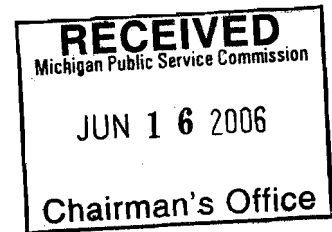


U-14861

June 13, 2006

To: J. Peter Lark, Chairman
Laura Chappelle, Commissioner
Monica Martinez, Commissioner
Re: Case # U-14861



Honorable Chairman and Commissioners:

As residents of Hartland Township, my husband and I oppose the ITC request to expedite their hearing to obtain a Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience for the construction of a 120kV transmission line as part of their effort to override a Hartland Township ordinance which requires that new transmission lines be buried underground.

We have attended the public hearings ITC set up **after** the residents along Pleasant Valley Road made it clear to the Hartland Township Board we were opposed to this project. We wanted more information about the impact of the transmission lines on ourselves and our property values, we wanted to know what alternative routes had been considered, why the current route was chosen, and why the line couldn't be buried underground. To date, we have been told the route was the "best one" for ITC and Detroit Edison (but we aren't sure why), that it is two to four times more expensive to bury the lines, that it takes longer to repair a buried line, and that, even in the long run, the improved reliability of the buried lines does not justify the cost of the initial construction. We have seen no data. We are expected to believe the statements from the ITC representative, who also states we will only see a 2% decrease in our property values because of these lines. This is very different from the 20% decrease estimated by experienced local realtors. We'd really like to understand more about why the lines can't be buried, who will benefit and what we can honestly expect the impact to be on our property values.

We can already envision the "soft" costs of the overhead transmission lines. Rather than driving down a scenic country road shaded by overhanging hardwood trees and enjoying the trillium and dogwood; we are going to be driving down an unshaded road landscaped with steel poles. Burying the lines will scar the landscape, but the trillium and dogwood may return and pine trees will probably replace the old hardwoods that are currently lining the road. The natural beauty of our area is one of the reasons we live on this road and pay the property taxes that we do. Balancing that beauty with new development is what we ask our Township Board to do and why we vote for them. We respectfully ask you to deny the ITC request to expedite their hearing so that our Hartland Township representatives may have a chance to organize and express our concerns.

Thank you,

Anne Crimmins
David Grassi
747 Pleasant Valley Rd
Milford, MI 48380

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