



Legal Department

American Electric Power

1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215
ecmiller1@aep.com

Erin C. Miller

Contract Attorney

(614) 716-1637 PHONE
(614) 716-2975 FAX
(614) 230-9078 CELL

Ms. Betty McCauley
Director, Administration Department
Secretary to the Commission
Docketing Division
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 17, 2013

RE: **Letter of Notification**
Case No. 13-0757-EL-BLN Canton Area Improvements Project

Dear Ms. McCauley:

In accordance with Rules 4906-5-02 and 4906-11-01, Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC"), AEP Ohio Transmission Company ("AEP Transco") submits this Letter of Notification. Construction of the Belden Village 138kV Extension is expected to begin September 1, 2013. Construction of Phase II of the South Canton – West Canton 138kV Line is expected to begin October 1, 2013. All work on this project is scheduled to be completed by May 30, 2014.

As required by Rule 4906-11-01(D)(4), AEP has submitted a copy of this Letter of Notification to the chief executive officer of each municipal corporation and county and the head of each public agency charged with protecting the environment or of planning land use in the area in which the proposed project will be located. Please find attached copies of cover letters that have been submitted to the requisite County Commissioners and Township Trustees.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

//s// Erin C. Miller
Erin C. Miller, Counsel

Attachments

**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR THE
CANTON AREA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

PUCO Case No. 13-0757-EL-BLN

Submitted pursuant to OAC 4906-11-01

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company
(AEP Ohio Transco)**

June 2013

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

Canton Area Improvements

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is providing the following information in accordance with the procedures delineated in Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-11-01: Letter of Notification Requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio Power Siting Board.

4906-11-01 (B): General Information

4906-11-01 (B)(1)

The proposed Canton Area Improvements, PUCO Case Number 13-0757-EL-BLN, Consists of line improvements in the Canton, Ohio area. This includes: 1) South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements, 2) West Canton 138kV Tie Line, and 3) Belden Village 138kV Extension structure replacement.

The South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements consists of installing a second conductor circuit to the vacant position of the existing and new structures from Structure 1, south of Keiffer Avenue, SW, in Pike Township to Structure 13, north of 37th Street SW, in Canton Township. AEP Ohio Transco will be replacing existing Structure 8, and Structures 13 – 21. The existing conductor and shield wire will be transferred to the new structures between structures 13 and 21. AEP Ohio Transco will be reconductoring both of the existing circuits at the northern end of the transmission line from structure 139 at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course to the West Canton station in Jackson Township. The project extends for approximately 4.6 miles (3.8 miles structures 1-22, 0.8 miles structure 139 to the West Canton Station). One new structure will be installed inside the station fence at the West Canton Station.

The West Canton 138kV Tie Line consists of installing a new structure on AEP Ohio Transco property at the West Canton Station in Jackson Township to route the new Wayview - West Canton 138kV Circuit and the new South Canton - West Canton 138kV Circuit (Express) into West Canton Station. Two new conductor spans will be installed.

The Belden Village 138kV Extension consists of replacing existing structure 1. Structure 1 is located west of I-77, east of Raymar Avenue, NW within existing AEP Ohio Transco right-of-way in Plain Township.

The project is located in Section 6 of Pike Township, Sections 19, 30 & 31 of Canton Township, Sections 24 & 25 of Perry Township, Section 25 of Jackson Township, and Section 19 of Plain Township in Stark County, Ohio, as shown on Figure 1. The South Canton – West Canton 138kV Line Improvement Project – Phase I was previously submitted to the OPSB, PUCO Case Number 13-0698-EL-BLN, and approved on April 24, 2013. The portions of the Canton Area Improvements Project will be located on the existing right-of-way of the South Canton-West Canton 138kV Line, AEP Ohio Transco property at the West Canton Station, and existing right-of-way of the Belden Village 138kV Extension Line. Map 1 & 2 depicts the Project Area.

The project is defined by Item (4)(a) of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4906-01, Appendix A “Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines,” which requires a Letter of Notification. This project consists of replacing electric power transmission line structures within an existing electric power transmission line right-of-way where two miles or less of new right-of-way is required.

4906-11-01 (B) (2)

The purpose of the South Canton-West Canton 138kV Line Improvement project is to install a second conductor circuit to the existing transmission structures to improve and maintain the quality of electric service and reliability to the Northeastern Ohio area, specifically Canton. The addition of this circuit will also help address some reliability concerns that were identified by PJM in 2009 on multiple facilities across the Canton area. This area includes multiple communities in Stark County. This project is a critical component of a much larger project, the Canton Area 138kV

Improvements Project, which will address other issues in Canton and will make the area more robust from a power delivery perspective. The installation of the Belden Village tap structure will support the installation of a second circuit from Wagenhals 138kV station connecting to West Canton 138kV Station. This second circuit is needed to further improve the reliability in the Canton Area and add another path of current to lessen the stress on the existing facilities in the area. This circuit will solve thermal issues that were identified by PJM in their 2009 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP).

4906-11-01 (B)(3)

The general location of the Project is shown in Map 1 & 2.

4906-11-01 (B)(4)

No alternative locations were considered. The South Canton – West Canton 138kV Line, West Canton Station, and Belden Village 138kV Extension Line are existing AEP Ohio Transco transmission facilities.

4906-11-01 (B)(5)

Construction of the Belden Village 138kV Extension is expected to begin September 1, 2013. Construction of Phase II of the South Canton – West Canton 138kV Line is expected to begin October 1, 2013. All work on this project is scheduled to be completed May 30, 2014.

4906-11-01 (B)(6)

Map 1 has been prepared to show the project location in relation to other transmission lines in the area. To view the south portion of this project, take Interstate 77 to exit 99 for Fohl Street, SW toward North Industry. Turn left (east) onto Fohl Street, SW. Turn right (south) onto Keiffer Avenue, SW. This road will lead to AEP Ohio Transco's South Canton Substation where the project begins. To view the north portion of the project, take Interstate 77 to exit 108 for Everhard Road, NW. Turn left (east) onto Everhard Road, NW. Turn right (south) onto Whipple Avenue, NW. This road will lead to AEP Ohio Transco's West Canton Substation, the northern extent of

the project. To view structure 1 of the Belden Village 138kV Extension continue north on Whipple Avenue, NW to Edgemont Street, NW, turn east onto Edgemont Street till it dead ends at Raymar Avenue, the Belden Village 138kV Extension line will be to the east.

4906-11-01 (B)(7)

The existing lines have existing easements that were obtained by American Electric Power. All new structures will be located within the existing transmission line right-of-way. The property owners have been notified and are aware of the transmission line structure replacements. All property owners along the existing transmission line have been notified of the installation of the second conductor circuit and the re-conductoring of the existing circuits.

4906-11-01 (C): Technical Features of the Project

4906-11-01 (C)(1)

The new transmission line will be designed and constructed for 138 kV operations. The transmission line work on the South Canton – West Canton 138kV Line will include installing one (1) self-supporting 2-pole dead end structures and ten (10) self-supporting single pole davit arm structures. New insulators and hardware will be installed on the new structures, and the existing conductor will be transferred. The transmission line work for the West Canton 138kV Tie Line will include one (1) direct embedded single pole davit arm structure. Structure 1 of the Belden Village 138kV Extension will be replaced with a single pole self-supporting dead end structure. Construction will also include the installation of a new conductor circuit on the existing tower line's vacant arms between existing structure 1 and new structure 13. Both conductor circuits and the groundwire between existing tower 139 and West Canton Station will be re-conducted as a part of this project as well. Additional details are included in section 4906-11-02(B)(2) above. The Project has the following characteristics:

Voltage: 138 kV

Structure type: Double circuit tower (Figure 1)

4906-11-01 (C)(2)

Electric and Magnetic Fields During Operation

(a) *Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Levels*

Three loading conditions were examined: (1) normal maximum loading, (2) emergency line loading, and (3) winter normal conductor rating. Normal maximum loading represents the peak flow expected with all system facilities in service; daily/hourly flows fluctuate below this level. Emergency loading is the maximum current flow during unusual (contingency) conditions, which exist only for short periods of time. Winter normal (WN) conductor rating represents the maximum current flow that a line, including its terminal equipment, can carry during winter conditions. It is not anticipated that this line would operate at its WN rating in the foreseeable future.

Calculated Electric and Magnetic Fields

Condition	Ckt.1/Ckt.2 Load (A) *	Ground Clear. (Feet)	Electric Field (kV/m) **	Magnetic Field (mG) **
(1) Normal Max. Loading	637/386	32.0	0.2/ 2.0/0.2	40/ 80/ 35
(2) Emergency Line Loading	765/497	32.0	0.2/ 2.0/0.2	49/ 98/ 43
(3) WN Conductor Rating	1067/1067	18.5	0.2/ 3.7/0.2	102/313/ 102
IEEE Std C95.6-2002 Limits			5.0/10.0/5.0	9040/***/9040

*Current flows in Circuit 1 (W.Canton-S.Canton) and Circuit 2 (W.Canton-S.Canton via Miles Ave) are in the same direction.

**EMF levels (left ROW edge/maximum/right ROW edge) calculated one meter above ground at the point of minimum ground clearance, assuming balanced phase currents and nominal voltages. ROW width is 100 feet.

***Maximum permissible level in a "controlled environment" is 27,100 mG.

(b) Discussion of the Company's Design Alternatives Regarding EMF Levels

Line Loading and Rating

Circuit	Normal Maximum Loading	Emergency Loading	Winter Normal Conductor Rating
South Canton – West Canton 138kV	636.9 A	762.1 A	255 MVA
South Canton – West Canton 138kV (via Miles Ave)	386 A	495.9 A	255 MVA

The electric and magnetic field levels for the proposed project were calculated for the conductor configuration as depicted by “Figure 1” (See Appendix).

4906-11-01 (C)(3)

The 2013 capital cost estimates for the proposed project have been tabulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Electric Plant Transmission Accounts:

FERC Accounts	Estimated Capital Costs
355 Poles and Fixtures	\$1,835,672
356 Overhead Conductors and Devices	\$735,285
Total Cost	\$2,570,957

4906-11-01 (D): Socioeconomic Data

4906-11-01 (D)(1)

This Project is located is located in Pike, Canton, Perry, Jackson, and Plain Townships of Stark County on AEP Ohio Transco easements. The installation of tubular steel poles at certain locations will result in a smaller footprint than the existing lattice steel towers Commonwealth Associates, Inc., an independent environmental consultant,

has prepared a detailed land use description and population density. Commonwealth's report is provided in the Appendix.

4906-11-01 (D)(2)

Commonwealth performed a study to determine if any Agricultural District Land parcels were located within the study corridor. One Agricultural District Land parcel as defined by Chapter 929 of the Ohio Revised Code was identified within the 2,000 foot study corridor, however this parcel is not impacted by the Project. The Commonwealth report is provided in the Appendix. No impacts to agricultural district land are anticipated.

4906-11-01 (D)(3)

A Phase I Archaeological Investigation was conducted for this project. In March of 2013, Weller & Associates, Inc. completed a Phase I archaeological investigation in Jackson, Perry, Pike, Plain and Canton Townships, Stark County, Ohio. These investigations did not result in the identification of any cultural materials. As outlined in this report, a finding of no historic properties is considered appropriate. No further work is deemed necessary for this project. A copy of this report will be provided to the Ohio Power Siting Board under separate cover. The OHPO has concurred with the recommendation that no further work is necessary. A copy of the OHPO correspondence is attached.

4906-11-01 (D)(4)

Copies of this Letter of Notification have been sent to the Stark County Commissioners, the Township Trustees for each of the five townships, and the Stark County Public Library. Copies of the cover letters to these officials and the local library are attached in the Appendix.

AEP Ohio Transco's Manager of External Affairs will advise local officials of features and the status of the proposed transmission line Project as necessary.

4906-11-01 (D)(5)

There is no known current or pending litigation involving this Project.

4906-11-01 (D)(6)

A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction stormwater discharges under General Permit OHC000003. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be filed with the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the proposed Project.

4906-11-01 (E): Environmental Data

During the field survey, a total of 17 wetlands were identified within the survey corridor. The 17 wetlands identified total 6.6 acres. The wetlands were of three wetland habitat types: 7 Palustrine emergent (PEM), 7 Palustrine emergent/scrub-shrub (PEM/PSS), and 3 Palustrine scrub-shrub/emergent (PSS/PEM). Within the survey corridor, 12 streams, totaling 3,312 feet, were assessed: 4 ephemeral, 5 intermittent, and 3 perennial. Wetlands and streams will be avoided where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, wetlands will be matted with timber matting which will prevent impacts to the wetland. Commonwealth has prepared a Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Report, which is located in the Appendix.

4906-11-01 (E)(1)

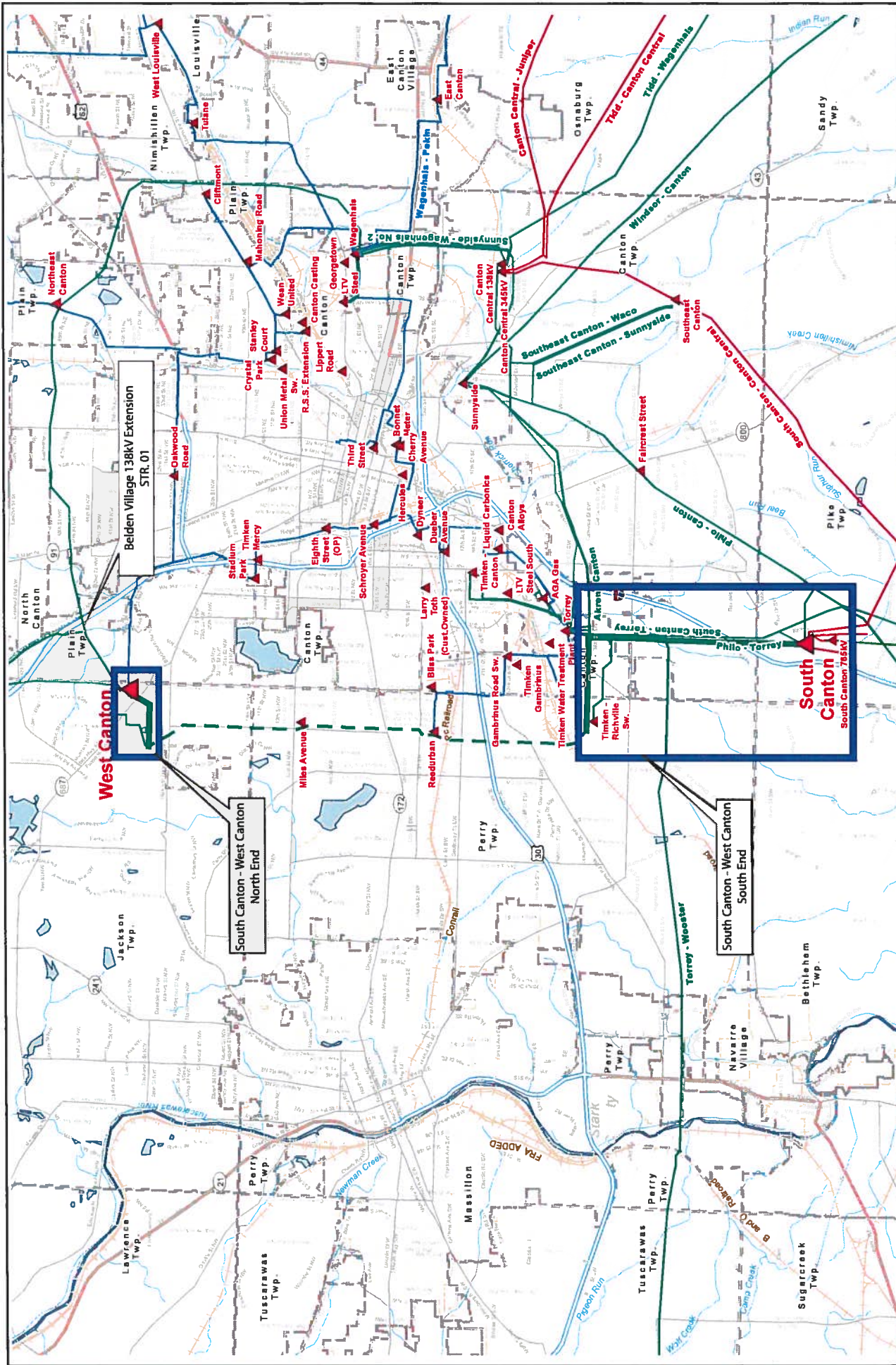
AEP Ohio Transco retained Commonwealth to conduct a threatened and endangered species review within the area crossed by the project centerline, and field survey within the existing maintained right-of-way (approximately 50 feet on each side of the project centerline) for the entire length of the project. The field survey was conducted by Commonwealth February 25 & 26, 2013. Based on the nature of the project, review of available current literature, review of federal and state records of species of concern, contact with the USFWS and the ODNR, and the field survey conducted in February 2013, it is not expected that federal or state species of concern will be impacted by the project as currently planned. Commonwealth has prepared a detailed threatened and endangered species survey report, which is located in the Appendix.

4906-11-01 (E)(2)

There are no areas of ecological concern located within the project area of the proposed project. No national forests or parks, designated or proposed wilderness areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, or wildlife sanctuaries were identified within 1,000 feet of the proposed Project. The proposed new circuit will not cross 100-year flood zone areas. No changes in flood elevations are anticipated as a result of the Project.

4906-11-01 (E)(3)

There are no known unusual conditions or circumstances associated with this Project that will result in significant environmental, social, health or safety impacts. Construction and operation of the proposed Project will meet all applicable safety standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and will be in accordance with the requirements specified in the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will include the Access Plan, will be provided to the OPSB under separate cover, after submission of this Letter of Notification.



Canton Area Improvements

AEP Ohio Transmission Company

Date: 03/21/13
 Drawn By: J. Kelly
 Revision: 0

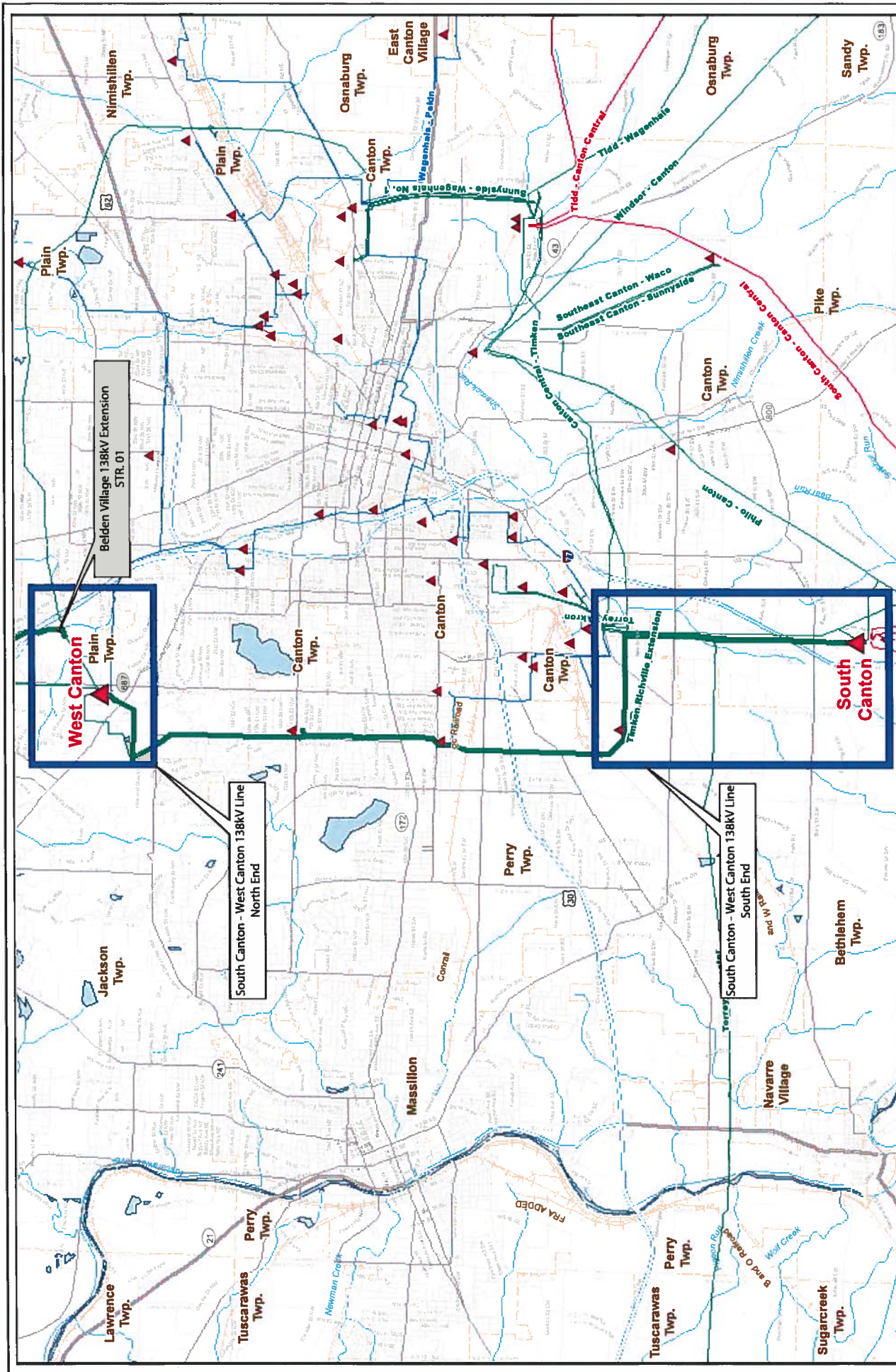
Legend



- Existing 69kV Transmission Line
- Existing 138kV Transmission Line
- Existing 345kV Transmission Line
- Interstate
- Highway
- Main Road
- Local Road
- River
- Railroad
- - - Township Boundary
- ▲ Substation

Map 1: Project Location with Transmission Lines in the Area.

