

FILE

Ohio Power Siting Board

Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation

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PUCO

Case No.: 10-265-EL-BLN

Project: Line F5781 Hamilton to Fairfield 138 kV Electric Transmission Line Rebuild

Applicant: Duke Energy Ohio

Report Date: 3 May 2010

Automatic Approval Date: 8 May 2010 (Letter of Notification process)

Waiver Request: None

Inspection Date(s): 16 April 2010

Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell, D. Rostofer & J. Pawley

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

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

Summary of Staff Recommended Conditions (see report text for discussion):

1. Per Applicant's conversation with Staff, Applicant will only remove vegetation that is incompatible with the safe operation of the line after September 30th and before April 1st; otherwise, an Indiana bat habitat study must be performed. The results of the study must be submitted to Staff for review and approval 30 days prior to any significant vegetative clearing activity.
2. At least 30 days prior to construction, Applicant shall provide Staff with the results of a study to determine if suitable Kirkland's snake habitat or individuals of the species are present within project area. The results of the study must be submitted to Staff for review and approval.
3. Applicant must secure all easements prior to any construction related activity.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): 30 June 2013

Investigation Report

Project Description: This project involves the construction of approximately 1.5 miles of 138 kV transmission line, utilizing steel pole construction. This Letter of Notification is associated with Case No. 10-420-EL-BLN, which was filed by the City of Hamilton. The Applicant intends to transfer ownership of approximately 7,580 feet of an existing transmission line to the City of Hamilton. This

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Technician OC

Date Processed 5-3-2010

transfer and the construction of the Applicant's proposed 1.5 mile line will avoid duplication of facilities and negate the need for the City of Hamilton to construct an additional 1,700 feet of 138 kV transmission line.

Site Description: A majority of the alignment follows existing road r-o-w, along areas of light industrial development. The project is located in the City of Fairfield, Fairfield Township and Butler County.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: As a result of previous studies in the project area and Staff's field investigation, it has been determined that a small section of the proposed r-o-w may provide suitable habitat for Kirkland's snake and potential Indiana bat roosting. Adherence to Staff's recommended conditions will address these concerns. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.