

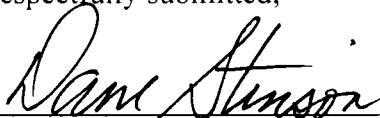
BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application of American)	
Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)	
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and)	Case No. 12-1636-EL-BTX
Public Need to Construct the Hayes-West)	
Fremont 138-kilovolt Transmission Line.)	

PETITION TO INTERVENE
OF
STOKES FARMS, INC.

Now comes Stokes Farms, Inc., by and through counsel, and respectfully petitions the Ohio Power Siting Board for leave to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 4906.08 and Ohio Admin. Code Rule 4906-7-04. Stokes Farms' interest in this proceeding and the reasons supporting this Petition to Intervene are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,



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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Stokes Farms, Inc., is situated in York Township, Sandusky County, Ohio, in which American Transmission Systems, Inc. (“ATSI”) proposes to site a 138-kilovolt transmission line. Stokes Farms, through its President, Rick Stokes, has participated in various public information meetings related to choosing a preferred site for this project, and has voiced concern about the project’s impact on agricultural lands, and particularly the adverse impact of siting the transmission line through farm fields.

Stokes Farms is pleased that a predominant reason for ATSI’s choosing Route 87 as the Preferred Route is because that route minimizes adverse impacts to agricultural land. See Application, Appendix 3.1 “Site Selection Study,” Section 4.6, page 32. Stokes Farms supports the Preferred Route. However, Stokes Farms remains concerned inasmuch as Route 16 was selected as the Alternate Route, which bisects Stokes Farms’ fields in segment H to I of the Alternate Route. *Id.*; see, also, Application, Appendix 3.1 “Site Selection Study,” Figure 4-3, page 24. Stokes Farms notes that the Alternate Route ranks only as the 32nd most favorable route, and was selected only because it was the most favorable route that did not have 20% in common with the Preferred Route.

Stokes Farms seeks to intervene in this proceeding to support the site selection process’s overriding goal of minimizing the adverse effects of this transmission line project on agricultural lands – and specifically to avoid the harm to Stokes Farms that would be caused by bisecting its fields with the transmission line. Pursuant to Rule 4906-7-04, Ohio Admin. Code, the Ohio Power Siting Board (“Board”) shall grant petitions to intervene upon a showing of good cause. Under the rules, the Board may consider the following criteria in making its determination:

- (1) The nature and extent of the person's interest;
- (2) The extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties;
- (3) The person's potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- (4) Whether granting the requested intervention would unduly delay the proceeding or prejudice an existing party.

Stokes Farms has a real and substantial interest in this proceeding because if the Board adopts the Alternate Route, it will bisect Stokes Farms' fields, causing them damage. Because Stokes Farms has been actively engaged in the site selection process, it is familiar with the background of this proceeding and the issues that may arise. As such, Stokes Farms will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of this case. Stokes Farms will not unduly prolong or delay these proceedings because it is filing this petition to intervene prior to the deadline for intervention. Moreover, no other party can represent Stokes Farms' pecuniary interests in its property.

For the foregoing reasons, Stokes Farms requests that the Board grant its petition to intervene in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing *Petition to Intervene of Stokes Farms* was served upon the following parties of record this 12th day of March 2014, via Regular U.S. Mail.



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Summary: Petition to Intervene electronically filed by Dane Stinson on behalf of Stokes Farms, Inc.