

○ Structures

Hocking - West Lancaster Alignment

Roads

Railroads

Township Boundary

County Boundary

N  
W E  
S

1" = 7,500'

0 2,500 5,000 7,500

Feet

Figure 1  
Map - Topographic

The State of Ohio  
Hocking and Fairfield Counties  
Berne, Falls, Good Hope,  
Hocking and Marion Townships

NAD83  
Ohio State Plane South

Date: 1/22/2014  
Author: JPT  
MXD: 127705\_HockingWestLancaster\_31221.mxd

Hocking West Lancaster  
31221  
Project Overview

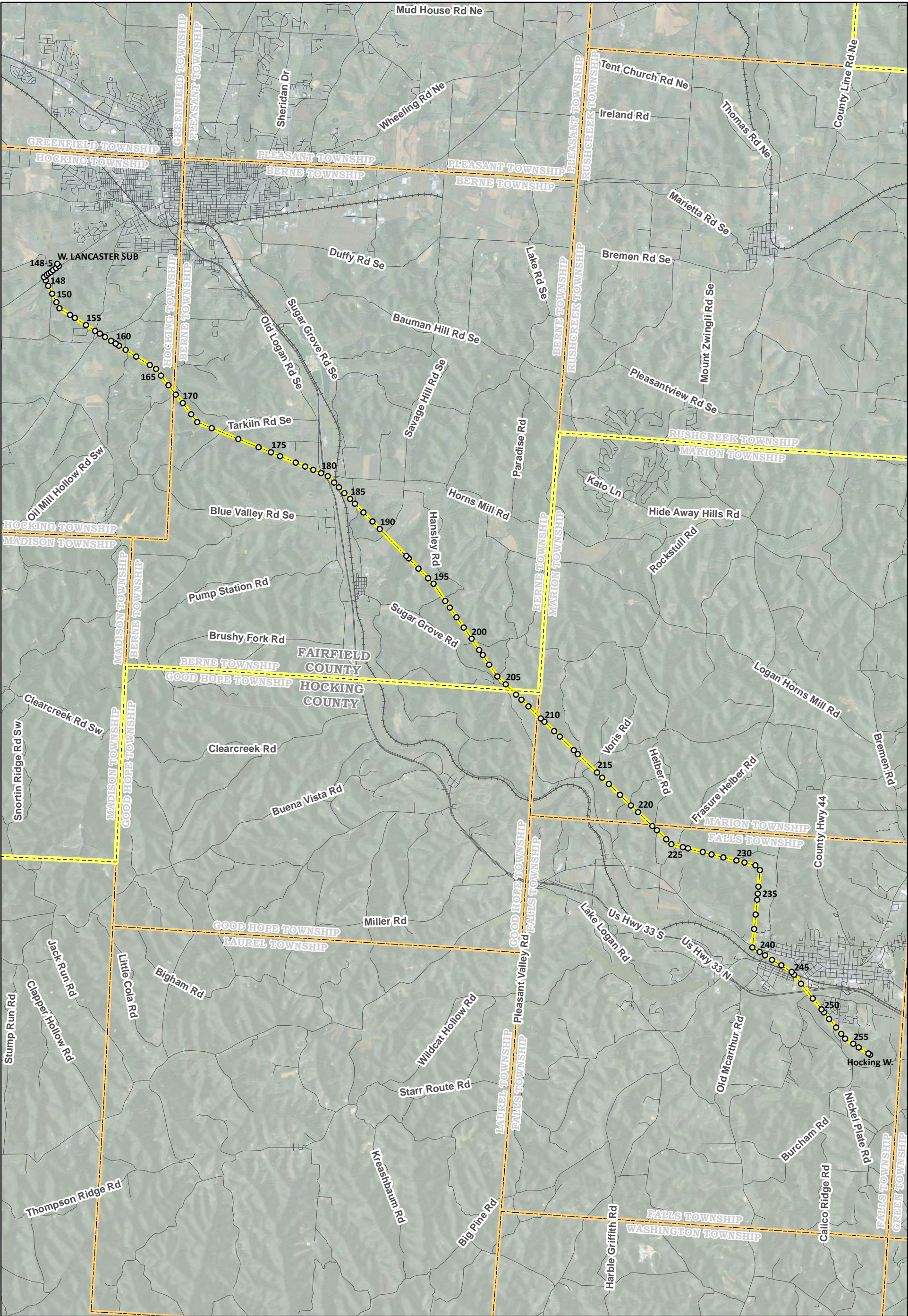
AEP AMERICAN  
ELECTRIC  
POWER

POWER  
ENGINEERS



**FIGURE 2      PROJECT OVERVIEW: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY MAP**





- Structures
- Hocking - West Lancaster Alignment
- Roads
- Railroads
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary

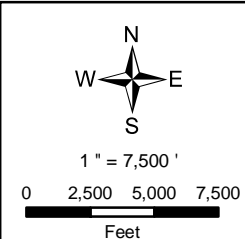


Figure 2  
Map - Aerial Photography

The State of Ohio  
Hocking and Fairfield Counties  
Berne, Falls, Good Hope,  
Hocking and Marion Townships

NAD83  
Ohio State Plane South

Date: 1/22/2014  
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Hocking West Lancaster  
31221  
Project Overview

**AMERICAN  
ELECTRIC  
POWER**

**POWER  
ENGINEERS**

AEP, America's Energy Partner

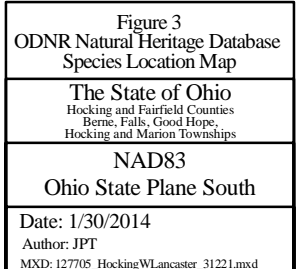
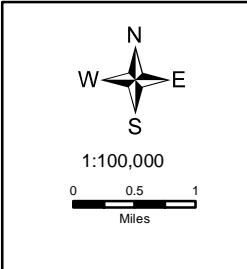
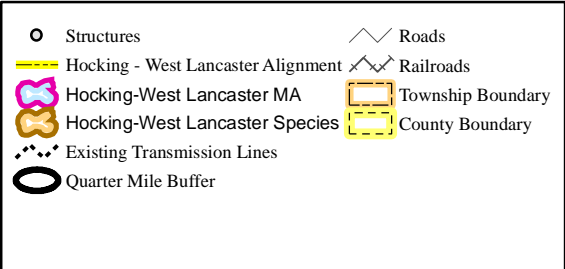
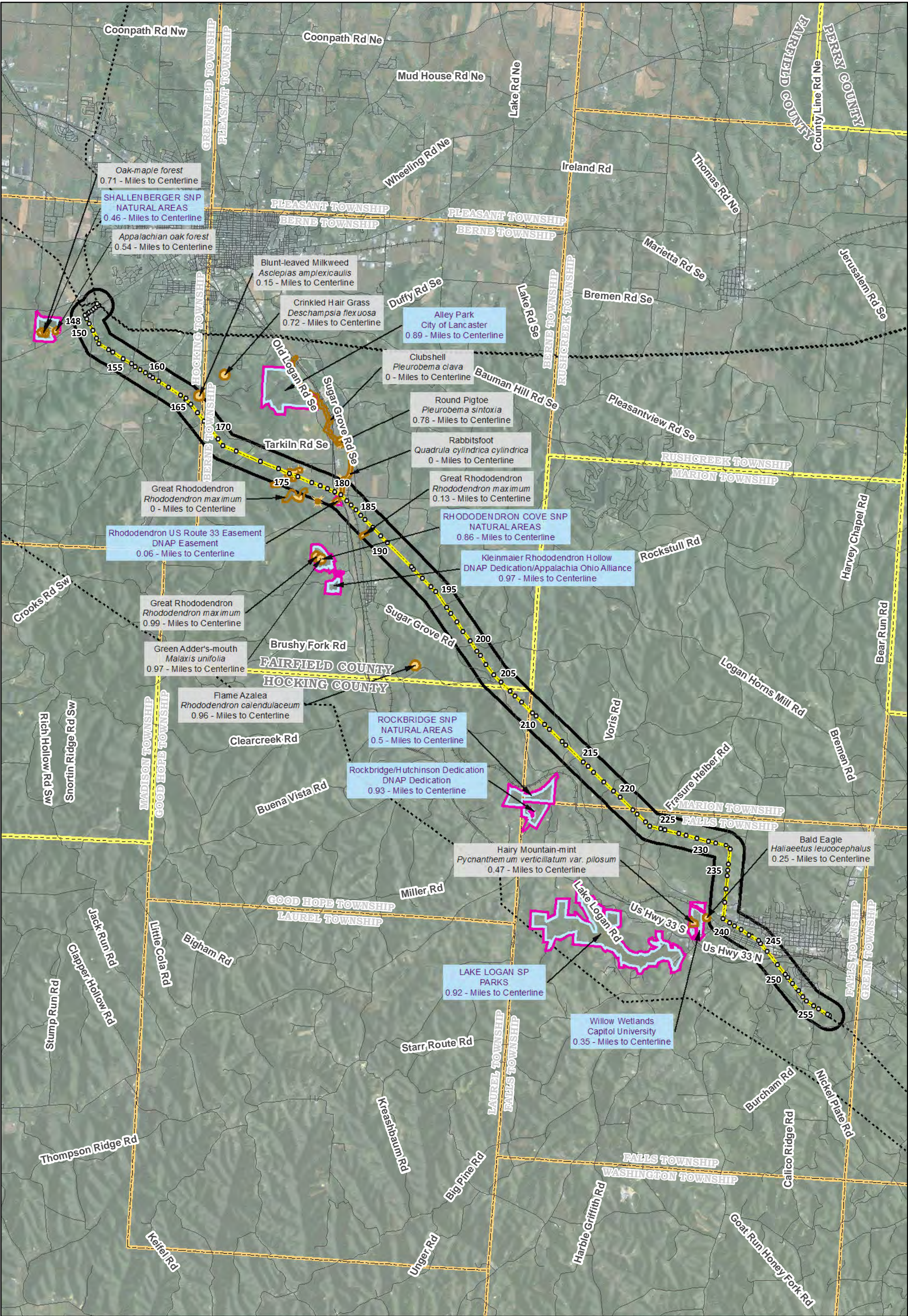


