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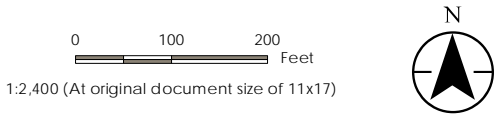
Figure No.  
3

Title  
Habitat Assessment Map

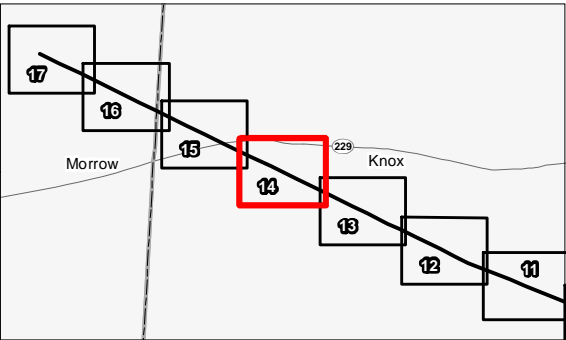
Client/Project  
American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station - Hedding Station  
138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio

193704281  
Prepared by HDB on 2016-08-24  
Technical Review by MP on 2016-08-26  
Independent Review by NN on 2016-09-09



- Legend
- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ■ AEP Substation                               | Field Delineated Waterway            |
| ● Structure to be Replaced                     | Approximate Waterway                 |
| — 138 kV Transmission Line                     | Upland Drainage Feature              |
| — Access Road                                  | Approximate Upland Drainage Feature  |
| □ Project Area (100' ROW and 30' Access Roads) | Open Water                           |
| △ Existing Culvert                             | Approximate Wetland                  |
| ○ Photo Location                               | Field Delineated Wetland             |
| ● Existing Gravel Road                         | Field Delineated Emergent Wetland    |
| ● Residential Lawn                             | Field Delineated Forested Wetland    |
| ● New Field                                    | Field Delineated Scrub-Shrub Wetland |
| ● Old Field                                    |                                      |
| ● Pasture                                      |                                      |
| ● Hay Field                                    |                                      |
| ● Agricultural Row Crop                        |                                      |



- Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
  2. Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP, NADS, USGS, USFWS
  3. Orthophotography: 2015 NAIP





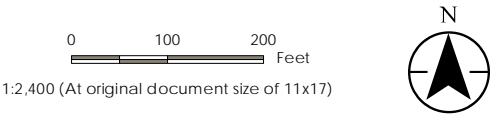
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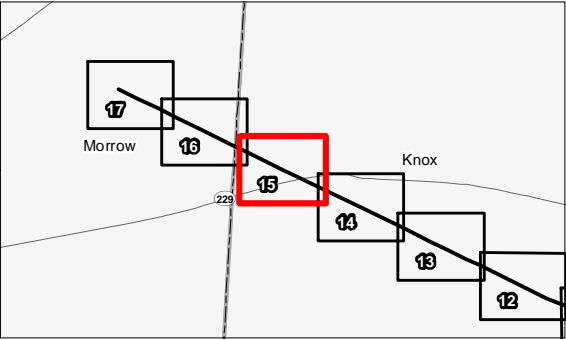
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| ■ AEP Substation                               | Field Delineated Waterway            |
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| — 138 kV Transmission Line                     | Upland Drainage Feature              |
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138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location  
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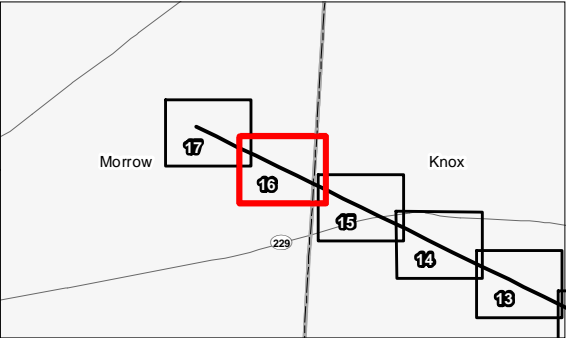
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Prepared by HDB on 2016-08-24  
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Legend

■ AEP Substation	Field Delineated Waterway
● Structure to be Replaced	Approximate Waterway
— 138 kV Transmission Line	Upland Drainage Feature
— Access Road	Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
□ Project Area (100' ROW and 30' Access Roads)	Open Water
△ Existing Culvert	Approximate Wetland
⬆ Photo Location	Field Delineated Wetland
● Existing Gravel Road	Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
● Residential Lawn	Field Delineated Forested Wetland
● New Field	Field Delineated Scrub-Shrub Wetland
● Old Field	
● Pasture	
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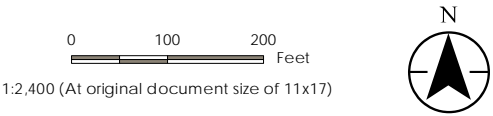
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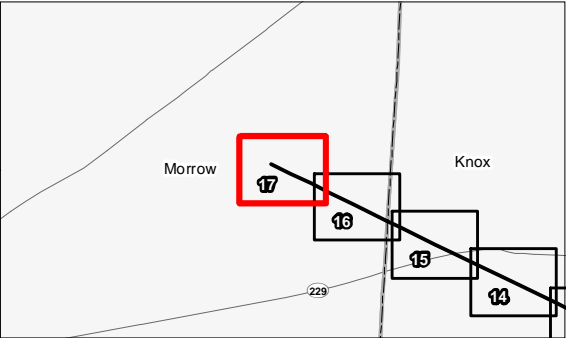
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Legend

