

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Application of American Electric )  
Power Transmission Company, Inc. for an Amendment ) 15-1682-EL-BTA  
to its Certificate to Install an Electric Transmission )  
Line in Ross County, Ohio. )**

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 amended application in this case is subject to an approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon  
Director, Rates and Analysis  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 15-1682-EL-BTA (amends 13-0429-EL-BTX)  
**Project Name:** Biers Run-Hopetown-Delano Transmission Line  
**Project Location:** Ross County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Transmission Company, Inc.  
**Application Filing Date:** September 28, 2015  
**Inspection Dates:** September 29, 2015  
**Report Date:** October 19, 2015  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, G. Zeto

### Application Description

In case number 13-0429-EL-BTX, the Ohio Power Siting Board authorized American Electric Power Transmission Company, Inc. (Applicant) to construct a 138 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line located between the existing Biers Run and Delano transmission substations, and the Hopetown distribution substation.

In this application, the Applicant proposes to adjust approximately 1,040 feet (0.2 miles) of transmission line located near State Route 104. The adjustment is located between Old State Route 207 and State Route 104 and would impact four parcels of land. Two of the parcels are owned by a private landowner and two are owned by the Applicant. The overall length of the project would not change, nor would the operating characteristics of the transmission line change. In addition, the location of the project's associated facilities, including access roads and laydown yard would remain unchanged.

### Basis of Application

The Applicant states that the proposed adjustment to the transmission line is the result of a request by a property owner subsequent to the Opinion, Order, and Certificate issued for case number 13-0429-EL-BTX. The Applicant has since acquired property that is adjacent to the property on which the originally certificated line would have been located. This Amendment would relocate a small portion of the line onto AEP property and partially off neighboring property that is presently used for agricultural purposes, removing the need to purchase 0.2 miles of additional easement from the private landowner.

### Application Review

Staff notes that the location of the facility adjustment is within the study corridor that was addressed and considered in the application case number 13-0429-EL-BTX and the subsequent certificate for that case.

The proposed adjustment would revise the route for approximately 600 feet of 138 kV transmission line and one structure from the west side of stream 17, an intermittent stream on private property,

and places this portion of transmission line to the east side of the stream on AEP property. Cultural resources and field ecological reviews were performed in the original application for this entire corridor. The transmission line route in this amendment would cross stream number 17 further downstream, reducing the impacted portion of the stream within the proposed right-of-way from 258 feet to 36 feet, reducing the amount of tree clearing and exposed stream bank within the right-of-way.

No new adverse stream impacts were identified, and there would be no additional impact to wetland or threatened or endangered species as a result of this amendment request.

### **Conclusion**

The Application establishes that the overall length of transmission line and other project facility components would not change with this amendment, and that there would be no material increase in any adverse socioeconomic or environmental impact of the facility.

Pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10(A)(3), the construction of this project should pose only minimal adverse environmental impacts. Staff believes, if the route is adjusted as proposed in the amendment application, the original conditions of the certificate are adequate to ensure that adverse environmental impacts would continue to be minimized for this project.

### **Recommended Findings**

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Application, provided that the certificate continues to include the 33 conditions specified in the Opinion, Order, and Certificate for case number 13-0429-EL-BTX.

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

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**Case No(s). 15-1682-EL-BTA**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mrs. Yvonne W Cooper on behalf of Staff of OPSB