

SUBJECT: Notice of Public Hearing

Please come to the Open Public Hearing and share your perspective about the pipeline.

Date Thursday, March 21st 3:00 – 8:00 PM (*arrive any time*)

Location: UC Blue Ash Muntz Hall room 119
9555 Plainfield Rd Blue Ash, OH 45236

About the OPSB's Open Public Hearing

If you want to make a statement arrive any time between 3:00 and 8:00PM on June 15th. Sign in upon arrival. Individuals will be called in the order in which they sign in to speak before an adjudicatory judge and some members of the OPSB. You will be sworn in, stating your name and indicating that what you are about to say is the truth. A court reporter will transcribe your testimony so that it can be part of the official legal record. You could be asked questions by the attorneys who are present.

What should I include my testimony?

This is **your** story. In your own words, talk about how the project will **personally** affect you and the people and things you care about.

It is a good idea to prepare what you want to say ahead of time. Identify the 3 most important things you want the OPSB to know about you and your specific situation. Think about the best way to get those points across. Would it be helpful to have pictures, diagrams or props? Are there important facts or data that help support your key points?

Make your case in your own words, allowing your emotions to come through. Consider ending your testimony with an "ask". Some of the things NOPE would like to ask OPSB to do are to: dig deeper into whether the pipeline is needed, insist on a thorough review of less costly/less intrusive alternatives, and investigate whether this is an interstate pipeline. What do **you** want the OPSB to do?

How should I prepare & what should I bring with me?

While not required, it is a good idea to write out your testimony and bring at least one copy with you to leave with the OPSB court reporter. Some people find it helpful to practice out loud or talk things through with another listener. We suggest you keep your statement to about 3 minutes. If you have a lot to say, you can always include a longer document to leave with the OPSB court reporter. The entire document will become part of the court record. Some people find it helpful to bring index cards with key points. If you have pictures, charts or any other visual aids, bring at least 1 copy of visual materials to leave behind, so that it becomes part of the record. If possible, bring a few copies, so that these can be viewed by the OPSB while you are speaking.

Any other tips for speaking before the OPSB and judge?

- Take a deep breath and relax. **You** are the expert on you and your situation. The OPSB is there to listen to what **you** have to say.
- Introduce yourself, your neighborhood and your credibility/expertise. Are you speaking as a mother of small children? A business owner? A citizen on a fixed income? The leader of an organization?
- Be respectful and thank the OPSB for listening to your case.
- Speak slowly and clearly into the microphone. Make eye contact with the team members.
- Be authentic and let your feelings through.

- Make a big impact. If you represent a group, bring other members with you and stand together on stage. Wear your team t-shirts. Stand outside with signs.

What should I do when I am done testifying?

- Leave a copy of your statement and any materials with the court reporter.
- Return to your seat and listen to other speakers or leave.
- Take a selfie and post it along with a caption to our Facebook Page and yours! We would love to see the community in action!

Need More Information?

Visit our website (www.NOPECincy.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NOPECincy.org) or send us an email NOPECincy.org@gmail.com Want to know how long you have to evacuate in the event of a major pipeline failure? Check out our new app: (www.NOPECincy.org/pipeline-failure-app)

Project Information

Duke Energy is planning to construct a 14 mile high-pressure natural gas transmission line through densely populated, residential communities in the Cincinnati area. The proposal is called the Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project, and involves the installation of a 20-inch pipeline, which will move an unprecedented volume of high-pressure, natural gas straight through the middle of our communities. **The entire route is in close proximity to our schools, our roads, local businesses and key infrastructure, and even our homes.**

There are two route options being considered. Duke submitted its pipeline application with the Ohio Power Siting Board. A decision about the pipeline and specific routing is not expected for several months.

This \$120+ million project would be funded by ratepayers. However, that is not the only cost to our communities – building a 500 psi transmission line through High Consequence Areas presents a significant safety risk. Additionally, destruction of property, removal of environmental assets, disruption to businesses and threatening the quality of life for private citizens are other costs that citizens must bear.

Duke says the pipeline is “needed”, but **many leaders and elected officials question whether the project is actually necessary and in the best interest of our communities.** To date, NOPE has not believe that Duke has demonstrated a need for the project, nor has Duke considered less intrusive, less costly options. OPSB Revised Staff Report released in March 2019 was also inadequate. Staff did not conduct a thorough, independent investigation of assertions and information included in Duke’s application. Nor did Staff or Duke consider public safety in their evaluation of the project or alternatives.

The following cities/municipalities are legally opposing the pipeline: Amberley, Blue Ash, Cincinnati, Columbia Township, Deer Park, Evendale, Golf Manor, Hamilton County, Madeira, Pleasant Ridge, Reading and Sycamore Township.