



Legal Department

American Electric Power
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Columbus, OH 43215-2373
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August 28, 2015

Chairman Andre Porter
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Matthew J. Satterwhite
Senior Counsel –
(614) 716-1915 (P)
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mjsatterwhite@aep.com

RE: Case No. 15-1364-EL-BNR Request for Expedited Treatment:
In the Matter of the Construction Notice of the Firebrick 138kV Loop by AEP
Ohio Transmission Company.

Dear Chairman Porter:

Attached please find a copy of the Construction Notice for the Firebrick 138kV Loop by AEP Ohio Transmission Company. This filing and notice is in accordance with O.A.C. 4906-11-02.

A copy of this filing is also being presented to the executive director or the executive director's designee. A copy was provided earlier today to the Board Staff via electronic message. The Company is also submitting a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the Treasurer, State of Ohio, for Fund 5610 for the expedited fees.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

//ss// Matthew J. Satterwhite

Matthew J. Satterwhite
Senior Counsel

cc: Werner Margard, Counsel OPSB Staff
Patrick Donlon and Jon Pawley, OPSB Staff

Construction Notice

(Case No. 15-1364-EL-BNR)

For The

Firebrick 138 kV Loop

Submitted by

AEP

Ohio Transmission Company

To

Ohio Power Siting Board

August 2015

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-11-02, AEP Ohio Transmission Company (“AEP Transco”), submits the following Construction Notice:

49016-11-02 (B)

(1) Name of Project

The name of this project is the Firebrick 138 kV Loop, Case No. 15-1364-EL-BNR.

(2) Description of this Project

This project involves breaking the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line and constructing a 138 kV loop to energize the newly constructed Firebrick distribution station in Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio. The western portion of the loop extends south from the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line for approximately 275 feet (0.05 mile) into Firebrick Station. The eastern portion of the loop extends approximately 425 feet (0.08 mile), and is generally parallel to the western portion of the loop. The new 138 kV loop will require installing six new steel monopole structures, three for each of the western and eastern loops. Figure 1, Location Map, shows the general location of the Project in relation to primary roads, railroads, towns, and other transmission lines and stations in the area. Figure 2, Project Map, shows the general layout of the Project. The Project meets the requirements of a Construction Notice because it is within the type of projects defined in OPSB’s September 4, 2012 Finding and Order of Docket 12-1981-GE-BRO. The item states:

(1) Rerouting or extension or new construction of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s) as follows:

(c) Line(s) one hundred twenty-five kV and above, but less than three hundred kV, and not greater than 0.2 miles in length.

(3) Need for this Project

The Project is needed to energize the Firebrick distribution station. The station and its associated 69 kV interconnection will enhance reliability and serve forecasted load growth in the Jackson County area.

(4) Anticipated Construction Schedule

Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2015 with an estimated completion date of October 2015. The distribution portions of this project are currently being constructed.

(5) Estimated Capital Costs

The cost for this project is estimated at \$1,000,000.

(6) Technical Features

The loop to Firebrick Station will operate at 138 kV. Each section of the loop will be supported by three new steel monopole structure (Structures 1A – 3A and 1B – 3B). Four of the structures will be dead-ends and two will be tangents. As discussed in section (8) below the project is being constructed entirely on property owned by the company and therefore there are no right-of-way requirements.

(7) Maps

The Project is located approximately four miles southwest of the Village of Oak Hill in Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio. Please see the attached maps showing the project location.

(8) Properties

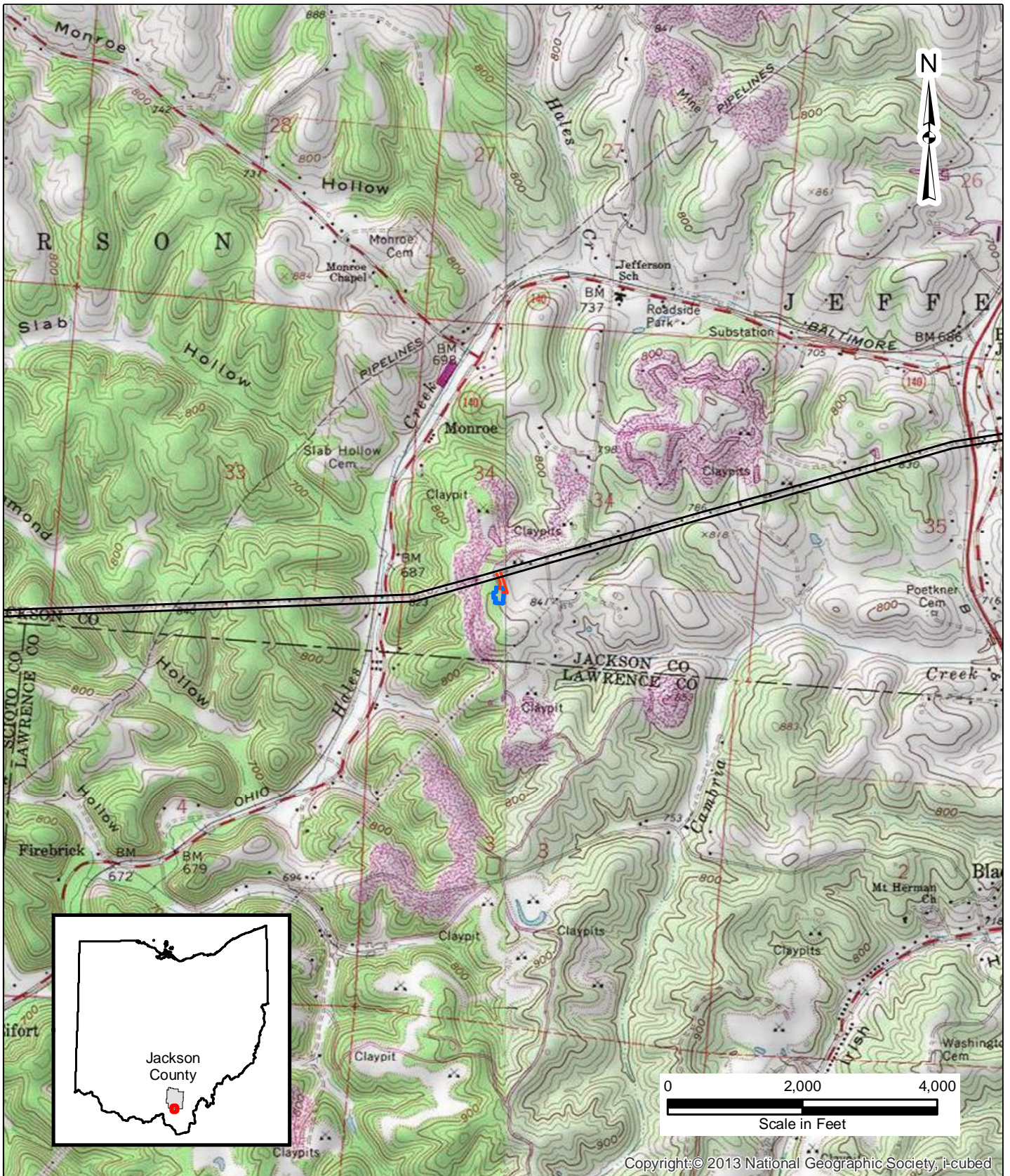
The Project will be constructed entirely on property owned by Columbus Southern Power Company or within the right-of-way of the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line. No additional easements, options and/or land use agreements are required.

49016-11-02 (C)

Copies of this Construction Notice have been sent to the Jackson County Commissioners and to the Jefferson Township Trustees. Copies of the cover letters to these officials are attached.

Attachments:

- Figure 1 – Project Location
- Figure 2 – Project Map
- Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Letter Report (August 12, 2015)
- Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the proposed Firebrick Station Connector Lines, Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio (August 5, 2015)
- Copy of cover letters to commissioners and trustees



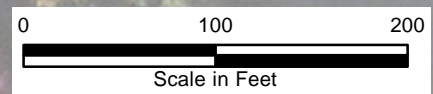
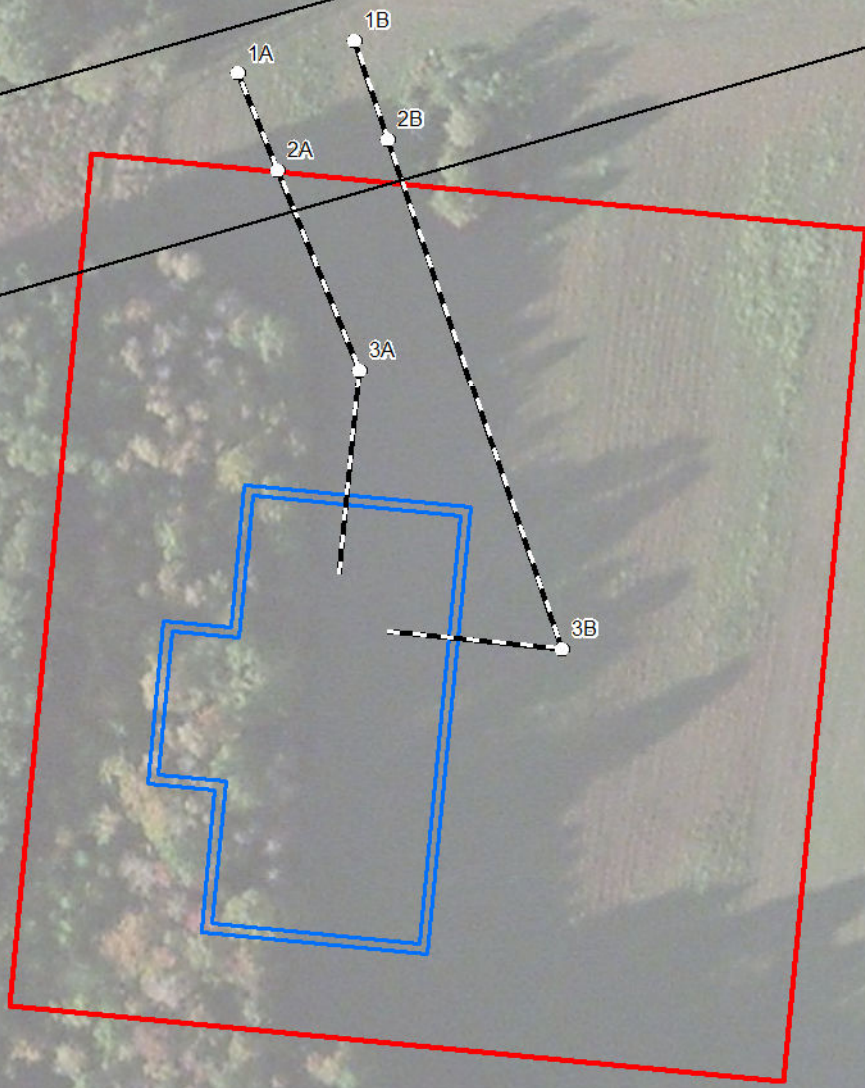
LEGEND:

- Proposed 138 kV Loop
- Existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138kV Right-of-way
- Firebrick Station

AEP OHIO
TRANSMISSION
COMPANY

Firebrick Station
138 kV Loop

FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION



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LEGEND:

- Proposed 138 kV Loop
- Proposed 138 kV Structure
- Existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138kV Right-of-way
- Firebrick Station Property Line
- Firebrick Station Fenceline

**AEP OHIO
TRANSMISSION
COMPANY™**

*Firebrick Station
138 kV Loop*

**FIGURE 2
PROJECT MAP**

JOB NO. 60438762

AECOM

August 12, 2015

Mr. Ron Howard
American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

**Subject: Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Letter Report
Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line Loop, Jackson County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Howard,

AECOM is pleased to provide the following Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment letter report to AEP for the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line Loop Project (Project) in Jackson County, Ohio. AECOM understands that AEP has recently constructed Firebrick Station and is proposing to extend a Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV interconnection approximately 250 feet to the station. An approximately 1,400 foot existing gravel road to Firebrick Station will be utilized for access to the Project area. AEP requested AECOM to perform an ecological survey of an approximately 4.8-acre study area where the proposed structures and existing access road is located. The Project survey area is illustrated on Figure 1 in Attachment 1.

METHODS

The purpose of the field survey was to assess whether evidence of “waters of the U.S.” including wetlands, and suitable habitat roost trees exist within the Project survey area. Prior to conducting field surveys, digital and published county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic maps were reviewed as an exercise to identify the occurrence and location of potential wetland areas and forested habitat.

The ecological assessment on July 30, 2015, was conducted by qualified AECOM biologists that surveyed the Project survey area while utilizing the methodologies described below. The study area totaled approximately 4.8-acres, and is shown on Figure 3.

The field survey results presented herein apply to the existing and reasonably foreseeable site conditions observed at the time of our assessment. They cannot apply to site changes of which AECOM is unaware and has not had the opportunity to review. Changes in the condition of a

property may occur with time due to natural processes or human impacts at the project site or on adjacent properties. Changes in applicable standards may also occur as a result of legislation or the expansion of knowledge over time. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated, wholly or in part, by changes beyond the control of AECOM which occur after the presentation of this report document.

Wetland Delineation

The Project survey area was evaluated according to the procedures outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual) (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0) (Regional Supplement) (USACE, 2012). The Regional Supplement was released in April 2012 by the USACE to address regional wetland characteristics and improve the accuracy and efficiency of wetland delineation procedures. The 1987 Manual and Regional Supplement define wetlands as areas that have positive evidence of three environmental parameters: hydric soils, wetland hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. Wetland boundaries are placed where one or more of these parameters give way to upland characteristics.

Since quantitative data were not available for wetlands in the vicinity of the Project, AECOM utilized the routine delineation method described in the 1987 Manual and Regional Supplement that consisted of a pedestrian site reconnaissance, including identifying the vegetation communities, soils identification, a geomorphologic assessment of hydrology, and notation of disturbance.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ORAM Evaluation

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) ORAM was developed to determine the relative ecological quality and level of disturbance of a particular wetland in order to meet requirements under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Wetlands are scored on the basis of hydrology, upland buffer, habitat alteration, special wetland communities, and vegetation communities. Each of these subject areas is further divided into subcategories under ORAM v5.0 resulting in a score that describes the wetland using a range from 0 (low quality and high disturbance) to 100 (high quality and low disturbance). Wetlands scored from 0 to 29.9 are grouped into "Category 1", 30 to 59.9 are "Category 2" and 60 to 100 are "Category 3". Transitional zones exist between "Categories 1 and 2" from 30 to 34.9 and between "Categories 2 and 3" from 60 to 64.9. However, according to the Ohio EPA, if the wetland score falls into

the transitional range, it must be given the higher Category unless scientific data can prove it should be in a lower Category (Mack, 2001).

OEPA QHEI and HHEI Stream Evaluations

Streams are identified by the presence of a defined bed and bank, and evidence of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM). The USACE defines OHWM as “that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas” (USACE, 2005).

Stream assessments were conducted using the methods described in the OEPA’s Methods for Assessing Habitat in Flowing Waters: Using OEPA’s *Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index* (Rankin, 2006) and *Field Evaluation Manual for Ohio’s Primary Headwater Habitat Streams, Version 3* (Davic, 2012). The QHEI method is generally considered appropriate for waterbodies with drainage basins greater than one square mile, if natural pools are greater than 40 cm, or if the water feature is shown as blue-line waterways on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps.

Headwater streams are typically considered to be first-order and second-order streams, meaning streams that have no upstream tributaries (or “branches”) and those that have only first-order tributaries, respectively. The stream order concept can be problematic when used to define headwater streams because stream-order designations vary depending upon the accuracy and resolution of the stream delineation. Headwater streams are generally not shown on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles and are sometimes difficult to distinguish on aerial photographs. Nevertheless, headwater streams are now recognized as useful monitoring units due to their abundance, widespread spatial scale and landscape position (Fritz, et al. 2006). Impacts to headwater streams can have a cascading effect on the downstream water quality and habitat value. The headwater habitat evaluation index (HHEI) is a rapid field assessment method for physical habitat that can be used to appraise the biological potential of most Primary Headwater Habitat (PHWH) streams. The HHEI was developed using many of the same techniques as used for QHEI, but has criteria specifically designed for headwater habitats. To use HHEI, the stream must have a “defined bed and bank, with either continuous or periodically flowing water, with watershed area less than or equal to 1.0 mi² (259 ha), and a maximum depth of water pools equal to or less than 15.75 inches (40 cm)” (Davic, 2012).

Bat Habitat

During the field assessment, AECOM ecologists made general notes regarding the land use and land cover within the Project survey area, and also documented tree species within forested areas.

RESULTS

Within the approximately 4.8-acre Project survey area, AECOM did not identify any wetlands, streams, or potentially suitable bat roost trees. The Project survey area was observed to be developed with an existing station and a hayfield. The following paragraphs discuss the results of the wetland delineation, stream assessment, and bat habitat survey within the Project survey area.

Preliminary Soils Evaluation

According to the Web Soil Survey for Jackson County, Ohio (USDA, 2015) and the NRCS Hydric Soils List of Ohio, four soil series are mapped within Project survey area. None of the map units were identified with hydric soils (USDA, 2015). Soil series located within the Project survey area are shown on Figure 2 in Attachment 1.

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Map Review

NWI wetlands are areas of potential wetland that have been identified from USFWS aerial photograph interpretation which have typically not been field verified.

According to the NWI map of the South Webster and Gallia, Ohio quadrangles, the Project survey area contained no mapped NWI wetlands. The nearest locations of a NWI wetland was identified approximately 250 feet to the northwest of the Project survey area.

Wetlands

No wetlands were identified by AECOM within the Project survey area.

Streams

No streams were identified by AECOM within the Project survey area.

Bat Habitat

The Project survey area was reviewed for the presence of suitable roost trees, which typically include dead or live trees with peeling bark, cracks, or crevices. The undeveloped portions of the Project survey area were noted primarily as hayfield field with no trees. No suitable bat roost trees were identified within the Project survey area.

