

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application)
of American Electric Power Ohio Transmission)
Company, Inc. for the Delano-Scioto Trail 138 kV) 16-1522-EL-BLN
Transmission Line Relocation Project)**

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	

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.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to August 25, 2016, which is the automatic approval date.

RASA

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: 16-1522-EL-BLN
Project Name: Delano-Scioto Trail 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Project Location: Pickaway County
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Application Filing Date: July 27, 2016
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: August 1, 2016
Report Date: August 18, 2016
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: August 25, 2016
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, J. Cross, G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., (AEP Ohio Transco or Applicant), proposes to reroute 1.1 miles of the existing Delano-Scioto Trail 138 kilovolt (kV) single circuit transmission line. The Delano-Scioto Trail 138 kV transmission line was the subject of a rebuild project (case number 15-0681-EL-BLN) approved on November 5, 2015. Subsequently, the Sofidel Group announced plans to construct a 1.4 million square foot paper mill facility on property crossed by the Delano-Scioto Trail 138 kV transmission line.

The reroute would consist of new steel pole structures, and would tie into a new distribution substation (Tuscany distribution substation), which would energize the new Sofidel facility. The cost of the transmission line reroute project is estimated at \$2.6 million, with an additional \$4 million designated for the Tuscany distribution substation (non-jurisdictional to the OPSB). Construction of the project is expected to commence in October 2016.

Site Description

The project is located in Pickaway Township, Pickaway County. The proposed transmission line reroute would be predominately located on land designated for development of the new Sofidel paper mill facility, which is located on the east side of U.S. Route 23. The reroute would begin at the existing Delano-Scioto Trail transmission line, encircle the northern portion of the Sofidel property, and energize the distribution substation that would feed electricity to the plant. The

reroute would continue inside the perimeter of the Sofidel property and reconnect with the Delano-Scioto Trail transmission line south of the Sofidel property. The proposed reroute is located adjacent to U.S. Route 23 south of the city of Circleville. The Applicant has stated that notification about the project has been sent to area public officials and affected property owners. AEP Ohio Transco would need to obtain right-of-way easements from three property owners, including Sofidel, along the reroute.

Basis of Need

AEP Ohio Transco states the proposed transmission line extension is needed in order to provide electrical service to a new customer facility via the proposed Tuscany distribution substation. The proposed reroute will be designed and constructed for 138 kV operation and is needed to provide electric service to a specific customer.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The transmission line reroute would provide electrical service to the proposed 1.4 million square foot Sofidel paper mill facility. This new plant is projected to employ over 300 workers and represents an investment of over \$200 million.

The Delano-Scioto Trail transmission line is currently visible to surrounding properties and U.S. Route 23, so the reroute will have minimal additional visual impacts on surrounding residences. The Sofidel property is currently used for agricultural purposes, but is not registered as part of the Agricultural District Land program and is designated for development. Aside from surrounding agricultural land uses, there are several industrial and commercial facilities in the vicinity of the project. No occupied residences are located within 100 feet of the proposed project. The nearest residences are located approximately 500 feet west of the project.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant had a Phase I archaeological survey performed for the project in July 2016, which identified one previously unrecorded archaeological site. The consultant for this survey recommended that the site was an isolated artifact, and that a finding of ‘no historic properties affected’ is considered appropriate for this project. It was also recommended that no further archaeological work is considered to be necessary for this project.

Surface Waters and Threatened and Endangered Species

No tree clearing is needed for this project. No impacts to surface waters or listed wildlife species are anticipated as a result of this project.

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 August 25, 2016.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 16-1522-EL-BLN

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