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January 20, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Betty McCauley, Chief
Docketing Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKING DIV

2012 JAN 20 AM 11:11

PUCO

RE: In the Matter of the Application of American Transmission Systems, Inc. for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction of the Black River Substation, Ohio Power Siting Board Case No. 11-5855-EL-BSB

**In the Matter of the Application of American
Transmission Systems, Inc. for a
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
and Public Need for the Construction of the
Black River Transmission Line, Ohio Power
Siting Board Case No. 11-5856-EL-BTX**

Dear Ms. McCauley:

Enclosed for filing are the original and 10 copies of the proofs of publication in local newspapers of the notice for the public meetings in the above-captioned case. The public notices appeared in the January 11, 2012 ***The Morning Journal*** and ***The Chronicle-Telegram***.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Schmidt, Jr. / sde

Robert J. Schmidt, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant American Transmission Systems, Inc.

Enclosures

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.

Technician _____ **Date Processed** **JAN 20 2012**

THE CHRONICLE

TELEGRAM

PUBLISHED BY
The Lorain County Printing & Publishing Co.
225 EAST AVENUE • P.O. BOX 4010 • ELYRIA, OHIO 44036

Kathy Alexander / First Energy Media
9183 Brandywine Rd.
Northfield, Ohio 44067

To Whom It May Concern:

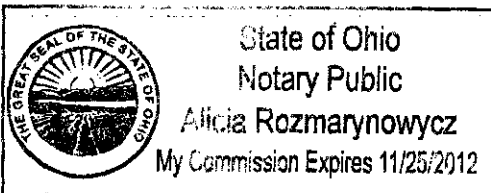
This is to certify that on Jan. 11, 2012 the Chronicle-Telegram
inserted a full page Ad (ex 21.5) for: First Energy Media
entitled: Notice of Proposed Major Utility Facility
Circulation on that day was 23,825.

Sincerely,

Kathy Blackford
Account Executive
Chronicle Telegram

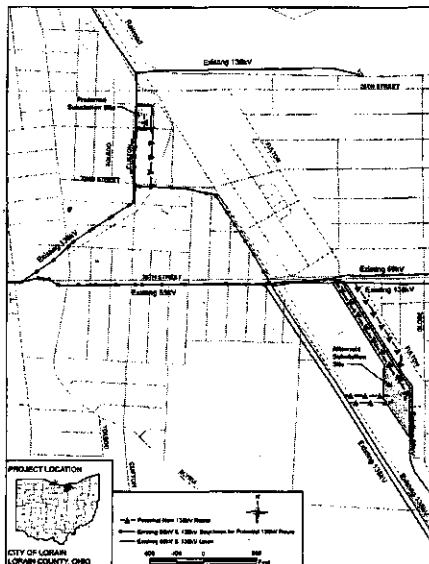
Subscribe and sworn to before me this 11th day of January, 2010¹².

By Alicia Rozmarynowycz
(Notary Public)
My commission expires 11/25/12.



NOTICE OF PROPOSED MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., proposes to construct the Black River Substation Project and the Black River Transmission Project ("Project"), a new utility facility, in two Applications submitted to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. The proposed Project is located in the City of Lorain and Sheffield Township in Lorain County, Ohio. The proposed Project involves installing a new 138 kV transmission switching substation with 69 kV transformation. The Project also includes extending six (6) 138 kV overhead electric transmission line connections to the new substation, installing additional transmission line conductors on open arms, and reconductoring nearby transmission lines. This process will include rebuilding existing transmission line structures and the installation of intermediate structures. Preferred and Alternate Sites have been proposed for the substation and Preferred, Alternate and Common Routes for the transmission lines have been proposed at each substation site. For the majority of the project, the transmission line construction is proposed to be installed on existing transmission line towers or in existing right-of-way. New construction would be required near the substation site. "Open arm" refers to existing transmission line structures that were designed to support two transmission line circuits but only have one circuit currently installed. As a result, a second circuit can be installed on the open arm of these structures without installing additional towers or increasing the width of the right-of-way. The majority of new construction extends the existing circuits to the proposed Black River Substation and involves installing new, double-circuit 138 kV transmission line, primarily supported on 70-110 foot tall single wooden poles. At the Preferred Site this new construction will occur in new right-of-way. At the Alternate Site, the new construction will occur in new right-of-way and on land acquired for the substation. The general locations of the Preferred and Alternate Substation Sites and location of transmission line construction for the Project are shown on the accompanying map of the area.