— ooOoo —

AECOM appreciates the opportunity to provide AEP with this wetland delineation and stream assessment to assist with the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line Loop Project. Please do not hesitate to contact AECOM if there are any questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,

AECOM



Benjamin Otto

Senior Ecologist

Benjamin.otto@aecom.com



Aaron Geckle

Principal Siting Specialist

Aaron.geckle@aecom.com

Attachments

Attachment 1: Figures 1 through 3

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

Figure 2: Soils and National Wetland Inventory Map

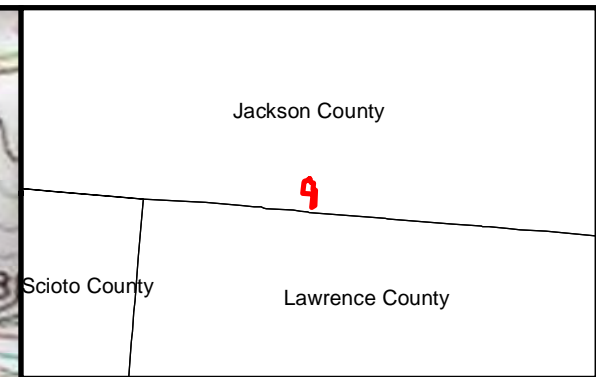
Figure 3: Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Map


Attachment 2: Representative Project Area Photographs

Attachment 3: References

ATTACHMENT 1
FIGURES 1 THROUGH 3

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LEGEND:
 Survey Boundary



0 500 1,000 2,000
Scale in Feet

BASE MAP SOURCE:
National Geographic Society, USA Topo Maps

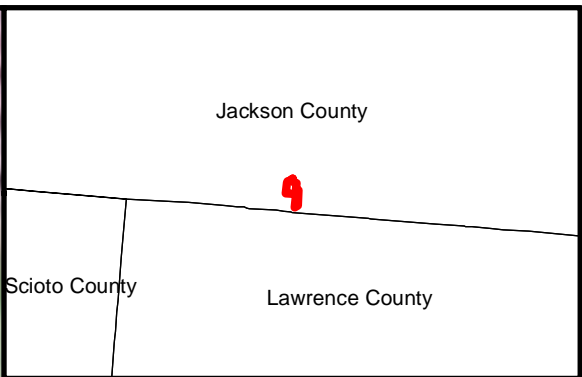


Sporn-Portsmouth 138kV
Transmission Line Loop Project

Figure 1: Overview Map

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Job No. 60438762	AECOM

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Legend

- Survey Boundary
- Soil Map Unit
- NWI Wetland



0 200 400 800
Scale in Feet

BASE MAP SOURCE:
National Geographic Society, USA Topo Maps

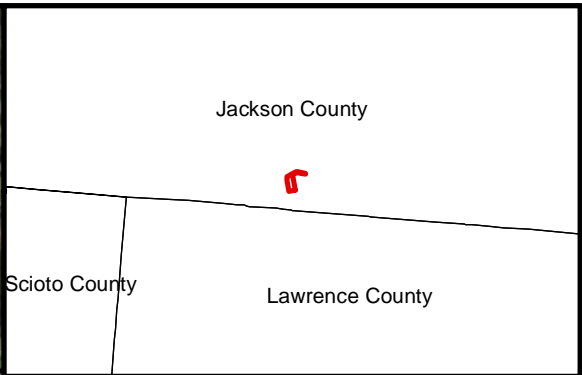
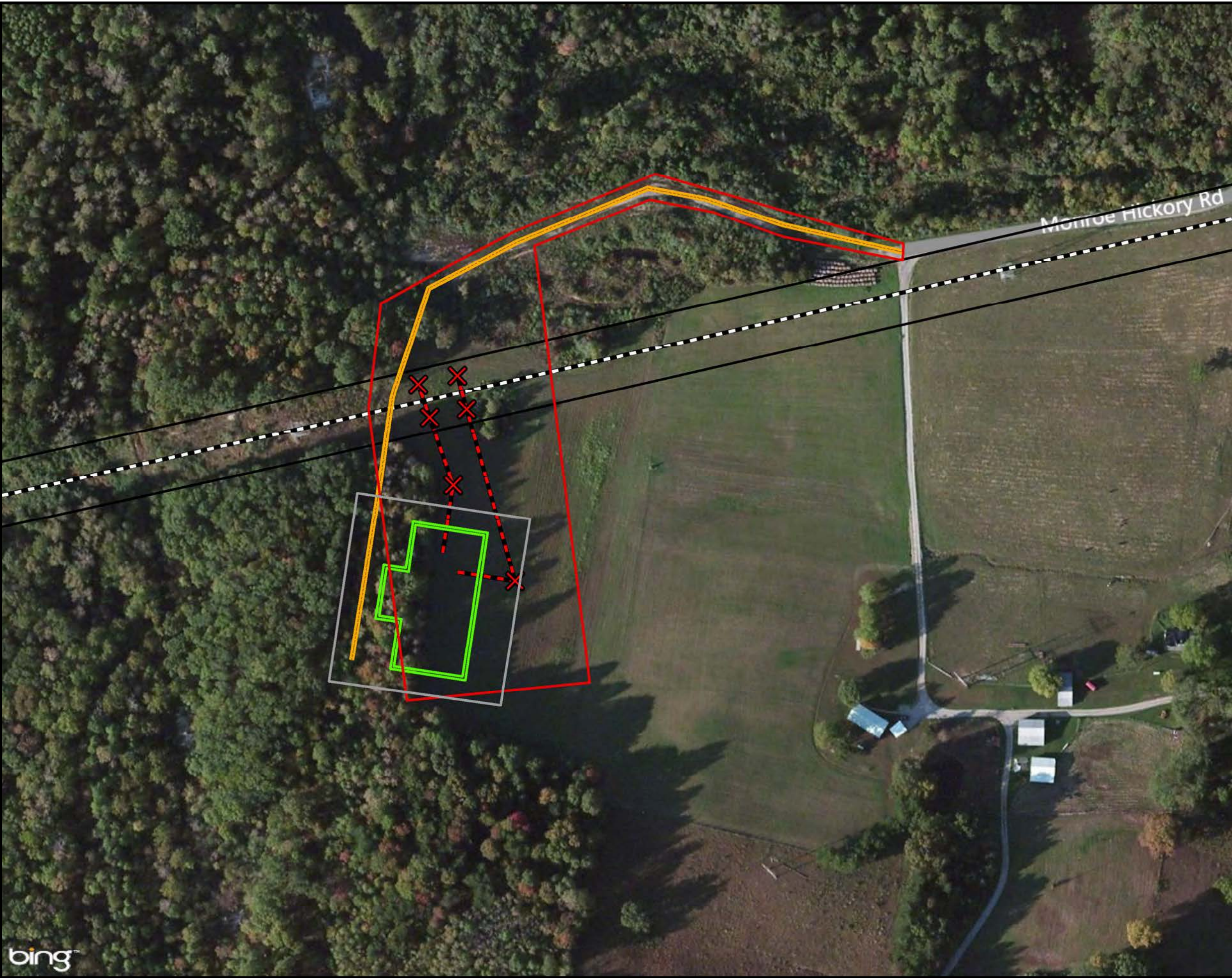


Sporn-Portsmouth 138kV
Transmission Line Loop Project

Figure 2: Soil Map Units and NWI Map

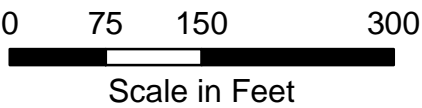
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Legend

- Survey Boundary
- Proposed New Structure
- Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Sporn-Portsmouth ROW
- Existing Substation Access Road
- Firebrick Station
- Gravel Pad



BASE MAP SOURCE:
ArcGIS Online, Bing Maps Hybrid



*Sporn-Portsmouth 138kV
Transmission Line Loop Project*

Figure 3: Wetland Delineation Map

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Job No. 60438762	AECOM



ATTACHMENT 2


REPRESENTATIVE PROJECT AREA PHOTOGRAPHS

Client Name: AEP	Site Location: Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line Loop Project	Project No. 60438762
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Photo No. 1 Date: July 30, 2015 Description: View of proposed structure area to the north of Firebrick Station. Facing south.	
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Photo No. 2 Date: July 30, 2015 Description: View of proposed structure area to the east of Firebrick Station. Facing north.	
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Client Name: AEP	Site Location: Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line Loop Project	Project No. 60438762
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Photo No. 3	
Date: July 30, 2015	
Description: View of existing gravel access road to Firebrick Station. Facing northeast.	

ATTACHMENT 3

REFERENCES

References

- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*. Office of Biological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
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**Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Proposed
Firebrick Station Connector Lines, Jefferson Township,
Jackson County, Ohio**

Christopher Nelson

August 5, 2015

1395 West Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
Phone: 614.485.9435
Fax: 614.485.9439
Website: www.wellercrm.com

**Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Proposed
Firebrick Station Connector Lines, Jefferson Township,
Jackson County, Ohio**

By

Christopher Nelson

Submitted By:

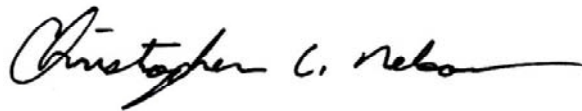
**Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 West Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
Phone: 614.485. 9435 Fax: 614.485. 9439**

Prepared For:

**American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230**

Lead Agency:

Ohio Power Siting Board



Christopher Nelson, P.I.

August 5, 2015

i. Abstract

In July of 2015, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) conducted a Phase I cultural resource management investigation for the proposed connector transmission lines for Firebrick Station located in Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio. The station has already been constructed, and two short lines need to be constructed to connect the station to the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line to the north. These lines will extend approximately 250 feet and 400 feet between the 138 kV line and the station. Some of the area has been extensively disturbed in places from former construction activities. The lead agency involved is the Ohio Power Siting Board. The cultural resource management work involved in this project involved an archaeological survey. These investigations were completed in accordance with the *Archaeology Guidelines* established by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] (1994).

The literature review that was conducted for this project identified four archaeological sites within the study radius. None of these are situated within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The project area has not been the subject of any previous surveys. The project area is located at the dead end of Monroe Hickory Road off of SR 140 in the southern portion of Jefferson Township, Jackson County. The project area is contained within an area of rolling terrain. A portion of the project area is on slope excessive of that typical to contain intact archaeological sites.

The investigations did not result in the identification of archaeological sites. It is the opinion of Weller that no historic properties will be affected by the project. No further work is recommended for this undertaking.

