

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated &)
Ohio Edison Company for a Certificate of) Case Number
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the) 14-0108-EL-BNR
Cloverdale – Harmon #2 69 kV Transmission Line)
Project in Stark County, Ohio.)**

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

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 application will be automatically approved on February 28, 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.

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 representative 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 28, 2014, which is the automatic approval date. To contact the Executive Director with concerns, you can 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: 14-0108-EL-BNR
Project Name: Cloverdale – Harmon #2 69 kV Transmission Line Project
Project Location: Stark County, Ohio
Applicants: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Ohio Edison Company
Application Filing Date: February 6, 2014
Filing Type: **(Expedited)** Construction Notice
Inspection Date: July 15, 2103 (project area previously investigated as part of 12-1138-EL-BLN)
Report Date: February 20, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: February 28, 2014
Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: C. Burri

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to upgrade a portion of the Cloverdale – Harmon #2 69 kV Transmission Line to 138 kV operational design. However, the Applicant would continue to operate this line at 69 kV. This line would be installed within an existing transmission line corridor between the Cloverdale Substation and the Harmon Substation (currently under construction). Construction is expected to commence in May 2014, and be completed and placed in service by June 2015.

Site Description

This 69 kV line would be installed onto the same structures that are currently being rebuilt to support the Burger – Cloverdale #1 138 kV Transmission Line. For this construction notice, the Applicant is requesting approval for approximately 3.4 miles of upgraded line.

The Burger – Cloverdale #1 138 kV Transmission Line structures were previously approved by the Board as part of the South Canton – Star 345 kV and Burger – Cloverdale #1, #2, and #3 138 kV Transmission Line extensions to and installation of the Harmon Substation Project (Case No. 12-1138-EL-BLN).

The project traverses through residential areas and agricultural parcels along existing right-of-way in Stark County. No additional right-of-way easements would be required for this project.

Nature of Impacts

The Applicant has proposed to construct the project within existing right-of-way. Therefore, potential impacts are expected to be largely confined to the disturbed areas that include temporary access to structures. Staff has previously reviewed the Applicant's access plan for this project corridor.

The Applicant would utilize best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to surface waters. The proposed BMPs would be outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a copy would be provided to the Board's Staff. The plan would consider the location of streams, wetlands, wooded areas, and park lands, and explain how impacts to all sensitive resources would be avoided or minimized during construction, operation, and maintenance.

The Applicant has obtained coverage for construction activities for this project under the Ohio EPA General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for 12-1138-EL-BLN.

No significant visual effects are anticipated, as the project would be installed within an existing transmission line corridor.

Conclusion

The Applicant's utilization of an existing 138 kV line for the entire length of the project significantly minimizes potential adverse impacts. With the following conditions, the construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.

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;
- (2) That the Applicant shall avoid, where possible, any damage to field drainage systems resulting from construction of the facility in agricultural areas. Damaged systems 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;

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 14-0108-EL-BNR

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