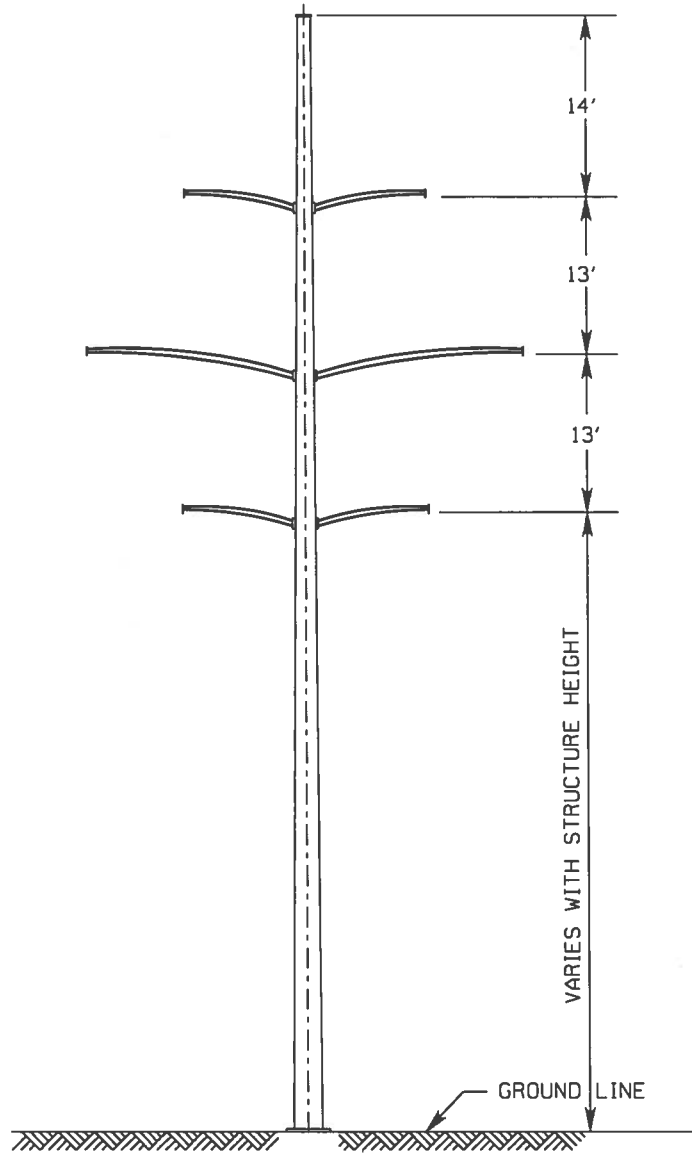
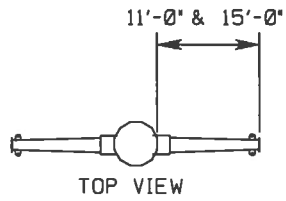
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

This drawing from the Transmission Line Projects Engineering Group of American Electric Power is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the original document.



 AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	Date: 05/28/13 Drawn By: J. Kelly Revision: 0	Map 2: Location Map	Canton Area Improvements AEP Ohio Transmission Company				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1404 105 1542 535"> Legend Existing 69kV Transmission Line Existing 138kV Transmission Line Existing 345kV Transmission Line </td> <td data-bbox="1404 535 1542 976"> Interstate Highway Main Road </td> <td data-bbox="1404 976 1542 1564"> Local Road River Railroad Township Boundary Substation </td> </tr> </table>					Legend Existing 69kV Transmission Line Existing 138kV Transmission Line Existing 345kV Transmission Line	Interstate Highway Main Road	Local Road River Railroad Township Boundary Substation
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DAVIT ARM STRUCTURE
SOUTH CANTON - WEST CANTON
138kV LINE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 1



In reply refer to
2013-STA-24493

May 8, 2013

Rebekah Hovermale, Transmission Line Siting Specialist
American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

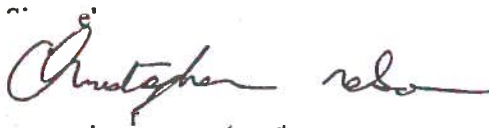
Dear Ms. Hovermale:

Re: South Canton-West Canton 138 kV Line Project, Jackson, Perry, Pike, and Canton Townships,
Stark County, Ohio

This is in response to the receipt, on May 2, 2013, of *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for American Electric Power's 16 km (10 mi) South Canton-West Canton 138 kV Line Project in Jackson, Perry, Pike, and Canton Townships, Stark County, Ohio* (dated 3/21/2013). This project involves the use of existing open arms and a partial rebuild of an approximate 10 mi existing transmission line corridor and the construction of several segments of new access roads. My comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 and Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-15-01).

The intention of the current survey was to locate and identify any cultural resources within the project area that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The areas of proposed new ground disturbance were investigated for the presence of archaeological sites. These included the proposed locations of ten new towers and multiple segments of new access roads. The survey report noted that a majority of the project corridor is in areas found to be previously disturbed from various activities in the past including industrial (coal, gravel quarry, landfill, and steel manufacture), prior utilities (gas pipeline and electric transmission), and modern construction (roads, buildings). No archaeological sites were identified during the survey. Weller & Associates, Inc., recommends that no further work is necessary for this project. I concur with this recommendation. No further coordination is requested for this project unless the project changes or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the project. In this situation, this office should be contacted as per 36 CFR § 800.13.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2000, or by email at cnelson@ohiohistory.org.



ger

Cc: Ryan Weller, Weller & Associates

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037

www.ohiohistory.org



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Stark County Commissioners
Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula
Tom Bernabei
Stark County
County Office Building
110 Central Plaza South
Canton, Ohio 44702

RE: Letter of Notification
Canton Area Improvements Project

Dear Commissioners:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain changes are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Canton Area Improvements, PUCO Case Number 13-0757-EL-BLN, Consists of line improvements in the Canton, Ohio area. This includes: 1) South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements, 2) West Canton 138kV Tie Line, and 3) Belden Village 138kV Extension structure replacement.

The South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements consists of installing a second conductor circuit to the vacant position of the existing and new structures from Structure 1, south of Keiffer Avenue, SW, in Pike Township to Structure 13, north of 37th Street SW, in Canton Township. AEP Ohio Transco will be replacing ten structures including structures 8 and 13 through 21. The existing conductor and shield wire will be transferred to the new structures between structures 13 and 21. AEP Ohio Transco will be reconductoring both of the existing circuits at the northern end of the transmission line from structure 139 at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course to the West Canton station in Jackson Township. The project extends for approximately 4.6 miles (3.8 miles structures 1-22, 0.8 miles structure 139 to the West Canton Station). One new structure will be installed inside the station fence at the West Canton Station.

The West Canton 138kV Tie Line consists of installing a new structure on AEP Ohio Transco property at the West Canton Station in Jackson Township to route the new Wayview - West Canton 138kV Circuit and the new South Canton - West Canton 138kV Circuit (Express) into West Canton Station. Two new conductor spans will be installed.

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American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

The project is located in Section 6 of Pike Township, Sections 19, 30 & 31 of Canton Township, Sections 24 & 25 of Perry Township, Section 25 of Jackson Township, and Section 19 of Plain Township in Stark County, Ohio.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-02 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Letter of Notification. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at (614) 552-1829 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Decima".

Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Canton Township Trustees
Christopher B. Nichols
Bill Mittas
William C. Smith
Canton Township
4711 Central Ave SE.
Canton, Ohio 44707

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Canton Area Improvements Project

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Elizabeth Decima

Transmission Line Engineering



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Jackson Township Trustees
James N. Walters
John E. Pizzino
Todd J. Hawke
Jackson Township
Administrative Offices
5735 Wales Avenue NW
Massillon, Ohio 44646

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Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering



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700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Perry Township Trustees
Craig Chessler
Lee Laubacher
Doug Haines
Perry Township
Administration Office
3111 Hilton Street NW
Massillon, Ohio 44646

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The South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements consists of installing a second conductor circuit to the vacant position of the existing and new structures from Structure 1, south of Keiffer Avenue, SW, in Pike Township to Structure 13, north of 37th Street SW, in Canton Township. AEP Ohio Transco will be replacing ten structures including structures 8 and 13 through 21. The existing conductor and shield wire will be transferred to the new structures between structures 13 and 21. AEP Ohio Transco will be reconductoring both of the existing circuits at the northern end of the transmission line from structure 139 at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course to the West Canton station in Jackson Township. The project extends for approximately 4.6 miles (3.8 miles structures 1-22, 0.8 miles structure 139 to the West Canton Station). One new structure will be installed inside the station fence at the West Canton Station.

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The Belden Village 138kV Extension consists of replacing existing structure 1. Structure 1 is located west of I-77, east of Raymar Avenue, NW within existing AEP Ohio Transco right-of-way in Plain Township.



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

The project is located in Section 6 of Pike Township, Sections 19, 30 & 31 of Canton Township, Sections 24 & 25 of Perry Township, Section 25 of Jackson Township, and Section 19 of Plain Township in Stark County, Ohio.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-02 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Letter of Notification. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at (614) 552-1829 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Decima', is written over a faint, light-colored printed name.

Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Pike Township Trustees
Douglas L. Baum
Don E. Charnetzky
Paul Mosberger
7134 East Sparta Avenue, S.E.
P.O. Box 434
East Sparta, Ohio 44626-0434

RE: Letter of Notification
Canton Area Improvements Project

Dear Commissioners:

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Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Plain Township Trustees
Louis P. Giavasis
Scott M Haws
Albert P. Leno II
Plain Township
Plain Township Hall
2600 Easton Street, NE
Canton, Ohio 44721

RE: Letter of Notification
Canton Area Improvements Project

Dear Commissioners:

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Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

June 11, 2013

Karen E. Miller, Manager
Main Library
Stark County District Library
715 Market Avenue, North
Canton, Ohio 44702

RE: Letter of Notification
Canton Area Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Miller:

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Elizabeth Decima
Transmission Line Engineering

SOCIOECONOMIC, LAND USE AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW REPORT

CANTON AREA IMPROVEMENTS:

**SOUTH CANTON TO WEST CANTON 138KV LINE REBUILD
BELDEN VILLAGE EXTENSION STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT
WEST CANTON 138KV TIE LINE STRUCTURE**

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

Prepared for:



*American Electric Power
700 Morrison Rd.
Gahanna, OH 43230*

Prepared by:



*Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
2700 W. Argyle St.
Jackson, MI 49202*

Report Date: June 2013

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(Follows text)

Figure 1	Location Map
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(Follows figures)

Appendix A	Jackson Township Future Land Use Map
	Perry Township Zoning Map
	Pike Township Zoning Map
	Plain Township Zoning Map
	Stark County Comprehensive Plan Map

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Canton Area Improvements consist of line improvements in the Canton, Ohio area. This includes: 1) South Canton – West Canton 138kV line improvements, 2) West Canton 138kV Tie Line, and 3) Belden Village 138kV Extension structure replacement.

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The project is located in Section 6 of Pike Township, Sections 19, 30 & 31 of Canton Township, Sections 24 & 25 of Perry Township, Section 25 of Jackson Township, and Section 19 of Plain Township in Stark County, Ohio, as shown on Figure 1.

As part of the Ohio Siting Board (OPSB) Letter of Notification (LON) requirements, AEP Ohio Transco is required to describe the environmental impacts of the proposed project, as stated in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 4906-11-01(D)(1 & 2). This rule states:

- (D) *Socioeconomic data. Describe the social and ecological impacts of the project. This description shall contain the following information:*
- (1) *A brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including:*
(a) a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected; and (b) estimates of population density adjacent to rights-of-way within the study corridor (the U.S. census information may be used to meet this requirement).