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List of Tables

1. Soils within the project area.
2. Previously Recorded OAIs Located in the Study Radius.

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1. Political Map of Ohio showing the approximate location of the project area.
2. Topographic map with proposed project and literature review.
3. Aerial map with proposed project and literature review.
4. Portion of the USGS *1915 Oak Hill, Ohio 15 Minute Series (Topographic)* map indicating the approximate location of the project area.
5. Aerial map with the results of the field investigation.
6. Recently constructed Firebrick Station.
7. Recently constructed Firebrick Station.
8. Visually disturbed portion of project.
9. Visually disturbed portion of project.
10. Visually disturbed portion of project.

Introduction

In July of 2015, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) conducted a Phase I cultural resource management investigation for the proposed connector transmission lines for Firebrick Station located in Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio (Figures 1 - 4). The station has already been constructed, and two short lines need to be constructed to connect the station to the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line to the north. These lines will extend approximately 250 feet and 400 feet between the 138 kV line and the station. Some of the area has been extensively disturbed in places from former construction activities. The lead agency involved is the Ohio Power Siting Board. The cultural resource management work involved in this project involved an archaeological survey. These investigations were completed in accordance with the *Archaeology Guidelines* established by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] (1994).

The field reconnaissance for this project was conducted on July 31, 2015. A literature review was completed on July 30, 2015 by Abraham Ledezma. Christopher Nelson completed the field investigations and also served as the Principal Investigator.

Environmental Setting

Climate

Jackson County, like all of Ohio, has a continental climate with hot and humid summers and cold winters. About 104 cm (41 in) of precipitation falls annually on the county with over half (55 percent) falling from April through September (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service [USDA, SCS] 1985).

Physiography, Relief, and Drainage

Jackson County is located within the unglaciated plateau of southeastern Ohio; however, the terrain containing the project area has been affected by Kansan-age lacustrine deposition (Brockman 1998; Pavey et al. 1999). The terrain through the surrounding region is rugged upland with narrow ridge tops and steep side slopes. The stream valleys tend to be entrenched; however, low terraces are present within the Kansan-age valley train. The area within and around the project area is rolling to gently rolling.

The project area is drained by an unnamed tributary of Cambria Creek which drains into Black Fork to the east. These are part of the Scioto-Ohio River watershed.

Geology

The underlying bedrock of most of Jackson County is associated with Pennsylvanian-age formations. The bedrock in the extreme northwestern corner is Mississippian-age formation. The project is contained within an area of Pennsylvanian-age carbonate rocks (Brockman 1998).

Soils

The soils contained within the project area were reviewed. The project area is contained within the Rigley-Rarden-Clymer Association. These are soils that are generally deep and moderately deep, gently sloping to steep, well drained and moderately well drained soils formed in colluvium and residuum from sandstone and shale on uplands. Four distinct soil series specific to the project area are shown in Table 1 (USDA, SCS 1985).

Table 1. Soils within the project area.

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Landform
Clymer silt loam, 8-15 percent slopes (CkC)	Well drained	Hills
Latham-Wharton silt loam, 15-25 percent slopes, eroded (LhW1D2)	Moderately well drained	Hills
Omulga silt loam, 2-6 percent slopes (OmulB1)	Moderately well drained	Terraces
Rarden-Gilpin silt loam, 8-15 percent slopes (RrG1C1)	Moderately well drained	Hills

Flora

There is or at least was great floral diversity in Ohio. This diversity is relative to the soils and the terrain that generally includes the till plain, lake plain, terminal glacial margins, and unglaciated plateau (Forsyth 1970). Three major glacial advances, including the Kansan, Illinoian, and Wisconsinan, have affected the landscape of Ohio. The effects of the Wisconsin glaciation are most pronounced and have affected more than half of the state (Pavey et al. 1999).

The least diverse part of Ohio extends in a belt from the northeast below the lake-affected areas through most of western Ohio (Gordon 1966). These areas are part of the late Wisconsin ground moraine and lateral end moraines. It is positioned between the lake plains region and the terminal glacial moraines. This area included broad forested areas of beech maple forests interspersed with mixed oak forests in elevated terrain or where relief is greater (Forsyth 1970; Gordon 1966). Prairie environments such as those in Wyandot and Marion County areas would contain islands of forests, but were mostly expansive open terrain dominated by grasses.

The northwestern Ohio terrain is nearly flat because of ancient glacial lakes and glaciation, which affected the flora. However, the vegetation was more diverse than the till plain to the south and east because of the variety of factors that contributed to its terrain. Forests within the Black Swamp were generally comprised of elm/ash stands; however, dissected areas along drainages and drier, elevated areas from beach deposits would contain mixed forests of oak and hickory (Gordon 1966, 1969). There was little upland floral diversity in the lake plains (Black Swamp region) except for the occasional

patches of oak and hickory. Floral variety was most evident in narrow sleeves along larger stream valleys where there is relief.

The most biological diversity in Ohio is contained within the Allegheny Plateau, which encompasses the southeastern two-thirds of the state (Sheaffer and Rose 1998). Because this area is higher and has drier conditions, it is dominated by mixed oak forests. Some locations within the central part of this area contain beech and mixed mesophytic forests. There are large patches of oak and sugar maple forests to the south of the terminal moraine from Richland to Mahoning County (Gordon 1966).

Southwestern Ohio from about Cincinnati to Bellefontaine east to the Scioto River historically contained a very diverse floral landscape. This is an area where moraines from three glacial episodes are prevalent (Pavey et al. 1999). Forests in this area include elm-ash swamp, beech, oak-sugar maple, mixed mesophytic, prairie grasslands, mixed oak, and bottomland hardwoods (Core 1966; Gordon 1966, 1969). These forest types are intermingled with prairies being limited to the northern limits of this area mostly in Clark and Madison Counties.

Generally, beech forests are the most common variety through Ohio and could be found in all regions. Oak and hickory forests dominated the southeastern Ohio terrain and were found with patchy frequency across most of northern Ohio. Areas that were formerly open prairies and grasslands are in glacial areas, but are still patchy. These are in the west central part of the state. Oak and sugar maple forests occur predominantly along the glacial terminal moraine. Elm-ash swamp forests are prevalent in glaciated areas including the northern and western parts of Ohio (Gordon 1966; Pavey et al. 1999).

Central Jackson County, including the project area, is generally within what is considered to be a mixed oak forest area (Gordon 1966).

Fauna

The upland forest zone offered a diversity of mammals to the prehistoric diet. This food source consisted of white-tailed deer, black bear, Eastern cottontail rabbit, opossum, a variety of squirrels, as well as other less economically important mammals. Several avian species were a part of the upland prehistoric diet as well (i.e. wild turkey, quail, ruffed grouse, passenger pigeon, etc.). The lowland zone offered significant species as well. Raccoon, beaver, and muskrat were a few of the mammals, while wood duck and wild goose were the economically important birds. Fishes and shellfish were also an integral part of the prehistoric diet. Ohio muskellunge, yellow perch, white crappie, long nose gar, channel catfish, pike, and sturgeon were several of the fish, whereas, the Ohio naiad mollusc, butterfly's shell, long solid, common bullhead, knob rockshell, and cod shell were the major varieties of shellfish. Reptiles and amphibians, such as several varieties of snakes, frogs, and turtles, were also part of the prehistoric diet (Trautman 1981; Lafferty 1979; Mahr 1949).

Cultural Setting

The first inhabitants of Ohio were probably unable to enter this land until the ice sheets of the Wisconsin glacier melted around 14,000 B.C. Paleoindian sites are considered rare due to the age of the sites and the effects of land altering activities such as erosion. Such sites were mostly used temporarily and thus lack the accumulation of human occupational deposits that would have been created by frequent visitation. Paleoindian artifact assemblages are characteristic of transient hunter-gatherer foraging activity and subsistence patterns. In Ohio, major Paleoindian sites have been documented along large river systems and near flint outcrops in the Unglaciaded Plateau (Cunningham 1973). Otherwise, Paleoindian sites in the glaciaded portions of Ohio are encountered infrequently and are usually represented by isolated finds or open air scatters.

The Paleoindian period is characterized by tool kits and gear utilized in hunting Late Pleistocene megafauna and other herding animals including but not limited to short-faced bear, barren ground caribou, flat-headed peccary, bison, mastodon, giant beaver (Bamforth 1988; Brose 1994; McDonald 1994). Groups have been depicted as being mobile and nomadic (Tankersley 1989); artifacts include projectile points, multi-purpose unifacial tools, burins, gravers, and spokeshaves (Tankersley 1994). The most diagnostic artifacts associated with this period are fluted points that exhibit a groove or channel positioned at the base to facilitate hafting. The projectiles dating from the late Paleoindian period generally lack this trait; however, the lance form of the blade is retained and is often distinctive from the following Early Archaic period (Justice 1987).

The Archaic period has been broken down into three sub-categories, including the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic. During the Early Archaic period (ca. 10,000-8000 B.P.), the environment was becoming increasingly arid as indicated by the canopy (Shane 1987). This period of dryness allowed for the exploitation of areas that were previously inaccessible or undesirable. The Early Archaic period does not diverge greatly from the Paleoindian regarding the type of settlement. Societies still appear to be largely mobile with reliance on herding animals (Fitting 1963). For these reasons, Early Archaic artifacts can be encountered in nearly all settings throughout Ohio. Tool diversity increased at this time including hafted knives that are often re-sharpened by the process of beveling the utilized blade edge and intense basal grinding (Justice 1987). There is a basic transition from lance-shaped points to those with blades that are triangular. Notching becomes a common hafting trait. Another characteristic trait occurring almost exclusively in the Early and Middle Archaic periods is basal bifurcation and large blade serrations. Tool forms begin to vary more and may be a reflection of differential resource exploitation. Finished tools from this period can include bifacial knives, points, drills/perforators, utilized flakes, and scrapers.

