

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) Case Number
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and) 14-1399-EL-BNR
Public Need for the South Canton 345 kV Transmission)
Line Reconductoring Project.)

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 **October 4, 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.

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 **October 4, 2014**, which is the automatic approval date. To contact the Executive Director with concerns, you can reply to the email to which this document was attached, or use the ContactOPSB email address listed below.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon
Interim Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
(614) 466-6692
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 14-1399-EL-BNR
Project Name: South Canton 345 kV Transmission Line Reconductor Project
Project Location: Stark County, Ohio
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: August 22, 2014
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: September 23, 2014
Report Date: September 25, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: October 4, 2014
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, J. Whitis, A. Holderbaum

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

This project will consist of replacing approximately 1,500 feet of 345 kV single circuit conductor wire. The conductor runs between two existing dead end lattice steel towers which connect the South Canton 345 kV substation with the South Canton 765 kV substation. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2014. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$284,600.

Site Description

The project is located entirely on property owned by American Electric Power. Land adjacent to the project area is primarily agricultural, residential or wooded, with an existing 345 kV transmission corridor that includes steel lattice towers. The site itself is built with substations, fencing and access roads, and is adjacent to Highway I-77. The project is within an existing electrical transmission line corridor and substation placement, and the characteristics of the project are not significantly different from the existing transmission line.

Nature of Impacts

No new structures are required for this project. The new conductor is needed to address output limits in the Canton/Akron area at the South Canton 765 kV substation. Reconductoring the transmission line with a high capacity wire addresses the existing limitations of the transformer in this substation. No new right-of-way will be required and the applicant has adequate existing access to both towers.

There are no residences at the site. The applicant does not expect any impacts to the socioeconomic characteristics of the surrounding area, as there are existing transmission lines and substations at the site. There are no wetland or stream crossings associated with this project. Likewise, no impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated.

Conclusion

The Applicant's utilization of existing right-of-way and access for the reconductoring significantly minimizes potential adverse impacts. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on October 4, 2014.

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Case No(s). 14-1399-EL-BNR

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB