

**Hunter, Donielle**

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment 16-0253-GA-BTX [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbyU:ref ]

Vote against Duke's proposed central Corridor Pipeline!

Why new gas pipelines should not be built through high consequence areas. We already have enough danger lurking underground. Call them what you will, third party damage can rupture gas lines and kill.

<https://www.facebook.com/791145127683159/posts/1503988883065443?sfns=mo>

Anne Chisko

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbyU:ref

## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment #16-0253-GA-BTX [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbpy:ref ]

Why new gas pipelines should not be built through high consequence areas. We already have enough danger lurking underground. Call them what you will, third party damage can rupture gas lines and kill.

<https://www.facebook.com/791145127683159/posts/1503988883065443?sfns=mo>

Anne Chisko

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbpy:ref

## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:17 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment 16-0253-GA-BTX [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbK9:ref ]

From June of 2016 through now I have sent comments to the PUCO, and received response that they had been logged. Since this is now to be formally reviewed, I wanted to make sure those involved in the hearings and decision knew my concerns and reasoning.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Regards,

Dick Russell

1.

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**From:** russ7208 [<mailto:dhRussell555@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2016 12:45 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB  
**Subject:** Case 16-0253-GA-BTX

I sent the following through the PUCO Contact / Comment page (Submission 107560), but will also do here to make sure I'm heard.

Re Case 16-0253-GA-BTX I have reviewed details of this case proposing to site a large, high pressure gas pipeline through the Kenwood / Blue Ash area. It seems all proposed routes go through heavily residential and commercial areas - at least one close to our property. Given the size and right of way requirements, it seems that such a project belongs only in a rural, or possibly heavily industrial, area. I understand that Duke wants us to trust them regarding preservation and safety issues. Honestly, I do not. Such an engineering project always comes with risk, and in a heavily populated area as proposed, one mistake could cause a major disaster! This project as proposed makes no sense. Please stop it!

Regards,

Dick Russell

8379 Frane Ln

Cincinnati, OH 45236

5137911812

2.

Dear Mr. Butler,

Thank you for your response in June of last year. I've continued to follow public information on this, and attended the open house in Blue Ash last month. Even though some what appear to me to be minor changes have been made, the routing really hasn't changed to move to a less populated area. I'm sure you've seen the recent news of the 20 inch pipeline explosion in Louisiana. This was apparently in a rural area, so "only" one life was lost. I can imagine that this sort of event along the routes proposed for the Central Corridor line would cause significant property damage and loss of life. I'm sure it would be engineered and constructed to best current practice, but accidents happen, and I believe that the risk of incredible damage far outweigh any benefit. This needs to be stopped, or possibly moved east to go through a sparsely populated area like Indian Hill.

Regards,

Dick Russell

8379 Frane Ln

Cincinnati, OH 45236

513-791-1812

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## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment 16-0253 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbGO:ref ]

Ms. Mary Mertz,

I am a resident of Hamilton County, Ohio living in the city of Blue Ash. I have recently learned of Duke Energy's proposal of wanting to run a large, high pressured transit natural gas pipeline through our residential area where: schools, homes, places of worship, daycare centers, businesses, hospitals, hospice center and retail stores are located. I HIGHLY OPPOSE Duke's proposal for this pipeline. The safety of children, families, elderly adults would be in jeopardy if this high pressured pipeline were to be approved to go through this populated area. The Sycamore School district has 4 schools: Sycamore High School, Maple Dale Elementary, Greene Intermediate School and the Junior High School that are way too close to the proposed orange pipeline route, hence putting innocent school aged children in harms way, should an accident/mishap/disaster occur with this proposed natural gas pipeline. The need for this high pressured pipeline is questionable, the cost is substantial and there are other options that are less costly and less intrusive. Please, DO NOT approve Duke Energy's proposal for the Central Corridor Pipeline (Case #: 16-0253-GA-BTX).

