expires g/30/50

Hazel & Charles Schwey GRANT OF EASEMENT

The center line of said 100 foot right of way and easement is described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the south boundary line of the grantor's property, which point is 659 feet east of the center line of wagner Koad measured along said south boundary line extended thereto; thence from said beginning point northwardly 313.64 feet more or less to a point in the north boundary line of the grantor's property, which point is 644.4 feet east of the center line of Locust Corner Hoad measured along the north boundary line.



Attachment A



ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-WAY GUIDELINES/RESTRICTIONS VALID FOR OHIO, INDIANA AND KENTUCKY (Revised 11/20/14)

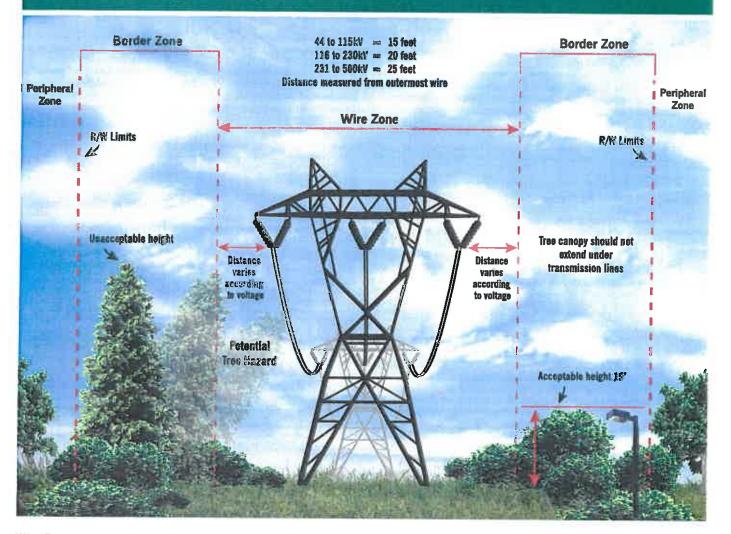
This list of right-of-way restrictions has been developed to answer the most frequently asked questions about property owner use of Duke Energy's electric transmission rights of way. This list does not cover all restrictions or all possible situations. You should contact the Asset Protection right-of-way specialist if you have additional concerns about the rights of way. This list of restrictions is subject to change at any time and without notice. Duke Energy reserves all rights conveyed to it by the right-of-way agreement applicable to the subject property. All activity within the rights of way shall be reviewed by an Asset Protection right-of-way specialist to obtain prior written approval. Engineering plans may be required. Compliance with the Duke Energy Right-of-Way Guidelines/Restrictions or approval of any plans by Duke Energy does not mean that the requirements of any local, county, state or federal government or other applicable agency with governing authority have been satisfied.