- (2) *The location and general description of all agricultural land (including agricultural district land) existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the letter of notification within the proposed electric power transmission line right-of-way, or within the proposed electric power transmission substation fenced-in area, or within the construction site boundary of a proposed compressor station.*

AEP Ohio Transco retained Commonwealth to conduct a desktop review of socioeconomic, land use, and agricultural district land in the Project area. A study corridor of 2,000 feet centered on the transmission line centerline was established. In conjunction with aerial photo interpretation and the ecological field and site access reviews, Commonwealth noted land uses crossed by the existing right-of-way. This report will be used to assist in efforts to avoid or minimize impacts to socioeconomic characteristics and land uses potentially present in the study area during construction activities.

2.0 GENERAL LAND USE DESCRIPTIONS

Land use within the 2,000 foot wide study corridor (centered on the transmission line centerline) of the project is shown on Figures 2C through 7C. Current land use characteristics were obtained through review of United States U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) digital aerial photography taken in 2006; United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute Topographic Map of West Canton obtained from Digital Data Services, Inc. (1967, photo revised 1985), www.usgsquads.com; Land Use/Land Cover (Data collected in 1976) obtained from webGIS, www.webgis.com; base map Data obtained from GIS Data Depot (U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line 2011), www.data.geocomm.com; county property parcel data obtained from the Stark County Auditor, www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us; and field reconnaissance conducted in February 2013.

Land use within the 2,000 foot corridor is mixed. About 28 percent of the land within the 2,000 foot corridor is agriculture. Residential and wooded land uses are approximately 35 percent. Approximately 400 homes were identified within 1,000 feet of the corridor centerline while approximately 90 were identified within 150 feet. Approximately 18 percent of the study corridor is used for commercial or industrial purposes. Two churches and no cemeteries were identified in the study corridor. Roadway right-of-way, including the I-77 corridor, account for approximately 9 percent of the study area corridor.

The land use per township breaks down as follows. The area within 1,000 feet of the project in Pike Township is utility infrastructure (electric and gas transmission lines and facilities), industrial (auto salvage), large lot residential, undeveloped, and the I-77 expressway. The area within 1,000 feet of the project in Canton Township is utility infrastructure, residential, transportation corridors, agriculture (cropland and livestock), recreation facilities, public services (fire station and county facilities), churches, and undeveloped. The area within 1,000 feet of the

project in Perry Township is residential, industrial, and undeveloped. The area within 1,000 feet in the project in Jackson Township is residential, golf course, commercial (office & commercial), and undeveloped. The area within 1,000 feet of the project in Plain Township is residential, commercial/agriculture (landscape nursery), and transportation (I-77 and railroad).

General land use trends in Stark County indicates there is a conversion of farmland to residential to commercial use and conversion from out lot residential to commercial along major access roads as the Canton metropolitan area expands. Stark County is approximately 30 percent developed. The major land uses that make up the developed areas are residential, commercial, industrial, transportation and communication, utilities, parks, open space and public areas. Residential is approximately 17 percent of the total land area of the County, future growth is projected to keep pace with population growth to approximately 20 percent by 2030. Much of the growth is projected to be concentrated in the northern portion of the County including Jackson and Plain Townships. Of the Townships crossed by the Project, Jackson and Plain Townships have the largest amount of commercial/service land, while industrial lands are noted in Canton Township and Perry Township (Stark County 2030 Comprehensive/Transportation Plan, adopted 10/4/04 by Stark County Region Planning Commission).

Commonwealth reviewed the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Stark County, Ohio, Figure V-1 of the Comprehensive/Transportation Plan, the plan contained comprehensive land use for the four townships. We also reviewed the Comprehensive Plan for Jackson Township prepared by McKenna & Associates, Inc. 03/2005, Plain Township Trustees Zoning Map, and the Zoning Maps prepared by the Regional Planning Commission for Jackson, Perry and Pike Townships. Copies of the maps are included in the appendix.

In general we found that the proposed land use in the area crossed by the project is consistent with the existing land use. The area within the 1,000 feet of the Project in Pike Township show rural residential/agricultural district. The areas within 1,000 feet of the Project in Canton Township show industrial and residential districts. The area within 1,000 feet of the Project in Perry Township show industrial district. The areas within 1,000 feet of the Project in Jackson Township crosses planned commercial, flood plains and residential districts.

These maps are included in Appendix A. As the proposed activity is predominately stringing of a vacant circuit within an existing right-of-way with limited structure replacement along an existing line, impacts to future land use, if any, are expected to be very limited.

3.0 POPULATION DENSITY ESTIMATE

Population density estimates for land within the 2,000 foot wide study corridor were calculated based on percentage of land area and the average persons per household for the County. The study area is approximately 1,140 acres. The total area of Stark County is 366,720 acres. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of the County was 375,586 for a total

population density of 0.97 persons per acre. Estimated population within the project study area based on percentage of land area is approximately 1,106. Approximately 400 homes were identified within the study area. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the average household in Stark County had 2.49 persons. Estimated population within the project study area based on number of homes along the route is approximately 995. This equates to approximately 0.89 persons per acre. As the study area is outside of the more densely populated areas of the County, it is not unlikely that the study area would have a slightly lower population density than the County average. These estimates are limited to the available statistics and generalizations across the County. Census population data is summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1
STUDY AREA CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATES

Government Unit	Percentage of corridor	2000 Census	2010 Census
Stark County	100	378,098	375,586
Canton Township	59	13,882	13,485
Jackson Township	18	37,744	40,934
Perry Township	12	29,167	28,356
Pike Township	10	4,088	4,367
Plain Township	1	35,543	34,900

Sources: U.S. Census bureau, Census 2010, <http://www.census.gov>
U.S. Census bureau, Census 2000, <http://www.census.gov>

No planned residential developments within the study corridor were discovered as part of this study. It is not expected that the project will significantly impact existing or planned land use within the vicinity of the Project. Not only is there an existing transmission line is present along the length of this Project, other existing transmission lines parallel the line in segments of the project. As this is an existing transmission corridor the changes will be primarily construction impacts which will be temporary.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT LAND

Parcels registered in the State of Ohio Agricultural District Land program within the five Townships within the 2,000 foot wide corridor study area were obtained from the Office of the Stark County Auditor, Alan Harold. One Agricultural District Land parcel was identified within the 2,000 foot study corridor outside of the existing right-of-way. This parcel is located on Shepler Church Avenue, SW and shown on Figure 04C Land Use. No impact to the Agricultural District Land parcel is anticipated either temporary or permanent by this project. There are non-Agricultural District Land agricultural lands within the study area and existing right-of-way. Efforts to minimize disturbance during construction will be made. AEP Ohio Transco will

compensate property owners for any monetary losses due to the project through the right-of-way settlement in accordance with easement agreements and policy. AEP Ohio Transco has and will continue to work with each owner to avoid and minimize damages to property. The construction, operation and maintenance of this transmission line are not expected to affect the viability of agricultural land with the study area. This project when complete will not require changes in agricultural practices from what they are currently.

5.0 CONCLUSION

No significant impacts to socioeconomic characteristics, land use or agricultural district land are expected in the study area as a result of this project as an electric transmission line currently exists. Construction, stringing and reconductoring efforts will cause short-term changes. These changes will be temporary and localized to structure locations and access roads. The project is not expected to impact any future land use any differently or greater than the existing transmission line.

6.0 REFERENCES

Canton Township Zoning Commission. Canton Township Zoning Book. Canton Township, Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://cantontwp-oh.gov>. Retrieved February 25, 2013

Harold, Alan, Stark County Auditor, Office of. Email correspondence and on-line property search. Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.auditor.co.stark.oh.us>. Accessed February 28, 2013.

Jackson Township Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Jackson Township Comprehensive Plan. Jackson Township, Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.jacksonstwp.com>. Access March 18, 2013.

Perry Township Planning. Perry Township Zoning Map. Perry Township, Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.perrytwp.com>. Access February 25, 2013.

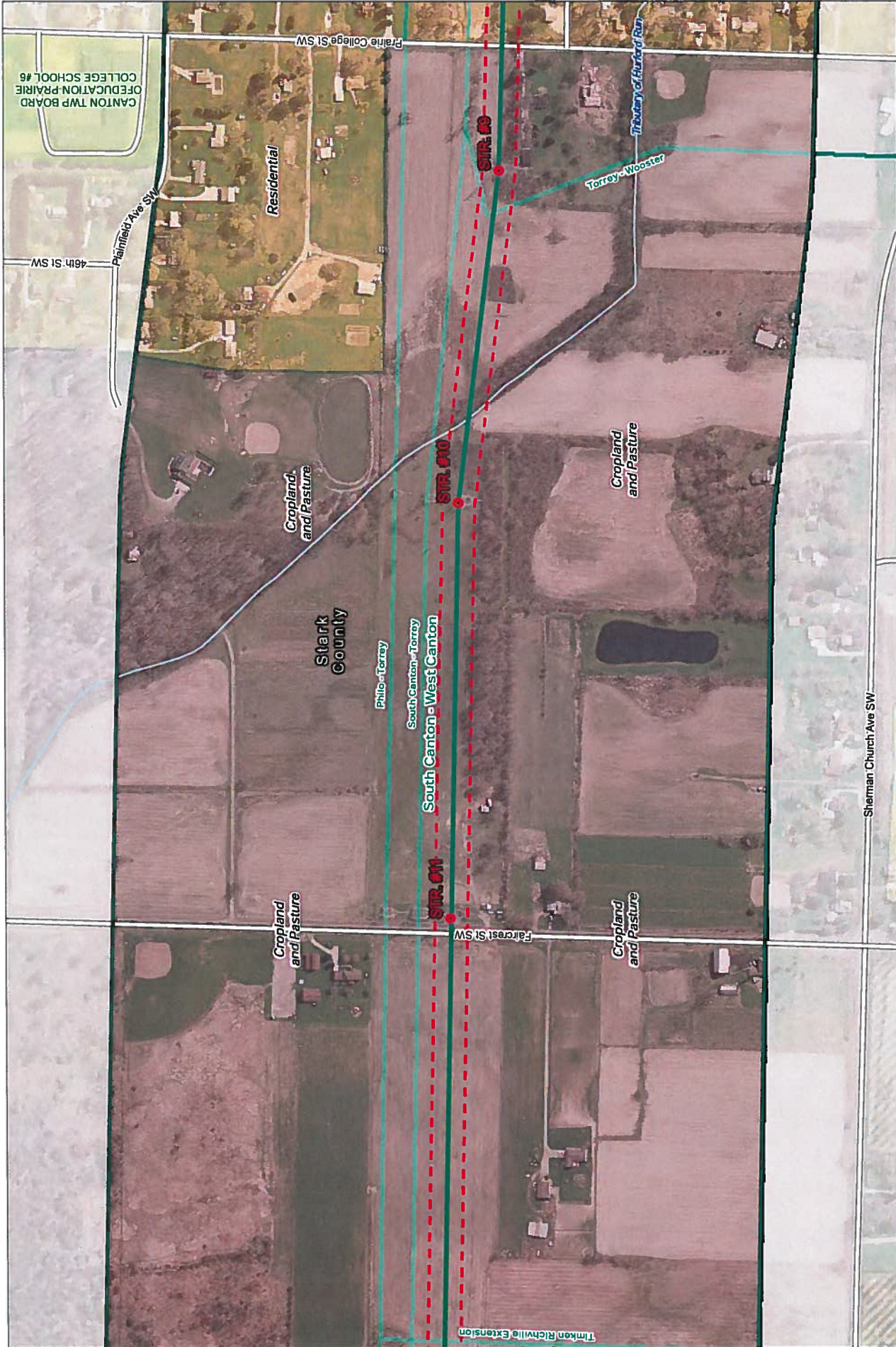
Pike Township Planning. Pike Township Zoning Map. Pike Township, Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.piketownship.com>. Access February 25, 2013.