Sincerely,

Sherri Yuskewich  
10116 Zig Zag Rd.  
Blue Ash, Ohio 45242  
(513) 376-6280

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## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:00 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comment 16-253-GA-BTX [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJbBB:ref ]

Duke's expert witness, Bruce Paskett repeatedly claimed that C314V was a distribution line. He claimed that distribution lines would never rupture, only leak. Mr Paskett implied, that if the pipeline leaks, people will notice the smell, contact the appropriate emergency personnel, and all will be fine and dandy.

Mr Paskett neglected to mention that natural gas is easily ignited, flammable and highly explosive. And that even the use of a cell phone to call 911 can cause an ignition and subsequent explosion. Yesterday, as Mr. Paskett testified before OPSB, a 2 inch pipeline was ruptured? punctured? leaked? by a contractor in Durham, NC.

As Mr. Paskett was testifying, people were being severely burned and killed by a natural gas explosion involving a 2 inch pipeline in Durham, NC.

Imagine if that was Duke's 500 psi pipeline, and the death and destruction that could have resulted, if a similar incident occurred. Third party damage happens all of the time even with programs in place, like "call before you dig", and "call before you dig" notification occurs. In the state of Ohio, 3rd party damage to natural gas pipelines occurred at a rate of about 20 per day in 2017, according to the Common Ground Alliance's annual DIRT report. This is a FACT. Not an "expert opinion". Obtained from the NG Industry's own research published by the Common Ground Alliance.

In Durham, the 2 inch pipeline was struck by a contractor, resulting in a "leak". When the accident occurred, emergency personnel were notified, and attempted to start evacuating the area. Unfortunately before people could be evacuated, the leak ignited followed by an explosion. At least 1 person died, others are in critical condition. It took almost 2 hours between when the pipeline was struck, and natural gas was turned off.

Below is an article summarizing the events in Durham, NC.

What if this accident involved a "leak" from a 500 psi "distribution" line? Like Duke's Central Corridor Extension Pipeline? And it was next to a **daycare center like Blue Ash Educational Building, or a school like Stewart Elementary School? Or at Summit Park, when 100,000 people are attending Red White and Blue Ash?**

**There is no reasonable safety plan for a situation like this when schools, hospitals, nursing homes and places where lots of people congregate are involved.**

**The OPSB decision makers should not be gambling with the lives of Southwest Ohioans. Particularly when the need for a project of this scale is clearly questionable, based upon invalid forecasting methodology and with no upfront risk assessment and no priority placed upon human safety, prior to routing or construction.**

Elizabeth Rueve-Miller

# 1 person killed, 17 injured in Durham, North Carolina, building explosion

[Joey Garrison and Kirk A. Bado](#), USA TODAY Published 11:47 a.m. ET April 10, 2019 | Updated 5:36 p.m. ET April 10, 2019

DURHAM, N.C. — One person was killed and at least 17 others injured in a large gas explosion Wednesday in Durham, North Carolina, that caused a partial building collapse in a downtown shopping district.

The explosion was caused by a gas leak that occurred when a contractor was drilling under the sidewalk shortly before 10:30 a.m., city officials said. They believe the contractor was performing utility work for the placement of underground gigabit fiber.

Wil Glenn, a spokesman for the Durham Police Department, said the contractor hit a 2-inch gas line, causing the explosion that prompted the collapse of a two-story brick building. Five surrounding buildings were also damaged.

The explosion took place on North Duke Street in an area near Brightleaf Square that includes former tobacco warehouses and industrial buildings that are now retrofitted as restaurants, shops and other businesses.

It resulted in a massive billow of thick black smoke above the collapsed building as flames pushed through its windows. The explosion's force blew out the windows of nearby storefronts and shock waves could be felt several miles from downtown.

"Looks like the front of the Pentagon on 9/11, but on a much smaller scale," said Durham Fire Chief Robert Zoldos, a former 9/11 first-responder.

[CityofDurhamNC](#)

[?@CityofDurhamNC](#)

Latest update from [@DurhamPoliceNC](#) & [@durhamcityfire](#) regarding today's explosion & fire near [@BrightleafSq](#). Please continue to avoid this area while our first responders work this scene.

94

[11:42 AM - Apr 10, 2019](#) · [Durham, NC](#)

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Officials are still investigating the cause of the gas leak, but Durham's deputy city manager, Bo Ferguson, said he expects it to be related to drilling for an underground fiber network.