**FIGURE 3      ODNR NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE SPECIES LOCATION MAP**











## **APPENDIX A    AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

**Ohio Division of Wildlife**  
*Scott Zody, Chief*  
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G  
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

December 17, 2013

Alison Pruett  
Power Engineers  
9097 Spoonbill Ridge Pl.  
Las Vegas, NV 89143

Dear Ms. Pruett

I have reviewed the Natural Heritage Database for the Hocking-West Lancaster Project including a one mile buffer based on the provided shape file. We have records for rare species and managed areas in your project area. I am attaching a shape file for the rare and endangered plants and animals, geologic features, high quality plant communities and animal assemblages. Fields included are scientific and common names, state and federal statuses and date of the most recent observation. State and federal statuses are defined as: E = endangered, T = threatened, P = potentially threatened, SC = species of concern, SI = special interest, FE = federal endangered, FT = federal threatened, FPE = federal potentially endangered, FC = federal candidate and FSC = federal species of concern, F = federal listing only. This data may not be published or distributed beyond the scope of the project description on the data request form without prior written permission of the Natural Heritage Program. I have also attached a shape file for managed areas that include state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks and forests, national wildlife refuges, county metro parks, as well as sites owned by non-profit groups. Please be aware that the managed areas layer may not be complete. We are continually updating this layer as additional information becomes available to us.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although we inventory all types of plant communities, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6452 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Schneider".

Greg Schneider, Administrator  
Ohio Natural Heritage Program





January 20, 2014

ENERGY

FACILITIES

COMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Real Estate  
Attn: John Kessler  
2045 Morse Rd, Building E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Subject: Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild, Hocking and  
Fairfield Counties, Ohio

Mr. Kessler,

American Electric Power (AEP) is proposing to rebuild the Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV transmission line. To date, we have requested data from the Ohio Natural Heritage Program and conducted field reviews to assess the potential for habitat suitability within the project area. We are writing to request your concurrence with our findings and request a response for inclusion in our Letter of Notification filings.

The project is located in Hocking and Fairfield counties, Ohio within an existing, cleared corridor. The line runs from the Hocking Substation on Keller Road south of the town of Logan for 19.3 miles northwest to the West Lancaster Substation on Cincinnati-Zanesville Road southwest of Lancaster (see attached map). Plans are to remove 118 existing structures and install 115 new self-supporting galvanized steel structures. An existing laydown yard that is currently being utilized for other projects will be used for this project. It is anticipated that construction for the access roads would be initiated in June 2014 followed by rebuild of the transmission line in September 2014.

On December 17, AEP received the results of a request to the Ohio Natural Heritage Program. It was reported that a bald eagle nest had been recorded within 1 mile of our project area. It is located approximately 0.3 mile from the project right-of-way. It is not anticipated that the nest would be directly impacted by construction activities.

The Ohio Natural Heritage Program reported the federally and state endangered clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) and federally threatened and state threatened rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*) have been recorded within 1 mile of our project area. A search of the Ohio Natural Heritage Program website found that these and other listed bivalve and fish species are known to occur within Hocking and Fairfield counties. These are both aquatic species and there are no plans to directly disturb waterways or other habitat of these species. Additionally, all spoils will be contained to avoid contamination of waterways. Compliance with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will further minimize potential for impacts to waterways. As a result, it is anticipated there will be no impacts to these species.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
January 20, 2014  
Page 2

The Ohio Natural Heritage Program also reported the state endangered flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) and state threatened giant rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and hairy mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum verticillatum* var. *pilosum*). POWER Engineers biologists conducted a field review and found habitat suitable for rhododendron, but did not record any rhododendron. Potentially suitable habitat for hairy mountain mint was not documented.

