

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
American Electric Power Transmission Company for)
the Beatty Road Station Drainage Improvements) 16-0549-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 October 24, 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.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to October 24, 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: 16-0549-EL-BNR
Project Name: Beatty Road Station Drainage Improvements
Project Location: Franklin County
Applicant: American Electric Power Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: September 30, 2016
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: October 7, 2016
Report Date: October 17, 2016
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: October 24, 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 expand AEP Ohio Transmission Company's (Applicant) existing Beatty Road Substation. The expanded substation would provide for a new security fence and also improved drainage within and around the substation. The new fence will be located approximately 20 feet outside of the perimeter of the existing fenceline. Improvements will consist of a new access road and fence, with new drainage around the perimeter of the station, consisting of grading, swales and other station enhancements. The improvements will cost approximately \$2 million to construct. The Applicant would like to commence construction in October 2016 and finish construction in May 2017.

Site Description

The project is located in Grove City, Franklin County, along Beatty Road, west of U.S. Route 62. The Applicant states that the existing substation and expansion area is located on a parcel owned by Ohio Power Company, an affiliate of AEP Ohio Transco. The footprint of the expanded substation site is presently open field and agriculture.

Nature of Impacts

Social

The substation expansion would be confined to a single parcel. One residence is located within 1,000 feet of the project. There are no cemeteries, parks, wildlife management areas, or nature preserve lands within 1,000 feet of the station. The expansion is proposed around the perimeter of

the existing station, which is presently row crop/agriculture. The immediate vicinity is predominately industrial and agricultural/undeveloped land. The Applicant confirmed that the property is not classified as Agricultural District land.

The Applicant performed a Phase I archaeology survey for the project in March 2016, concluding that the project would not affect any historic properties and that no further cultural resources management work is necessary for this project. The Applicant has included correspondence from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (May 2016) concurring with this recommendation.

Surface Waters

No streams would be impacted by the project. Several manmade upland drainage areas would be impacted by grading as part of the proposed expansion. The drainage areas lack a continuously defined bed, bank, and ordinary high water mark and impacts would not require permitting.

Five category 1 wetlands were delineated in the project area. Portions of three of these wetlands would be permanently filled as part of the proposed expansion. Total wetland impacts would equal 0.11 acres. During field investigations, staff noted that the Applicant has already installed orange barrier fences to clearly define the limits of disturbance. Impacts to wetlands would require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including a Pre-Construction Notification.

A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction stormwater discharges under General Permit OHC000004. The Applicant would utilize best management practices (BMP) to minimize impacts to surface waters. The proposed BMP would be outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, and a copy would be provided to the Board's Staff. There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the proposed project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project lies within the range of the federal and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species, these species may be impacted by tree clearing during the summer months. The Applicant asserts that no tree clearing would be necessary for this project. However, staff observed that several trees with a diameter greater than 3 inches stand within the proposed expansion area. Staff recommends that if these trees are to be removed, removal may only occur from October 1 through March 31.

Due to no in-water work and a lack of suitable habitat, impacts to other federal and state listed species are not 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 October 24, 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 to ensure compliance with this condition.

- (2) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than three inches in diameter, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reflect a different course of action.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 16-0549-EL-BNR

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB