

1 Introduction

The Scioto Ridge Wind Farm Project's Study Area boundaries remain the same as discussed in Cardno's *Ecological Assessment – Scioto Ridge Wind Farm*, dated June 13, 2013. The Project is proposed within an area of approximately 49.98 square miles (31,986 acres) on leased private lands (Project Study Area), located approximately 7 miles north of Bellefontaine, Ohio. The Scioto Ridge Wind Farm proposes up to 172 wind turbines and related infrastructure in the townships of Roundhead, McDonald, Lynn, and Taylor Creek in Hardin County, as well as the townships of Richland and Rush Creek in Logan County. For the 2013 *Ecological Assessment*, Cardno conducted desktop review of the entire Project Study Area, and subsequent field surveys of the planned infrastructure locations within the Project Corridor. The Project Corridor was a 400-foot wide buffer centered on the permitted Project infrastructure totaling 4,755 acres.

Since the OPSB Certification in March 2014, EverPower has made some modifications to the planned siting of infrastructure within the Project Study Area, primarily adjusting the locations of turbines, their associated collection lines and access roads, and potential relocation of a previously permitted collector substation. Some of those modifications resulted in siting infrastructure on lands that had been assessed during the desktop review, but had not been field surveyed. This Ecological Assessment Amendment provides a summary of the potential impacts to natural resources within the New Project Areas, defined as a 400-foot buffer centered on modified Project infrastructure, totaling 197.4 acres. Cardno's field efforts only focused on the New Project Area, not previously surveyed during the 2013 assessment. Based on these modifications, the Amended Project Corridor is defined as a 400-foot wide buffer centered on the amended Project infrastructure (previously presented with new areas), and totals 4,671 acres. Overall, the modifications to the infrastructure have resulted in a net reduction in impacts to soils (associated with access roads, collection lines, and turbine foundations), floodplains, and tree clearing. Impacts to wetlands and stream crossings remained the same. Stream crossing impacts will be minimized through the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to install collection lines under perennial streams. Additional micro-siting can further reduce these impacts as the design phase progresses.

The Project Study Area is shown in Figure 1.1 Scioto Ridge Wind Farm Proposed Project Layout, with the previous Project Corridor shown in orange and the New Project Areas shown in purple.

This Ecological Assessment Amendment includes a desktop review of the New Project Area plus a ¼ mile buffer for:

- Land use, including vegetative communities;
- Habitat characterization; and
- Major species, including Federal- and State-listed threatened and endangered species.

Field-studies were conducted within the New Project Areas during July 2014, with a ¼ mile visual investigation on either side of the New Project Areas, and included:

- Wetland and surface water delineations; and
- Habitat observations and presence/absence surveys of sensitive species.

Appendix A includes the following Figures for the Amended Project Corridor (Note: only those maps depicting amendments to the Project Corridor have been included):

4 – Wetlands Maps (set of 7 maps)

5 – Water Quality and Floodplain Maps (set of 7 maps)

Appendix B includes the Wetland Report of the amended areas, summarizing the USACE Midwest Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory, 2010), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM), the OEPA Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) results for streams and wetlands identified in the New Project Area , as well as a brief description of each delineated wetland within the New Project Area, and photographic documentation of the delineated wetlands and waterbodies.

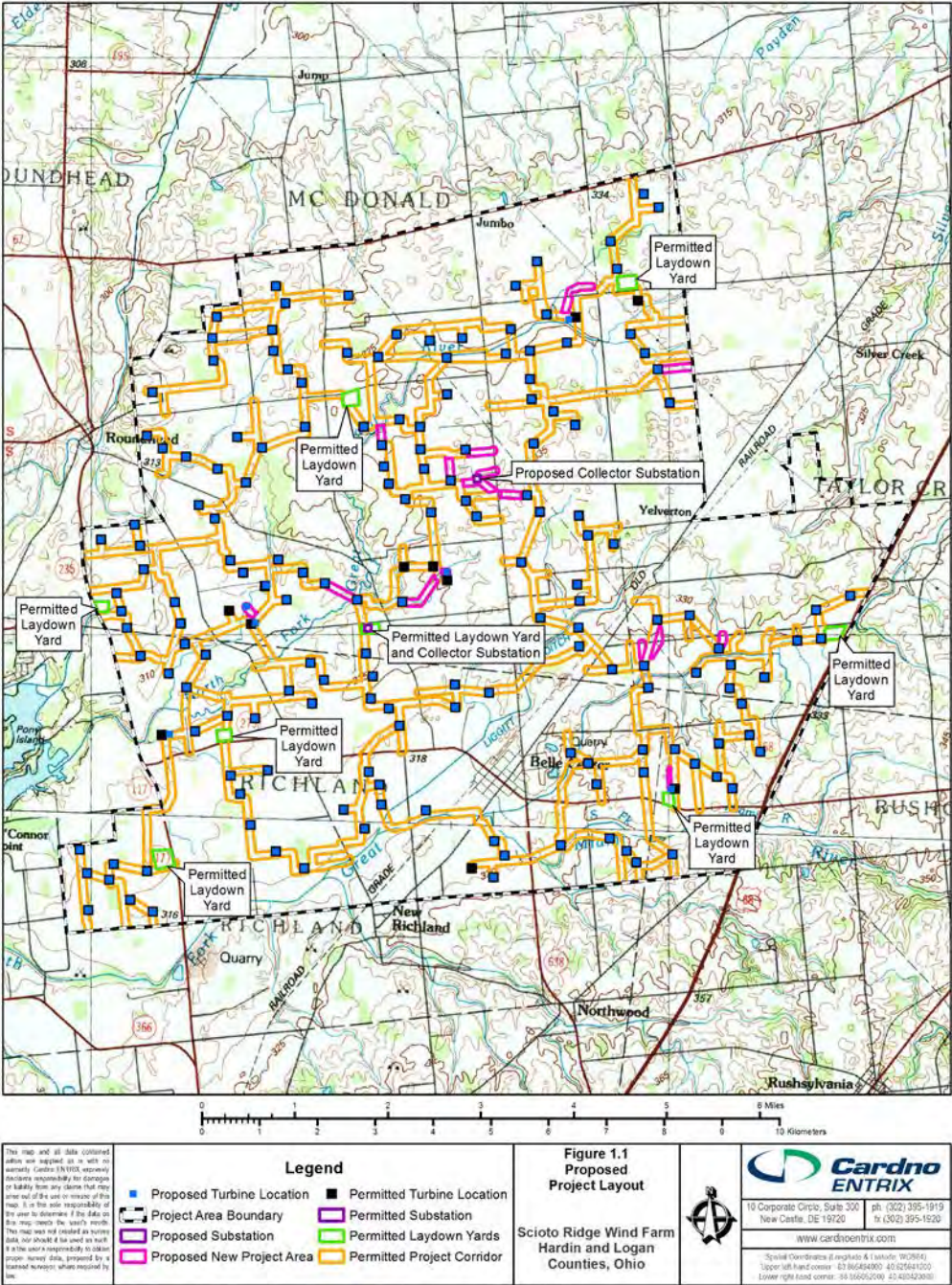


Figure 1.1 Scioto Ridge Wind Farm Proposed Project Layout

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Summary: Application to Amend -- Exhibit D (Part 2 of 31) electronically filed by Mrs. Gretchen L. Petrucci on behalf of Hardin Wind LLC