Based on a review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database website, it is known that the federally and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) has the potential to occur in Hocking and Fairfield counties. Field review by POWER Engineers biologists identified 16 roost trees suitable for Indiana bats in the vicinity of the right-of-way. Minimal clearing is anticipated within the existing corridor. However, trimming may be required for access roads and additional clearance adjacent to the existing right-of-way. The trees identified as suitable for the Indiana bat will only be cleared, if necessary, between the months of October and March.

Based on the above information, AEP does not anticipate the rebuild of the Hocking – West Lancaster transmission line will result in impacts to protected species. We request that you inform us of your concurrence or any guidance you can provide should you not concur with our findings.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Banaitis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Banaitis, PWS, CPESC  
Environmental Scientist  
POWER Engineers, Inc.

Enclosure(s): Hocking West Lancaster 31221 Map  
c: DMS: 127705/PER-01





January 20, 2014

ENERGY

FACILITIES

COMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Attn: Mary Knapp, PhD  
Field Supervisor  
4625 Morse Rd, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230

Subject: Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild, Hocking and  
Fairfield Counties, Ohio

Dr. Knapp,

American Electric Power (AEP) is proposing to rebuild the Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV transmission line. To date, we have requested data from the Ohio Natural Heritage Program and conducted field reviews to assess the potential for habitat suitability within the project area. We are writing to request your concurrence with our findings and request a response for inclusion in our Letter of Notification filings.

The project is located in Hocking and Fairfield counties, Ohio within an existing, cleared corridor. The line runs from the Hocking Substation on Keller Rd south of the town of Logan for 19.3 miles northwest to the West Lancaster Substation on Cincinnati-Zanesville Road southwest of Lancaster (see attached map). Plans are to remove 118 existing structures and install 115 new self-supporting galvanized steel structures. An existing laydown yard that is currently being utilized for other projects will be used for this project. It is anticipated that construction for the access roads would be initiated in June 2014 followed by rebuild of the transmission line in September 2014.

On December 17, AEP received the results of a request to the Ohio Natural Heritage Program. It was reported that a bald eagle nest had been recorded within 1 mile of our project area. It is located approximately 0.3 mile from the project right-of-way. It is not anticipated that the nest would be directly impacted by construction activities. The Ohio Natural Heritage Program also reported the federally endangered clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) and federally threatened rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*) have been recorded within 1 mile of our project area. These are both aquatic species and there are no plans to directly disturb waterways or other habitat of these species. Additionally, all spoils will be contained to avoid contamination of waterways. Compliance with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will further minimize potential for impacts to waterways. As a result, it is anticipated there will be no impacts to these species.

Based on a review of ECOS and IPaC, it is known that the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and federally proposed endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) have the potential to occur in vicinity of the project area. Field review by POWER Engineers biologists identified 16 roost trees suitable for Indiana bats in the vicinity of the right-of-way. Minimal clearing is anticipated within the existing corridor. However, trimming may be required for access roads and additional clearance adjacent to



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
January 20, 2014  
Page 2

the existing right-of-way. The trees identified as suitable for the Indiana bat will only be cleared, if necessary, between the months of October and March.

The proposed project is a rebuild within an existing cleared corridor. Therefore, minimal impacts are anticipated for the federally endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*); federally threatened northern wild monkshood (*Aconitum noveboracense*) and small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*).

Based on the above information, AEP does not anticipate the rebuild of the Hocking – West Lancaster transmission line will result in impacts to federally protected species. We request that you inform us of your concurrence or any guidance you can provide should you not concur with our findings.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Banaitis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Banaitis, PWS, CPESC  
Environmental Scientist  
POWER Engineers, Inc.

Enclosure(s): Hocking West Lancaster 31221 Map  
c: DMS: 127705/PER-01





# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

## Office of Real Estate

Paul R. Baldrige, Chief  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, OH 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6649  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

March 7, 2014

Michael Banaitits  
POWER Engineers, Inc.  
303 U.S. Route 1  
Freeport, Maine 04032

**Re:** 14-064; Hocking-West Lancaster 438 kV Transmission Line Rebuild, Hocking and Fairfield Counties, Ohio.

**Project:** American Electric Power (AEP) is proposing to rebuild the Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV transmission line. The project involves the removal of 118 existing structures and installation of 115 new self-supporting galvanized steel structures.

