

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Professor Jim O'Reilly of Wyoming wants to offer a simple set of advice which you should copy and give to your neighbors. He is not a member of NOPE and he is providing this information as a courtesy to you as an independent citizen (not as a representative of NOPE). He has taught about these issues at UC Law for many years. We are passing this information to you at Jim's request; this is **not** legal advice from NOPE.

**SEVERAL THOUSAND HOMEOWNERS, SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, AND RESIDENTS WILL SOON BE APPROACHED BY "LAND AGENTS" AND BY SURVEYORS WHO ARE LAYING OUT THE ROUTE OF THE MASSIVE GAS PIPELINE FOR DUKE ENERGY OHIO. PLEASE CONSIDER PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS BY SEVERAL SIMPLE STEPS:**

- 1. DO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS HANDED YOU BY THE LAND AGENTS OR SURVEYORS. YOU ARE FREE TO DECLINE.**
- 2. YOUR ATTORNEY SHOULD REVIEW WHAT THE DUKE REPRESENTATIVES HAND YOU.**
- 3. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY, PLEASE CALL THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE OF THE CINCINNATI BAR ASSOCIATION, 381-8359, OR FIND AN ATTORNEY THROUGH OTHER MEANS.**
- 4. GAS COMPANIES' LOBBYISTS HAVE WON A SPECIAL LAW THAT ALLOWS THEM TO GIVE YOU NOTICE DURING AN "APPROPRIATION" AND THEN ENTER YOUR PROPERTY: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/163> IS VERY COMPLEX; SEEK AN ATTORNEY'S ADVICE.**
- 5. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE NOTICE AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE, YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY OBLIGATION TO ALLOW THE SURVEY OR ALLOW THE LAND AGENT TO ENTER.**
- 6. THE LAND AGENTS WILL SPEAK OF "EMINENT DOMAIN". THE GAS COMPANY HAS ASKED FOR A STATE BOARD TO GRANT THEM APPROVAL. THE OHIO SUPREME COURT WILL ULTIMATELY DECIDE WHETHER THAT APPROVAL, IF ONE OCCURS, IS LEGALLY SUSTAINED. UNTIL THE END OF THAT PROCEEDING THE GAS COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO TAKE YOUR PROPERTY.**
- 7. THIS MESSAGE IS NOT A SOLICITATION OF LEGAL SERVICES BY ANY ORGANIZATION.**