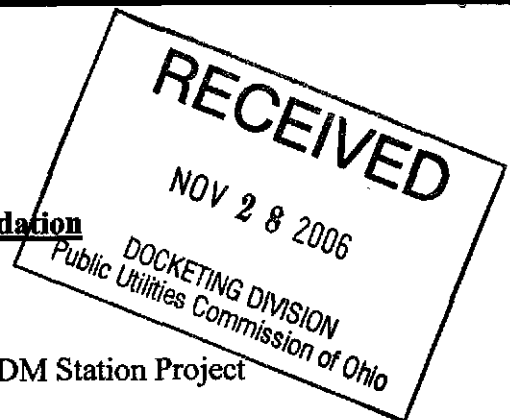


Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation



Case No.: 06-1270-EL-BLN
Project: Don Marquis Loop #2 138 kV Line Tap, Line to DM Station Project
Applicant: Ohio Power Company/AEP

Report Date: November 28, 2006

Automatic Approval Date: December 4, 2006

(Letter of Notification process)

Waiver Request: None

Inspection Date(s): November 27, 2007

Staff Assigned: L. Winget, E. Smith

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see report text for discussion):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Projected Docket Closure Date (if approved by the Board): June 30, 2009

Conditions:

- 1) The project is limited to the construction of the 3800-foot double circuit and the tie-in between the Lucasville-Sargents and the Waverly-Sargents circuits.
- 2) Construction shall avoid impacting the wetlands.
- 3) Silt fences shall be installed to protect the wetland.
- 4) The Applicant shall have a preconstruction conference, with all contractors present. Staff shall be invited.
- 5) A plan to minimize the potential impacts of the construction of this transmission line shall be submitted to the Staff for approval before the preconstruction conference. The plan shall address such items as minimal tree clearing, erosion control and impacts to the wetland and ephemeral streams.
- 6) The Applicant shall obtain a Section 404 permit for the appropriate streams or shall verify that the permit is not required.
- 7) The Applicant shall develop and file with the Staff a long term plan to maintain stability of the cleared area.
- 8) The Applicant shall submit detailed drawings of the construction of the transmission line, for Staff acceptance and approval, including all ingress and egress points required for the construction of the transmission lines.
- 9) The Applicant shall file a construction notice for the substation expansion before construction begins on this project.

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Technician DB Date Processed 11/29/06

Investigation Report

Project Description: This project proposes to tap the existing Waverly-Sargents 138kV Line, installing 0.63 miles of new double circuit 138kV feed to the Don Marquis Station. In addition, two (2) pole tie line between the tapped line, Waverly-Sargents, and Lucasville-Sargents transmission line, which adjacent to the Sargents Substation are included to complete the reliability requirements. Five (5) self-supporting dead-end steel poles; four (4) self-supporting tangent steel poles and two (2) guyed dead-end steel poles are required. The proposed lines will consists of six (6) 1,033 kcmil ACSR(45/7) conductors and two (2) 7#8 alumoweld overhead ground wires. The substation will have to be increased by 8% to allow room for the tap poles. The extension of the substation will be covered under a separate filing (construction notice).

Site Description: The project area is located in Scioto Township, Pike County, on land owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. The general area of the project is surrounded by wooded areas and farm lands. The project area, itself, is hilly wooded terrain. A 100-foot r-o-w is required for the double circuit. Two wetlands and seven ephemeral streams will be impacted by the total project: transmission lines and the substation expansion.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: This project is needed to restore transmission reliability to the south-central Ohio 138 kV system. This project will resolve the reliability concerns of the North American Electric Reliability Council criteria.

The Applicant contracted with a consultant to perform the archeological, cultural and historical review. Three cultural areas were inventoried as near-by; they will not be impacted by the construction activities.

The Applicant stated in the Cultural and Ecological Literature Review Summary, Documentation "A", Page 3, that a Section 404 permit may be required. The Applicant will verify if such a permit is required and if it is required will obtained the Section 404 permit or permits.

Although five (5) acres of trees will be removed for the transmission line, the applicant will continue discussions with the Staff to further reduce the impacts of the tree clearing. It is noted that the trees are to be windrowed toward the downside of the hill, to minimize erosion and create habitat for wildlife. The applicant will develop and present to the Staff a plan to maintain long term stability of the terrain.

The construction of this project could result in significant erosion, if proper techniques are not followed. The Applicant will submit a complete plan to minimize environmental impacts. Staff will monitor the construction to assure the impacts are minimized. A preconstruction conference will be required, with all contractors present.