The Middle Archaic period (8000-6000 B.P.) is poorly known or understood in archaeological contexts within Ohio. Some (e.g., Justice 1987) regard small bifurcate points as being indicative of this period. Ground stone artifacts become more prevalent at this time. Other hafted bifaces exhibit large side notches with squared bases, but this same trait can extend back to the Paleoindian period. The climate at this time is much

like that of the modern era. Middle Archaic period subsistence tended to be associated with small patch foraging that involved a consistent need for mobility with a shift towards stream valleys (Stafford 1994). Sites encountered from this time period throughout most of Ohio tend to be lithic scatters or isolated finds. The initial appearance of regional traits may be apparent at this time.

The Late Archaic period in Ohio (ca 6000-3000 B.P.) diverges from the previous periods in many ways. Preferred locations within a regional setting appear to have been repeatedly occupied. The more intensive and repeated occupations often resulted in the creation of greater social and material culture complexity. The environment at this time is warmer and drier. Most elevated landforms in northeastern Ohio have yielded Archaic artifacts (Prufer and Long 1986: 7), and the same can be stated for the remainder of Ohio.

Various artifacts are diagnostic of the Late Archaic period. Often, burial goods provide evidence that there was some long-distance movement of materials, while lithic materials used in utilitarian assemblages are often from a local chert outcrop. There is increased variation in projectile point styles that may reflect regionalism. Slate was often used in the production of ornamental artifacts. Ground and polished stone artifacts reached a high level of development. This is evident in such artifacts as grooved axes, celts, bannerstones, and other slate artifacts.

It is during the Terminal Archaic period (ca 3500-2500 B.P.) that extensive and deep burials are encountered. Cultural regionalism within Ohio is evident in the presence of Crab Orchard (southwest), Glacial Kame (northern), and Meadowood (central to Northeastern). Along the Ohio River, intensive occupations have been placed within the Riverton phase. Pottery makes its first appearance during the Terminal Late Archaic.

The Early Woodland period (ca 3000-2100 B.P.) in Ohio is often associated with the Adena culture and the early mound builders (Dragoo 1976). Early and comparably simple geometric earthworks first appear with mounds more spread across the landscape. Pottery at this time is thick and tempered with grit, grog, or limestone; however, it becomes noticeably thinner towards the end of the period. There is increased emphasis on gathered plant resources, including maygrass, chenopodium, sunflower, and squash. Habitation sites have been documented that include structural evidence. Houses that were constructed during this period were circular, having a diameter of up to 18.3 m (Webb and Baby 1963) and often with paired posts (Cramer 1989). Artifacts dating from this period include leaf-shaped blades with parallel to lobate hafting elements, drilled slate pieces, ground stone, thick pottery, and increased use of copper. Early Woodland artifacts can be recovered from every region of Ohio.

The Middle Woodland period (ca 2200-1600 B.P.) is often considered to be equivalent with the Hopewell culture. The largest earthworks in Ohio date from this period. There is dramatic increase in the appearance of exotic materials that appear most often in association with earthworks and burials. Artifacts representative of this period include thinner, grit-tempered pottery, dart-sized projectile points (Lowe Flared, Steuben, Snyders, and Chessier) [Justice 1987], exotic materials (mica, obsidian, and marine shell,

etc.). The points are often thin, bifacially beveled, and have flat cross sections. There seems to have been a marked increase in the population as well as increased levels of social organization. Middle Woodland sites seem to reflect a seasonal exploitation of the environment. There is a notable increase in the amount of Eastern Agricultural Complex plant cultigens, including chenopodium, knotweed, sumpweed, and little barley. This seasonal exploitation may have followed a scheduled resource extraction year in which the populations moved camp several times per year, stopping at known resource extraction loci. Middle Woodland land use appears to center on the regions surrounding earthworks (Dancey 1992; Pacheco 1996); however, there is evidence of repeated occupation away from earthworks (Weller 2005a). Household structures at this time vary with many of them being squares with rounded corners (Weller 2005a). Exotic goods are often attributed to funerary activities associated with mounds and earthworks. Utilitarian items are more frequently encountered outside of funerary/ritual contexts. The artifact most diagnostic of this period is the bladelet, a prismatic and thin razor-like tool, and bladelet cores. Middle Woodland remains are more commonly recovered from central Ohio south and lacking from most areas in the northern and southeastern part of the state.

The Late Woodland period (ca A.D. 400-900) is distinct from the previous period in several ways. There appears to be a population increase and a more noticeable aggregation of groups into formative villages. The villages are often positioned along large streams, on terraces, and were likely seasonally occupied (Cowan 1987). This increased sedentism was due in part to a greater reliance on horticultural garden plots, much more so than in the preceding Middle Woodland period. The early Late Woodland groups were growing a wide variety of crop plants that are collectively referred to as the Eastern Agricultural Complex. These crops included maygrass, sunflower, and domesticated forms of goosefoot and sumpweed. This starch and protein diet was supplemented with wild plants and animals. Circa A.D. 800 to 1000, populations adopted maize agriculture, and around this same time, shell-tempered ceramics appear. Other technological innovations and changes during this period included the bow and arrow and changes in ceramic vessel forms.

The Late Prehistoric period (ca A.D. 1000-1550) is distinctive from former periods. The Cole complex (ca A.D. 1000-1300) has been identified in central and south central Ohio. Sites that have been used to define the Cole complex include the W.S. Cole (33DL11), Ufferman (33DL12), and Decco (33DL28) sites along the Olentangy; the Zencor Village site, located along the Scioto River in southern Franklin County; and the Voss Mound site (33FR52), located along the Big Darby Creek in southwestern Franklin County. It has been suggested that this cultural manifestation developed out of the local Middle Woodland cultures and may have lasted to be contemporaneous with the Late Prehistoric period (Barkes 1982; Baby and Potter 1965; Potter 1966). Cole is a poorly defined cultural complex as its attributes are a piecemeal collection gathered from various sites. Some have suggested that it may be associated with the Fort Ancient period (Pratt and Bush 1981). Artifacts recovered from sites considered as Cole include plain and cordmarked pottery, triangular points, Raccoon Notched points, chipped slate discs, rectangular gorgets, and chipped stone celts. The vessels often have a globular form with highly variable attributes and rim treatment. There have been few structures encountered

from this period, but those that have are typically rounded or circular (Pratt and Bush 1981; Weller 2005b).

Monongahela phase sites date to the Late Prehistoric to Contact period in eastern Ohio. Monongahela sites are typically located on high bottomlands near major streams, on saddles between hills, and on hilltops, sometimes a considerable distance from water sources. Most of these sites possessed an oval palisade, which surrounded circular house patterns. Burials of adults are usually flexed and burial goods are typically ornamental. A large variety of stone and bone tools are found associated with Monongahela sites. Monongahela pottery typically is plain or cordmarked with a rounded base and a gradually in-sloping shoulder area. Few Euro-American trade items have been found at Monongahela sites (Drooker 1997).

Protohistoric to Settlement

By the mid-1600s, French explorers traveled through the Ohio country as trappers, traders, and missionaries. They kept journals about their encounters and details of their travels. These journals are often the only resource historians have regarding the early occupants of seventeenth century Ohio. The earliest village encountered by the explorers in 1652 was a Tionontati village located along the banks of Lake Erie and the Maumee River. Around 1670, it is known that three Shawnee villages were located along the confluence of the Ohio River and the Little Miami River. Because of the Iroquois Wars, which continued from 1641-1701, explorers did not spend much time in the Ohio region, and little else is known about the natives of Ohio during the 1600s. Although the Native American tribes of Ohio may have been affected by the outcome of the Iroquois Wars, no battles occurred in Ohio (Tanner 1987).

French explorers traveled extensively through the Ohio region from 1720-1761. During these expeditions, the locations of many Native American villages were documented. In 1751, a Delaware village known as Maguck existed near present-day Chillicothe. In 1758, a Shawnee town known as 'Lower Shawnee 2' existed at the same location. The French also documented the locations of trading posts and forts, which were typically established along the banks of Lake Erie or the Ohio River (Tanner 1987).

While the French were establishing a claim to the Ohio country, many Native Americans were also entering new claims to the region. The Shawnee were being forced out of Pennsylvania because of English settlement along the eastern coast. The Shawnee created a new headquarters at Shawnee Town, which was located at the mouth of the Scioto River. This headquarters served as a way to pull together many of the tribes which had been dispersed because of the Iroquois Wars (Tanner 1987).

Warfare was bound to break out as the British also began to stake claims in the Ohio region by the mid-1700s. The French and Indian War (1754-1760) affected many Ohio Native Americans; however, no battles were recorded in Ohio (Tanner 1987). Although the French and Indian War ended in 1760, the Native Americans continued to fight against the British explorers. In 1764, Colonel Henry Bouquet led a British troop

from Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania to near Zanesville, Ohio.

In 1763, the Seven Years' War fought between France and Britain, also known as the French and Indian War ended with The Treaty of Paris. In this Peace of Paris, the French ceded their claims in the entire Ohio region to the British. When the American Revolution ended with the Second Treaty of Paris in 1783, the Americans gained the entire Ohio region from the British; however, they designated Ohio as Indian Territory. Native Americans were not to move south of the Ohio River but Americans were encouraged to head west into the newly acquired land to occupy and govern it (Tanner 1987).

