

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by
American Transmissions Systems, Incorporated for a
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
Need for the Sammis-Wylie Ridge 345 kV, East Akron-
Sammis 138 kV and Sammis-Lowellville 138 kV
Transmission Line Extensions to, and Installation of, the
Toronto Substation**

**Case Number:
12-1637-EL-BLN**

Members of the Board:

Todd Snitchler, Chairman, PUCO
David Goodman, Director, ODSA
Dr. Ted Wymyslo, Director, ODH
David Daniels, Director, ODA
Scott Nally, Director, Ohio EPA
Jim Zehringer, Director, ODNR
Jeffery J. Lechak, PE, Public Member

Peter Stautberg, State Representative
Sandra Williams, State Representative
Michael Skindell, State Senator
Bill Seitz, State Senator

To the Honorable Power Siting Board:

Please review the attached Staff Report of Investigation, which has been filed in accordance with the Board's rules.

The applicant's accelerated certificate application in this case is subject to an automatic approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The staff report includes a recommended condition of the certificate. Prior to the automatic approval date, the applicant must file a supplement to its application that adopts this condition. Absent such supplement, Staff will recommend that the case be suspended.

The application will be automatically approved on November 25, 2013, unless suspended by the Board's chairperson, the Executive Director, or an administrative law judge. If suspended, the Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days from the date of suspension.

Any concerns you or your designee may have with this case must be presented to the Executive Director of the Power Siting Board at least four business days prior to November 25, 2013, which is the automatic approval date. To contact the Executive Director with concerns, reply to the email to which this document was attached, or use the ContactOPSB email address listed below.

Sincerely,



Kim Wissman
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
(614) 466-6692
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 12-1637-EL-BLN
Project Name: Toronto Substation Project
Project Location: Toronto, Jefferson County, Ohio
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: 29 August 2013
Filing Type: Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: 13 September 2013
Report Date: 12 November 2013
Automatic Approval Date: 25 November 2013
Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell & D. Rostofer

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with a Condition
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

This project involves the construction of a new 345/138 kV transmission substation, along with associated interconnection lines. The substation would be constructed within the boundaries of the former Toronto Generating plant. Approximately 3,495 feet of new 138 kV and 345 kV transmission line extensions are necessary. The project is needed to maintain reliable electric service as a result of retirement of the Applicant's generating capacity within the state.

Site Description

The project is located in an industrial area just north of the City of Toronto. A railroad line is also adjacent to the project area. Two minor wetlands are located along the right-of-way for the proposed transmission line interconnections. The Applicant intends to aerially span both of these wetlands. Staff is also recommending that no structures be installed within these wetland boundaries.

Facility Need

The proposed Toronto substation and associated line extensions are one of several baseline reliability upgrades ATSI was directed to complete by the PJM Interconnection (PJM) Board of Directors due to generation deactivations. This project is required in order to maintain compliance with ATSI, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and PJM reliability criteria.

The proposed projects will improve and maintain the quality of electric service and reliability on the bulk electric system in the Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown areas (Project Study Area). The proposed project will provide the following benefits:

1. Increase import capability in the Project Study Area
2. Makes the area more reliable under contingency conditions.
3. Reduce reactive power losses on transmission lines moving power into the Project Study Area, and in turn, improve system voltages.
4. Increase dynamic reactive reserves in the Project Study Area to maintain voltage stability.

Long Term Forecast Report

The Ohio Administrative Code requires electric utilities and transmission owners to annually file a forecast report with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The report requires a 10-year plan of committed or tentatively projected projects on the bulk power transmission network. The proposed transmission line project was identified in the 2013 *FirstEnergy's Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio*. The PUCO assigned this document case number 13-0925-EL-FOR.

PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Plan

PJM is the Regional Transmission Organization charged with planning for upgrades to the regional transmission system in Ohio. PJM annually issues the Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) report. The RTEP analyzes reliability criteria, operational performance of the transmission system, and economic and environmental factors. The RTEP provides for the construction of expansions and upgrades of the PJM transmission system, as needed to maintain compliance with reliability criteria and, when appropriate, to enhance the economic and operational efficiency of wholesale electricity markets in the PJM Region. The proposed project was identified as a baseline upgrade in the 2012 PJM RTEP¹ and approved by the PJM Board of Directors on May 17, 2012. The Applicant's project was assigned upgrade ID b1977. Status of the project can be tracked on PJM's website².

Staff Recommended Condition:

- 1) Applicant shall not place any structures inside the boundaries of any existing wetland.

Conclusion

Access along the right of way is readily available for construction. Significant amounts of vegetative clearing are not required. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.

¹ PJM 2012 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan. February 28, 2013. p.328. Retrieved October 30, 2013, from <http://pjm.com/planning.aspx>

² PJM Transmission Construction Status. <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>

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Case No(s). 12-1637-EL-BLN

Summary: Report of investigation electronically filed by Mr. Adam S Bargar on behalf of Staff of OPSB