

## Press Advisory

### LG&E Plans Environmental Assault on Critical Forest Territory at Bernheim

January 6, 2023

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Members of multiple environmental groups will gather at the Bullitt County Circuit Courthouse (250 Frank E Simon Ave., Shepherdsville, KY) on January 10th, 9 AM, in opposition to LG&E's assault on the environment and on private property owners' rights. LG&E seeks to condemn private lands in a court hearing to allow building a high-pressure methane gas pipeline through the Cedar Creek Corridor of Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. The construction of this pipeline would break a conservation easement and damage land that is home to many threatened and endangered species.

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is widely considered a state jewel for its beauty, research programs, and accessibility to Kentucky's urban areas. A coalition has come together to support Bernheim in its effort to oppose LG&E's pipeline. Reasons include:

- LG&E plans to condemn property that is protected by a conservation easement – intended to preserve this land now and for future generations. LG&E should not be allowed to undermine legal precedent and overrule landowners' decisions about the use of their land.
- The construction and maintenance of this pipeline would cause serious and irreparable environmental damage to plants and animals in the area, including many endangered and threatened species.
- Running the pipeline through this area is not safe. The land is demonstrably unstable, and this pipeline is at risk from landslides, shifting terrain and flooding. Gas explosion is a real possibility and would further damage existing habitat, place local residents at risk, and poison waterways.
- The climate crisis demands a full stop to developing more infrastructure based on fossil fuels. LG&E is woefully behind in their efforts to pivot towards sustainable energy development and delivery. This pipeline goes against LG&E's own stated goals and continues the area's reliance on energy sources that are damaging our

environment and communities.

- Ultimately, there is a significant question as to whether this pipeline is even needed. Initially, LG&E had an agreement that over 90% of the energy would go to one area distillery. That distillery has since pivoted to biogas production, and it is unclear whether it will still need the energy sources provided by this pipeline.

As Dr. Mark Wourms, Executive Director of Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest states:

**"The opposition to the proposed LG&E/PPL pipeline is larger than Bernheim. The entire community is expressing concern that we can no longer afford big energy business as usual. We are in a dual crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss. We are pushing for a safe, sustainable, and healthy future where communities thrive and nature flourishes. LG&E/PPL has an opportunity to be a national leader in decarbonizing energy production and delivery. They should do the right thing. Time is short!"**

We urge LG&E to drop this pipeline project and work with us to explore and develop energy plans that benefit the community as well as the environment.

All Peoples Justice Center  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Earth and Spirit Center  
KSEC (Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition)  
KIPL (Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light)  
KWA (Kentucky Waterways Alliance)  
Loretto Community  
New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future  
REAL (Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville)  
Sierra Club – Greater Louisville Group