Plain Township Planning. Plain Township Comprehensive Plan and Zoning information. Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.plaintownship.com/zoning>. Access May 28, 2013.

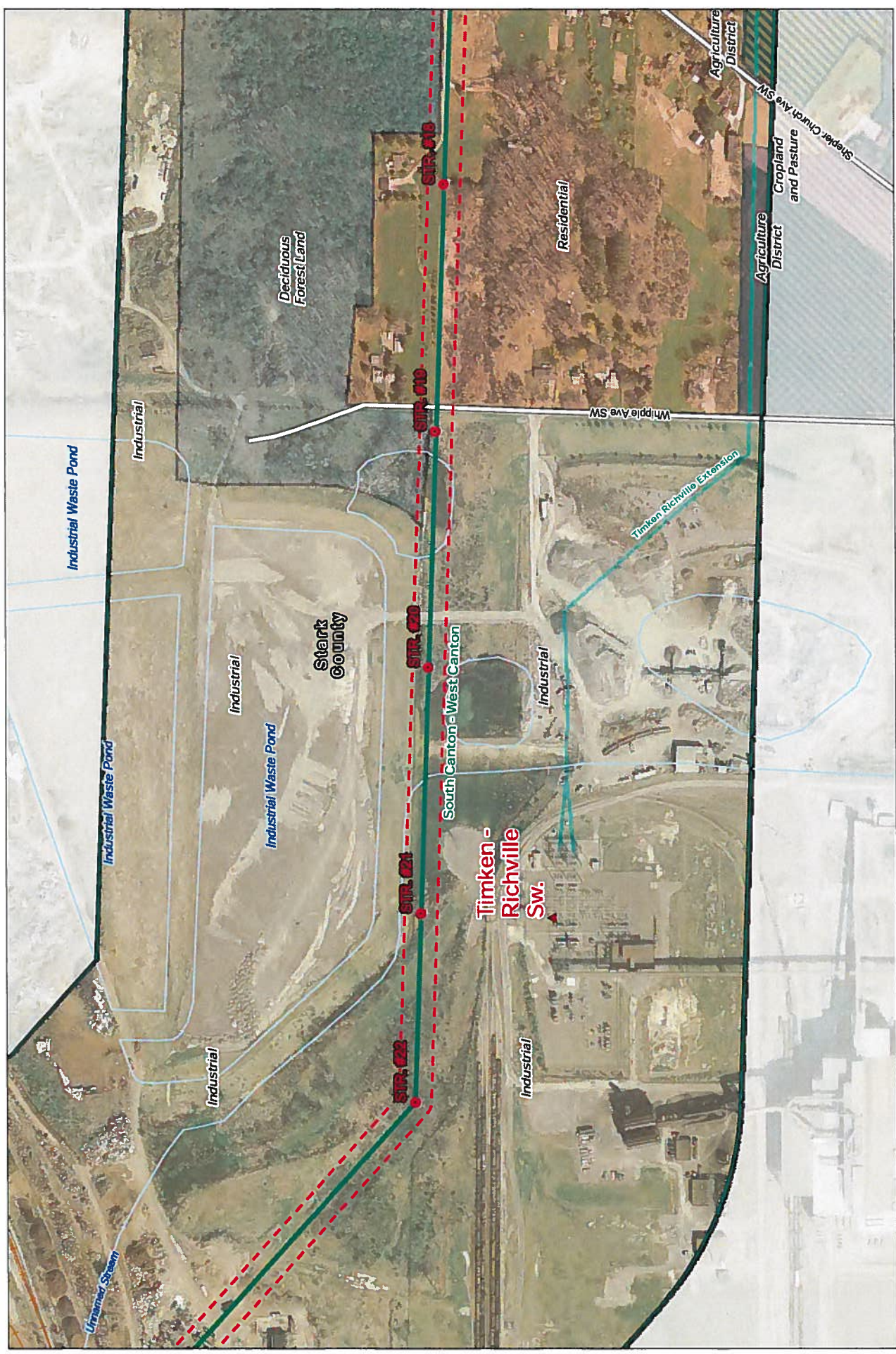
Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Stark County 2030 Comprehensive/Transportation Plan. Stark County, Ohio. Retrieved from <http://www.co.stark.oh.us>. Accessed February 25, 2013.

U.S. Census Bureau. Census of Population and Housing, 2000. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov>. Accessed March 21, 2013.

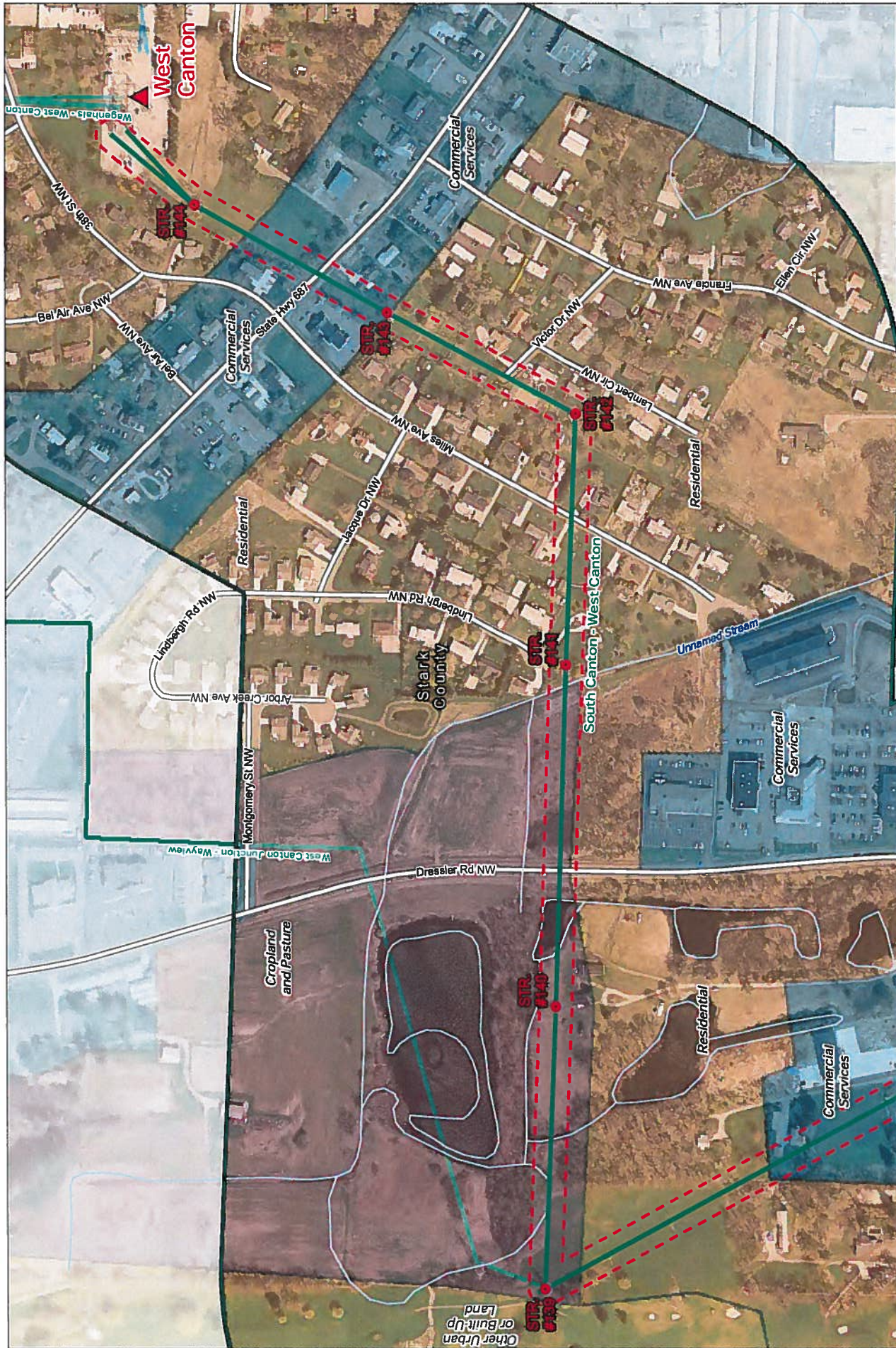
U.S. Census Bureau. Census of Population and Housing, 2010. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov>. Accessed March 21, 2013.



<p>SW Existing Substation & Transmission Line</p> <p>Existing 230 kV Existing 345 kV Existing 500 kV Existing 765 kV Existing 69 kV Existing 66 kV Existing 115 kV Existing 138 kV Existing 161 kV</p>	<p>SW Transportation & Hydrology</p> <p>Interstate Highway Railroad Major Local Road River/Stream/Lake/Pond Delineated Stream Lake (Location Map) Waterbody</p>	<p>SW Boundary & Easement</p> <p>City/Township County New Entrance 100' Right of Way 2,000 ft Corridor Agriculture District Contour 20'</p>	<p>SW Land Use and Cover</p> <p>Commercial Services Cropland & Pasture Deciduous Forest Industrial Mixed Forest Urban or Built up Residential Transition Area Transportation</p>	<p>SW Wetlands</p> <p>Palustrine Emergent Palustrine Forested Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom Lacustrine/Riverine Delineated Wetland</p>	<p>AEP Ohio Transmission Company Canton Area Improvements Stark County, Ohio Projected Coordinate System: Ohio State Plane Datum: North American Datum of 1983 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Zone: North Linear Unit: Feet</p>	<p>Scale: 1" = 400' (1:4,800) Date: 5/28/2013</p>	<p>Figure 03C Land Use</p> <p>0 100 200 Feet</p> <p>Commonwealth AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER</p>
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NEW Existing Substation & Transmission Line Substation Existing structure Angle structure Existing 69 kV Existing 115 kV Existing 138 kV Existing 161 kV		EXISTING Transmission & Hydrology Interstate Highway Railroad Major Road River/Stream/Lake/Pond Delineated Stream Lake (Location Map) Wetland		BOUNDARY & FEATURES City/Township County New Entrance Map Index 100' Right of Way 2,000 ft Corridor Agriculture District Contour 20'		LAND USE & COVER Commercial Services Cropland & Pasture Deciduous Forest Industrial Mixed Forest Urban or Built up Residential Transition Area Transportation		SWR Wetlands Pelustrine Emergent Pelustrine Forested Pelustrine Scrub/Shrub Pelustrine Unconsolidated Bottom Lacustrine/Riverine Delineated Wetland		COMPASS N E S W		AEP Ohio Transmission Company Canton Area Improvements Stark County, Ohio Projected Coordinate System: Ohio State Plane Datum: North American Datum of 1983 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Zone: North Linear Unit: Feet		Scale: 1" = 400' (1:4,800) Figure 05C Land Use		Date: 5/28/2013 COMMONWEALTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	
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<p>Scale: 1" = 400' (1:4,800)</p> <p>Figure 08C Land Use</p> <p>Commonwealth</p> <p>AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER</p>		<p>Date: 5/28/2013</p>
<p>Legend</p> <p>3200 Existing Substation & Transmission Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substation Existing Structure Angle Structure Existing 69 kV Existing 88 kV Existing 115 kV Existing 138 kV Existing 161 kV <p>3201 Transportation & Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interstate Highway Railroad Major Local Road River/Stream/Lake/Pond Delisted Stream Lake (Location Map) Waterway <p>3202 Boundaries & Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City/Township County New Entrance Map Index 100' Right of Way 2,000 ft Corridor Agriculture District Centour 20' <p>3203 Land Use & Cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Services Cropland & Pasture Deciduous Forest Industrial Mixed Forest Urban or Built up Residential Transportation <p>3204 Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palustrine Emergent Palustrine Forested Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom Lacustrine/Riverine Delisted Wetland 		<p>North Arrow</p> <p>N E S W</p>
<p>AEP Ohio Transmission Company</p> <p>Canton Area Improvements</p> <p>Stark County, Ohio</p> <p>Projected Coordinate System: Ohio State Plane Datum: North American Datum of 1983 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Zone: North Linear Unit: Feet</p>		