- Structures, buildings, manufactured/mobile homes, satellite systems, swimming pools (and any associated equipment and decking), graves, billboards, dumpsters, signs, wells, deer stands, retaining walls, septic systems or tanks (whether above or below ground), debris of any type, flammable material, bullding material, wrecked or disabled vehicles and all other objects (whether above or below ground) which In Duke Energy's opinion interfere with the electric transmission right of way are not allowed within the right-of-way limits. Transformers, telephone/cable pedestals (and associated equipment) and fire hydrants are not allowed. Manholes, water valves, water meters, backflow preventers and irrigation heads are not permitted. Attachments to Duke Energy structures are prohibited.
- Fences and gates shall not exceed 10 feet in height and shall be installed greater than 25 feet from poles, towers and guy 2. anchors. Fences shall not parallel the centerline within the rights of way but may cross from one side to the other at any angle not less than 30 degrees with the centerline. If a fence crosses the right of way, a gate (16 feet wide at each crossing) shall be installed by the property owner, per Duke Energy's specifications. The property owner is required to install a Duke Energy lock on the gate to ensure access. Duke Energy will supply a lock.
- 3. Grading (cuts or fill) shall be no closer than 25 feet from poles, towers, guys and anchors (except for parking areas; see paragraph 7) and the slope shall not exceed 4:1. Grading or filling near Duke Energy facilities which will prevent free equipment access or create ground-to-conductor clearance violations will not be permitted. Storage or stockpiling of dirt or any construction material is prohibited. Sedimentation control, including re-vegetation, is required per state regulations.
- Streets, roads, driveways, sewer/water lines, other utility lines or any underground facilities shall not parallel the centerline 4. within the right of way but may cross, from one side to the other, at any angle not less than 30 degrees with the centerline. No portion of such facility or corresponding easement shall be located within 25 feet of Duke Energy's facilities. Roundabouts, culde-sacs and intersections (such as roads, driveways and alleyways) are not permitted.
- 5. Any drainage feature that allows water to pond, causes erosion, directs stormwater toward the right of way or limits access to or around Duke Energy facilities is prohibited.
- Contact Duke Energy prior to the construction of lakes, ponds, retention or detention facilities, etc. 6. 7.
 - Parking may be permitted within the right of way, provided that:
 - Prior to grading, concrete barriers shall be installed at a minimum of 9 feet from the Duke Energy facilities. During а. construction, grading shall be no closer than 10 feet to any Duke Energy facility.
 - After grading/paving activity is complete, Duke Energy-approved barrier sufficient to withstand a 15-mph b. vehicular impact shall be erected 9 feet from any Duke Energy facility.
 - Any access areas, entrances or exits shall cross (from one side to the other) the right of way at any angle not less с. than 30 degrees with the centerline and shall not pass within 25 feet of any structure. Parking lot entrances/exits cannot create an intersection within the right of way.
 - Lighting within the right-of-way limits must be approved by Duke Energy before installing. Due to engineering d. design standards, lighting is not allowed in the "Wire Zone." Where lighting is approved ("Border Zone"), the total height may not exceed 15 feet. Contact your Asset Protection right-of-way specialist as the "Wire Zone" varies for the different voltage lines.
- 8. Duke Energy will not object to certain vegetation plantings as long as:
 - They do not interfere with the access to or the safe, reliable operation and maintenance of Duke Energy facilities. а.
 - With prior written approval, Duke Energy does not object to low-growing shrubs and grasses within the "Wire b. Zone." Tree species are not allowed within the "Wire Zone." Trees that are approved in the "Border Zone" may not exceed, at maturity, 15 feet in height. Contact the Asset Protection right-of-way specialist for "Wire Zone"/"Border Zone" definitions.
 - For compliant mature height species, refer to plantfacts.osu.edu/plantlist/index.html for reference. C.
 - Engineering drawings must indicate the outermost conductors. d.
 - Vegetation that is not in compliance is subject to removal without notice. е.
 - Duke Energy may exercise the right to cut "danger trees" outside the right-of-way limits as required to properly £. maintain and operate the transmission line.

We hope this is useful information. If you have additional questions or plan any activity not mentioned above, please contact the Asset Protection right-of-way specialist for your area (see map).



Transmission Right-of-way Zones - Midwest



Wire Zone: Extends beyond the outermost conductor on both sides. (See diagram above.)

Permitted within the Wire Zone: Low-growing plants, shrubs and grasses. **Not permitted within the Wire Zone:** Tree species of any kind.

Border Zone: Extends from the edge of the Wire Zone to the outside edge of the Right of Way.

Permitted within the Border Zone: Lighting structures and plantings within the Right of Way that do not exceed a vertical height of 15 feet. For compliant mature height species, refer to plantfacts.osu.edu/plantlist/index.html. Not permitted within the Border Zone: Any object that exceeds vertical height restrictions. These restrictions are based on flat ground elevations. If the ground elevations differ, no object at any time may exceed the outermost conductor's ground elevation.

Peripheral Zone: Outside the Right of Way and adjacent to Border Zones.

- Permitted within the Peripheral Zone: Trees may be planted in the Peripheral Zone. Duke Energy recommends customers exercise caution selecting and planning trees in this zone.
- Not permitted in the Peripheral Zone: Trees with canopies are subject to routine trimming and possible removal.

In all zones:

When an outage risk is identified, Duke Energy will attempt to notify the affected customer. However, the company may need to take immediate action if trees cannot be pruned to appropriate levels. This may include trees and shrubs that are within 20 feet of the power line at the maximum peak load or during weather conditions that create line sag and sway.

Written approvals by Duke Energy are required for all plans.

We hope this is useful information. If you have additional questions on line voltages or plan any activity not mentioned above, please contact the Asset Protection Specialist for your area. (See Map)

*Right of Way is intended to reference the easement rights granted to Duke Energy. Actual zone size may vary based upon the particular Right of Way.



Why must Duke Energy remove trees?

Reliable electricity is important to our customers



Trees are part of the natural beauty of the Midwest. Duke Energy recognizes the important role trees play in enhancing the beauty of communities and contributing to the quality of life for our customers in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. While the trees that thrive throughout the 26,054 square miles of our service area are a tremendous source of pride, trees and limbs that fall into power lines also are the number one cause of power outages.

Our customers want reliable power – in both good and bad weather. It's our responsibility to ensure power lines that transmit electricity are free from trees, overgrown shrubbery and other obstructions that can prevent continuous, safe and reliable electric service to the more than 1.6 million Midwest customers who depend on us 24 hours a day. Trees that are close to power lines must be trimmed or removed so they don't disrupt electric service to households, businesses, schools and hospitals.

Our crews use a variety of methods to manage vegetation growth along distribution and transmission power line rights of way, including vegetation pruning, tree removal and herbicides. These approaches are based on widely accepted standards developed by the tree care industry for maintenance and operations and approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Transmission rights of way

High-voltage transmission lines provide large amounts of electricity over long distances. The transmission lines in your community are part of the larger, interconnected grid system that powers an entire region, not just the community through which the lines run. Federal rules are more stringent for some transmission lines, depending on the voltage, and may include fines up to \$1 million per day for tree-related outages. We manage our grid to provide reliable operation of transmission facilities while adhering to regulations and easement rights.

Distribution rights of way

Distribution lines carry power from local substations to homes and businesses. An electric distribution right of way may also contain other utilities (electric, telephone, cable, water and/or gas) that must be maintained as well. Duke Energy manages rights of way to provide reliable delivery of electricity.

Vegetation Management methods

We use an Integrated Vegetation Management approach, which includes careful pruning, selective herbicidal application and tree removal. This allows us to proactively evaluate power line areas and determine the best method for maintaining reliable service. The objective of an Integrated Vegetation Management program is to maintain the lines – before the trees and brush are close enough to cause outages – in a manner that's consistent with good arboricultural practices.

Maintaining rights of way

Well-maintained rights of way help prevent power outages and allow our vehicles and personnel to safely access our electrical equipment for operations, maintenance and storm response. By maintaining vegetation around our equipment, we can get our customers' power restored more efficiently and safely.

Maintaining easements

Easements allow us access to mow, prune or cut down vegetation that may interfere with our transmission equipment and the ability to deliver safe reliable power. They also give us the space we need to build new equipment to meet the future energy demands of our customers.

Sometimes public and private entities plant trees in the easements that impede our ability to operate and maintain these critical assets. Trees planted outside of a right of way also can grow into our easement and endanger our equipment. We recommend that you only plant grass in an electric transmission rights of way or easement.

