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Commissioners of Ross County

THE GREAT SEAL COUNTY OF OHIO * THE STATE'S FIRST CAPITAL

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March 7, 2014

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Ohio Power Siting Board
Attn: Chairman Todd Snitchler
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

The Ross County Board of Commissioners have received numerous complaints regarding both the red and blue options of the proposed construction for a 139kv electric transmission line by American Electric Power (AEP) from the new Bier's Run power station currently under construction to the SR 104 station.

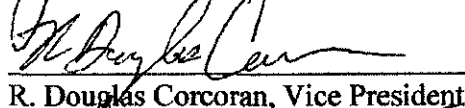
We believe neither option is satisfactory. From our perspective it seems like taking the line through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife area is the best option and must be explored more thoroughly. Most citizens we've talked with agree that this makes the most sense. We concur. There already is another power line that goes through this wildlife area.

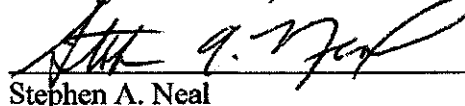
We respectfully make a formal request that the Ohio Power Siting Board consider this as another option before making any final decision regarding this matter. Additionally, we have some serious concerns with the location of the proposed "red line" in relation to the Ross County Shoemaker Airport. We believe that the 95' high poles would infringe upon the height restrictions for approaches under Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Regulations. Your response to our request/concerns at your earliest convenience would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio


James M. Caldwell, President


R. Douglas Corcoran, Vice President


Stephen A. Neal

Public Participation in the OPSB Process

Residents and public officials living in and around the proposed project area of an Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) case are often interested in receiving information about the case and participating in the power siting process. There are a variety of ways to stay informed and make your voice heard. Please contact us with your questions and concerns. The Board and its staff are interested in hearing from you.

What is the Ohio Power Siting Board?

The OPSB reviews applications for the construction of major utility facilities, including electric power plants and transmission lines, gas transmission lines, and wind farms. Comprised of seven voting members, the Board is chaired by the Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The other voting members include the directors of the Ohio Development Services Agency, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, as well as a public member appointed by the governor. Four non-voting members, two from the Ohio Senate and two from the Ohio House of Representatives, also sit on the Board.

What is in a power siting application?

In the application, the developer must describe the proposed facility and its impact on the surrounding area. The application for a transmission line or substation must contain information on both a preferred and an alternate site/route. The "preferred" designation does not indicate any favor or prior approval of the Board.



How can I see a copy of the application?

After the application is determined to be complete by the Board, legal notices are published in newspapers in areas impacted by the proposed facility. The legal notice includes a listing of area libraries where a copy of the application may be viewed. The application can also be viewed online at www.OPSB.ohio.gov.

Who is involved in the siting process?

Parties to the case include the applicant, the Board's technical staff, and other persons or entities that have requested and been granted intervenor status.

The *applicant* has the burden to prove that the application meets the statutory requirements and should be approved.

The Board staff

investigates the application and files a report of investigation in the case. The staff report serves only as a recommendation, and the Board members have final decision-making authority.

*Intervenor*s are persons or entities who wish to participate in the evidentiary hearing by presenting pre-filed testimony and/or evidence and cross examining other parties' witnesses. To become an intervenor, one must file a request in the case by the deadline set in the case.

How can I participate?

Public Informational Meeting

Before filing an application to build a new facility, the developer is required to hold a public informational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for company representatives to inform stakeholders about plans to file an application with the OPSB. The meeting also serves as an opportunity to gather input and hear the public's concerns, which the company considers in developing its application. OPSB representatives are on-hand to discuss the siting process and public participation.

Local Public Hearing

Once the company submits its application, the OPSB staff scrutinizes the plan, makes a formal request for comments from other agencies and parties, and then makes a recommendation to the Board members. After the OPSB staff makes its recommendation, a formal public hearing is held. At this hearing hosted by the OPSB, members of the public provide sworn testimony that becomes part of the case record considered by the Board.

Submit Written Comments

Interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments to the OPSB. In order to be filed in the case record, submissions must include the case number.

What is the difference between a local public hearing and an evidentiary hearing?

The purpose of the local public hearing is to gather sworn statements concerning the application from members of the affected public who are not actual parties to the case. This

hearing provides the Board with information about the reaction of the local community to the proposed application and becomes part of the official record that the Board considers before making its decision.

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to allow parties to the case to provide sworn pre-filed testimony and cross examine witnesses. This hearing forms the evidentiary record that the Board will consider in arriving at its formal decision on the case.

Because the two hearings serve separate functions, no person (including any person who has been granted intervention) is allowed to testify at both the local public hearing and the evidentiary hearing. A person may only testify at the local hearing on behalf of an intervener, if the intervener agrees, on the record, to withdraw as an intervener.

Where can I learn more?

Visit www.OPSB.ohio.gov

View case documents
Subscribe to updates & news releases
View the events calendar

contactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

866-270-6772

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180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

What happens once the hearings are complete?