APPENDIX A

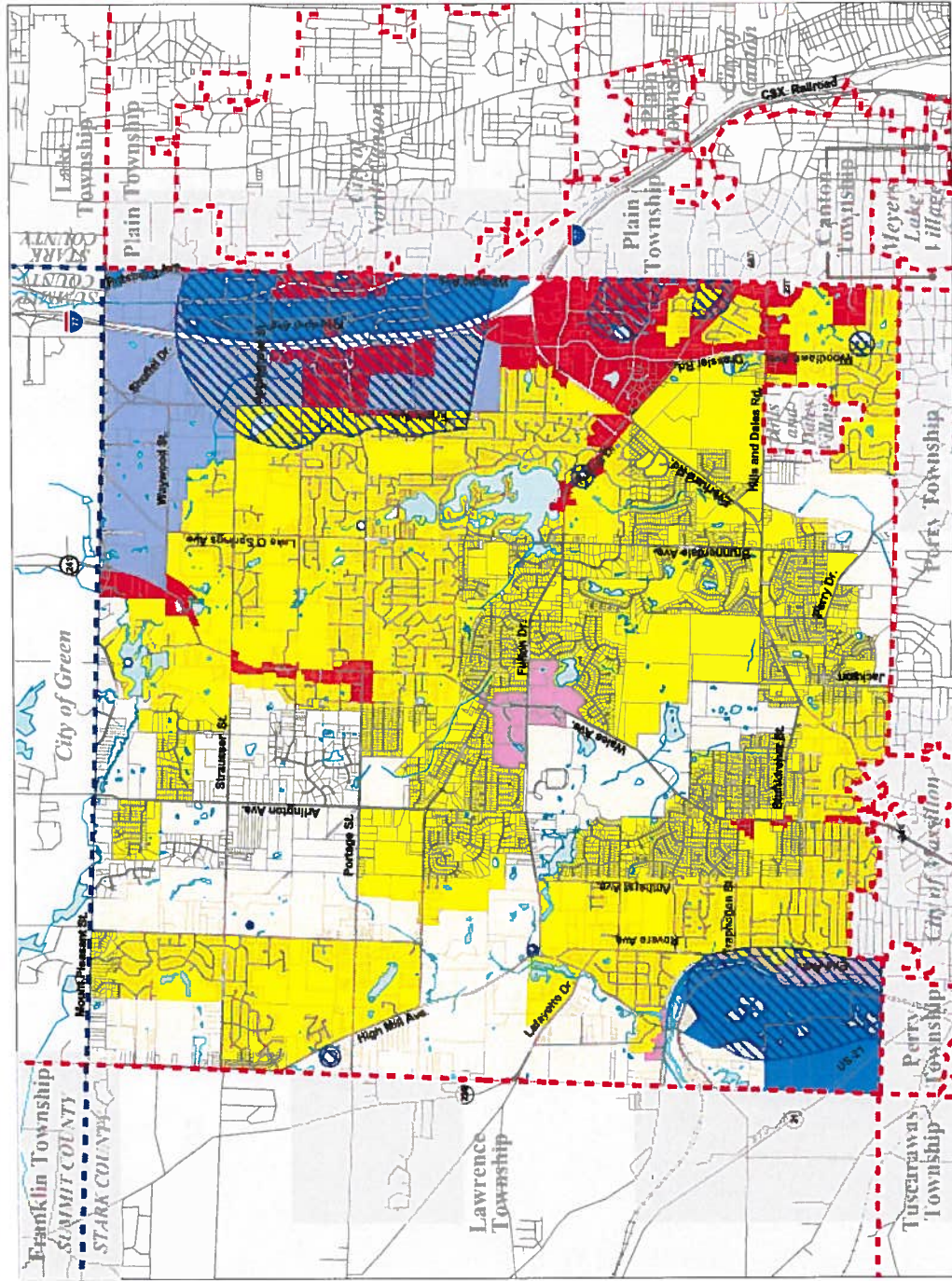
JACKSON TOWNSHIP FUTURE LAND USE MAP

PERRY TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP

PIKE TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP

PLAIN TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP

STARK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP



Future Land Use

- Rural Residential
- Residential
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- High Tech
- Industrial
- Drinking Water Protection Area

Symbol Key:

- Road
- Railroad
- Creeks/Lakes/Ponds/Rivers
- Surrounding Area
- Township & Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

Base Map Source: Stark County GIS Department, 2/2004
Data Source: Stark County Auditor, 2/2004
McKenna Associates, Inc. 03/2005

0 4500 FT 2250 FT
06/24/05

**Map 11
Generalized Future Land Use**

Perry Township

Current as of October, 2007

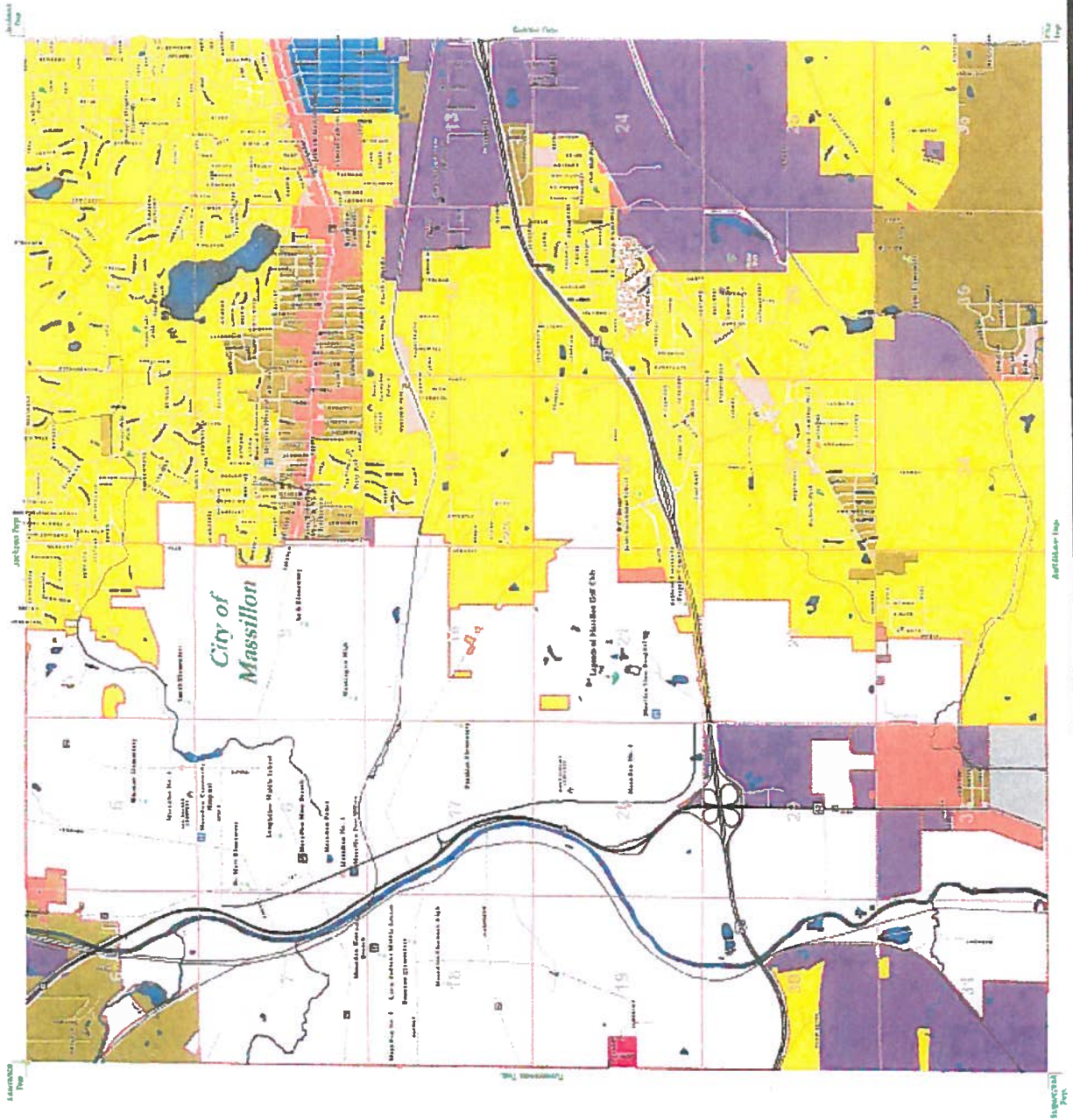
For Specific Lot and Scale
See Official Zoning Plats

- R1 Single Family Low Density Residential
- R2 Single and Two Family Residential
- R3 Single Family/Duplex Four Family Residential
- R4 Multi-Family Residential/Office
- R5 High Density Multi-Family/Unlimited Service Business
- R6 Manufactured Home Park
- R7 Planned Unit Development
- B1 Office / Retail / Business
- B2 Commercial
- MD Multi-District Overlay
- ID Industrial
- Massillon
- Nevada
- Perry Section Lines
- Corporation Line

- Police
- Fire Station
- Hospital
- Cemetery
- Parts
- Post Office
- Airfields
- Libraries
- Schools