By 1783, Native Americans had established fairly distinct boundaries throughout Ohio. The Shawnee tribes generally occupied southwest Ohio, while the Delaware tribes stayed in the eastern half of the state. Wyandot tribes were located in north-central Ohio, and Ottawa tribes were restricted to northeast Ohio. There was also a small band of Mingo tribes in eastern Ohio along the Ohio River, and there was a band of Mississauga tribes in northeastern Ohio along Lake Erie. The Shawnee people had several villages within Ross County along the Scioto River (Tanner 1987). Although warfare between tribes continued, it was not as intense as it had been in previous years. Conflicts were contained because boundaries and provisions had been created by earlier treaties.

In 1795, the Treaty of Greenville was signed as a result of the American forces defeat of the Native American forces at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. This allocated the northern portion of Ohio to the Native Americans, while the southern portion was opened for Euro-American settlement. Although most of the battles which led up to this treaty did not occur in Ohio, the outcome resulted in dramatic fluctuations in the Ohio region. The Greenville Treaty line was established, confining all Ohio Native Americans to northern Ohio, west of the Tuscarawas River (Tanner 1987).

Ohio Native Americans were again involved with the Americans and the British in the War of 1812. Unlike the previous wars, many battles were fought in the Ohio country during the War of 1812. By 1815, peace treaties began to be established between the Americans, British, and Native Americans. The Native Americans lost more and more of their territory in Ohio. By 1830, the Shawnee, Ottawa, Wyandot, and Seneca were the only tribes remaining in Ohio. These tribes were contained on reservations in northwest Ohio. By the middle 1800s, the last of the Ohio Native Americans signed treaties and were removed from the Ohio region.

Jackson County History

The major draw to the area that would become Jackson County was undeniably the salt licks that outcropped there. The Shawnee Indians knew of them as did the moundbuilding cultures before them. Daniel Boone and Jonathan Alder visited the salt works with their Indian captors in the 1770s and 1780s. Europeans knew of the salt there as evidenced by their placement on a map as early as 1755 (Howe 1888; Jones and Jenkins 1953; Morrow 1956; Williams 1900; Willard 1916).

With the secession of the Indian claims on the Ohio Territory in 1795, the land was properly owned by the Federal Government. When Washington County was established in 1788, most of the area of modern Jackson County fell into what was then called Lick Township. During this period, squatters at the licks controlled the area as a rowdy bunch of saltmakers. With the influx of legal settlement around the licks, beginning in 1795, an attempt to dispel these troublemakers became an obvious necessity for progress. A new county, with local law was the conclusion of the local landowners. They petitioned the state through Senator Robert Lucas, who had lived and worked at the licks, and the petition became law in 1816 (Howe 1888; Jones and Jenkins 1953; Morrow 1956; Williams 1900; Willard 1916). The time between saw little progress because of the lawlessness of the squatters at the salt mines. With little organization, there was little care for the benefit of the whole. John Knight built a grist mill about 1799, but no other commercial business existed in the region save the salt business which was run by crude individuals. There were legal farmers and squatting saltminers. One group of the salt renderers were well know counterfeiters as well, operating there until the time of county organization; then were forced out of Jackson, fleeing west (Willard 1916).

Some progress did take place at the settlement known as Poplar Row. The area's first two roads had been newly built in 1804 and a post office established the same year. The post office was named Salt Lick until it was changed in 1817 to Jackson Court House. That year, the village of Jackson was platted. Sometime around 1806, George L. Crookham taught the only school in the area, and in 1819, the Baptists built the first church. Under the organization of the county, all lands at the salt licks were gathered from Federal control to that of Jackson, and the sale of which to be opened up. The proceeds were specifically to be used for the erection of county buildings and schools (Howe 1888; Morrow 1956; Willard 1916).

As mining salt was the industry of the county, it was inevitable that the other raw materials of Jackson would also be discovered with the increasing population of the 1820s and 1830s. There was a great migration of Welsh who arrived in the 1820s. Coal outcropped and was used personally since the earliest occupation of the county. George Riegel opened the first coal mine in 1823. Iron was discovered in the 1830s and Rogers, Hurd, & Co. built the first furnace in Jackson County in 1836, the Jackson Furnace. Jackson's Iron industry would last almost as long as her coal. These industries, of course, were catapulted to the forefront of county significance with the addition of railroad shipping, which began with the Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad in 1853. Pit mining for coal originated here in 1861 (Morrow 1956; Willard 1916).

During the Civil War, Jackson was visited by Morgan's Raiders, but the skirmish was slight and little more than hoof prints were left to bear witness. One man was killed and a mill burnt, but as they passed through in the night, there was little resistance and then they were gone (Jones and Jenkins 1953; Willard 1916).

The towns of Wellston, Oak Hill, and Coalton were each established after the Civil War; Wellston in 1874, Oak Hill in 1880, and Coalton near that later date.

Wellston became a city, but the other two remain villages. The rest of the county is rural (Howe 1888; Morrow 1956; Willard 1916).

By 1888, Jackson was the largest coal producing county in Ohio, but by 1907, the Wellston seam began to show exhaustion. As ever, mining continued, but in another way. Firebrick clay and cement manufacture gained in importance, subsidizing the recession of the county's coal industry. However nothing could replace it and the county slipped into decline. The population has changed very little over the past hundred years (Morrow 1956; Willard 1916).

Jefferson Township History

Jefferson Township is located in the south central portion of Jackson County. During early times, Native Americans tended to the land. It is here they hunted and gathered along with building an estimated five-hundred earthworks in the area. Salt was a major reason for people coming to Jefferson. Before the European settlers, Native Americans were aware of the salt. There was tension between the legal residents of Jefferson and squatters in terms of salt mine usage (Howe 1888).

In 1804 a post office was built and two roads which made transportation easier. The first school house was constructed in 1806. Classes were taught under the instruction of a gentleman by the name George L. Crookham. During this period school houses usually built with logs, contained a fireplace for winter sessions and used greased paper for windows. After sometime, salt was no longer the only resource and industry in Jefferson Township. Coal became a staple resource throughout the county after the first mine opened in 1823. Several years would pass before Iron was discovered and shared success with the coal industry for years to come. When railroads came through, it catapulted both industries allowing for importing and exporting with further regions. Some of the other exports were tobacco, lumber and wool (Howe 1888).

Spiritual practices were of importance in Jefferson Township. The first church was erected in 1819. Baptists were the prominent denomination of religious practice in the township. Religion gave many people a sense of community and served as a meeting place. It was here residents could converse and make transactions (Jones and Jenkins 1953).

Research Design

The purpose of a Phase I survey is to locate and identify cultural resources that will be affected by the planned development. This includes archaeological deposits as well as architectural properties that are older than 50 years. Once these resources are identified and sampled, they are evaluated for their eligibility or potential eligibility to the NRHP. These investigations are directed to answer or address the following questions:

- 1) Did the literature review reveal anything that suggests the project area had been previously surveyed, and what is the relationship of previously recorded properties to the project area?
- 2) Are cultural resources likely to be encountered in the project area?
- 3) Will the planned undertaking affect any archaeological or architectural properties?
- 4) Will any NRHP eligible sites or properties be affected by the planned development?

Archaeological Field Methods

The survey conducted within the project area was generally limited to subsurface testing methods and visual inspection. Surface collection was not possible due to the ground cover.

Shovel test unit excavation. Shovel test units were placed at 15-m intervals where adequate surface visibility was lacking. These measure 50 cm on a side and are excavated to 5 cm below the topsoil/subsoil interface. Individual shovel test units are documented regarding their depth, content and color (Munsell). Wherever sites are encountered, Munsell color readings are taken per shovel test unit. All of the undisturbed soil matrices from shovel test units are screened using .6 cm hardware mesh. When sites are identified, additional shovel test units will be excavated at 7.5 m intervals extending on grid and in the four cardinal directions from the positive locations.

Visual inspection. Locations where cultural resources were not expected, such as disturbed areas and wet areas were walked over and visually inspected. Rodent-exposed areas were inspected for cultural materials. This method was used to verify the absence or likelihood of any cultural resources being located in these areas. This method was also utilized to document the general terrain and the surrounding area.

The application of the resulting field survey methods was documented in field notes, field maps, and project plan maps.

Curation

No artifacts 50 years of age or older were recovered during the investigations. Notes and maps affiliated with this project will be maintained at Weller & Associates, Inc. files.

Literature Review

The literature review study area is defined as a 1.6 km (1.0 mile) radius from the boundaries of the project. In conducting the literature review, the following resources

were consulted at SHPO, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, at the State Library of Ohio, and from various online resources:

- 1) *An Archaeological Atlas of Ohio* (Mills 1914);
- 2) SHPO United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' series topographic maps;
- 3) Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) files;
- 4) Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) files;
- 5) National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files;
- 6) SHPO consensus Determinations of Eligibility (DOE) files;
- 7) SHPO CRM/contract archaeology files; and
- 8) Jackson County atlases, histories, historic USGS 15' series topographic map(s), and current USGS 7.5' series topographic map(s).

A review of *An Archaeological Atlas of Ohio* (Mills 1914) was conducted. The *Atlas* indicated did not indicate any resources situated within or adjacent to the project area.

A review of the SHPO topographic maps indicated that there are four sites located in the study radius. None of these sites are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area (Table 2). Three of these sites are associated with prehistoric period activity.

Table 2. Previously Recorded OAIs Located in the Study Radius.			
Site #	Site Type	Temporal Association	In or Adjacent to Project
33JA197	Lithic scatter	Unassigned Prehistoric	NO
33LE49	Mound	Unassigned Woodland	NO
33LE229	Lithic scatter	Unassigned Prehistoric	NO
33LE235	Concrete Pier	20 th Century Historic	NO

The Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) files indicated that there are no previously recorded OHI filed in the study radius or the project area.

A review of the NRHP files and determinations of eligibility files indicated that there are no resources within or adjacent the project area. There are no such resources located in the study radius of the project area.

There have been four CRM surveys conducted within the study area, none of which incorporated any aspects of the current project (Doershuk 1990; Picklesimer 1992; Murphy 1993; Biehl and Davis 2013). None of these surveys incorporate or are near the current project area.

Cartographic/atlas resources were reviewed for the project area. According to the *Atlas of Jackson County, Ohio* (Lake 1875) the property was owned by I. Wallace and consisted of 80 total acres. The USGS 1912 *Oak Hill, Ohio 15 Minute Series (Topographic)* map indicates no buildings within the project area (Figure 4). There are no residences indicated in the vicinity of the project area.

Evaluation of Research Questions 1 and 2

There were two questions presented in the research design that will be addressed at this point. These are:

- 1) Did the literature review reveal anything that suggests the project area had been previously surveyed?
- 2) Are cultural resources likely to be encountered in the project area?

The project area has not been the subject of any previous investigations. There are several CRM surveys conducted within the study radius. Mills (1914) did not identify sites in the immediate vicinity. Given the location of the project area and the presence of sites in the neighboring and similar terrain, it seems plausible that archaeological deposits might be present if there are intact soils.

Fieldwork Results

The field investigations for this project were conducted on July 31, 2015. The survey conditions were suitable for subsurface testing and weather was amiable for the completion of the fieldwork. The project area is a pair of linear segments that consist of 138 kV lines, 400 feet and 250 feet respectively (Figure 5). Each of the lines will serve as connectors between the recently constructed Firebrick Station and existing transmission lines to the north of the station.

The project area is located at the dead end of Monroe Hickory Road off of SR 140 in the southern portion of Jefferson Township, Jackson County. The project area is contained within an area of rolling terrain. A portion of the project area is on slope excessive of that typical to contain intact archaeological sites. The Firebrick Station was recently constructed, which caused some portions of the proposed transmission line segments to be previously disturbed upon inspection in the field. The disturbed area is throughout the majority of the project (Figures 6-8). The ground surface has experienced recent grading and is still generally bare. Shovel probing verified that the depth of the disturbance reaches into subsoil in this area. Portions of the disturbed area are also on slope.

As a result of the extensively disturbed conditions within the project area, no archaeological sites were identified during the survey.

Evaluations of Research Questions 3 & 4

There were two questions presented in the research design that will be addressed at this point. These are:

- 3) Will the planned undertaking affect any archaeological or architectural properties?

- 4) Will any NRHP eligible sites or properties be affected by the planned development?

The proposed project is not considered to impact or affect any historic properties. Testing identified no archaeological sites.

APE Definition and NRHP Determination

The APE is a term that must be applied on an individual project basis. The nature of the project or undertaking is considered in determining the APE. This may include areas that are off the property or outside of the actual project's boundaries to account for possible visual impacts. When construction is limited to underground activity, the APE may be contained within the footprint of the project area. The APE for this project includes the footprint of the project and a limited area surrounding it.

The undertaking includes the addition of a series of short connector lines leading from existing adjacent 138 kV transmission line to the newly constructed Firebrick Station. The addition of the lines is not considered to have an effect on any historic properties.

The surroundings include the recently constructed Firebrick Station and the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line to the north and the existing Lick-Pedro 69 kV line to the south of the station. To the western and southern sides of the project is densely forested area, which restricts visibility to the project. A residential property is located to the east of the project; however, it is less than 50 years of age. No residential properties are immediately to the north of the project. The undertaking is considered to have no effect on historic properties as it has: 1) a limited area of potential effect; 2) the construction activity is consistent with the surroundings; 3) there are no historic properties within what is regarded as being the area of potential effect (Figure 2).

Recommendations

In July of 2015, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) completed a Phase I Cultural Resources Management Investigations for the proposed connector transmission lines for Firebrick Station located in Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Ohio. The station has already been constructed, and two short lines need to be constructed to connect the station to the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line to the north. These lines will extend approximately 250 feet and 400 feet between the 138 kV line and the station. These investigations did not result in the identification of archaeological sites. It is the opinion of Weller that no historic properties will be affected by the project. No further work is recommended for this undertaking.

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Figures

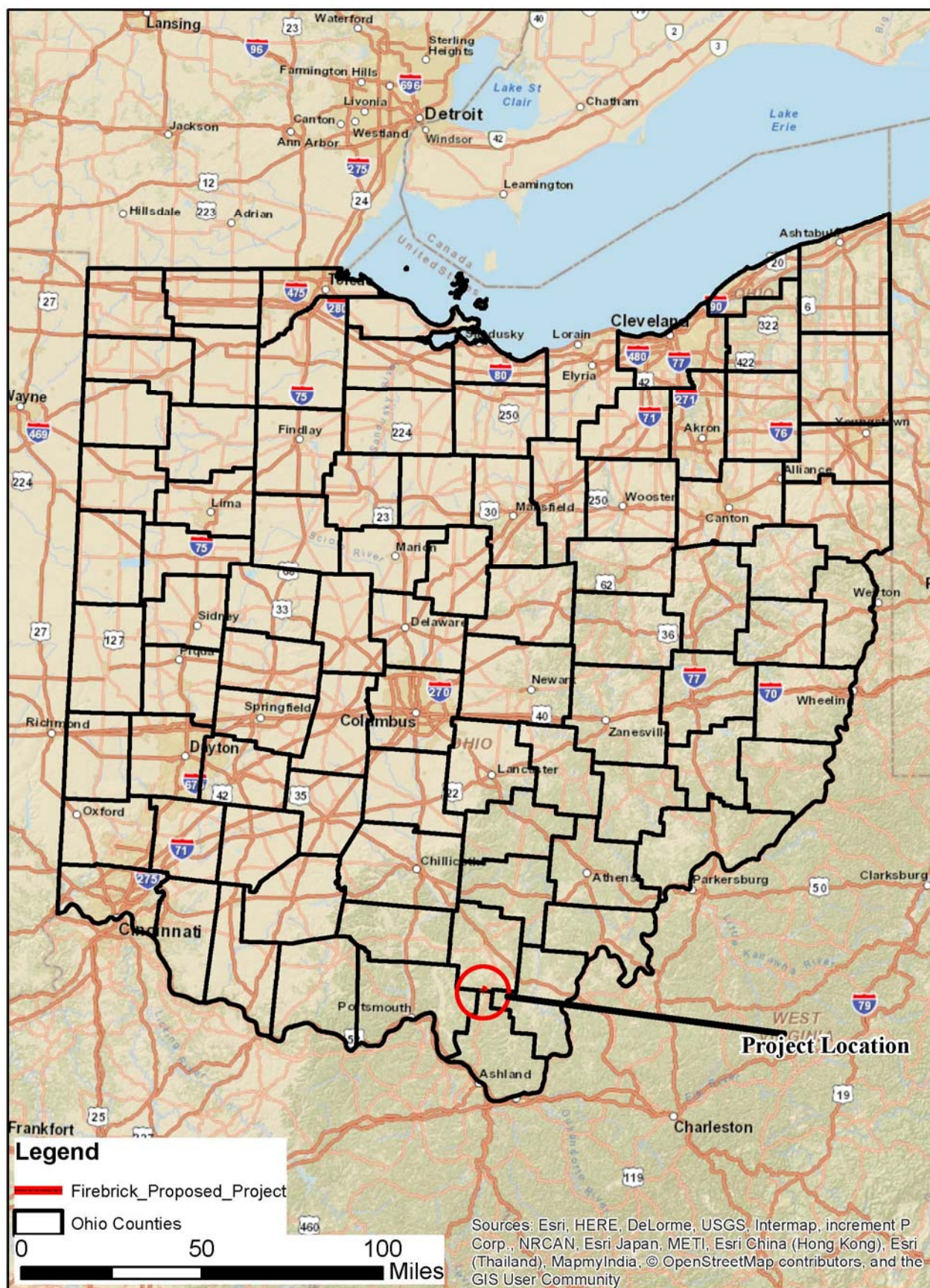


Figure 1. Political Map showing approximate project location.