The city in July announced that private utility companies such as AT&T, Duke University, Google and Time Warner Cable would be [overseeing the installation of new gigabit fiber throughout Durham](#). Officials have not released the name of the contractor.

A firefighter was among those injured. Six of the injured suffered critical injuries. Officials say all the people in the building are accounted for.

The Associated Press reported that the building that collapsed is occupied by the construction engineering company Prescient Co., which announced in July 2017 that it was moving its headquarters from Arvada, Colorado, and expected to employ about 60 executives, engineering and sales workers in Durham.

Duke University employee Mary Williams told the Associated Press that she heard the explosion and felt shaking at her building a third of a mile away.

"I was in the kitchen. I heard this loud boom and the building shook. When I looked out, I saw the smoke billowing up. I was scared for whoever was in the vicinity because it did not look very good," she said.

Another Duke employee in the same building, Sharon Caple, said that in the minutes afterward, the sky was darkened.

"All you saw was this black smoke," she said.

The explosion came on the same day Durham was celebrating its 15th anniversary.

"What we hoped would be a very happy, is not a happy day," Durham Mayor Steve Schewel said at a press conference. "But, it is a day when I am so proud of how our local government functions. I am so proud, especially of our firefighters and their courage and their persistance."

Officials have urged people to stay away from downtown; the area around the blast has been closed to traffic. On Wednesday afternoon, the smell of gas was still prevalent.

At nearby Durham School of the Arts, students were dismissed early following the explosion.

**[Kirk A. Bado](#)**

[?@kirk\\_bado](#)

Crews pouring water on the still smoldering remains of the Prescient building, which was at the center of the Durham gas explosion

[2:36 PM - Apr 10, 2019](#)

[See Kirk A. Bado's other Tweets](#)

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](#)

A few hours after the blast, owners and employees of Main Street Durham's restaurants and stores gathered in the empty dining room of the Federal, a local diner and bar, to make sense of the horror. News helicopters flew overhead.

The restaurant's chef, Adam Barron, 37, said he usually arrives around 10:15 a.m. but was running late Wednesday morning. He was sitting in traffic not far from the restaurant when he saw the smoke.

Then an explosion rocked his car.

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## Hunter, Donielle

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**From:** Ohio Power Siting Board <contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2019 2:11 PM  
**To:** Puco Docketing  
**Subject:** comments 16-253-GA-BTX [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJkiQ:ref ]  
**Attachments:** image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg

**Subject:** Case # 16-253-GA-BTX

Mary Mertz, Director OH DNR

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-3

Columbus, Ohio 43229

Case # 16-253-GA-BTX

Dear Ms. Mertz:

We have been reading, learning, and educating ourselves over the past 3 years, regarding high pressure natural gas pipelines. We hold out hope that the voting members of the Board will feel their duty to be educated in this area as well.

Yet we have great concern, as you have been on board less than 1 year, coupled with your absence at the Public Hearing on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Cincinnati, at the UC Blue Ash College. We hope you will seek enlightenment into the facts we are using to reach our strong belief that there is no need for this projected 20" TRANSMISSION pipeline. Further, we implore you to consider safety, as a primary factor, regardless of its omission from the criteria list.

In earnest,

Sharma L. Browning

6121 St. Regis Dr.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Resident of Hamilton County

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0GJkiQ:ref

C: Brittney Colvin

Grace and Anthony Severyn  
9419 Bluewing Terrace  
Blue Ash, OH 45241

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RECEIVED

Ms. Mary Mertz  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-3  
Columbus, OH 43229

APR 11 2019

ODNR Director's Office

April 7, 2019

RE: **Case Number 16-0253-GA-BTX**, Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Proposal

Dear Ms. Mertz:

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE give your utmost scrutiny to the question of whether the proposed Central Corridor Pipeline Extension is really and truly necessary.

Listen to the heart-wrenching testimony from people who will suffer in many ways from a large pipeline being placed VERY near to their homes, schools, churches, synagogues, and workplaces. Even though Duke intends to comply with current safety practices, the risk of a natural gas explosion, which would be deadly in our urban area, still exists and cannot be eliminated. In addition, the pipeline will ruin portions of our natural environment, degrading the value of homes and businesses nearby.