Prepared by
Stark County
Regional Planning Commission

1 inch equals 1 miles



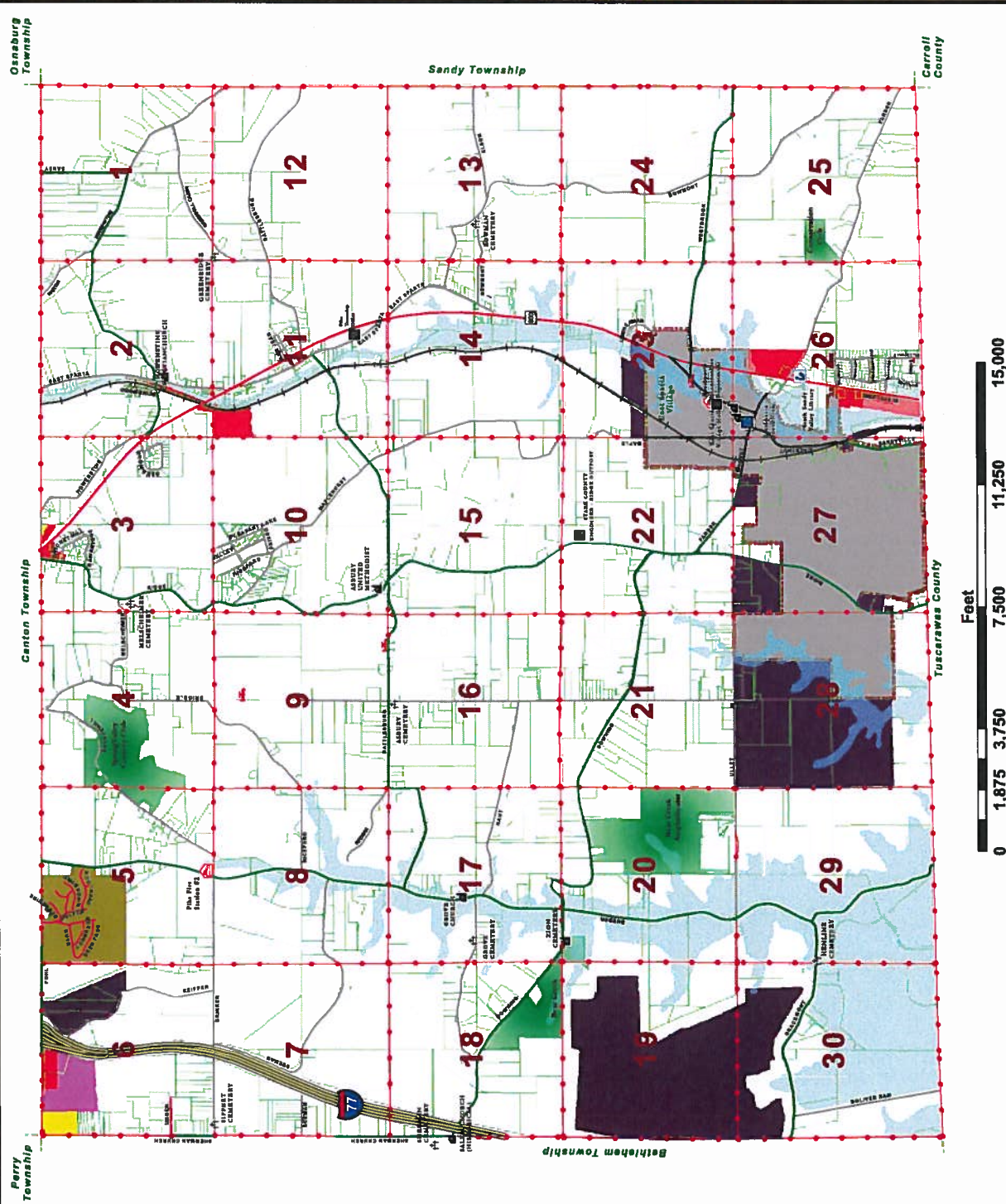
Pike Township Zoning Map

Current as of February 2009
For Specific Lot and Scale
See Official Zoning Plats

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | R1 One & Two Family Residential |
| | R2 Multiple Family Residential |
| | R3 Mobile Home Park District |
| | B1 Office & Neighborhood Business |
| | B2 Commercial Business |
| | I1 Restricted Industrial |
| | I2 General Industrial |
| | Parks |
| | East Sparta |
| | Flood Plain |

- | Roads | |
|-------|-------------|
| | Township |
| | County |
| | Municipal |
| | Private |
| | State Route |
| | Interstate |
-
- | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|-------------|
| | Fire Station | | Post Office |
| | Hospital | | Library |
| | Cemetery | | Dry Hydrant |
| | Church | | |

Prepared by
Stark County
Regional Planning Commission





Zoning Map

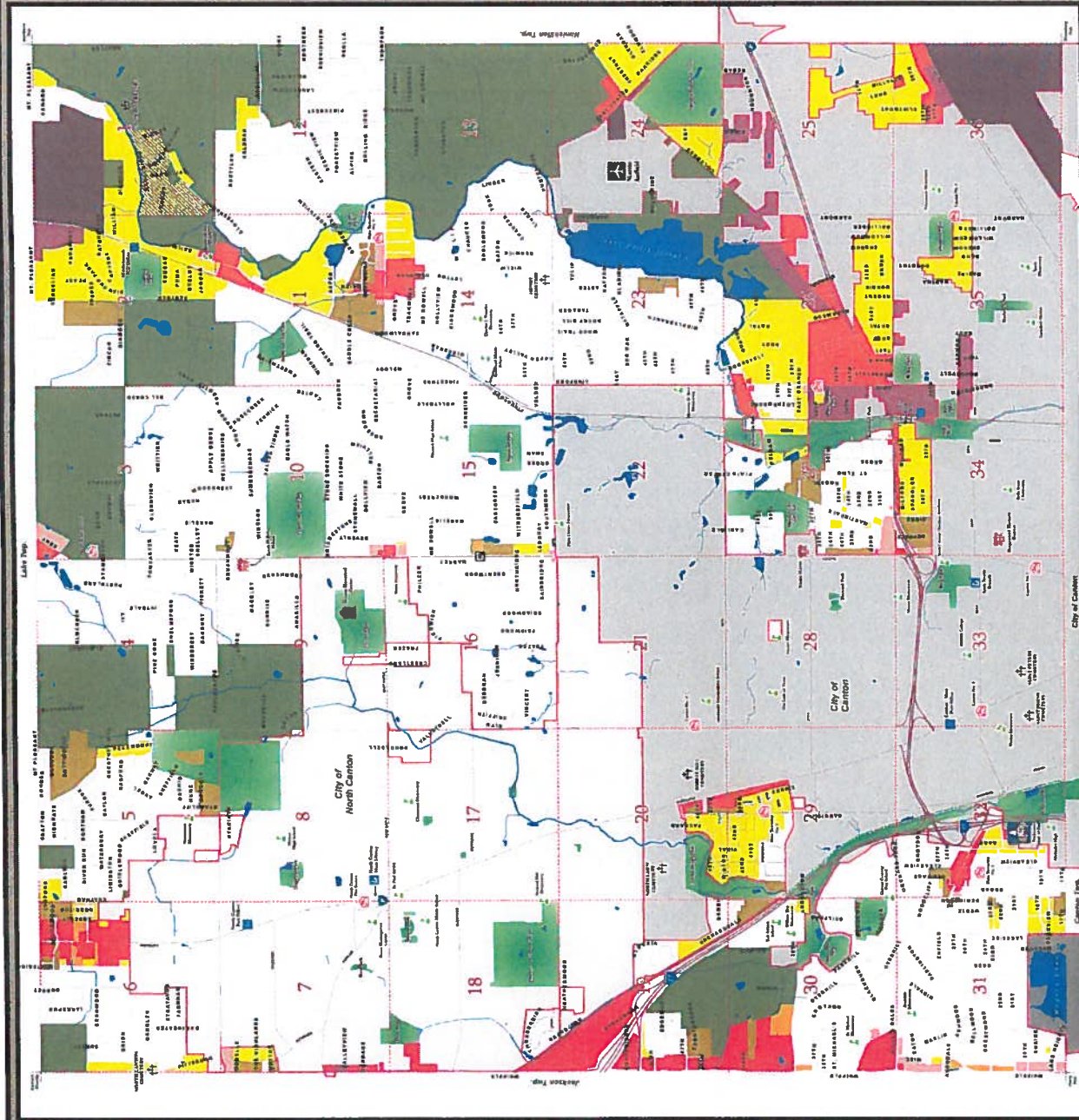
R-R Rural Residential District	B-2 General Business District
R-1 Single Family Residential District	I-1 Light Industrial District
R-1A Single Family Residential District	I-2 General Industrial District
R-2 One and Two Family Residential District	Section Border
R-3 Low Density Multi-Family Residential District	Township Border
R-4 High Density Multi-Family District	North Canton
R-5 Residential Condominium (PUD)	Canton
R-6 Planned Unit Development District (PUD)	Myers Village
S-1 Suburban Office District	Corporation Border
B-1 Neighborhood Business District	Rail Roads



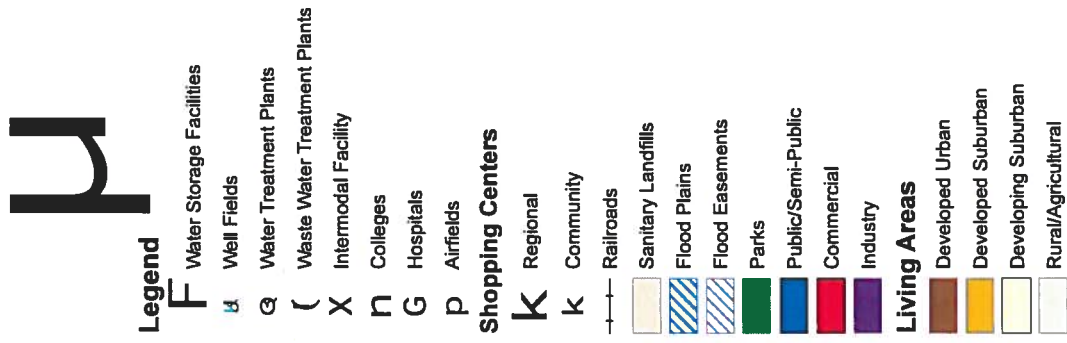
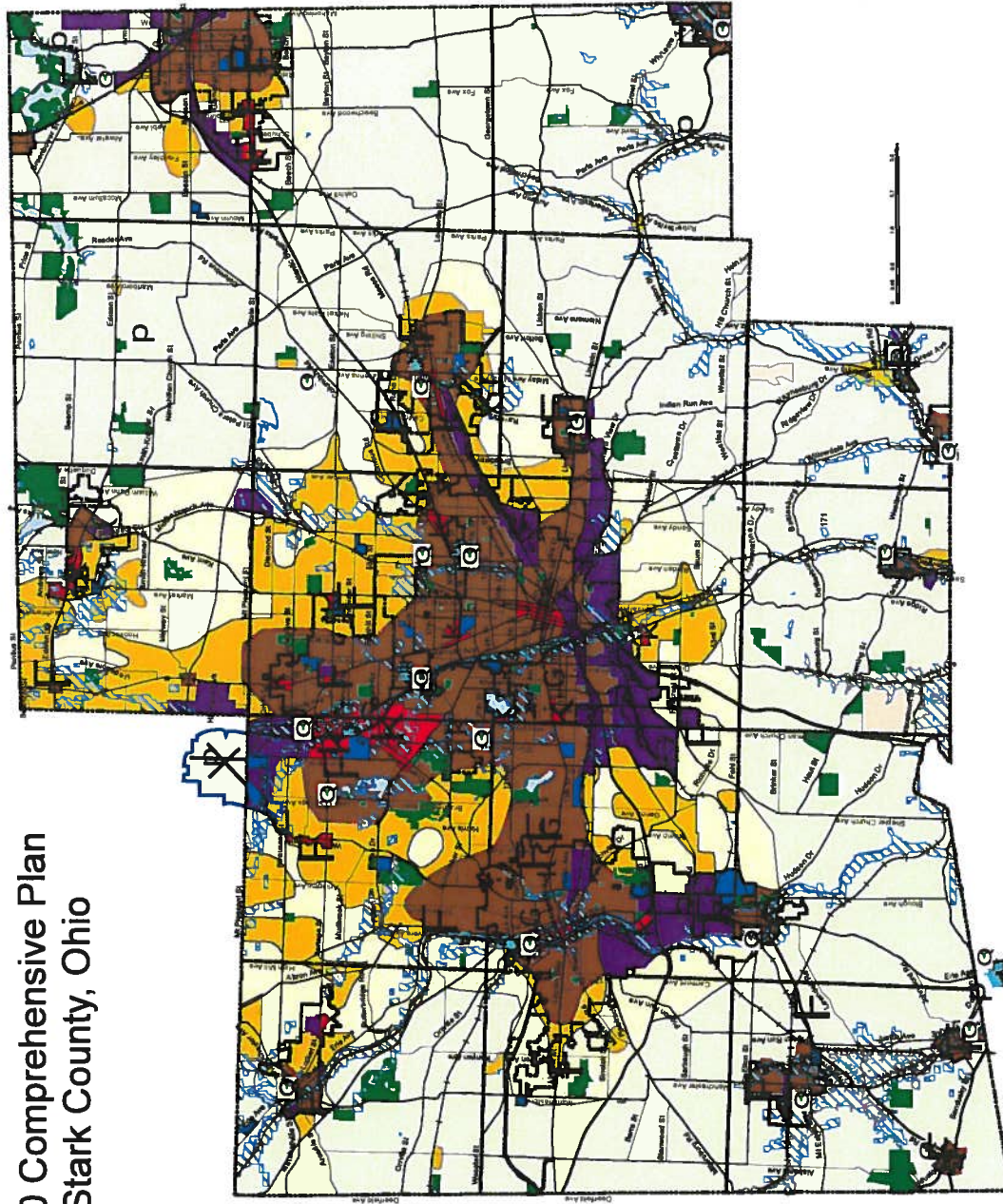
Zoning resolution adopted March 14, 2006
by the Plain Township Trustees
Effective April 14, 2006