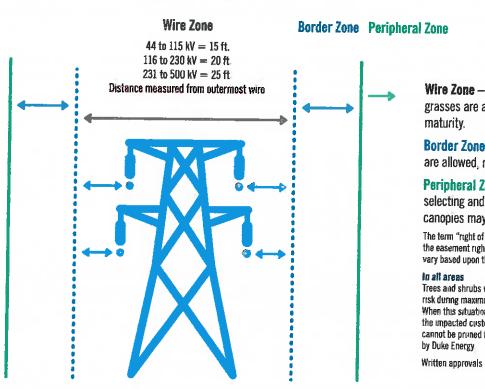
Why trimming doesn't always work

We're often asked why we remove some trees instead of trimming them. Trimming is not always healthy for the trees.

Duke Energy has thousands of miles of right of way to maintain; even with the latest technology, some fast-growing tree species can outpace our ability to keep them in check. When we have to cut down trees, we take care to leave the area in the same condition as we found it.

Before planting, visit our right-of-way website at duke-energy.com/safety/right-of-way-management.asp. To report trees growing into power lines, visit duke-energy.com/indiana/outages/tree-trimming.asp and fill out the online form.

Questions? Please call 866.385.3675 to ask for a Duke Energy transmission forester to contact you.



Transmission Right-of-Way Zones:

Wire Zone – Low-growing plants, shrubs, and grasses are allowed, restricted to 7 feet at maturity.

Border Zone – Lighting structures and plantings are allowed, restricted to 15 feet.

Peripheral Zone – Caution should be used in selecting and planting trees, trees with large canopies may be subject to trimming or removal.

The term "right of way" or "rights of way" is intended to reference the easement rights granted to Duke Energy Actual zone size may vary based upon the particular right of way

Trees and shrubs within 15 feet of the power lines create an outage risk during maximum peak load and certain weather conditions When this situation is identified. Duke Energy will attempt to notify the impacted customer, but may take immediate action if trees cannot be pruned to appropriate levels and have to be removed by Duke Energy

Written approvals by Duke Energy are required for all plans

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tucker, Tara <Tara.Tucker@duke-energy.com> Tuesday, November 07, 2017 4:34 PM Kim Carrier Re: Duke Energy Easement

Okay, we will leave it for now, but I'd recommend relocating it if you can.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 7, 2017, at 4:32 PM, Kim Carrier <<u>kcarrier@gcbhs.com</u>> wrote:

I can trim it to the 7' required. It's just an ornamental tree so doesn't get big

Thanks Kim

On Nov 7, 2017, at 4:31 PM, Tucker, Tara <<u>Tara.Tucker@duke-energy.com</u>> wrote:

Lisa informed me that you have a cherry sapling under the lines you'd like to keep. Are you planning to relocate this tree?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 7, 2017, at 3:36 PM, Kim Carrier <<u>kcarrier@gcbhs.com</u>> wrote:

*** Exercise caution. This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ***

FYI. I have had issues w your contractors leaving cigarette buts in my yard in the past. I have dogs so ask them to please throw them in the garbage can against the house so the dogs don't eat them.

Thanks Kim

On Nov 7, 2017, at 1:46 PM, Tucker, Tara <<u>Tara.Tucker@duke-</u> energy.com
> wrote:

Ms. Carrier,

Attached is the easement we have on file for your property. We will be able to haul away the wood from trees removed on your property. Let me know if I can be of any further assistance. Thank you,

