

## **OPSB Staff Report of Investigation**

**Case No.:** 10-991-GA-BNR

**Project:** Perkins Ave High Pressure Leakage Project

**Applicant:** Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.

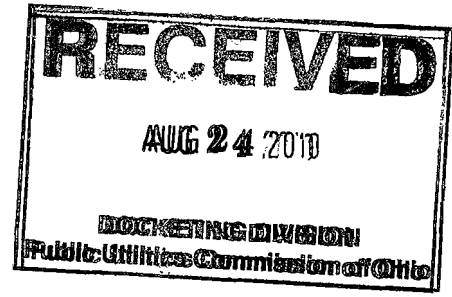
**Report Date:** August 24, 2010

**Automatic Approval Date:** September 1, 2010

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Inspection Date(s):** August 11, 2010

**Staff Assigned:** E. Steele, J. Pawley, D. Rostofer



**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. The Applicant will coordinate all traffic related issues and other needed public communications with the Perkins Township and Erie County, as needed, and that traffic access will be adequately maintained during construction.
2. The Applicant will notify homeowners and businesses in the area prior to construction regarding hours of operation associated with the project.
3. Where the pipeline route crosses existing paved, gravel or concrete driveways, the impacted driveways shall be repaired promptly to their pre-construction state, including tie in points and bore pits.
4. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by Federal and State entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required. Copies of such permits shall be provided to Staff.
5. The Applicant shall not remove any suitable Indiana bat roosting or rearing habitat.
6. The Staff have reviewed and approve of the frac-out plan with one correction. The Applicant shall substitute the use of sand bags in the unnamed tributary to Lake Erie with a silt curtain. The silt curtain shall be installed in the stream on the downstream side of the utility easement. The use and positioning of the silt curtain will adequately address the movement of sediments related to any horizontal directional drilling (HDD) activities from migrating downstream into high quality wetlands and Lake Erie.

**Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved):** October 1, 2012

**Investigation Report**

**Project Description:** Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. plans to directionally drill approximately 600' of 12" steel treated line that currently has an open gas leak. Columbia Gas has been asked to resolve the problem completely, as soon as possible, by the Fire Chief of Erie County and Perkins Township for public safety. Columbia Gas is performing this work due to the age and leaking condition of the pipe and due to its direct effect on public safety. The Company crews and contractors have tried all possible ways to eliminate the leak. However, they were only able to downgrade the leak and contain a percentage of the leak. The new pipe will be high pressure power crete coated steel main. The maximum allowable operating pressure will be 99 psig, although the operating pressure is planned to be approximately 83 psig. The design pressure of this line is 125 psig.

**Site Description:** This project is located in Perkins Township, Erie County. The site is near the intersection of Perkins Avenue and Strub Road. The project site involves two landowners and the easement rights have been secured.

**Discussion/Comments/Concerns:** Columbia Gas of Ohio has developed a frac-out contingency plan for boring under the creek and completed a soil chemical analysis in the area of the creek. Due to the proximity of this project to Lake Erie, the Applicant coordinated with the ODNR-Office of Coastal Management (OCM) to determine if the project is consistent with the state coastal management program. The OCM indicated that this project does not lie within the Coastal Zone Management Area (CZMA) and it will not have reasonably foreseeable effects on Ohio's coastal zone. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts.