

**BEFORE  
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of :  
American Transmission Systems, Inc. for : Case No. 14-2162-EL-BSB  
a Certificate of Environmental :  
Compatibility and Public Need for the :  
Construction of the Lake Avenue  
Substation Project.

**PREFILED TESTIMONY  
OF  
JAMES S. O'DELL  
SITING, EFFICIENCY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION  
RATES AND ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT  
OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

**Staff Exhibit** \_\_\_\_\_

**August 21, 2015**

1 1. Q. Please state your name and your business address.

2 A. My name is James S. O'Dell, and my business address is 180 East Broad  
3 Street, Columbus OH 43215.  
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission)  
7 as a senior Siting Specialist in the Siting, Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
8 Division of the Commission's Rates and Analysis Department.  
9

10 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

11 A. I hold Bachelor's Degrees from The Ohio State University in Political  
12 Science (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a Master's  
13 Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in  
14 1992. I also have significant course work completed towards a Master's  
15 Degree in Public Policy from Central Michigan University.  
16

17 I have been employed by the Commission since 1991. I have worked  
18 almost exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have devel-  
19 oped analysis for over 250 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board  
20 (Board). My responsibilities typically include application review and the  
21 preparation of analysis for major utility facilities in Ohio. Additionally, I

1 process and review minor filings such as Letters of Notification and Con-  
2 struction Notices. In the past, I also have been the primary author for the  
3 Board's annual reports. I have been the lead analyst in excess of 40 appli-  
4 cations, responsible for the preparation of staff reports and coordination of  
5 Staff review and field work for major utility facilities.

6  
7 4. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting  
8 Board?

9 A. Yes. Most recently, I testified as the lead analyst for the Avon Lake Gas  
10 Addition Project, Case Number 14-1717-GA-BLN.

11  
12 5. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

13 A. I am sponsoring the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was  
14 filed in the docket of this case on July 28, 2015. I was the Staff project lead  
15 on this case, and managed the Staff investigation and preparation of the  
16 Staff Report.

17  
18 6. Q. What kind of a case is this?

19 A. The Applicant proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain the Lake  
20 Avenue Substation in Elyria, Lorain County, Ohio. The project is needed  
21 to support the quality of residential, industrial, and commercial electric

1 service and reliability of the bulk electric system in the greater Elyria-  
2 Lorain, Ohio area for the foreseeable future.

3  
4 7. Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to make to the Staff Report of  
5 Investigation?

6 A. No.

7  
8 8. Q. Doe this conclude your testimony?

9 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testi-  
10 mony as described herein, as new information subsequently becomes avail-  
11 able or in response to positions taken by other parties.

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of **James S. O'Dell** submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board, was served via electronic mail upon applicant's counsel, Robert J. Schmidt, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, 41 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, [rschmidt@porterwright.com](mailto:rschmidt@porterwright.com), this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2015.

*/s/ John H. Jones*

---

**John H. Jones**

Assistant Attorney General

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/21/2015 2:59:36 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-2162-EL-BSB**

Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell submitted by Assistant Attorney General John Jones on behalf of the Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board. electronically filed by Kimberly L Keeton on behalf of Ohio Power Siting Board