

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 Fulton-Lemoyne 345 kV, Chrysler-Levis) Case Number:
Park 138 kV and Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV) 13-0224-EL-BLN
Transmission Line Extensions to, and Installation of,
Dowling Substation
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 recommended conditions of the certificate. Prior to the automatic approval date, the applicant must file a supplement to its application that adopts these conditions. Absent such supplement, Staff will recommend that the case be suspended.

The application will be automatically approved on December 26, 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 December 26, 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: 13-224-EL-BLN
Project Name: Fulton-Lemoyne 345 kV, Chrysler-Levis Park 138 kV and Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV Transmission Line Extensions to, and Installation of, Dowling Substation
Project Location: Middleton Township, Wood County, Ohio
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: 26 September 2013
Filing Type: Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: 25 October 2013
Report Date: 18 December 2013
Automatic Approval Date: 26 December 2013
Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell & D. Rostofer

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

This project involves installing approximately: 3.5 miles of 138 kV transmission line, 150 feet of 345 kV transmission line and the Dowling Substation. The project is needed to reinforce ATSI's Bulk Electric System.

Site Description

The project is located primarily on agricultural land. Commercial, interstate highway and limited rural residential uses are nearby. The route follows an unpaved road (Frusher Road) across agricultural fields for a large portion of its length. Frusher Road would provide an ideal access route to install structures. After project installation, Frusher Road would remain available to provide unimpeded access for farming operations. Staff notes that the Applicant is still in the process of attempting to obtain all required easements needed for construction of the facility.

The Applicant would utilize best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to surface waters. Appropriate BMPs would be outlined in the SWPPP and a copy would be provided to Staff. The Applicant anticipates submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the Ohio EPA General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Coverage under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 for wetland and stream impacts is also anticipated.

NEED

Facility Need

The proposed Fulton-Lemoyne 345 kV, Chrysler-Levis Park 138 kV and Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV transmission line extensions to and installation of Dowling Substation project is one of several baseline reliability upgrades ATSI was directed to complete by the PJM Interconnection (PJM) Board of Directors because of local generation retirements. This project is required in order to maintain compliance with FirstEnergy, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, and PJM reliability criteria. The proposed project will add a new high-voltage transformation source and pathways for energy flows within the Project Study Area, improving and maintaining the quality of electric service and reliability to Toledo and Northwest Ohio. The proposed project will provide the following benefits:

1. Makes the area more reliable under contingency conditions, by adding stronger voltage support from the 345 kV system.
2. Decrease flows on existing transmission lines.
3. Reduce reactive power losses on transmission lines moving power into the Project Study Area, and in turn, improve system voltages.
4. Increase short circuit strength in the Project Area Transmission System 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.

Staff Recommended Conditions:

1. The Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state laws and regulations for any activities where such permit or authorization is required. Copies of such permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation shall be provided to Staff. The Applicant shall provide a schedule of construction activities and acquisition of corresponding permits for each activity at the preconstruction conference;

2. The Applicant shall conduct a pre-construction conference(s) prior to the start of any project work (including any vegetation clearing), which the Staff shall attend, to discuss how environmental concerns will be satisfactorily addressed;
3. The Applicant shall utilize BMPs when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the installation of silt fencing (or similarly effective tool) prior to initiating construction near streams and wetlands. The installation shall be done in accordance with generally accepted construction methods and shall be inspected regularly;
4. The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of September 30 through April 1 for removal of suitable Indiana bat habitat trees, if avoidance measures cannot be achieved. If it is not practical for the Applicant to adhere to the seasonal cutting restrictions, then the Applicant shall coordinate with USFWS and ODNR for clearance.
5. At least thirty (30) days before the pre-construction conference, the Applicant shall submit to the Staff, for review and approval, a final project construction access plan. This plan shall include all laydown areas, residential and environmentally sensitive area access points, and any locations where vegetation clearing is required. The plan shall consider the location of private structures, streams and wetlands;
6. That the Applicant shall avoid, where possible, any damage to field drainage systems, and/or water and sewer lines resulting from construction of the facility. Damaged systems and lines shall be repaired to at least original conditions at Applicant's expense. Severely compacted soils shall be plowed, if necessary, to restore them to original condition;
7. That the Applicant shall remove all temporary gravel and other construction laydown area and access road materials shortly after completing construction activities, unless otherwise requested by the property owner and approved by Staff;
8. That the Applicant shall survey the planned location of new facilities for archeological resources that could be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. If such resources are present, the Applicant shall either avoid the resource or develop a mitigation plan in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. Such a plan shall be submitted to the Staff for review and acceptance.

Conclusion

Access along the right of way is readily available for construction. During its investigation, Staff has reviewed the Applicant's preliminary access plan. Significant amounts of vegetative clearing are not required. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 13-0224-EL-BLN

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