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May 10, 2007

Trustee Erwin Leffel
6171 Sidley Rd
Thompson, OH 44086-8765

Dear Trustee Leffel,

FirstEnergy has expressed a requirement for additional electrical transmission infrastructure to accommodate the needs of customers in western Ashtabula and southeastern Geauga Counties. To meet their customers' needs, FirstEnergy has proposed a project to construct a new 138 kV transmission line and a new 138 kV to 38 kV substation. The corridor proposed for the transmission line entails creating a new route through virgin farmland, residential properties and environmentally sensitive areas in Thompson, Montville and Huntsburg Townships in eastern Geauga County.

The majority opinion of residents and their elected officials is that the proposed corridor is not acceptable. I represent part of that majority opinion.

My purpose in writing is to describe what I believe is the best alternative corridor for the transmission line project. I have defined the alternate route for the new 138 kV transmission line as follows:

- 1) Start at the intersection of the existing Ashtabula-Mayfield 138 kV circuits and State Route 11 (SR-11), near the Interstate 90/SR-11 interchange.
- 2) Follow SR-11 south to Mayfield Road (US-322).
- 3) Follow Mayfield Road (US-322) west to the existing 38 kV to distribution substation in Orwell, OH.
- 4) Locate the new 138 kV to 38 kV substation at or near the existing Orwell 38 kV to distribution substation.
- 5) Install an additional 38 kV subtransmission circuit from Orwell west to the existing Huntsburg 38 kV to distribution substation.

Upon objective consideration, the advantages of the SR-11 corridor become immediately apparent.

- Most of the transmission line route follows State Route 11, a highly developed, four lane highway with wide, graded, mowed berms on each side. The environmental impact of locating the transmission line along the existing grade is nil.
- The line segments between SR-11 and Orwell follow Mayfield Road through a mostly uninhabited area. Most of these segments have existing poles installed on

one side of the road only, thus no hot work would be required to upgrade existing poles supporting energized circuits.

- The existing 38 kV circuit *from* Geauga County to the Orwell substation will become half of the new power path from Orwell *to* Geauga County. A second 38 kV circuit can be easily added to more than double the power capacity from the new 138 kV to 38 kV substation to Geauga County and western Ashtabula County.
- Located 24 miles from the Chesterland substation and 19 miles from the Saybrook substation, a substation location at Orwell will reduce load on both existing stations to allow additional growth in the western Geauga and northern Ashtabula County areas.
- Middlefield, an area of high anticipated power demand, is only 12 miles from the Orwell substation, and would be served by multiple 38 kV subtransmission circuits. Furthermore, Middlefield is located equidistant from the existing Chesterland substation and the new Orwell substation for improved reliability through redundancy.
- If demand growth continues in the southern Ashtabula and Geauga County areas, future expansion would be readily supported by extending the new 138 kV transmission circuits south along either SR-11 or SR-45 as appropriate.

I am not oblivious to the fact that any transmission line construction project will be met with opposition from those affected by its intrusion. The burden rests initially with FirstEnergy and finally with the Ohio Power Siting Board to minimize intrusion on families, farms, properties and the environment. Given that the corridor originally proposed by FirstEnergy through Thompson, Montville and Huntsburg Townships has failed to minimize intrusion to an acceptable level, I have developed and presented what I believe is a rational, well-reasoned, technically feasible alternative corridor and route plan.

Please favorably consider the proposed SR-11 route. My hope is that you will advocate the proposed SR-11 route in your present daily work and contact with decision makers at all points in the process. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



Jim Galm
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