

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by
Carroll County Energy for a Certificate of
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
Carroll County Energy Natural Gas Pipeline
Interconnection**

) **Case Number**
) **13-2425-GA-BNR**
)

Members of the Board:

Todd Snitchler, Chairman, PUCO
David Goodman, Director, ODSA
Dr. Ted Wymyslo, Director, ODH
David Daniels, Director, ODA
Craig Butler, Interim 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 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 application will be automatically approved on **February 11, 2014**, 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.

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.

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 **February 11, 2014**, 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: 13-2425-GA-BNR
Project Name: Carroll County Energy Natural Gas Pipeline Interconnection
Project Location: Carroll County, OH
Applicant: Carroll County Energy LLC
Application Filing Date: December 30, 2013
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: December 11, 2013
Report Date: February 3, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: February 11, 2014
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: E. Steele / D. Rostofer

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Carroll County Energy (CCE) is proposing to construct a combined-cycle natural gas turbine electric generating facility (the Facility) with a nominal net output of 742 megawatts in Washington Township, Carroll County, Ohio.

The proposed CCE Natural Gas Interconnection will extend from the Facility to a point of interconnection at the existing Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) high-pressure gas pipeline corridor, located approximately 0.7 mile to the north of the Facility. The existing TGP corridor has three gas pipelines: two 26-inch pipelines and a 36-inch pipeline. The CCE Natural Gas Interconnection will consist of approximately 3,500 feet of 10-inch diameter pipeline and ancillary facilities. The ancillary facilities will include a metering station that will house electronic gas measurement equipment, gas quality measurement equipment, communications and required corrosion control equipment. Approximately 75 feet to the northwest of the metering station, a tap will be made to interconnect into TGP Line 200-1 and TGP Line 200-4 (the TGP point of interconnection).

Site Description

The proposed CCE Natural Gas Interconnection will extend from the proposed Facility to a point of interconnection at the existing Tennessee Gas Pipeline high-pressure gas pipeline corridor, located approximately 0.7 mile to the north of the Facility. It will be constructed on two landowner's properties. The southern portion of the CCE Natural Gas interconnection will cross land owned by the Carroll County Community Improvement Corporation. The southern portion

of the CCD Natural Gas Interconnection will traverse land owned by a private landowner. Most of the route is located in farm fields. Approximately 200 feet of the proposed route passes through a wetland and approximately 400 feet of trees will have to be cleared. CCE will minimize temporary wetland impacts with the use of swamp mats during construction.

Need

The Facility requires an interconnection to a robust natural gas supply in order to generate electricity and supply energy and capacity to the PJM grid.¹ The CCE Natural Gas Interconnection will connect the Facility to the TGP high-pressure system.

Nature of Impacts

Surface Waters

No streams would be impacted by the proposed project. One wetland would be temporarily impacted to install the pipeline. The Applicant has applied to the US Army Corps of Engineers for a Nationwide Permit #12 to allow for the temporary impacts within this wetland. The Applicant will restore the wetland to pre-existing conditions after construction is complete. The Applicant has also submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the Ohio EPA General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and will utilize best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation from exiting the project area.

Threatened and Endangered Species

This project is within the known range of the state and federal endangered Indiana bat. Tree clearing will occur as a result of this project and in conjunction with the Carroll County Energy LLC electric generation facility (Case No. 13-1752-EL-BGN). Staff will require the Applicant to adhere to season cutting dates of October 1 to March 31 for clearing of suitable Indiana bat habitat.

Vegetation and Ecologically-Sensitive Areas

No vegetative communities would be significantly impacted by this project. There are no federal or state wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, or critical habitat within the vicinity of this project.

Conclusion

The project would provide a natural gas supply to the proposed CCE combined-cycle natural gas electric generating facility. This project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on **February 11, 2014**, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

- (1) The Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state entities 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

¹ PJM is the regional independent transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states (including Ohio) and the District of Columbia. Its name results from its origin serving Pennsylvania (P), New Jersey (J) and Maryland (M).

construction activities and acquisition of corresponding permits for each activity at the preconstruction conference;

- (2) 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;
- (3) At least thirty (30) days before the pre-construction conference, the Applicant shall submit to the Staff, for review and approval, a project construction access plan. This plan shall include all laydown areas, residential and environmentally sensitive area access points (walk in locations only), and any locations where vegetation clearing is required. The plan shall consider the location of residential fencing, private structures, streams, wetlands, and wooded areas;
- (4) That, the Applicant shall remove or trim suitable Indiana bat habitat trees between October 1 and March 31. If the Applicant must cut suitable habitat during the summer months of April 1 and September 30, then the Applicant must conduct appropriate surveys (mist net) during May or June to establish whether the Indiana bat is present within the survey area and provide the results to OPSB staff and ODNR in coordination with the USFWS for review and approval prior to cutting

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Case No(s). 13-2425-GA-BNR

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