

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need for the Hillsboro Station Project.**

) **Case Number**
) **14-0241-EL-BNR**
)

Members of the Board:

Chairman, Public Utilities Commission	Ohio House of Representatives
Director, Development Services Agency	Ohio Senate
Director, Department of Health	
Director, Department of Agriculture	
Director, Environmental Protection Agency	
Director, Department of Natural Resources	
Public Member	

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 **March 25, 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.

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 **March 25, 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: 14-0241-EL-BNR
Project Name: Hillsboro Station Project
Project Location: Highland County
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: February 10, 2014
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: March 5, 2014
Report Date: March 17, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: March 25, 2014
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: G. Zeto, M. Fancher

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 expand the Hillsboro substation by 0.069 acres, or approximately 8 percent. No additional land or land rights are required for the expansion, as the new fenceline will remain on the existing substation property owned by the Applicant. The expansion would accommodate a new 16-foot-wide by 27-foot-long drop-in control module as part of the station upgrades. The existing control house would be removed. Additional work at the substation would include adding a new 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line circuit, relocating two existing 138 kV transmission line circuits, upgrading the current carrying capacity of the existing Main Bus #1, adding a second Main Bus #2, adding two new 138 kV gas circuit breakers, installing new 138 kV disconnect switches, and substation service. This work will take place within the existing footprint of the switchyard and the substation expansion area. The cost of the overall project is estimated at \$2,010,200. Construction is expected to begin in May 2014.

Site Description

The project area is located in New Market Township, Highland County. The site is owned by AEP, and there is access to the site from Mad River Road. The expansion area is presently mowed grass and brush. The nearest residence is approximately 700 feet to the northwest of the substation.

Need

The purpose of the project is to expand capacity to meet demand.

Conclusion

No tree clearing is required for this project. No issues were identified, and there are no wetland or stream impacts. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on March 25, 2014.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

3/17/2014 4:23:03 PM

in

Case No(s). 14-0241-EL-BNR

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