## 2

## **OPSB Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**

**Case No.:** 12-2167-EL-BNR

**Project:** Poston-Ross 138 kV Section IV Reconductor-Rebuild **Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company

Report Date: August 30, 2012

Automatic Approval Date: September 7, 2012 (Construction Notice)

Waiver Requests: None

Inspection Date(s): August 17, 2012

**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, J. Whitis

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

Application: [ ] Approval [ ] Disapproval [X] Approval with Conditions

Waiver: [ ] Approval [ ] Disapproval [X] Not Applicable

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

1. That prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain all applicable permits and authorizations as required by Federal and State entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): May 20, 2015

## **Investigation Report**

**Project Description**: This project is for the reconductoring of an existing 138 kV single circuit transmission line. The reconductoring will occur from Goosecreek Road to Clark Hollow Road in Vinton County, Ohio, or approximately 8.5 miles to the west of Sections I-III (previously approved). No additional right-of-way or easements are required for the reconductoring project, as all work will occur along an existing AEP 138 kV alignment. The Applicant estimates the total capital cost of the project phase to be approximately \$3.58 million. The project is being proposed due to increased electrical load growth in the Southern Ohio area. The line will remain at 138 kV, but this project will provide for newer, sturdier 138 kV conductor line. Due to the increased structure loading with the heavier conductor, existing wood H-frame structures will be replaced with similar steel H-frame structures at the same locations. The project is expected to begin in October, 2012 and be completed in May, 2013.

**Site Description:** Land use along the existing corridor is scattered residential, with heavy woods and some agricultural uses. Several roads will be crossed by the replacement line, and crossing permits will need to be secured prior to construction.

This is t								
accurate								
document	delive	red in	the reg	rular co	urse c	f bu	sines	38.
Technicia	.n	10	Date	Proces	sed_A	IG 3	<b>0</b>	115
						90-0-	A1	£17

**Discussion/Comments/Concerns:** The Applicant has appropriate existing access for maintenance of each structure. Staff recommends ensuring minimal environmental impacts in the valley areas between structures when cabling, or reconductoring occurs. The Applicant has stated to Staff that an installation process where new cable will be tied to the existing cable then pulled will be used for installation. This process will allow the applicant's crew to station itself at each pole structure without the need to drive between structures, minimizing impact to vegetation and slopes between structures. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts.