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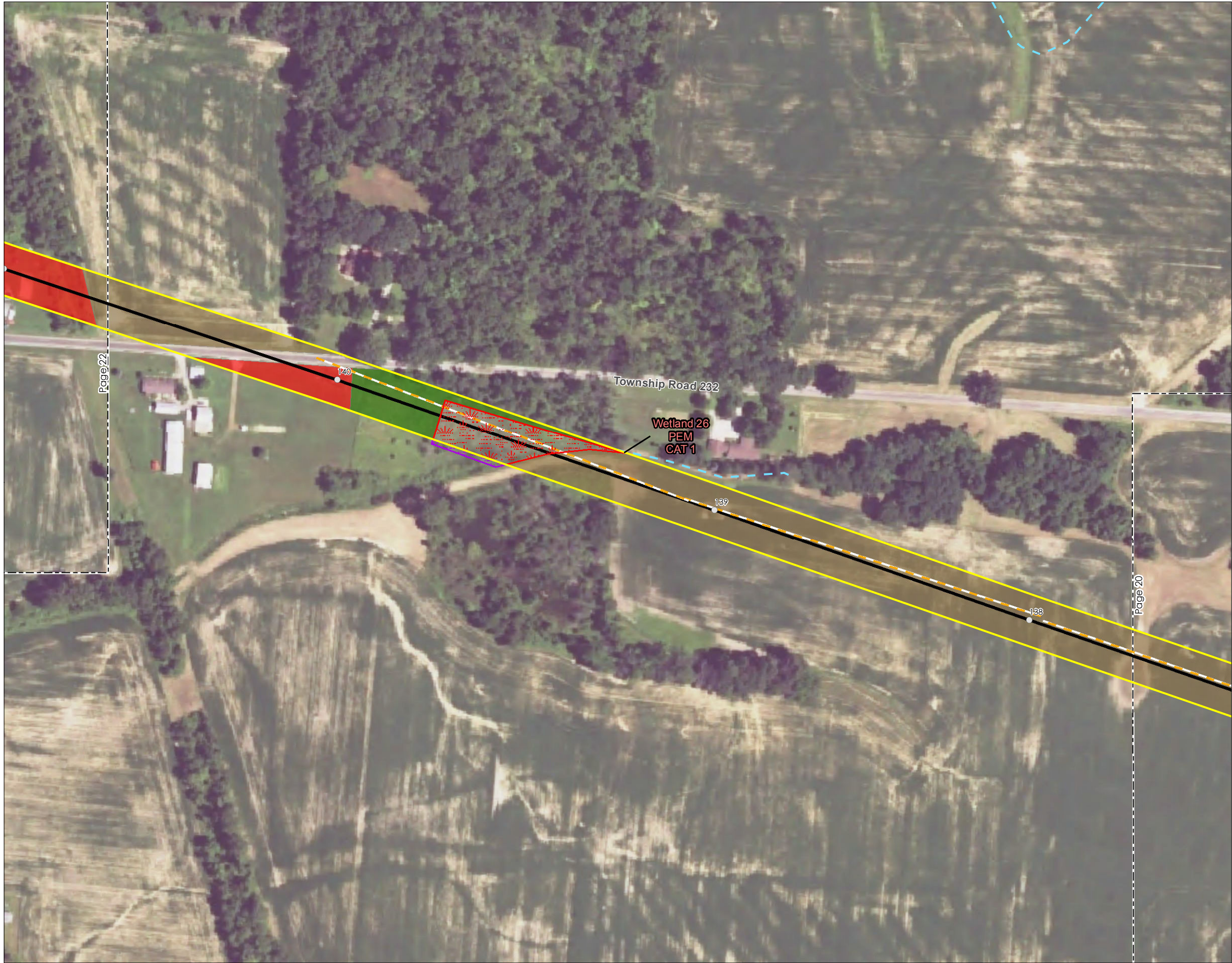


Figure No.
3

Title
Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project
American Electric Power
Hedding Station - Fulton Station
138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location
Morrow County, Ohio

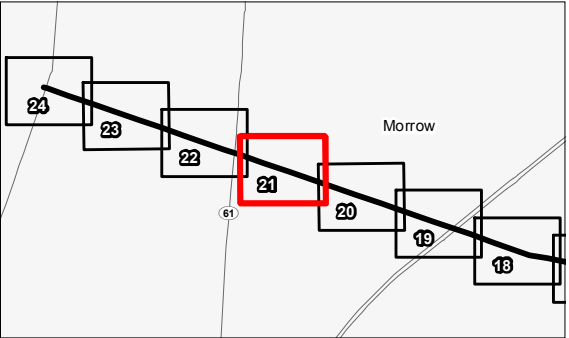
193704280
Prepared by HDB on 2016-08-24
Technical Review by MP on 2016-08-26
Independent Review by NN on 2016-09-02

