

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Letter of Notification)
Application of Hardin Wind, LLC for the Scioto Ridge) 16-2032-EL-BLN
Point of Interconnect Substation 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: 16-2032-EL-BLN
Project Name: Scioto Ridge Point of Interconnect Substation
Project Location: Hardin County
Applicant: Hardin Wind, LLC
Application Filing Date: October 28, 2016
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: November 14, 2016
Report Date: November 21, 2016
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: November 28, 2016
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

On October 16, 2013, the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) issued a certificate in case number 13-1767-EL-BSB for the Scioto Ridge Point of Interconnect Substation. In this case the Applicant, Hardin Wind, LLC, proposes an alternative location for the substation to support the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm. The proposed location of the new Scioto Ridge Point of Interconnect Substation is a result of engineering discussions with the transmission operator. Only one point of interconnect substation will be constructed to support the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm, and if this Letter of Notification Application is approved, the Applicant will provide notice to the Board that the original substation will not be constructed and seek to withdraw its certificate in case number 13-1767-EL-BSB.

The proposed substation would interconnect with the regional grid via the AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) East Lima-Marysville 345kilovolt (kV) circuit. The Applicant expects to construct and own the substation, then transfer ownership to the transmission operator, AEP Ohio Transco, when the wind farm becomes operational.

The substation would cover approximately 5 acres. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in 2017 with an anticipated in-service date of December 2017. The Applicant estimates the cost of this project to be approximately \$11 million.

Site Description

The project is located in McDonald Township, Hardin County, southwest of the city of Kenton. The substation site is located on property leased by the Applicant. The Applicant notes that the owner of the project property is also a participating landowner for the wind farm and Board certificated facilities, including a laydown yard, turbine, access road, and collection line, are already located on the property.

Nature of Impacts

The Applicant has committed to adhere to the conditions and commitments of the certificate issued in case number 13-1767-EL-BSB. The substation site is presently used for agricultural purposes. The Applicant states that the parcel is not part of the agricultural district land program in Hardin County. No recreational or institutional land uses would be impacted. The nearest residence is approximately 800 feet away from the substation fence line. The conditions of the original certificate require a landscape plan that addresses the aesthetic impacts of the substation site.

The Applicant performed a cultural resources records review for the original project and concluded that the proposed facility has the potential to cause visual impacts to aboveground historic resources within the study area, and recognizes that the majority of the area has not been systematically surveyed for cultural resources. The conditions of the original certificate require further review of cultural resources and potential measures to assure avoidance or minimization of impacts.

No tree clearing is needed for this project, and grading would be minimal. 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. Subject to any impact the Board may find as a result of the public interaction in this case, Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on November 28, 2016.

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Case No(s). 16-2032-EL-BLN

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