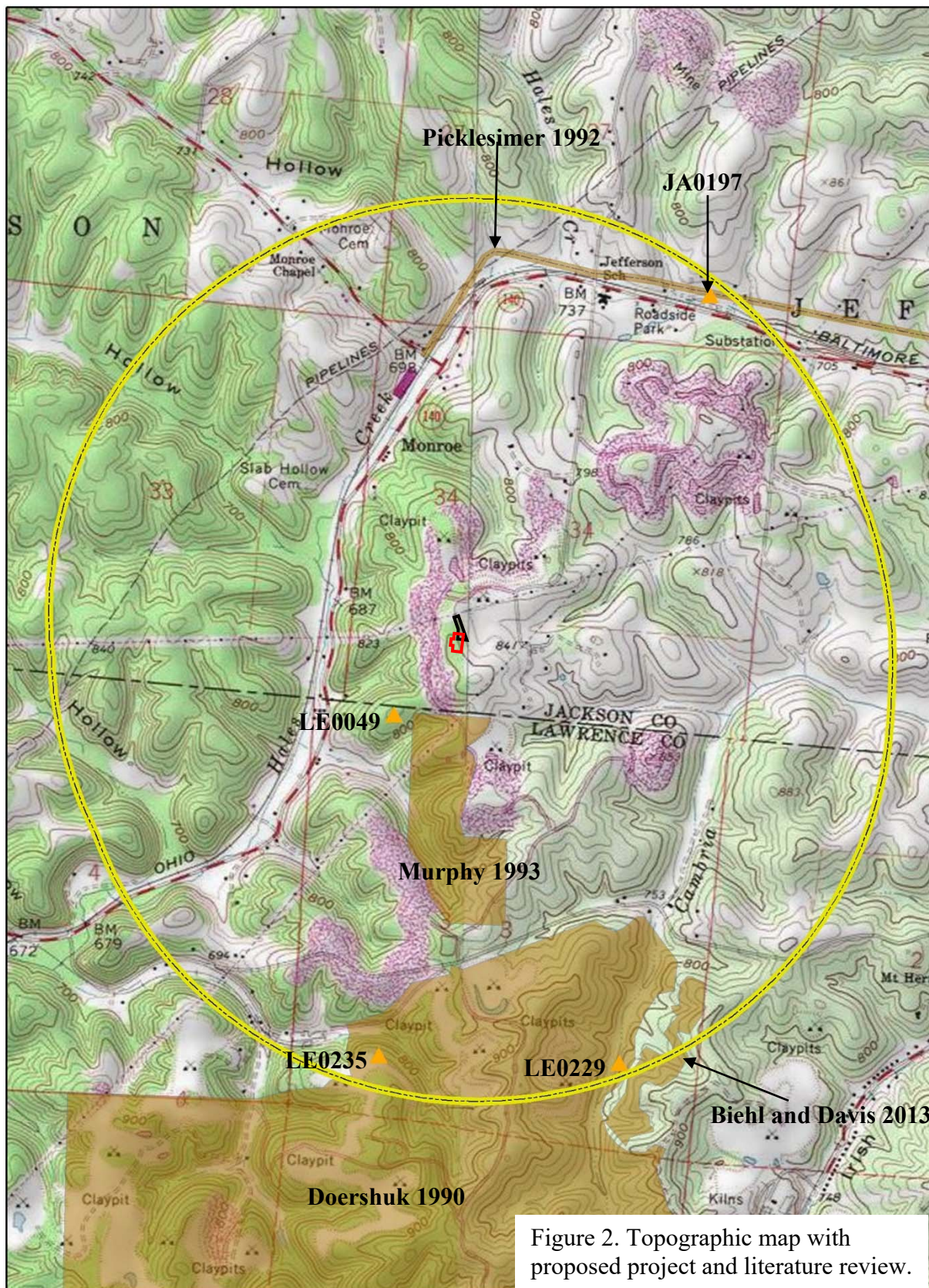


Figure 2. Topographic map with proposed project and literature review.

Legend

- ▲ OAI
- 1 mi Study Area
- Previous Survey (Area)
- Previous Survey (Linear)
- Survey Area
- Station Pad



Figure 3. Aerial view of the project.

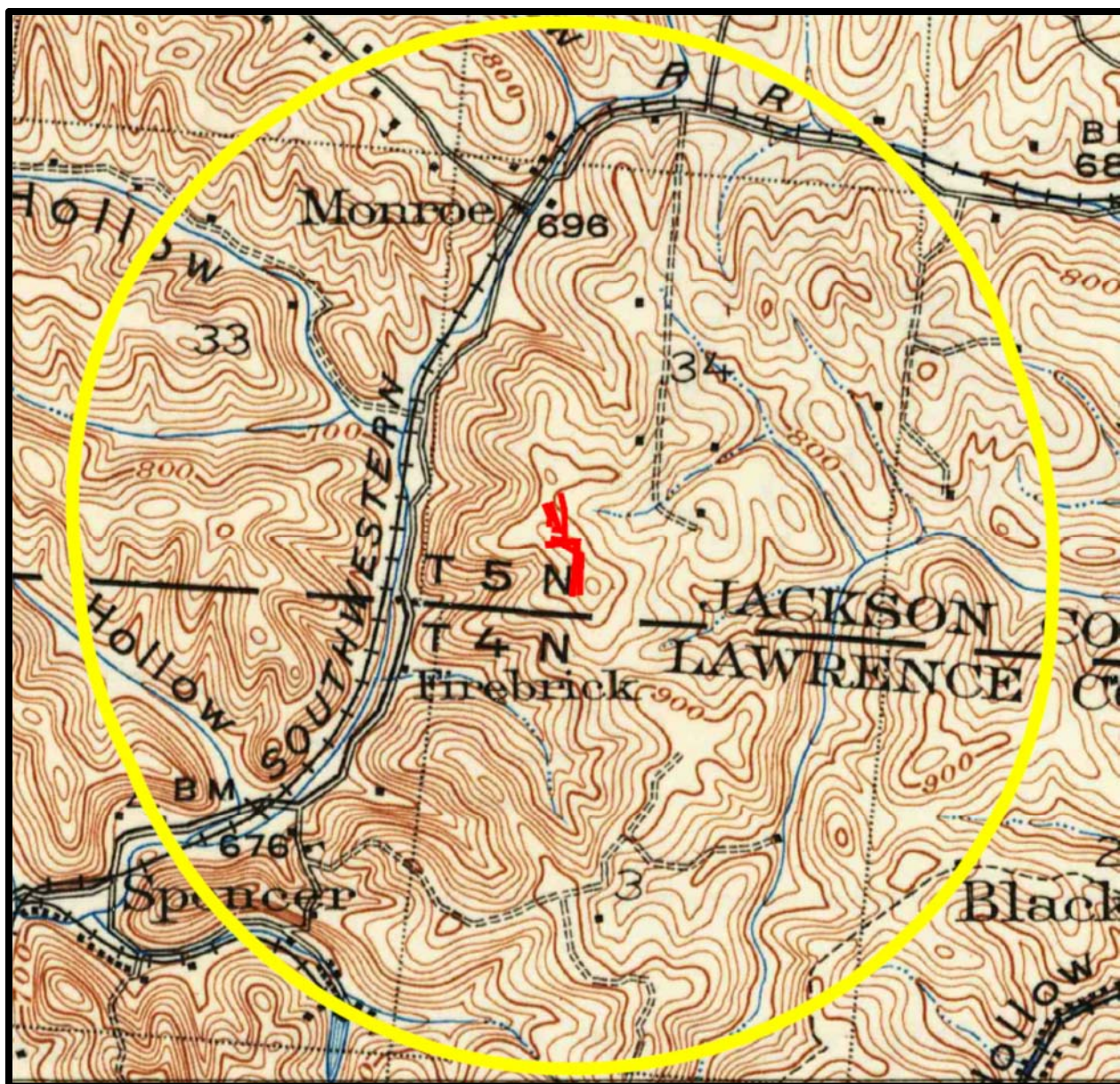


Figure 4. Portion of the 1912 Oak Hill, Ohio 15 Minute Series (Topographic) map indicating the approximate location of the project and study area.



Figure 5. Aerial fieldwork map of the project indicating the results of testing.



Figure 6. Recently constructed Firebrick Station.



Figure 7. Recently constructed Firebrick Station.



Figure 8. Visually disturbed area in northern portion of project.



Figure 9. Visually disturbed area in northern portion of project.



Figure 10. Visually disturbed area in northern portion of project.

August 25, 2015

Jackson City Library
Ms. Laura Thorne, Director
21 Broadway Street
Jackson, OH 45640

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Ms. Thorne:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions, Ohio Power Siting Board Case Number 15-1364-EL-BNR, consists of building of two new transmission lines near the intersection of existing transmission lines into the new Firebrick Substation to increase the transmission reliability in southern Ohio. The total length of the Firebrick transmission lines is approximately a half mile long. The two new transmission lines will be located in Jefferson Township in Jackson County. AEP Ohio Transco will build the Firebrick transmission line extensions by using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. This project will be an approximate \$1 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2015.

We ask that this Construction Notice be made available to the public.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-02 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Construction Notice. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Jerry Hall
Mr. Edmond Armstrong
Mr. Paul Haller
275 Portsmouth Street
Jackson, OH 45640

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Commissioners:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jackson County Engineer
Ms. Melissa Miller
3062 Clary Road
Jackson, OH 45640

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Ms. Miller:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jackson County Planning Commission
B.J. Allison Public Health Center
200 East Main Street, Room 205
Jackson, OH 45640

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Director:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jefferson Township Trustee
Mr. Harold E. Adkins, Jr.
823 Phillip Kuhn Road
Oak Hill, OH 45656

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Mr. Adkins:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jefferson Township Trustee
Mr. Brett Shipman
10361 State Route 279
Oak Hill, OH 45656

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Mr. Shipman:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jefferson Township Trustee
Mr. Dwight Woods
208 Cambia Road
Oak Hill, OH 45656

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Mr. Woods:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

August 25, 2015

Jefferson Township Fiscal Officer
Mr. James A. Slone
1264 Antioch Road
Oak Hill, OH 45656

RE: Construction Notice
Firebrick 138kV Transmission Line Extensions
Case Number: 15-1364-EL-BNR

Dear Mr. Slone:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Construction Notice to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,



Brett E. Schmied
Project Outreach Specialist
AEP Ohio

cc: Curtis Perry, Project Manager

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

8/28/2015 3:10:55 PM

in

Case No(s). 15-1364-EL-BNR

Summary: Notice Construction Notice of the Firebrick 138k V Loop electronically filed by Mr. Matthew J Satterwhite on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company