Paul Miller, Director
Kentucky Division of Water
300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Re: Louisville Gas and Electric Co. Application for Water Quality Certification, AI #120218

Dear Mr. Miller:

Please accept this letter as my strong opposition to LG&E’s application for a Water Quality Certification for its proposed natural gas pipeline cutting through Bernheim’s Cedar Creek Wildlife Corridor. I oppose the approval of this application because the pipeline project poses a significant threat to Bernheim’s more than 90 years of land and water protection, and in the absence of a public hearing, the substantial public opposition to this project has not been given an audience.

This LG&E proposed natural gas pipeline as stated in this Water Quality Certification application would create substantial impacts to water at Bernheim, of which may include:

* Hydrostatic wastewater discharge location proposed on Bernheim that would release pollutants into streams and groundwater
* Serious risk of landslides and slope destabilization
* Damage to streams and springs
* Permanent clearing of forests and damage to landforms
* Impacts to water quality and sensitive species

The issuance of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the KY Division of Water should be denied because of these serious and permanent impacts to the Cedar Creek watershed, our forests, and sensitive aquatic life.

Approving this WQC represents a major step forward for a process that will permanently destroy protected forested land, setting a precedent that is frightening to any citizen concerned about the health of their community. The proposed pipeline route would pose a direct threat to several headwater streams of Cedar Creek, a Kentucky Division of Water-designated Exceptional Use Water with considerable ecological merit including federally endangered plants and animals, as well as many other rare habitats and species. It further would impact Cox Creek, Rocky Run, Greens Branch, Cedar Creek, Lickskillet Creek, and Buffalo Run, for a total of more than one mile of streams impacted, leading to serious consequences for aquatic life. The pipeline would have impacts on these streams and springs in the form of sedimentation, damage to stream and spring morphology, and alteration of stream flow. Damage to the aquifer and springs along the route will also be very likely.

I’m also deeply worried by the proposed discharge of hydrostatic test water. Use of this questionable practice can lead to permanent impacts on water quality because of the discharge of pollutants involved. In addition to the above direct threats to local ecological and human communities, LG&E plans to install this pipeline on high slope and landslide prone areas at Bernheim Forest. This brings a significant risk of severe landslides that could lead to pipeline rupture, among other environmental and safety concerns.

As one who has a deep connection to Bernheim both as a place and an ideal, I respectfully ask that you reject LG&E’s proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

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