On December 23, 2011, the following public officials and agencies were served with copies of the Application as required by the Ohio Power Siting Board regulations:

The Honorable Lori Kokoski, Lorain County Commissioner
 The Honorable Ted Kalo, Lorain County Commissioner
 The Honorable Tom Williams, Lorain County Commissioner
 Mr. James Cordes, Lorain County Administrator
 Mr. Don Romanack, Lorain County Director of Community Development
 Mr. Ken Carney, P.E., P.S., Lorain County Engineer
 Mr. Timothy Mihalick, Sheffield Township Trustee
 Mr. Chad Parsons, Sheffield Township Trustee
 Mr. David Newsome, Sheffield Township Trustee
 Ms. Patricia Echko, Sheffield Township Fiscal Officer
 The Honorable Tony Krasienko, Mayor, City of Lorain
 The Honorable Joel Arrendondo, President, City of Lorain Council

Ms. Nancy Greer, City of Lorain Council Clerk
 Mr. Richard Kilnar, City of Lorain Chief Building Official
 Mr. Dale Vandersommen, Lorain City Engineer

Copies of both applications are available for public inspection at the offices of the Ohio Power Siting Board, c/o Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Utilities Department, 12th Floor, Borden Building, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, www.opsb.ohio.gov. Copies of the application were also sent to the following libraries for public inspection:

Lorain Public Library, 351 Sixth Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052
 South Lorain Public Library, 2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain, Ohio 44055

Two Applications for certificates to construct, operate, and maintain the above named electric transmission line facilities are now pending before the Board. The applications have been assigned Docket No. 11-5855-EL-BSS and 11-5856-EL-BTX, and the docket numbers should be referenced in all communications about these proceedings.

In accordance with the Ohio Power Siting Board regulations (Admin. Code Rule 4906.5-08), the following sections of the Ohio Revised Code plus additional information are shown.

Section 4906.10(A)

(A) The power siting board shall render a decision upon the record either granting or denying the application as filed, or granting it upon such terms,

conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the major utility facility as the board considers appropriate. The certificate shall be conditioned upon the facility being in compliance with standards and rules adopted under sections 1501.33, 1501.34, and 4561.32 and Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code. The period of initial operation under a certificate shall expire two years after the date on which electric power is first generated by the facility. During the period of initial operation, the facility shall be subject to the enforcement and monitoring powers of the director of environmental protection under Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code and to the emergency provisions under those chapters. If a major utility facility constructed in accordance with the terms and conditions of its certificate is unable to operate in compliance with all applicable requirements of state laws, rules, and standards pertaining to air pollution, the facility may apply to the director of environmental protection for a conditional operating permit under division (G) of section 3704.03 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder. The operation of a major utility facility in compliance with a conditional operating permit is not in violation of its certificate. After the expiration of the period of initial operation of a major utility facility, the facility shall be under the jurisdiction of the environmental protection agency and shall comply with all laws, rules, and standards pertaining to air pollution, water pollution, and solid and hazardous waste disposal.

The board shall not grant a certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a major utility facility, either as proposed or as modified by the board, unless it finds and determines all of the following:

- (1) The basis of the need for the facility if the facility is an electric transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line;
- (2) The nature of the probable environmental impact;
- (3) That the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives, and other pertinent considerations;
- (4) In the case of an electric transmission line or generating facility, that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving this state and interconnected utility systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability;
- (5) That the facility will comply with Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code and all rules and standards adopted under those chapters and under sections 1501.33, 1501.34, and 4561.32 of the Revised Code. In determining whether the facility will comply with all rules and standards adopted under section 4561.32 of the Revised Code, the board shall consult with the office of aviation of the department of multi-modal planning and programs of the department of transportation under section 4561.341 of the Revised Code.
- (6) That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;
- (7) In addition to the provisions contained in divisions (A)(1) to (6) of this section and rules adopted under those divisions, what its impact will be on the viability as agricultural land of any land in an existing agricultural district established under Chapter 929. of the Revised Code that is located within the site and alternative site of the proposed major utility facility. Rules adopted to evaluate impact under division (A)(7) of this section shall not require the compilation, creation, submission, or production of any information, document, or other data pertaining to land not located within the site and alternative site.
- (8) That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices as determined by the board, considering available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives.

