

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of )  
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, )  
Inc. for the Raider 138 kV Transmission Line Extension ) 16-1120-EL-BNR  
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 July 15, 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 July 15, 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) 644-8932

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 16-1120-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Raider 138 kV Transmission Line Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Harrison County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
**Application Filing Date:** June 23, 2016  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** June 30, 2016  
**Report Date:** July 8, 2016  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** July 15, 2016  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, G. Zeto

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

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to extend the existing Rexford 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line by 976 feet. The double-circuit transmission line extension is needed in order to meet the needs of a specific customer, Marathon, which is constructing a new customer station. The cost of the transmission line extension project is estimated at \$341,000. The extension would consist of three new steel pole structures. Construction is expected to commence in July 2016.

### Site Description

The project is located in Green Township, Harrison County. The new right-of-way for this project would be located on property owned by Markwest Ohio Fractional Company, LLC and would cross the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway. The Applicant has stated that all necessary easements have been obtained for this project. The proposed transmission line extension would be located adjacent to an active industrial facility.

### Basis of Need

AEP Ohio Transco states the proposed transmission line extension is needed in order to provide electrical service to a new customer station. This station is presently being constructed and will need electrical service for operation. The proposed extension will be designed and constructed for 138 kV operation, but initially will be energized at 69 kV.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The proposed extension is located near existing electrical transmission facilities, an industrial complex, and open field. The area around the facility was previously disturbed for surface coal mining activity. The Applicant states that there are currently four occupied residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed facility. There are no cemeteries, parks, agricultural land, or sensitive land uses within the vicinity of the project. The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners.

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant performed a Phase I cultural resource management investigation for the project in November 2015, concluding that the project will not affect any historic properties or landmarks and that no further archaeological work is considered to be necessary for this project. A copy of the Phase I investigation report was provided to Staff as part of this application.

### *Surface Waters*

The electric transmission right-of way contains one intermittent stream and a stormwater retention basin. Neither feature would be directly impacted. The Applicant stated that it would either avoid crossing the features or cross using temporary timber mat structures. No wetlands were identified within the project area. Since land disturbance associated with project construction would be less than 1 acre, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is not required. Surface water features identified in the project area could be impacted because of their location relative to proposed structure location and topography. Staff recommends best management practices, such as silt fencing, be implemented to minimize construction stormwater impacts to these resources.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

No tree clearing is proposed and the project is not expected to impact any state or federal listed species or their habitat.

## **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 July 15, 2016, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

## **Conditions**

- (1) The Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state laws and regulations for any activities where such permit or authorization is required. Copies of such permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, shall be provided to Staff.
- (2) The Applicant shall utilize best management practices when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the installation of silt fencing (or a similarly effective tool) prior to initiating construction near streams and 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**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 16-1120-EL-BNR**

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