

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by  
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for the  
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and  
Public Need for the North Medina-West Akron 138 kV  
Transmission Line Tap to Laurel Substation** )  
 )  
 ) **Case Number:**  
 ) **14-1579-EL-BLN**  
 )

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 **December 31, 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.

The staff report includes a recommended condition of the certificate. Prior to the automatic approval date, the Applicant must file a supplement to its application that adopts these conditions. Absent such supplement, Staff will recommend that the case be suspended.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to **December 31, 2014**, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon  
Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
(614) 644-8932  
[ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us)

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 14-1579-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** North Medina-West Akron 138 kV Transmission Line  
Tap to Laurel Substation  
**Project Location:** Medina County  
**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Incorporated  
**Application Filing Date:** October 1, 2014  
**Filing Type:** Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Date:** October 20, 2014  
**Report Date:** December 23, 2014  
**Automatic Approval Date:** December 31, 2014  
**Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell & R. Holderbaum

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Condition  
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Project Description

This project involves the installation of approximately 575 feet of double-circuit 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The line is needed to provide service to the Laurel Substation. The addition of the Laurel Substation would provide load relief for the Brunswick #4 Transformer.

### Site Description

No new easements would be required. Land use in proximity to the project includes multi-family housing, open fields, and some wooded areas.

### Ecological Impacts

#### *Surface Waters*

The proposed transmission line right-of-way does not cross any streams. No in-water work is proposed for this project. The right-of-way crosses one wetland. One structure would be placed within the wetland. The placement of this structure would result in a loss of less than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; and thus, would not require preconstruction notification for a Nationwide Permit 12. The project would not traverse through any conservation areas, scenic rivers, or recreational lands.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, no federal or state listed species, including suitable habitat, were identified within one mile of the identified project area. No tree clearing would be required for this project.

### **Conclusion**

Access is readily available for construction. No significant vegetative clearing would be required. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.

### **Condition**

The Applicant shall utilize best management practices when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of silt fencing and matting (or similarly effective tools) prior to initiating construction near wetlands. The installation shall be done in accordance with generally accepted construction methods and shall be inspected regularly.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**12/23/2014 3:20:25 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-1579-EL-BLN**

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