Current as of October, 2011
For Specific Lot and Scale.
See Official Zoning Plans

1 inch = 3,280 feet



2030 Comprehensive Plan Stark County, Ohio



WETLAND DELINEATION AND STREAM ASSESSMENT REPORT

CANTON AREA IMPROVEMENTS:

**SOUTH CANTON TO WEST CANTON 138KV LINE REBUILD
BELDEN VILLAGE 138KV EXTENSION
WEST CANTON 138KV TIE LINE**

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

Prepared for:

*American Electric Power
700 Morrison Rd.
Gahanna, OH 43230*

Prepared by:



*Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
2700 W. Argyle St.
Jackson, MI 49202*

Report Date: June 2013

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On February 25 and 26, 2013, Douglas Longpre of Commonwealth Associates Inc. (CAI) along with Timothy Walters, Ph.D. of EnviroScience, Inc., performed a field study on behalf of American Electric Power (AEP) at two sites along the approximately 10 mile long South Canton to West Canton 138kV transmission line located within Stark County, Ohio. AEP requested the study to identify and locate any wetlands and streams that might be present within the 100-foot wide right of way occupied by the line. The first site to be studied included the southern 3.8 miles of line extending from Structure 1, south of Keiffer Avenue, SW in Pike Township to Structure 22, west of Whipple Avenue, SW in Canton Township. At this site AEP will be installing a second conductor circuit to the vacant position of the existing and new structures from Structure 1 to Structure 13, reconductoring the existing circuits from Structure 14 to Structure 22, and replacing structures 8 and 13 through 21. The second site to be studied included the northern 0.8 miles of line extending from Structure 139 at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, north of Hills and Dales Road, NW to the West Canton substation, west of Whipple Avenue, NW in Jackson Township. At this site AEP will be reconductoring both of the existing circuits and installing a new structure on AEP property to route the new Wayview to West Canton 138kV Circuit and the new South Canton to West Canton 138kV Circuit (Express) into West Canton Station. The combined length of the two sites is approximately 4.6 miles (3.8 miles structures 1-22, 0.8 miles structure 139 to the West Canton substation).

In May 2013, an office review was conducted on a third site. The site, located west of I-77 and east of Raymar Avenue, NW in Jackson Township, Stark County, Ohio, included the Belden Village 138kV Extension, near where it joins with the Wagenhals to West Canton 138kV line to form a double circuit. At this site AEP will be replacing structure 1 of the Belden Village 138kV Extension.

This report presents the results of the field study and office review. It will be used to assist AEP's efforts to avoid impacting these areas as much as feasibly possible during site design and development and as part of the Letter of Notification (LON) that will be prepared by CAI and submitted to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB).

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Preliminary Resource Review

Prior to conducting a site visit a preliminary review of available resources was conducted. The review provided valuable site information such as relief, cover, and land use, and allowed preliminary determination to be made regarding potential wetlands and stream that might be present at either of the project sites. The review included the following resources:

- Google Earth, digital aerial photographs
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), topographic quadrangle maps
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), *Web Soil Survey* (WSS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), WETS data
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) *Wetlands Mapper*

2.2 Field Review

A site visit was then conducted to verify any preliminary wetland and stream determination that were made and to make new determinations by identifying vegetation communities, characterizing soils, assessing hydrology, and noting any disturbances. Two methodologies were used during the field review; one for identifying and delineating wetlands and the other for assessing rivers and streams. For both, only the resources that were closest to a support structure were assessed in detail. For resources that were further

away only general information regarding location, size, and shape was collected. The methods used during the field review are described further in the following sections.

2.2.1 Wetland Identification and Delineation

Identifying and delineating wetlands followed those methods outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0)*, the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)*, and the USACE 1987 *Wetland Delineation Manual* (1987 Manual). The Regional Supplements and the 1987 Manual define “wetlands” as areas that have positive evidence of three parameters - hydric soils, wetland hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. During the study, available information regarding the three parameters was collected and the data used to make a determination of wetland presence. Where one or more of the parameters gave way to upland characteristics, and a support structure was nearby, a wetland boundary was established. The boundary was then followed around the wetland, with points where the boundary turned being identified with pink flagging, until the boundary either reconnected with itself or continued outside of the limits of the right of way. Where a support structure was not nearby, the location of a wetland and the approximate path of the wetland boundary were approximated and noted on an aerial photograph. Where a wetland boundary extended a significant distance away from a support structure, but still within the limits of the right of way, the boundary was truncated and then extended as needed during post field study reporting and mapping. No USACE wetland determination data forms or Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) *Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands v. 5.0* (ORAM) forms were completed during the site visit. However, sample plots were established and information regarding vegetation, soils, and hydrology was collected. At points where sample plots were established and boundaries were flagged, GPS survey methods were used to locate the points.

The method used to examine each wetland parameter is described in the following sections.

Soils: Soil profiles were examined by digging soil pits and recording hydric soil characteristics. A *Munsell Soil Color Chart* was used to identify the hue, value, and chroma of the matrix and mottles of the soil. Generally, mottled soils with a matrix chroma of two or less, or unmottled soils with a matrix chroma of one or less are considered to exhibit hydric soil characteristics. In sandy soils, mottled soils with a matrix chroma of three or less, or unmottled soils with a matrix chroma of two or less are considered to be hydric soils.

Hydrology: The 1987 Manual requires that an area be inundated or saturated to the surface for a minimum of five percent of the growing season (areas saturated between five percent and 12.5 percent of the growing season may or may not be wetlands, while areas saturated over 12.5 percent of the growing season fulfill the hydrology requirements for wetlands). The Regional Supplements state that the growing season dates are determined through onsite observations of the following indicators of biological activity in a given year: (1) above-ground growth and development of vascular plants, and/or (2) soil temperature at the 12-in. depth is 41 °F or higher. Therefore, the beginning of the growing season in a given year is indicated by whichever condition occurs earlier, and the end of the growing season by whichever persists later. The Regional Supplements also state that if onsite data gathering is not practical, the growing season can be approximated by the median dates (i.e., 5 years in 10, or 50 percent probability) of 28°F.

The soils and ground surface were examined for evidence of wetland hydrology in lieu of detailed hydrological data. This is an acceptable approach according to the 1987 Manual and the Regional Supplements. Evidence indicating wetland hydrology typically includes primary indicators such as

surface water (A2), saturation (A3), water marks (B1), sediment deposits (B2), drift deposits (B3), water-stained leaves (B9), and oxidized rhizospheres along living roots (C3); and secondary indicators such as, drainage patterns (B10), geomorphic position (D2), saturation visible on aerial imagery (C9), FAC-neutral test (D5).

Vegetation: Dominant vegetation was visually assessed for each stratum (tree, sapling/shrub, herb and woody vine) and an indicator status of obligate (OBL), facultative wet (FACW), facultative (FAC), facultative upland (FACU), and/or upland (UPL) was assigned to each plant species based on the 2012 *Wetland Plant*. The wetland indicator status reflects the likelihood of a species occurring in a wetland versus non-wetland habitat. The various indicator status designations are explained further in Table 1 below. An area is determined to have hydrophytic vegetation when, under normal circumstances, 50 percent or more of the composition of the dominant species are OBL, FACW and/or FAC species. Vegetation of an area was determined to be non-hydrophytic when more than 50 percent of the composition of the dominant species was FACU and/or UPL species. In addition to the dominance test, the FAC-Neutral test and prevalence tests are used to determine if a wetland has a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation.

Table 1: Wetland indicator status designations.

Indicator Status	Symbol ¹	Definition
Obligate	OBL	Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands
Facultative Wet	FACW	Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands
Facultative	FAC	Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
Facultative Upland	FACU	Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
Upland	UPL	Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands

¹ Indicator status modifiers (+ and -) are no longer used

2.2.2 River and Stream Assessment

Rivers and streams were assessed using the methods described in the Ohio EPA's *Methods for Assessing Habitat in Flowing Waters: Using Ohio EPA's Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index and Field Evaluation Manual for Ohio's Primary Headwater Habitat Streams*. Where a No Ohio EPA Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) or Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) forms were completed during the assessments and no scores were produced. However, information regarding the physical and biological factors that are typically collected and noted on the forms was collected. Rivers and streams that were assessed were GPS surveyed.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Preliminary Data

Growing Season: The National Weather Service WETS data for Stark County, obtained from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center, reveals that in an average year, the growing season begins on April 28 and lasts until October 13, or 169 days. At the study sites five percent of the growing season equates to approximately 9 days.

Hydrologic Units: A review of United States Geological Survey (USGS) watershed data indicates the study sites are located within the Beal Run-Sandy Creek (HUC 050400010607), Sherrick Run-Nimishillen Creek (HUC 050400010505), and West Branch Nimishillen Creek (HUC 050400010503) sub-watersheds of the Nimishillen Creek Watershed. Within this watershed, the sites cross an intermittent tributary of Beal

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in

Case No(s). 13-0757-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification -South Canton - West Canton 138 kV Line Improvement Project-Phase II (Canton Area Improvements Project)Part 1 of 2 electronically filed by Erin C Miller on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.