■ AEP Substation	Field Delineated Waterway
○ Structure to be Replaced	Approximate Waterway
138 kV Transmission Line	Upland Drainage Feature
Access Road	Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
Project Area (100' ROW and 30' Access Roads)	Open Water
Existing Culvert	Approximate Wetland
Photo Location	Field Delineated Wetland
Existing Gravel Road	Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
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3. Orthophotography: 2015 NAIP



## Appendix B Agency Correspondence



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

## Ohio Division of Wildlife

*Raymond W. Petering, Chief*  
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G  
Columbus, OH 43229-6693  
Phone: (614) 265-6300

August 10, 2016

Dan Godec  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
11687 Lebanon Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Dear Mr. Godec,

After reviewing the Natural Heritage Database, I find the Division of Wildlife has no records of rare or endangered species in the Mt. Vernon Station - Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild project area, including a one mile radius, in South Bloomfield Township, Morrow County and Liberty and Clinton Townships, Knox County, Ohio. We are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges, parks or forests or other protected natural areas within a one mile radius of the project area.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6818 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Debbie Woischke  
Ohio Natural Heritage Database Program

## Godec, Daniel

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**From:** susan\_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 3:24 PM  
**To:** Godec, Daniel  
**Cc:** nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; kate.parsons@dnr.state.oh.us  
**Subject:** Mt. Vernon Station - Hedding Station 138kV Transmission Line Rebuild, Knox & Morrow Co.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Office  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230  
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2016-TA-1534

Dear Mr. Godec,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. The following comments and recommendations will assist you in fulfilling the requirements for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that proposed developments avoid and minimize water quality impacts and impacts to high quality fish and wildlife habitat (e.g., forests, streams, wetlands). Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. All disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

**FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES COMMENTS:** All projects in the State of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*). In Ohio, presence of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW

Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW

MT. VERNON STATION – HEDDING STATION 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT,  
KNOX AND MORROW COUNTIES, OHIO

## Appendix C Representative Photographs

## Wetland and Waterbody Photographs

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 1. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



Photograph 2. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing downstream/east.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 3. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 1) within Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing northwest.



Photograph 4. View of Stream 2. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 5. View of Stream 2. Photograph taken facing downstream/south.



Photograph 6. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 3) within Wetland 2. Photograph taken facing south.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 7. View of Stream 3. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.



Photograph 8. View of Stream 3. Photograph taken facing downstream/south.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 9. View of Open Water 1. Photograph taken facing southeast.



Photograph 10. View of PEM wetland community at wetland determination sample point SP 5 within Wetland 3. Photograph taken facing west.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 11. View of PFO wetland community at wetland determination sample point SP 6 with Wetland 3. Photograph taken facing northwest.



Photograph 12. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 8) within Wetland 4. Photograph taken facing south.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 13. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing upstream/south.



Photograph 14. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 15. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 10) within Wetland 5.  
Photograph taken facing south.



Photograph 16. View of Stream 5. Photograph taken facing upstream/southeast.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 17. View of Stream 5. Photograph taken facing downstream/northwest.



Photograph 18. View of Stream 6. Photograph taken facing upstream/southeast.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 19. View of Stream 6. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.



Photograph 20. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 12) within Wetland 6.  
Photograph taken facing south.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 21. View of Stream 7. Photograph taken facing upstream/southeast.



Photograph 22. View of Stream 7. Photograph taken facing downstream/northwest.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 23. View of Stream 8. Photograph taken facing upstream/south.



Photograph 24. View of Stream 8. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 25. View of wetland determination sample point (SP 14) within Wetland 7.  
Photograph taken facing south.



Photograph 26. View of Stream 9. Photograph taken facing upstream/south.

American Electric Power  
Mt. Vernon Station – Hedding Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project  
Knox and Morrow Counties, Ohio



Photograph 27. View of Stream 9. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.



Photograph 28. View of Stream 10. Photograph taken facing upstream/northwest.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**9/26/2016 12:15:28 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-1530-EL-BLN**

Summary: Letter of Notification - Part 12 electronically filed by Mr. Hector Garcia on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company