Section 4906.07. Public hearing on application

(A) Upon the receipt of an application complying with section 4906.06 of the Revised Code, the power siting board shall promptly fix a date for a public hearing thereon, not less than sixty nor more than ninety days after such receipt, and shall conclude the proceeding as expeditiously as practicable.

(B) On an application for an amendment of a certificate, the board shall hold a hearing in the same manner as a hearing is held on an application for a certificate if the proposed change in the facility would result in any material increase in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of such facility other than as provided in the alternatives set forth in the application.

(C) The chairman of the power siting board shall cause each application filed with the board to be investigated and shall, not less than fifteen days prior to the date any application is set for hearing submit a written report to the board and to the applicant. A copy of such report shall be made available to any person upon request. Such report shall set forth the nature of the investigation, and shall contain recommended findings with regard to division (A) of section 4906.10 of the Revised Code and shall become part of the record and served upon all parties to the proceeding.

As scheduled by Board, the public hearing of this case consists of two parts:

A. A local public hearing, pursuant to Section 4906.08(C), Revised Code, where the Board shall accept written or oral testimony from any person on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lorain City Hall, Council Chambers, 200 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44052.

B. An adjudicatory hearing commencing on Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. 11th floor, Hearing Room 11-D, at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

4906.08(C). Parties – testimony

(C) The board shall accept written or oral testimony from any person at the public hearing, but the right to call and examine witnesses shall be reserved for parties. However, the board may adopt rules to exclude repetitive, immaterial, or irrelevant testimony.

Intervention.

Petitions to intervene in the adjudicatory hearing will be accepted by the Board up to 30 days following publication of the notice required by Rule 4906.5-08(C)(1), O.A.C., or later if good cause is shown. However, the Board strongly encourages interested persons who wish to intervene in the adjudicatory hearing to file their petitions as early as possible. Petitions should be addressed to the Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793 and cite the above-listed case numbers. (Docket No. 11-5855-EL-BSS & 11-5856-EL-BTX)

AFFIDAVIT

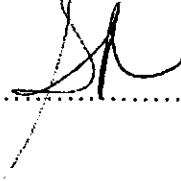
The State of Ohio, Lorain County, ss.

(Paste Clipping Here)

I, Sheila Riggan

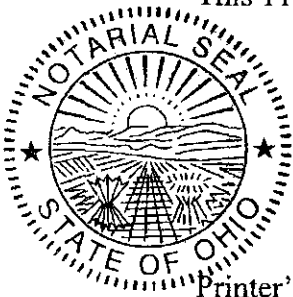
of THE MORNING JOURNAL, (a newspaper printed in said County, and in general circulation therein and meeting the requirements of Section 7.12 of the Revised Code as amended, effective September 12, 1957) being duly sworn, do upon oath, depose and say that the annexed advertisement was published in said newspaper.

January 11, 2012.....

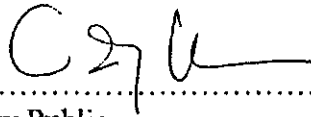


Sworn to the subscribed before me,

This 11th day of January A.D 2012



CINDY L. KNUDSEN
Notary Public State of Ohio
My Commission Expires May 23, 2012

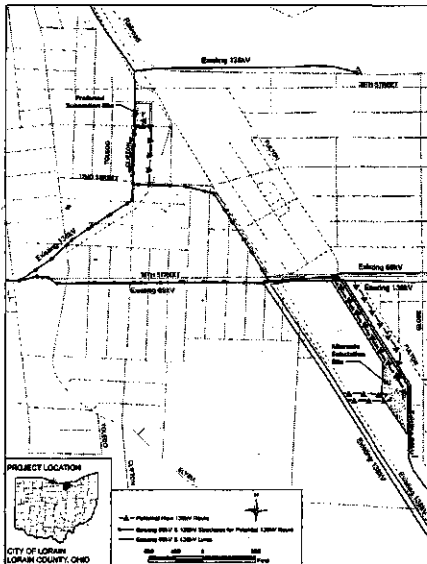


Printer's Fees \$.....3,216.00.....

Total \$.....3,216.00.....

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