Tara N. Tucker

Ground Patrol Lead

Head of Gas Transmission Mowing

ECI Forester Ohio/Kentucky

(513)817-8730

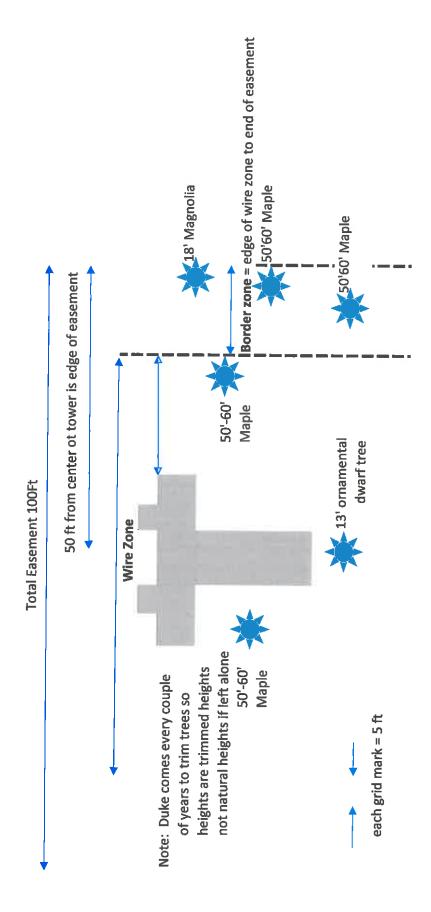
Tara.Tucker@Duke-Energy.com

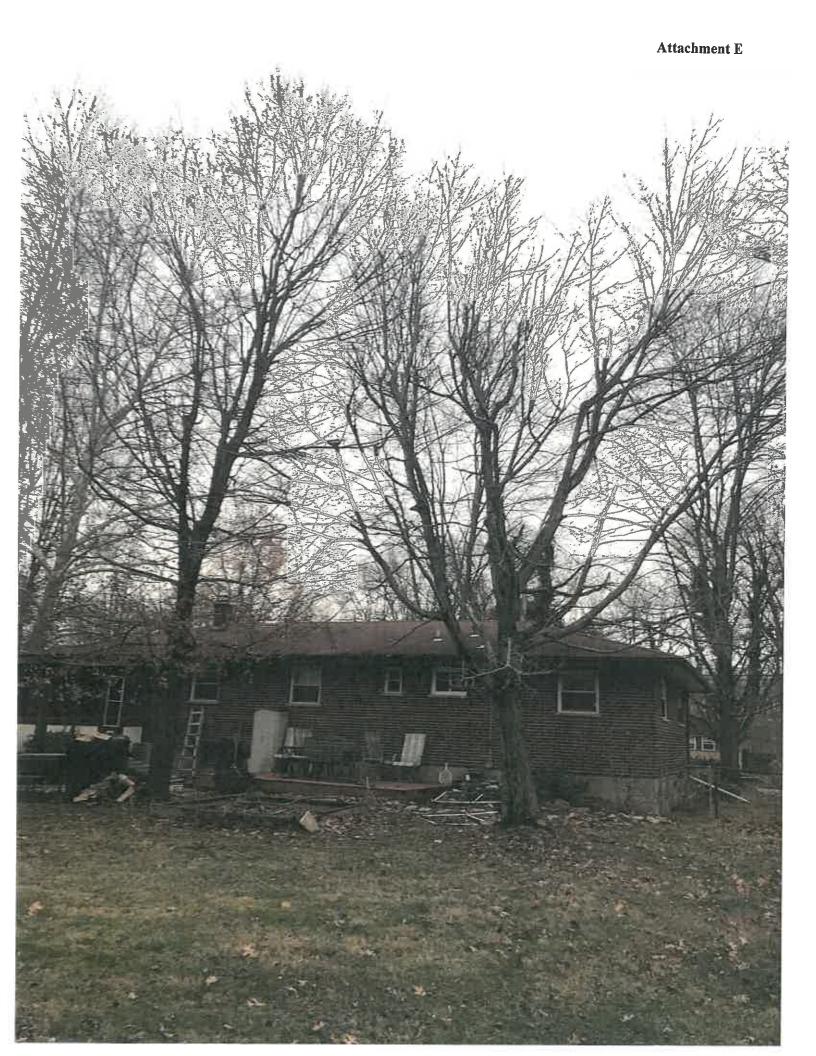
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in

Case No(s). 17-2344-EL-CSS

Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony Of Kim Carrier On Behalf Of Complainants electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly W. Bojko on behalf of Complainants