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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
Old Field	Field Delineated Scrub-Shrub Wetland
New 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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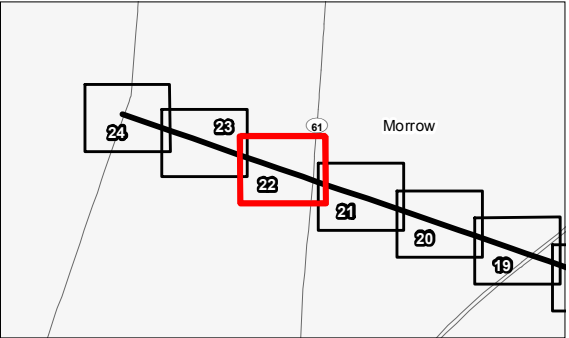
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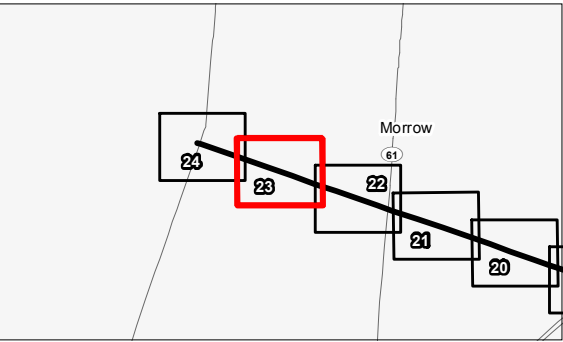
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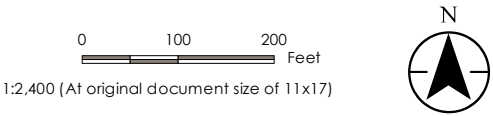
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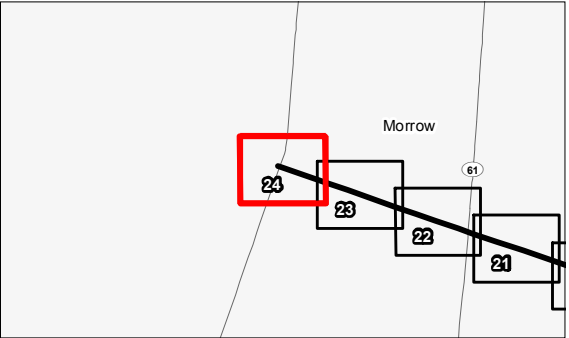
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**HEDDING STATION – FULTON STATION 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT,
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

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 Hedding Station – Fulton Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild project area, including a one mile radius, in Lincoln, Harmony, Chester and South Bloomfield Townships, Morrow 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Woischke".

Debbie Woischke
Ohio Natural Heritage Database Program

Godec, Daniel

From: susan_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Godec, Daniel
Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; kate.parsons@dnr.state.oh.us
Subject: Hedding Station - Fulton Station 138kV Transmission Line Rebuild, 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-1533

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 ≥ 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.

Should the proposed site contain trees ≥ 3 inches dbh, we recommend that trees be saved wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys

are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥ 3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend that removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is being recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, summer surveys may be conducted to document the presence or probable absence of Indiana bats within the project area during the summer. If a summer survey documents probable absence of Indiana bats, the 4(d) rule for the northern long-eared bat could be applied. Surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Endangered Species Coordinator for this office. Surveyors must have a valid federal permit. Please note that summer surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15.

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the ESA, between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend that the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the ESA, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Service's Mitigation Policy. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact John Kessler, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6621 or at john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan Everson

Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW

Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW

**HEDDING STATION – FULTON STATION 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT,
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

Appendix C Representative Photographs

Wetland and Waterbody Photographs

American Electric Power
Hedding Station – Fulton Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Morrow County, Ohio



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



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

American Electric Power
Hedding Station – Fulton Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Morrow County, Ohio

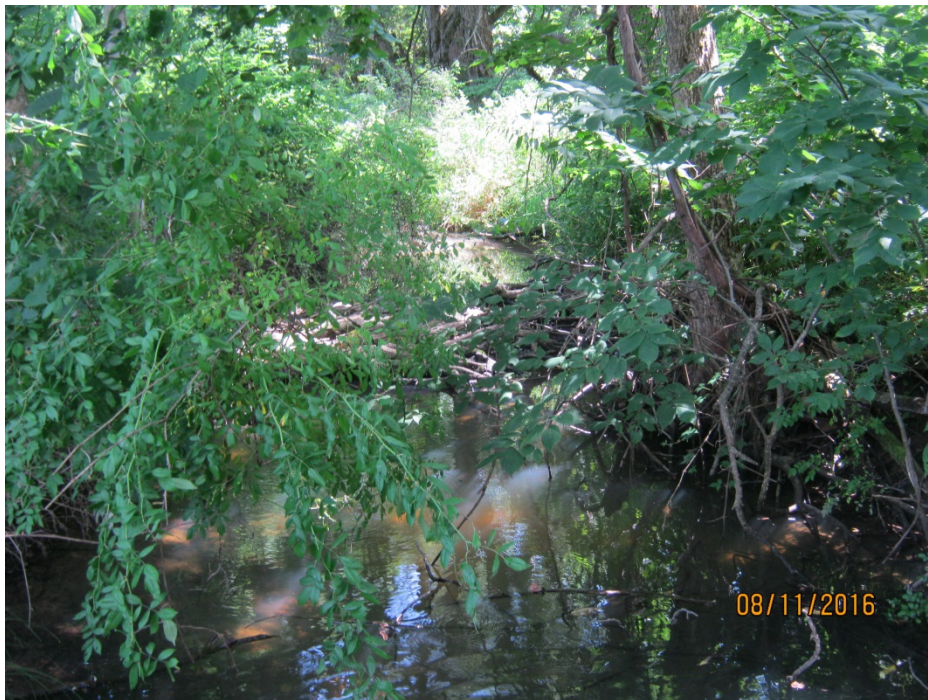


Photograph 3. View of Stream 1 (Mile Run). Photograph taken facing upstream/southeast.



Photograph 4. View of Stream 1 (Mile Run). Photograph taken facing downstream/northwest.

American Electric Power
Hedding Station – Fulton Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Morrow County, Ohio



Photograph 5. View of Stream 2. Photograph taken facing upstream/northeast.



Photograph 6. View of Stream 2. Photograph taken facing downstream/southwest.

American Electric Power
Hedding Station – Fulton Station 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Morrow County, Ohio



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



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

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

9/26/2016 2:11:37 PM

in

Case No(s). 16-1531-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification Part 22 electronically filed by Mr. Hector Garcia on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company