

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the :
Application of the AEP :
Ohio Transmission Company :
for a Certificate of :Case No. 11-1314-EL-BTX
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public :
Need for the Trent-Vassell:
138 Kilovolt Transmission :
Line Project. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Katie Stenman and Elizabeth Stevens,
Administrative Law Judges, at the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio, held at Big Walnut High School,
555 South Old 3C Road, Sunbury, Ohio, called at 6:00
p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012.

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- - -

1 APPEARANCES:

2 American Electric Power Company
3 By Ms. Erin Miller
4 And Mr. Matthew Satterwhite
5 1 Riverside Plaza
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215

7 On behalf of the Company.

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Monday Evening Session,
May 7, 2012.

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EXAMINER STENMAN: Let's go on the
record.

The Ohio Power Siting Board has assigned
for public hearing at this time and place Case No.
11-1314-EL-BTX being In the Matter of the Application
of the AEP Ohio Transmission Company for a
certificate of environmental compatibility and public
need for the Trent-Vassell 138 kilovolt transmission
line project.

My name is Katie Stenman, and with me
tonight is Elizabeth Stevens, and we are the
administrative law judges assigned by the Ohio Power
Siting Board to preside over this case.

Also in attendance from the Board is Matt
Butler with our Public Affairs Department, and you
probably met him when you signed up to testify.

At this time I'd like to start by taking
the appearances of the parties, starting with the
company.

MS. MILLER: Erin Miller and Matthew
Satterwhite on behalf of the AEP Transmission
Company, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

1 And I'd also like to note that we do have
2 a company representative in attendance. Raise your
3 hand. In the event that folks have questions
4 afterward, he's happy to answer any questions that
5 the people might have.

6 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

7 I don't think I see anyone else but are
8 there any other intervenors present who would like to
9 make an appearance?

10 (No response.)

11 EXAMINER STENMAN: Seeing no one, we'll
12 move forward.

13 The Power Siting Board staff filed a
14 Staff Report on April 20, 2012. In its report staff
15 did recommend that AEP Transmission Company utilize
16 the alternative route proposed in the application.

17 Please keep in mind that this is just a
18 recommendation and the Board is free to accept or
19 reject that recommendation.

20 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to
21 receive comments from the public. It's not a
22 question-and-answer session but it is your
23 opportunity to give the Ohio Power Siting Board
24 information about your opinion.

25 There's also an evidentiary hearing

1 scheduled in this matter for May 16 at the Board
2 offices in Columbus, Ohio.

3 When you arrived you were offered the
4 opportunity to sign up to testify. Once I complete
5 my little opening statement I will begin calling
6 witnesses forward that have signed up on the sign-up
7 sheet. Also, if you did not sign up I will give
8 everyone an opportunity to testify at the conclusion
9 of the witnesses that signed up.

10 Before you present your testimony I will
11 ask that you take an oath or affirmation that what
12 you are about to say is the truth. I'll also ask
13 that you state your name and address for the record.

14 Your testimony tonight will be considered
15 part of the official record of this case and will be
16 reviewed by the Board before they make their final
17 decision on AEP's application.

18 Additionally, the parties to this case
19 and I will be permitted to ask you questions after
20 you make your statement.

21 If I call your name and you do not want
22 to testify, feel free to just pass. If you
23 reconsider at a later time you're welcome to testify
24 at the conclusion of the hearing.

25 Also, once you finish testifying or if

1 you're just here to observe, feel free to get up and
2 leave at any time.

3 As you can probably see, tonight's
4 hearing is being transcribed by a court reporter. If
5 you plan to testify, please speak plainly and
6 clearly, and if have a written copy of your statement
7 please provide it to her when you finish speaking.
8 You can just set it up here on the stage and we'll
9 gather them up toward the end.

10 We'll get started. I just want to let
11 you know the Board really appreciates your
12 anticipation tonight and we want everybody that wants
13 to make a public statement to do so, so keep your
14 comments within a reasonable length of time.

15 Does anyone have any questions before we
16 get started?

17 All right, we'll start with John M.
18 Hopfinger.

19 MR. HOPFINGER: I'm not here to offer any
20 testimony tonight, just here to observe.

21 EXAMINER STENMAN: Okay. Douglas Smith?
22 Come on up here to the podium.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 EXAMINER STENMAN: Please state your name
25 and address.

1 MR. SMITH: My name is Douglas L. Smith.
2 I live at 12610 Hartford Road, Sunbury, Ohio, 43074.

3 EXAMINER STENMAN: You can go ahead.

4 MR. SMITH: I'm speaking for my wife and
5 myself. My wife's name's Marcella A. Smith. And our
6 primary concern is that the alternate route is very
7 close to our existing house and property. According
8 to the aerial photograph, the alternate route runs
9 parallel to the west side of our property and runs
10 the entire property line.