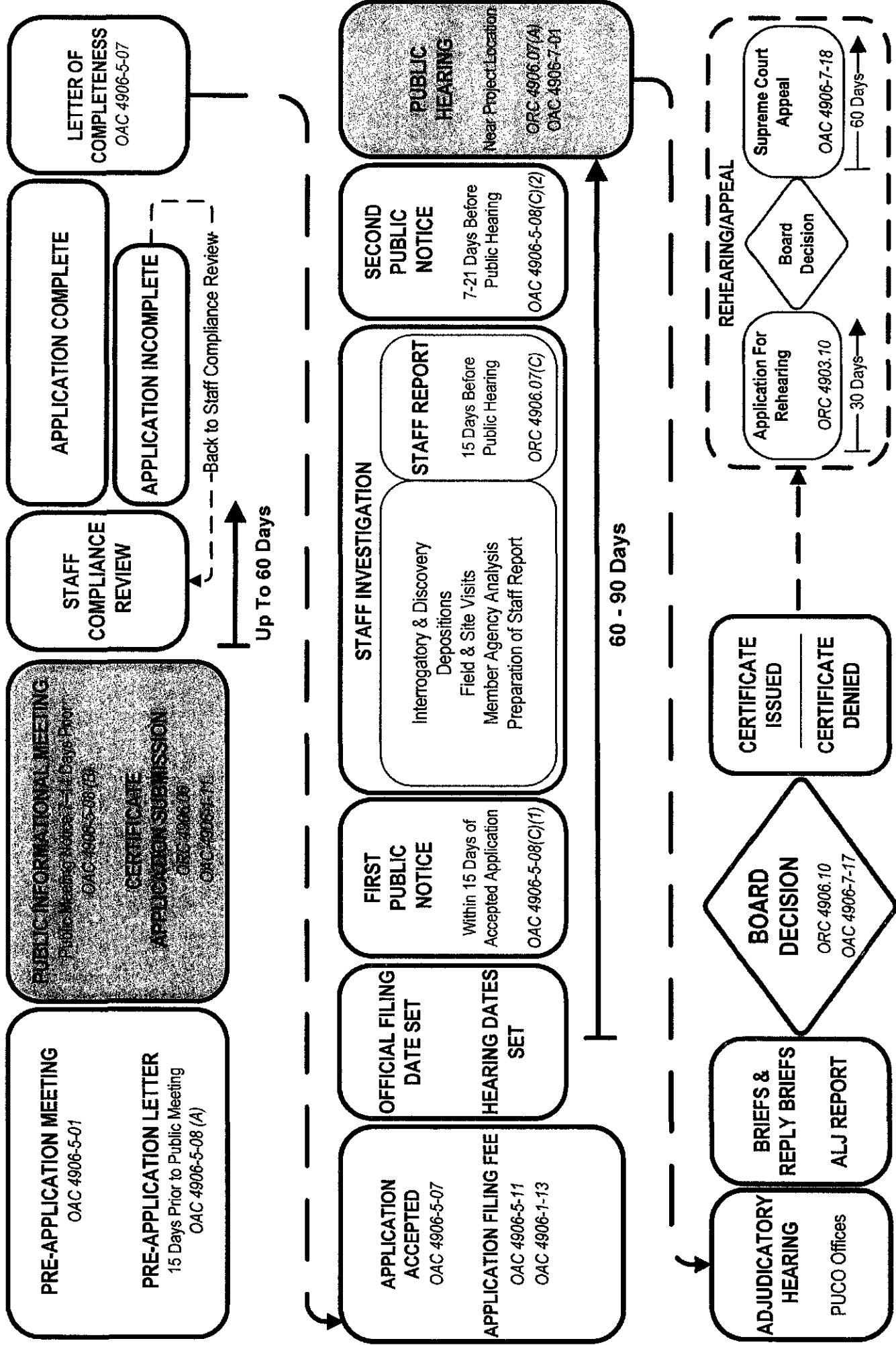
Once the hearings are complete, the parties may be allowed to file briefs. Once that process is completed, the Board's administrative law judge will draft a proposed decision for consideration by the Board. This process can take up to 90 days after completion of the record depending on the case.

Once the draft proposal is ready, the administrative law judge will provide it to

the Board for consideration at one of its scheduled agenda meetings. Once the Board issues its decision, parties have 30 days to seek an appeal of the decision with the Board. If an appeal is filed, the Board then has 30 days from the date the appeal is filed to rule on the request for appeal.



