

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Expedited Letter of Notification** )  
**Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.** ) **15-2036-EL-BLN**  
**for the Rexford 138 kV Extension 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 Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) 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 recommended for automatic approval on January 21, 2016, unless suspended by the Board's chairperson 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 recommended conditions 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 January 21, 2016, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon  
Director, Rates and Analysis  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-6692

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 15-2036-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** Rexford 138 kV Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Harrison County  
**Applicant:** AEP Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** December 23, 2015  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Date:** January 7, 2016  
**Report Date:** January 14, 2016  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** January 21, 2016  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** A. Holderbaum

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

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Project Description

AEP Ohio Transmission Company (Applicant) proposes to construct a 138 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line extension. The total length of the extension would be 0.84-mile. The extension would be installed within new 100-foot wide right-of-way. The new right-of-way would be entirely on property owned by Markwest Ohio Fractionation Company, LLC (Markwest). The Applicant anticipates an in-service date of March 30, 2016. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$1,933,000.

### Site Description

The electric transmission line extension begins at the Sunoco Customer Station facility and travels 0.84 mile northeast where it taps into the existing 69 kV transmission line at Giacobbi Road, approximately 0.25-mile east of State Route 151 in Green Township. The surrounding land use is a mix of old field/early successional habitats, deciduous forest, and industrial/previously disturbed area. The entire length of the extension would be located within property owned by Markwest, except for one railroad crossing. The Applicant states that it has obtained the necessary easement from the property owner and a standard license agreement from the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway for the railroad crossing.

All construction activity would occur within the 100-foot right-of-way (50-feet on either side of the centerline). 16 galvanized steel single and two-pole structures with horizontal cross arm (H-Frames) would be installed to complete the extension.

## **Basis of Need**

The Applicant is proposing to construct the 13 8kV electric transmission line extension to meet the requirements for a specific customer, the Sunoco Pipeline Group.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials. No temporary easements would be required from adjacent property owners for an access road or laydown areas.

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant completed a Phase I archaeological survey within the right-of-way study corridor and proposed access roads for the project. A desktop review of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office database indicated that no previously documented archaeological sites, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), or properties listed in or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP are located within a one mile radius of the center of the proposed project area. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

### *Surface Waters*

The electric transmission line right-of-way contains three stream crossings, including one intermittent and two ephemeral streams. The Applicant plans to span the three streams. One segment of the intermittent stream, approximately 20 linear feet, would be temporarily crossed by equipment during construction. The Applicant would use timber matting to cross the stream. No permanent impacts to the stream are anticipated.

One category 2 wetland was identified within a portion of the project, totaling 0.11 acre in size. The wetland is outside of the right-of-way but would be temporarily impacted during construction, as a portion of the wetland, 0.03 acre total, would be used as access road. The Applicant states that they would use timber matting to cross the wetland. No permanent impacts are anticipated for the wetland.

The Applicant intends to submit a Notice of Intent to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction stormwater discharge under General Permit OHC000004. Preconstruction notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for authorization under Nationwide Permit #12 for impacts to streams and wetlands would not be required for this project due to the amount and type of impacts. Due to the temporary crossing of the intermittent stream and wetland during construction, a Section 404 Permit from the USACE would be required. The Applicant would utilize best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to surface waters. The proposed BMPs would be outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, and a copy would be provided to Staff.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Preferred summer roosting habitat for the federal and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is located in the project area. The Applicant has committed to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for the clearing of trees that exhibit suitable Indiana bat summer habitat.

The project lies within the range of the state endangered upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and the black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Due to the lack of suitable habitat and the mobility of these species, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

### **Conclusion**

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on January 21, 2016, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

### **Conditions**

1. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required, including any permits necessary for aviation clearance. Copies of such permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, shall be provided to Staff.
2. The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of suitable Indiana bat habitat trees, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reflects a different course of action.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**1/14/2016 11:39:39 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 15-2036-EL-BLN**

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