**Location:** The project is located in Hocking and Berne Townships, Fairfield County and Good Hope, Marion, and Falls Townships, Hocking County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

**Fish and Wildlife:** The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and White oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat habitat consists of suitable trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or



riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. If suitable trees occur within the project area, these trees should be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs on the project area and trees must be cut, cutting must occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, a net survey must be conducted between June 15 and July 31, prior to cutting. Net surveys shall incorporate either two net sites per square kilometer of project area with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights, or one net site per kilometer of stream within the project limits with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights. If no tree removal is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.

As already stated in the project documentation, the project is within the range of the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, and the rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrical cylindrical*), a state endangered mussel. Due to there being no in-water work planned, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within a county where current records exist for the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a federal candidate snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies and wetlands, as well as drier upland habitat. Due to the location, the type of habitat along the project route, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species, and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a state threatened species. Due to the mobility of these species, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) a state and federal endangered beetle. Due to the habitat requirements of this species, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*), a state endangered species, and a federal species of concern. Due to the location, the type of habitat along the project route, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Uhler's sundragon (*Helocordulia uhleri*), a state endangered dragonfly. Impacts to stream bottom substrates should be avoided and minimized to avoid impacts to this species.

The project is within the range of the grizzled skipper (*Pygus centaureae wyandot*), a state endangered butterfly. Due to the type of habitat along the project route, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 to July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.



The ODNR Natural Heritage Database has no records, other than those already mentioned for rare or endangered species along this project route. We are unaware of any, other than those already mentioned, unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges or other protected natural areas within the project area. Our inventory program does not provide a complete survey of Ohio wildlife, and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area.

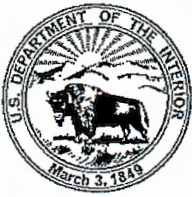
**Natural Areas:** The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) has the following comments.

The current Hocking- West Lancaster transmission line bisects a population of the state threatened *Rhododendron maximum* in central portion of section 29 of Berne Township, Fairfield County. While this species is not expected to occur within the current transmission line corridor, the population could be impacted if any additional tree and shrub clearing is completed. DNAP recommends that no additional clearing occur in wooded areas of Sec. 29 of Berne Township to reduce impacts to the state significant *Rhododendron maximum* population.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler  
ODNR Office of Real Estate  
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693  
John.Kessler@dnr.state.oh.us





# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230  
(614) 416-8993 / FAX (614) 416-8994  
February 10, 2014

Mr. Banaitis  
Power Engineers, Inc.  
3030 U.S. Route One  
Freeport, ME 04032

TAILS: 03E15000-2014-TA-0594

Dear Mr. Banaitis:

This is in response to your January 20, 2014 letter requesting information on threatened and endangered species within the vicinity of the Hocking - Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild. The project crosses Hocking, Berne, and Rushcreek Townships in Fairfield County and Good Hope, Marion, and Falls Townships in Hocking County. The project involves removing 118 existing structures and installation of 115 new self-supporting galvanized steel structures. The project will occur within an existing cleared corridor.

There are no Federal wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, or Critical Habitat within the vicinity of this site.

You have indicated that that project will not directly disturb waterways or rivers and streams. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife resources. Buffers of native vegetation surrounding these systems are also important in preserving their wildlife-habitat and water quality-enhancement properties. We recommend that any proposed projects use best construction techniques to minimize erosion. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining quality habitats. All disturbed areas should be mulched and re-vegetated with native plants.

**BALD EAGLE COMMENTS:** The project lies within the range of the **bald eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Bald eagles are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA), and are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, BGEPA). BGEPA prohibits, among other things, the killing and disturbance of eagles.

You have indicated that a bald eagle nest is located within 0.3 miles of the project area. To evaluate your project's potential to affect bald eagles, please visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/EaglePermits/baeatake/index.html>.

In order to avoid take of bald eagles, we recommend that no tree clearing occur within 660 feet of a bald eagle nest or within any woodlot supporting a nest tree. Further, we request that work within 660 feet of a nest or within the direct line-of-site of a nest be restricted from January 15 through July 31. This will prevent disturbance of the eagles from the egg-laying period until the young fledge, which encompasses their most vulnerable times.



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**3/20/2014 3:13:41 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-0144-EL-BLN**

Summary: Letter of Notification Hocking W Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Part 4 of 9) electronically filed by Mr. Yazen Alami on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company