



City of Blue Ash
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David M. Waltz
City Manager



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Dear Resident:

We have received several inquiries from concerned residents regarding Duke Energy's proposed natural gas pipeline project. This project includes three proposed routes, one of which travels through the City of Blue Ash.

We understand your concerns about this project and know that you seek additional information as to how this could potentially affect residential areas in our City. Please know that while the City has no legal authority to prevent or regulate the project, several of our councilmembers have written letters to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to voice concerns.

At this time, the City has not been made aware of any decisions identifying the specific route Duke plans to select. We do know that the project requires an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the OPSB in Columbus, OH (identified as case No. 16-253-GA-BTX). We have confirmed that this application has yet to be filed by Duke Energy. Once they have filed, the City will be notified and receive a copy of the application. We then have 30 days to evaluate and decide our best course of action.

According to Duke, this project is a current extension of a pipeline that was completed in 2003 that provided gas transmission from cross-country pipelines to northern Hamilton County. This pipeline extension will provide additional gas supplies farther south to the central Cincinnati area. Construction on the project is expected to start in the summer of 2017 and be complete by the fall of 2018.

We want you to know that we will do everything we can to voice your concerns and demand answers and information. We have reached out to Duke Energy this week.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as more details are made available. We appreciate those of you who have reached out to us and we hope you understand we will do whatever we can to keep the communication flowing with Duke and the State.

Attached are frequently asked questions we have pulled from the Duke Energy website that we hope will answer questions you may have at this time. If you have additional questions please contact Mary Grace Fitzgerald at 513-745-8500 or mfitzgerald@blueash.com. She will help direct your questions to right individuals.

Sincerely,

Lee Czerwonka
Mayor

FAQ

Duke Energy Proposed Central Corridor Gas Pipeline Extension Project

What is the pipeline project?

Duke Energy is proposing—to the State of Ohio—a pipeline extension project. The project is designed, according to Duke Energy, to enhance gas supply reliability and flexibility across the system, replace and modernize aging infrastructure and position Duke Energy to supply growing demand for natural gas in southwest Ohio. The proposed pipeline extension will be a 30-inch steel natural gas line that will run from an existing gas main near the intersection of Butler, Warren and Hamilton counties to an existing gas main near Norwood station or Red Bank Road area south of Erie Avenue.

Where can I get more information about the Pipeline project?

Duke Energy has a section of its website dedicated to the project at <https://www.DukeEnergy-energy.com/ohio/natural-gas/central-corridor.asp> This website includes a summary of the project, the construction process with an estimate schedule, a map of the proposed locations of the pipeline and contact information to submit questions or comments. A brochure from Duke Energy regarding the project can also be found here <https://www.duke-energy.com/pdfs/CCPipe-Project-Pamphlet.pdf>

What is the process that Duke Energy has taken so far with the state?

The project requires an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need from the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in Columbus, OH (identified as case No. 16-253-GA-BTX). Once Duke Energy files an application the process before the OPSB will include an investigation of the proposal, hearings and then a decision by the board. We have confirmed that this application has yet to be filed by Duke Energy. Once they have filed, the City will be notified and receive a copy of the application. We then have 30 days to evaluate and decide our best course of action.

What can the City of Blue Ash do about this project?

The City has no legal authority to prevent or regulate the project. However, several of our councilmembers have written letters to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to voice their concerns. In addition, once Duke Energy has filed an application for the project (see above) the City has 30 days to evaluate and decide the best course of action.

If this project proposal passes and the Blue Ash location/route is chosen, what is the construction process?

According to the Duke Energy website, this pipeline will be completed in several phases of construction. First, the pipeline route will be marked off with survey stakes. Then, excavating equipment will begin digging a trench where the pipeline will eventually be installed. When a portion of the trench has been dug, several sections of pipe will be welded together. Excavating equipment outfitted with lifting straps will pick up the long sections of welded pipe and place them in the trench. When the entire pipeline has been connected and all of the safety checks are complete, the pipeline will be covered with backfill material and the ground surface will be restored. Finally, the pipeline will be strength tested and pressurized.

How will affected residents be notified if the project proceeds?

Duke Energy will communicate directly with anyone in the vicinity of the pipeline route on both sides of the roadway, via letters. Duke Energy will also notify the City of Blue Ash and we will provide any additional information as communicated to us.

Will the pipeline be safe?

Duke Energy provides the following safety measures on its website. The pipeline will be:

- Designed by Duke Energy engineers and installed by experienced pipeline contractors.
- Fully compliant with federal and Ohio Department of Transportation safety criteria.
- Made of thick-walled steel pipe with anti-corrosion fusion bonded epoxy coating, with most of the line buried under a minimum of 3 feet of cover.
- Installed with cathodic protection for corrosion prevention.

In addition, the work area will be fenced off to ensure safety during the construction process. Once built, a Duke Energy inspector will walk or drive the line at least four times per year to perform surveillance and leak surveys. Corrosion inspections will be performed yearly to monitor the integrity of the protection system. Duke Energy is responsible for these inspections and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio audits the inspections on a regular basis.

What does the City get out of this?

This City of Blue Ash does not receive any type of compensation if the pipeline project runs through our area. Furthermore, Duke Energy pays no taxes to the City.

What you can do if you have concerns:

- File a public comment to The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?Caseno=16-0253&link=COM>
- Contact Duke Energy directly about this project at 513.287.2130 or CentCorridorPipeline@duke-energy.com

Please see additional FAQ provided by [Duke Energy](#).