



Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy **CARE** **Communicator**

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May 1, 2008

Conservation organizations oppose power line

Wild Turkey Federation says ...



February 10, 2008

Mr. Andrew Boatright
Ohio Power Sitting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Mr. Boatright,

On behalf of the Maple Country Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, I would like to state our objection to the Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project, PUCO case number 07-0171-EL-BTX, as proposed by the FirstEnergy Corporation. We would urge this board to examine the current project proposals for construction and the irreversible impact it will have on the properties affected. I would further request the Board to assist in the modification of the current proposed routes toward pre-existing civil corridors.

The National Wild Turkey Federation has spent more than 3.4 million dollars, since 1985, in Ohio to provide for the trapping, transferring and reestablishment of the Wild Turkey, habitat improvement projects, tree plantings and other related programs. The Northeast portion of Geauga County has provided an invaluable resource in reestablishing the Wild Turkey populations locally. With its low housing density, agricultural properties, large tracts of forest land and available water supplies, turkey populations have flourished in this area and been able to spread to surrounding areas.

The resulting impact of the proposed construction will destroy as much as 62 acres of these woodlands, 55 acres of wetlands and disturb 58 various streams. These prime forested areas are crucial roost areas for wild turkey. The access to suitable water sources is critical to nesting hens and new poults which generally must roost/nest within 1/2 mile from a constant water source. With the constant push from development and local timber industries it is becoming difficult for local flocks to find the suitable large timber roost areas and proper nesting habitat. Therefore, I strongly urge against the proposed construction of the utility corridor through these areas. There appear to be options for utilizing existing corridors in lieu of the construction of the new. It has been proposed by some that the 'Route 11' and/or 'Rachel route bike path' should be suitable alternates with far less environmental and personal impact.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice our opposition to the current proposals for the Geauga County 138kV Transmission Line Project as proposed by FirstEnergy.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. McDermott,

President, Maple Country Chapter of the NWTF and
Ohio State Chapter, District Director

What your neighbors are saying about the proposed power line ...

We all realize that it requires many things to make viable communities and it isn't just about progress, it is about progress that benefits everyone without harming or affecting others. We ask that you consider the devastating effects the proposed line will have...

...please understand that there are workable alternative locations for the proposed transmission line.

Jack and JoAnn Grace
1557 Middleton Road
Hudson, Ohio

The truly disturbing aspect of the case before you is the utter lack of necessity for it. There are workable alternative locations for the proposed transmission line. Pre-existing civil corridors are at hand, the impact of which has already been absorbed...

...Given these potential solutions, surely the talented engineers of First Energy are capable of devising a workable response to the need for additional power in the areas to our south and east that does not call for the creation of yet another 60-foot wide scar across the face of Geauga County.

Chalmers and Mary Bennett
Huntsburg

...The possible loss of homes, heritage farmland, productive agricultural lots, woodlands and wetlands is far too high a cost for the residents of Thompson, Montville, and Huntsburg townships to pay.

Daniel O. Townsend
Claudia Britt Townsend
Thompson

Show your support!



**Display a
CARE
Yard Sign**

**For yours
Call Pat at**

440-636-5153

Conservation organizations oppose power line



Ohio Ducks Unlimited says ...

April 14, 2008

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

RE: PUCO Case No. 07-0171-EL-BTX

Dear Board Chairman and Members:

I am writing on behalf of the 15,000 members of Ducks Unlimited in Ohio. Ducks Unlimited is a private conservation organization whose mission is to conserve waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) in North America by conserving waterfowl habitat. Since 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 12 million acres of habitat, including 74,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in Ohio working with a wide variety of partners.

FirstEnergy Corporation has proposed to establish a new transmission line utility corridor and construct a new 138 kV transmission line in an area of eastern Geauga County that will impact substantial wetland habitat important for waterfowl. We understand that suitable pre-existing civil corridors exist that would not require the destruction of natural habitat. We oppose establishment of new corridors when suitable alternatives already exist. Therefore, we request that the Ohio Power Siting Board work with the FirstEnergy Corporation to locate the power line in pre-existing civil corridors.

The new corridor being proposed as the preferred alternative will impact 493 acres of wetlands. Over the past several years, Ducks Unlimited has been working with a variety of conservation partners to invest over \$3 million to protect and restore 1,775 acres of wetlands and associated habitats in a four-county area of the Grand River watershed, including Geauga County. The proposed transmission corridor cuts through our project area. We do not want to see a good portion of our hard-earned efforts offset by the approval of the new corridor being proposed.

The Great Lakes basin is a high priority area for Ducks Unlimited conservation. Half of the wetlands that once existed in the Great Lakes region have been lost and remaining wetlands are impacted by drainage, sedimentation, and pollution. Wetlands protected and restored in Ohio provide nesting and migration areas for waterfowl, habitat for other wildlife, and recreational opportunities for Ohioans. Waterfowl hunting and viewing recreation generates more than \$142 million in economic activity annually in Ohio. In addition, protected and restored wetlands recharge ground water, store floodwaters, and improve water quality, all important benefits to the citizens of Ohio.

Please help protect our wetlands that are so important to waterfowl and to all the citizens of Ohio. We question the need to approve the establishment of a new transmission line utility corridor when suitable alternatives already exist. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Murphy, State Chairman
Ohio Ducks Unlimited

Cc: Dr. Robert Hoffman, Director, Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office,
Ducks Unlimited

CARE CONTACTS

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Treasurer pjonath@caregeauga.org - (440) 636-5153

CARE meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Montville Community Center, next to the Fire Station on Rt. 528, just south of US Rt. 6, Montville. Everyone welcome.

The next CARE meeting will be Thursday, May 1

Find us on the Web at www.caregeauga.org

What's New

Spaghetti Dinners are May 3 and 10

The Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy (CARE) organization will hold spaghetti dinners on two Saturday evenings, May 3 and 10, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Middlefield Fire Department. The meal will consist of all-you-can-eat spaghetti with meat balls, garlic toast, tossed salad, coffee and dessert, and is priced at \$7.00 adults, \$4.00 K-6th, and free for pre-school children. Carryouts for stay-at-homes. All proceeds will benefit CARE.

Volunteers needed to testify at OPSB hearings

Hearings will soon be held for The Geauga County - 138 kV Transmission Line Supply Project. Two types of hearings are involved in this segment of the OPSB process: public hearings and an adjudicatory hearing.

The Public Hearings are intended to allow the Administrative Law Judge to hear testimony from citizens. Witnesses at public hearings need not be affected property owners. Anyone wanting to make his or her voice heard has a right to testify at the public hearings.

The Adjudicatory Hearing is the evidentiary hearing intended for the parties in the case. (CARE's motion to intervene as a party in the case was granted.) At this hearing, the parties, through their attorneys, present exhibits, call witnesses, cross examine the witnesses of other parties and submit briefs.

If you are interested in making a presentation at either of the Public Hearings, or if you want to be considered to be a witness on behalf of CARE at the Adjudicatory Hearing, please contact Jim Galm, e-mail jgalm@caregeauga.org, (216) 346-0782, as soon as possible.

As matters now stand, the first of the two scheduled public hearings will take place Monday, May 12, 4:30 p.m., at Ledgemont Elementary - Middle School gym, 16200 Burrows Rd., Thompson. A second local public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 1:00 p.m. at the Huntsburg Town Hall, 2nd floor, 16534 Mayfield Rd., Huntsburg. These meeting dates will almost certainly be changed since none of the parties has objected to FirstEnergy's motion for a continuance. CARE is awaiting the announcement of final dates. These likely will be in the week of July 7 for the public hearings. The adjudicatory hearing probably will start July 17.