

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 Dublin-Davidson 138 kV Transmission Line ) 16-2122-EL-BNR  
Extension 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 November 28, 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 November 28, 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:** 16-2122-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Dublin-Davidson 138 kV Transmission Line Extension  
**Project Location:** Franklin County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
**Application Filing Date:** November 4, 2016  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** November 18, 2016  
**Report Date:** November 21, 2016  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** November 28, 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

On November 4, 2016, American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the "Applicant" or "AEP Ohio Transco") filed an expedited construction notice for 588 feet of 138 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line between the Dublin and Davidson stations. The purpose of this project is to provide 138 kV single circuit underground transmission service to a customer substation (Britton Substation). The project consists of installing two underground vaults which will provide access to the existing 138 kV Dublin-Davidson transmission line. The existing Dublin-Davidson transmission line is located underground, and was constructed in 2004-2005 under Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB" or "Board") Certificate 02-2153-EL-BTX. This project will extend 138 kV service to the adjacent step-down transformer at the Britton Station via approximately 0.1 miles (588 feet) of transmission loop that will energize the Britton Substation. The project would be installed within existing AEP Ohio Transco right-of-way. No additional easements, options or land use agreements are necessary, according to the Applicant.

The originally constructed Dublin-Davidson 138 kV transmission line from Case No. 02-2153-EL-BTX, was placed into service on March 3, 2005. In order to tap that transmission line and loop service into and out of the customer's Britton Substation, the Dublin-Davidson transmission line had to be de-energized. The Applicant states that the end of the outage window for the existing Dublin-Davidson transmission line is December 2, 2016.

## **Site Description**

The project is located in Hilliard, Franklin County, north of Davidson Road, and located between Britton Road and I-270. The Applicant states that the Britton Substation is being constructed to serve a customer. The footprint of the line extension is along the existing right-of-way for the Dublin-Davidson transmission line. This right-of-way has been cleared and maintained by AEP Ohio Transco since it was placed in service. As such, the land use for this project is presently disturbed right-of-way, surrounded by construction activity for a new substation.

## **Nature of Impacts**

Prior to filing the expedited construction notice in this case, AEP Ohio Transco previously completed construction for this project. Specifically, although the Dublin-Davidson transmission line was completed in 2005, the portion of new construction work associated with two vaults, taking a portion of the existing transmission line out of service, and extending the transmission line into and out of a new customer substation, has not been included in any prior application before the Board. Staff notes that R.C. 4906.98 requires obtaining a certificate prior to constructing a major utility facility, such as the project in this case. In this case, AEP Ohio Transco constructed the two vaults and transmission line extension without obtaining a certificate from the Board. Additionally, Staff notes that AEP Ohio Transco has other instances of constructing projects prior to obtaining Board approval in the recent past and is concerned about this apparent pattern and practice from the Applicant. Pursuant to R.C. 4906.99, whoever willfully violates any provision of R.C. 4906.98 may be fined not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars for each day of the violation, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. R.C. 4906.97 also provides for a complaint process and forfeitures for violating R.C. 4906.98. Staff raises this concern for the Board's review and consideration.

Staff did not observe any environmental damage on-site or to any adjacent property. Staff recommends that the Applicant's actions should not delay completion of construction or delay the outage window of the Dublin-Davidson transmission line considered in this case.

## *Social/Land Use*

The transmission line extension project is confined to an existing maintained right-of-way. The surrounding area is zoned as an office/institutional district and is actively being developed for a customer substation. This project would connect to the step-down portion of the customer substation. There are no residences located within 100 feet of the project. There are no cemeteries, parks, wildlife management areas or nature preserve lands within or adjacent to the project. The project is not located on land designated as Agricultural District, or other agricultural crop land. The project is located immediately west of the western segment of Interstate 270.

The Applicant performed a literature review of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) database for this project area, and found several previously conducted cultural resources surveys that were performed for this area, dating back to 1988. These surveys found nothing of archaeological significance in the vicinity of this transmission line extension project. Additionally, with the ongoing construction disturbance, the Applicant's cultural resources consultant concluded that the project would not affect any historic properties and that no further cultural resources management work is necessary for this project.

## *Surface Waters*

No streams or wetlands were identified within the transmission line extension area.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

No tree clearing was performed for this project, and no impacts to threatened and/or endangered species are 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 November 28, 2016.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/21/2016 3:39:48 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-2122-EL-BNR**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Jason Cross on behalf of  
Siting Staff