

FILE

2



RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV

76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio
44308

2013 JUN -6 PM 2:49

1-800-646-0400

June 4, 2013

Mr. Jim O'Dell
Ohio Power Siting Board
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

PUCO

**Davis Besse to Hayes 345 kV Transmission Line Construction Project
Condition 3: US Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination
Case Number 12-2666-EL-BLN**

Dear Mr. O'Dell,

In accordance with Condition 3 of the November 28, 2012 OPSB Staff Report of Investigation for the Davis Besse to Hayes 345 kV Transmission Line Construction Project, the attached email reflects coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the planned construction activities in the vicinity of two bald eagle nesting sites. Two eagle nest locations were identified by FWS in their December 8, 2011 comments on the Project. One of these nests was determined to be no longer present, therefore no restrictions to the planned construction are necessary. The second location remains active. However, FWS agreed that planned ground access to the proximate lattice structure is acceptable based on the distance between the nest and the work location, and the surrounding land-use. Additional details are included in the attached correspondence.

If there are any questions concerning this information, please call me at (330) 384-2526.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Humphrys
Transmission Specialist
Transmission and Substation Design
FirstEnergy Service Company

Attachments

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 TN Date Processed JUN 06 2013



To: Scott M Humphrys/FirstEnergy@FirstEnergy,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Eagles Nest: FirstEnergy Davis Besse to Hayes 345 kV Transmission Line Project
From: William R Beach/FirstEnergy - Monday 06/03/2013 02:38 PM

From: "Applegate, Jeromy" <jeromy_applegate@fws.gov>
To: <wbeach@firstenergycorp.com>
Date: 05/31/2013 12:15 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Eagles Nest: FirstEnergy Davis Besse to Hayes 345 kV Transmission Line Project

Bill,

I've reviewed the materials you sent regarding bald eagle nests at the subject project sites.

Regarding work at structure 52, you have indicated that field reconnaissance has documented that no eagle nest is currently located within 660 feet of the structure. Therefore, seasonal work restrictions to protect bald eagles would be unnecessary at structure 52.

You have indicated that the bald eagle nest near structure 57 is approximately 570 feet from the structure. Land use between the nest and the structure is row-crop agriculture. Proposed options for conducting the power-line installation on the existing tower consist of using a helicopter, or using a bucket truck. Because of the proximity to the nest, use of a helicopter at structure 57 may result in disturbance of bald eagles on the nest. Use of a bucket truck would consist of access via an existing farm road and installation of equipment on the existing tower. Because access is via an existing road, farming operations using large equipment regularly occur between the nest and the tower, no new construction is planned, and the tower is almost 600 feet from the nest, it is my opinion that the proposed activities, using the bucket truck option (not the helicopter option), are unlikely to result in disturbance to bald eagles. Therefore, seasonal restrictions, if using the bucket truck option, would not be necessary to avoid take of bald eagles near structure 57.

Thank you for coordinating this project with us. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jeromy

Jeromy Applegate
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U S Fish and Wildlife Service
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
4625 Morse Rd., Suite 104
Columbus, OH 43230
Phone: 614-416-8993 ext. 21
FAX: 614-416-8994