OHIO POWER SITING PROCESS FLOWCHART



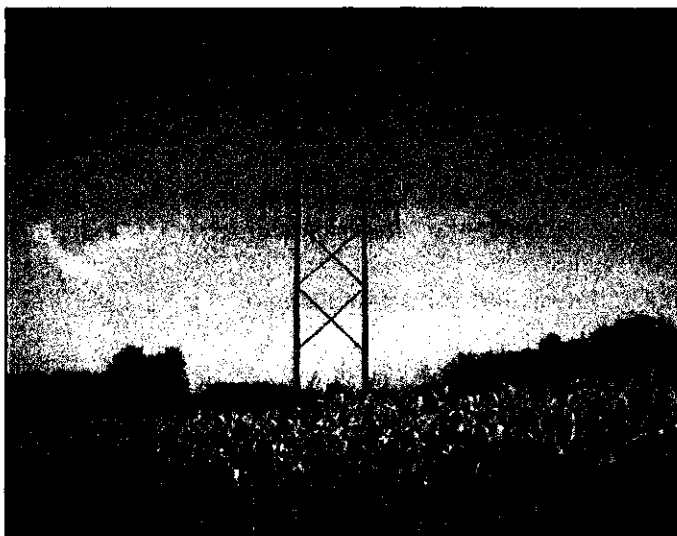
Construction and Operation are Monitored by the Board
Conditions of Certificate Apply for the Life of the Facility

Electric Transmission FAQ

Electric transmission lines carry electricity from power generation facilities to areas where electricity is needed. The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) reviews and certifies the siting of electric transmission lines of 125 kilovolts (kV) or more within Ohio. The OPSB also reviews the siting of transmission substations.

What is behind the recent increase in electric transmission upgrades?

The retirement of coal-burning power plants as a result of federal environmental requirements has affected the supply of electricity in Ohio and across the region. In order to meet these changes and maintain and improve system reliability, Ohio's utilities are installing new transmission infrastructure to reroute power across the electric grid. Many of these upgrades are required by PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that is charged with monitoring the reliability of the electric transmission grid in Ohio. Additionally, as transmission system ages, regular repairs and upgrades are needed.



Where are electric transmission lines constructed?

Electric transmission lines are constructed within a right-of-way owned by a utility company or acquired under an easement with the property owner. Utilities may acquire new right-of-way, rebuilding existing structures with a current right-of-way, utilizing "open-arm" positions on an existing structure, or a combinations of these scenarios to site a new transmission line.

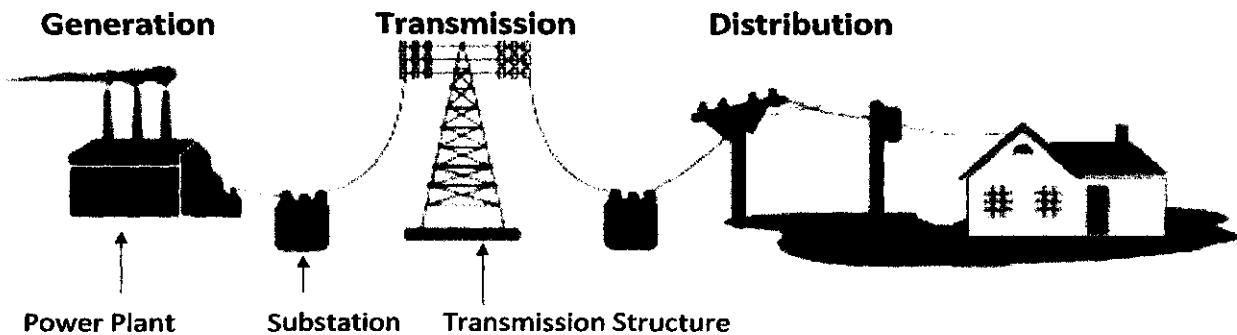
How do utilities present their transmission line applications to the OPSB?

Utilities must provide a 'preferred' and an 'alternate' route to the OPSB. These dual proposals are based on extensive route studies, and both routes must be viable for construction. Utilities may also seek the OPSB's approval to submit projects with a 'common route,' where all or parts of the proposed preferred and alternate routes run in the same location. Use of a common route is often granted when the routes use existing right-of-way or when environmental constraints limit the number of viable route locations.

Depending upon the scope and purpose of the project, applicants are required to submit a standard certificate application, letter of notification application, or construction notice application to the OPSB. These three methods of seeking Board approval dictate the length of the review and approval process.

What are substations?

Electric transmission lines connect to substations – facilities comprised of transformers, circuit breakers, and other electricity control equipment. Substations perform multiple purposes: stepping electricity levels up or down, transferring power from the transmission system to a distribution system, collecting power from generation facilities, or functioning as a switching station for rerouting electricity on the grid. A substation is considered a ‘transmission’ facility under OPSB jurisdiction if the voltage into and out of the station is equal to or exceeds 125 kV.



What criteria are considered when siting an electric transmission line or substation?

The OPSB considers the following when siting an electric transmission project:

- The probable environmental impact of the proposed facility
- Whether the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering available technology and the nature and economics of alternatives
- The need for any transmission facility
- That the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid serving Ohio and interconnected systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability
- That the facility will comply with all air and water pollution and solid waste disposal laws and regulations
- That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity
- The facility's impact on the continued agricultural viability of any land in an existing agricultural district
- That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices considering available technology

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