

From: Puco ContactOPSB
To: PUCO-Docketing
Subject: public comment 22-0627-EL-BTX
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:07:53 PM

From: lori mcwhinney <lorimcwhinn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>; aesohionewprojectoutreach@aes.com
Subject: AES New Westville Area Improvements Case #22-0627-EL-BTX

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing another letter from Tom & Lori McWhinney about the New Westville Area Improvements project case #22-0627-EL-BTX. I think this will be my 4th letter and hopefully my last. The new proposed route that John Underwood has sent us. The new proposed route does not only effect Ed McWhinney but there are 8 people to deal with on this property and all are against the high voltage lines going across this property. My wife and I are part of that group. I looked at the proposed maps and the line stops at the State Line so where does the line go from there on the Cox Rd? Which side does the proposed line (Indiana or Ohio side) go north on the State Line to Hodgkin Rd.

First thing is we found verification of Indian Settlements on some of the land we own after talking to Ann-Eliz Lewis at Earlham College who is Collections Manager of Joseph Moore Museum. There are arrowheads that are named after our family. Here is a website stating the fact. [McWhinney point - Wikipedia](#)

Next, I have several things that irks (annoys) me about this whole project.

1. We got the invitation to the meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at National Trail School 4 days after the meeting, therefore missing it.
2. The most important parties in a project like this should be the landowners first, however we were kept in the dark about this until October 26th when the bomb was dropped on us. (Not Lori & I because we did not get the invite in time). The biggest and most damaging thing to this farm since 1834 (yes, 189 years) and we were kept in the dark about it!
3. About 2 years ago we started getting phone calls and letters about purchasing our land from California to New York and places in between. If we did not know what was going on how did, they find out about this project.
4. The McWhinney's have worked tirelessly for generations to keep our properties clean of brush but also forests and creeks are cared for the balance of nature.
Our thanks for all these years of stewardship seems to be, (hey, from a aerial map this looks like a nice clean easy path for the high voltage lines!) No thank you! We have not changed our feelings about signing away easements and will not let this land be disrupted under our ownership. If you are thinking, we are greedy land hoarding family that can't be enjoyed by others it is far from the truth. We have had countless large church picnics with hayrides at the 1834 farm. Also, the one room schoolhouse has been restored by Norlan & Carolyn (my parents) has been used for school field trips for years. Also, we allow hunting to responsible people on our properties. It is a paradise where we live because of our generations of hard work. We have made it what it is and were not about to let disruption take it away from us.
5. Maybe the most important and last comment is about our health. We are not sleeping at night and stress about this will eventually cause problems to us. Hopefully I have conveyed our feeling to whoever reads this and the unnecessary toll it is taking on us.

P.S. You need to look for another route!

Sincerely,

Tom and Lori McWhinney

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