11 Our property line is approximately
12 1,150 feet. Again, from the aerial map I think that
13 the line will be approximately 175 to 200 feet from
14 my property. And again, it runs the entire length of
15 my property.

16 Some of the adverse affects we believe
17 that this will result in are, number one, most people
18 don't want to see power lines from their house or
19 their yard and the alternate line will be very close
20 to our property, and if we decide to sell our
21 property, we believe it will have a very negative
22 affect on that fact.

23 Number two, our deck, our back room, and
24 yard face the alternate line, proposed alternate
25 line. Quite frankly, we don't want to have that as

1 part of our view.

2 Number three, there is a perceived health
3 risk to close proximity to power lines. Whether or
4 not there is a health risk is to be set aside for
5 now. The fact is there is perceived risk. Potential
6 buyers will see this perceived risk and by having
7 that line so close and the entire length of our
8 property, it would negatively affect our property
9 value.

10 Four, we do not feel that it is necessary
11 to run a line so close to an existing house. The
12 house is on the property and it exists. We note
13 there are 160 acres just to the west of our property
14 and if the line could be moved just to the other side
15 of the stand of woods, then it would avoid an
16 existing property.

17 In conclusion, we know that progress
18 needs to be made and power lines have to be brought
19 through the county, but we would appreciate you
20 considering us as a property owner and take our
21 concerns into consideration.

22 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

23 Linda Rinehart.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you. Please
2 state your name and address for the record.

3 MS. RINEHART: I'm Linda Rinehart and I
4 live at 930 Joe Walker Road.

5 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you. You can go
6 ahead.

7 MS. RINEHART: AEP says they're not going
8 to pay us anything for our declining property values,
9 even though they're building a \$265 million health
10 hazard in our backyard.

11 They'd be responsible if they bulldozed
12 our house down but they say they're not responsible
13 for our house losing half of its value.

14 This is the biggest substation in Ohio,
15 possibly the biggest in the United States, and they
16 say they're not responsible.

17 One thing I've learned from this whole
18 process is AEP has become way too big and powerful.
19 They pretty much do what they want, when they want to
20 do it, and nobody can stop them.

21 I'll be switching electricity companies
22 and trying to convince others to do the same for the
23 way AEP has treated us. And all you people are
24 wasting your time with the Siting Board. They have
25 not mentioned one time about our property values

1 going down.

2 They told AEP that they must mitigate all
3 complaints and come up with a solution. But of
4 course, this does not include the declining property
5 values.

6 And PUCO, they should change their name
7 to the American Electric Power Agency, because they
8 are not there to help the public. Aren't we the
9 public? Aren't we the ones a hundred foot away from
10 this thing?

11 We have been customers of the AEP for
12 years but we won't be anymore. And I hope others
13 will follow me.

14 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

15 Steve Martin?

16 MR. MARTIN: I'll pass.

17 EXAMINER STENMAN: Bill Holtry?

18 MR. HOLTRY: I'll pass.

19 EXAMINER STENMAN: Matt Haley?

20 MR. HALEY: Pass.

21 EXAMINER STENMAN: Liz Decima?

22 MS. DECIMA: Pass.

23 EXAMINER STENMAN: All right, that
24 concludes our testimony in terms of people that have
25 signed up. Is there anyone else who would like to

1 give testimony who has not had an opportunity to do?

2 (No response.)

3 EXAMINER STENMAN: I see we've got a few
4 folks coming in. We'll wait just a moment.

5 We're at the conclusion of our hearing.
6 Did either of you want to give testimony?

7 FROM THE FLOOR: No thanks.

8 EXAMINER STENMAN: Anyone else?

9 (No response.)

10 EXAMINER STENMAN: Seeing no one else,
11 I'd like to thank you, everyone, for coming out
12 tonight, and this will conclude this evening's public
13 hearing and it will be submitted on the record for
14 the Board's consideration of this case.

15 I'll be here for a little while, if you
16 have any questions, just come up and ask or ask any
17 of the staff with the Commission or the AEP that's
18 hanging around. Thank you.

19 (Hearing adjourned at 6:11 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Monday, May 7, 2012, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Julieanna Hennebert, Registered Professional Reporter and RMR and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires February 19, 2013.

(JUL-1866)

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/21/2012 2:21:45 PM

in

Case No(s). 11-1314-EL-BTX

Summary: Transcript in the matter of AEP Ohio Transmission Company hearing held on 05/07/12 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Hennebert, Julieanna Mrs.