



Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy
CARE
Communicator

Volume One, Number 7

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OPEN LETTER FROM CARE

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

This message is directed not only to the 187 or so property owners whose homes and land are directly endangered by FirstEnergy’s power line proposal, but also to their friends and neighbors, and to all those residents of Thompson, Montville and Huntsburg who care about their communities. It is



your battle that **CARE** has been waging against a goliath FirstEnergy Corporation that had some 13,700 employees on its payroll in 2006, and carded a net income of \$1.25 billion that year on revenues of \$11.5 billion.

This powerful company also is a politically active giant. According to the Plain Dealer, “...In the second half of 2007, after [Governor] Strickland announced May 1 that he intended to undo the deregulation rules, the FirstEnergy PAC contributed \$156,750 to 56 political campaign committees, according to records from the Ohio secretary of state.

“In the first four months of this year, the FirstEnergy PAC contributed \$79,475 to campaign committees—\$72,250 to Republicans and \$7,225 to Democrats, records show.”

Clearly this is far from being a contest between equals. **CARE** musters 160 people, of whom half are landowners in the townships of Huntsburg, Montville, and Thompson in eastern Geauga. Those who are full members have been taxing themselves since last November at the rate of \$50 monthly. That income, coupled with donations and the proceeds of an array of fish fries, spaghetti dinners, bake sales and other successful **CARE** fund-raisers, to date has covered all our going expenses, such as printing, postage and signs, plus a large part of our legal costs.

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Now, however, the struggle is about to enter a new and far costlier phase. The Ohio Power Siting Board administrative law judge has set public hearings—in Thompson and Huntsburg—for August 25 and 26, 2008, and the Adjudicatory Hearing, in Columbus, for September 2-5, and September 8, 2008 onward.

CARE has been fortunate to secure as its legal representative the Cleveland firm of Taft, Stettinius and Hollister, the same law firm that 25 years ago prevailed against the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (now part of the FirstEnergy empire) when the Perry Hanna power line application was denied. Their services definitely are not of the bargain basement variety, nor is this an area where scrimping would be desirable. To have a reasonable chance of coming out on top, it is urgent that **CARE** raise at least a quarter of a million dollars. Because it is **your** property (or **your** neighborhood) that stands to be devalued economically, ecologically, and esthetically if we lose in the Ohio Power Siting Board, we are turning now to you.

CARE has pending an application for exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and has created the **CARE Tiered Donor Program** to meet this latest financial challenge. We ask that you thoughtfully examine the information that accompanies this letter, and weigh the amount of your contribution against what will be lost if giant FirstEnergy is allowed to have its way with our property.

Yours for *responsible energy* in Geauga County,

Your Friends and Neighbors in CARE

Power lines vs. property values ?

...Landowners near the routes proposed or selected for overhead transmission lines have often expressed concern that the lines will negatively affect the value of their property. These concerns result from the potential unsightliness of the lines as well as concerns about health risks. These issues are examples of externalities: costs that may

Properties may be affected in ways such as a longer time on the market or difficulty obtaining certain types of financing.

not be included in the estimated cost of proposed lines. If these external costs are not included in the cost estimates,

then certain property owners may bear unreimbursed costs resulting from the physical location of the line.

“...Literature indicates that effects on property values result from two features: First, transmission lines are in many cases not perceived to be attractive. Second, the public belief that EMF causes cancer can decrease demand for properties near transmission lines and in turn lower property values.

“...The studies reviewed conclude that there is an effect on property values of up to 15 percent. For example, a 1992 review of previous studies by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), an association of investor-owned electric companies, concluded that ‘overhead transmission lines have the potential to reduce the sales price of residential and agricultural property,’ and that ‘the effect, especially for single family homes, is generally small (from zero to 10 percent), but has been estimated to be greater than 15 percent in some specialized cases in rural areas.’

“...In a 2006 *Journal of Real Estate Research* article, the authors concluded from their analysis of 58 peer-reviewed journal articles that proximity to a detrimental feature (such as transmission lines, power plants, railroad tracks, landfills, shopping centers, and animal feeding operations) produced an average loss in property value of 9.5

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Citizens Advocating Responsible Energy

CARE

War Chest Campaign

Your dollars will fuel the fight to preserve our countryside

**2008 CARE FUNDRAISING GOAL:
\$254,000**

RESULTS TO DATE

Funding source	Amount	Qty	Funds raised
Diamond Benefactors	\$ 20,000.00		\$ -
Platinum Benefactors	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
Gold Benefactors	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -
Silver Benefactors	\$ 2,000.00	4	\$ 8,000.00
Bronze Benefactors	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ 1,000.00
Large events	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
Small events	\$ 750.00	7	\$ 5,250.00
Total funds raised			\$ 34,250.00
Surplus (deficit)			\$ (219,750.00)

2008 CARE DONOR RECOGNITION

DONOR LEVEL	MINIMUM DONATION	BENEFACTOR GOAL
DIAMOND	\$20,000	3
PLATINUM	\$10,000	6
GOLD	\$5,000	10
SILVER	\$2000	16
BRONZE	\$1000	20

2008 CARE DONOR HONOR ROLL

DONOR LEVEL	NAME
DIAMOND	
PLATINUM	Anonymous (1)
GOLD	
SILVER	Pat Jonath Jim Galm Brian Ross Anonymous (1)
BRONZE	Anonymous (1)

CARE CONTACTS

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**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, August 3
 Find us on the Web at www.caregeauga.org**

Power lines vs. property values ?

Abstract: A survey administered in 1990 suggests that proximity to high voltage power lines is being capitalized into lower values for residential properties. Respondents who had appraised such property report that power lines can affect residential property value to varying degrees under certain circumstances and that the market value of these properties is, on average, 10.01% lower than the market value for comparable properties not subject to the influence of high voltage power lines. Further, the results indicate that even appraisers who had not appraised such property believe that power lines contribute negatively to property value.

Source: Charles J. Delaney and Douglas Timmons, High Voltage Power Lines: Do They Affect Residential Property Value? *The Journal of Real Estate Research – Summer 1992*, a publication of the American Real Estate Society,

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percent; this applied to properties located within two miles of the site. The authors made several other observations that may be relevant when considering the potential effects of transmission lines on property values:

- Losses may be higher in areas where the rate of appreciation is lower.
- Different buyers may place a higher premium on avoiding certain detrimental features: a person who is concerned with EMF may not dislike living near a busy highway.
- Properties may be affected in ways other than a decrease in sales price, such as a longer time on the market or difficulty obtaining certain types of financing.”

Source: “Evaluation of Underground Electric Transmission Lines in Virginia.” *Report of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission To the Governor and The General Assembly of Virginia. House Document No. 87 2006, Chapter 8*

Look for the CARE tent at Huntsburg's Bicentennial

CARE will participate in Huntsburg's 200th birthday celebration Saturday, August 16 on the Town Square, corner Rts. 322 and 528. Ice cream, plus children's games will be offered at the CARE tent. CARE members will be on hand to answer questions about the proposed power line.