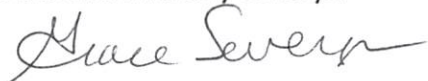
In this case, where the pipeline will expose our community to serious risks and environmental burdens, Duke's claimed "need" should be given the highest level of scrutiny. Duke Energy wants this pipeline, but it is not necessary -- less intrusive alternatives exist!

There is overwhelming strong public opposition from the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, as well as the communities of Amberley Village, Blue Ash, Columbia Township, Deer Park, Evendale, Golf Manor, Madeira, Pleasant Ridge, Reading, and Sycamore Township.

Please consider how horrendously offensive Duke's proposal is to the vast majority of residents of Hamilton County AND DENY DUKE'S CENTRAL CORRIDOR PIPELINE PROPOSAL AS UNNECESSARY.

With sincere and humble pleas for your help,

Grace and Anthony Severyn



**Neff, Franke**

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**From:** Lois Borisch <leborisch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019 12:01 AM  
**To:** AGR-Administration  
**Subject:** Comments on proposed Duke Energy's Gas Pipeline Extension

The Ohio Power Siting Board

180 East Broad Street

Columbus,  
Ohio 43215

April 8, 2019

RE: Duke Energy's Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project proposal

Case Number 16-0253-GA-BTX

Dear Ms. Dorothy Pelanda, Director OH Dept of Agriculture:

My name is Lois Borisch. My husband, Don, and I live at 12003 Eaglescout Court, Cincinnati, 45249.

We live approximately 650 feet from where the proposed Duke Energy pipeline will be by Conrey Road. My dear friend lives even closer.

I am vehemently opposed to the plans of Duke Energy to put a 20"/500 psi pipeline in the ground at this location.

1. I do not see that Duke has adequately demonstrated a need for a transmission gas pipeline of this size for the Hamilton County needs. This area's population remains lower than it was in 1960 even with a slight uptick in growth in the last few years. In the rare case of extra need, the propane air peaking plants still have widely used technology. This definitely does not seem to be for the good of the people here, but more for Duke's interest in transmitting gas for their profit. Also, there should be a thorough and objective assessment of the case Duke is presenting. There should be other alternatives to this extreme plan.

2. I will now introduce the human safety aspect of this. I have heard that Duke does not have to really consider human safety. This, if true, is reprehensible. Human safety should be a primary consideration of a proposed pipeline. The proposed 2 routes go through heavily populated areas – homes, schools, businesses,

places of worship, and hospitals. I, personally, live way too close for comfort to the proposed pipeline. **If an accident would happen, I live in the danger zone!!!** (According to data from the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness, you should be at least 1,000 feet from a 20"/500psi pipeline at the time of a serious failure.) My neighbor's child attends Stewart School in the Princeton School District which is located on Conrey Road! This school is also in the danger zone!!! If there would be a gas leak, things like cell phones and school announcement systems should not be used. Pipelines of the size of 20"/500 psi have been put in areas of the country where they are not in populated areas. In some areas where urban sprawl has grown up around large pipelines, there have been explosions in the past injuring and killing people. Also, do we know how long this pipeline would be in the ground? With all the construction -- tearing down and building up that will happen in such a populated area -- how does anyone know what might rupture a pipeline in the future? Would Duke be responsible for anything happening now or in the future?

3. More thoughts on how it can negatively affect me and others, also, financially. Some of the cost of this proposed project will be passed on to us consumers without receiving much of a benefit. Many landowners will have construction done on their land and will have restrictions on what they can do on their property. And, also, very importantly, -- if the proposed pipeline were built **it would very negatively affect the value of our homes because of the safety concerns!!!**

So, the proposed Duke Pipeline is not proved to be needed and will very negatively affect us. Thank you for your consideration of my points of concern.

Please vote **NO** on Duke Energy's Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project.

Sincerely,

*Lois Borisch*

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**4/12/2019 2:44:16 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-0253-GA-BTX**

Summary: Public Comment submitted via website electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing