

Clouse Station 138 kV Line  
Extension Project, Perry County,  
Ohio

Ecological Features Inventory  
Report



Prepared for:  
American Electric Power  
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Gahanna, OH 43230

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July 25, 2016

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

American Electric Power (AEP) is proposing to extend an existing 138kV transmission line to the proposed Clouse Station facility in Perry County, Ohio (Figure 1, Appendix A). The proposed Project area is located just north of New Lexington, Ohio, between State Route 13 and Old Somerset Road. The Project will include a construction workspace and associated easements. The Project area (Figure 1, Appendix A) was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on January 15, February 5, March 13, and May 13, 2016.

## 2.0 METHODS

### 2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

Prior to conducting field surveys, a desktop review of the Project area was conducted using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, and aerial imagery mapping. Stantec completed a wetland delineation study in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (USACE 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region* (Version 2.0) (USACE 2012). Wetland categories were classified using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Version 5.0 (Mack 2001). The boundary of each wetland was identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy GPS unit and mapped with GIS software.

### 2.2 STREAM DELINEATION

Streams that demonstrated a defined channel (bed and bank), ordinary high water mark (OHWM), and the disturbance of terrestrial vegetation were delineated within the Project area (USACE 2005). Delineated streams were classified as ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial per definitions in the Federal Register/Vol. 67, No. 10 (USACE 2002). Functional assessment of streams within the Project area was based on completion of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) (OEPA 2012) and/or Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) (OEPA 2006). The centerline of each waterway was identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy GPS unit and mapped with GIS software.

### 2.3 RARE SPECIES

Prior to conducting the field surveys, Stantec contacted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for information regarding rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats of concern within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix B – Agency Correspondence). To assess potential impacts to rare,

threatened, or endangered species, Stantec scientists conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed Project area, collected information on existing habitat within the Project area and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by these species.

### 3.0 RESULTS

Stantec completed field surveys on January 15, February 5, March 13, and May 12, 2016, for wetlands, waterbodies, and threatened and endangered species or their habitat. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the delineated wetland and waterbodies identified within the Project area and Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the habitats identified within the Project area during rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat assessment surveys. Representative photographs of the wetlands, streams, and other habitats identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photograph locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination, ORAM, QHEI, and HHEI data forms are included in Appendix D.

#### 3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Found within the Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Perry County, Ohio

Vegetative Communities and Land Cover Types within the Study Area:	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Acres Within Project Study Area
Second Growth Riparian Forest	Intermediate Disturbance (dominated by plants that typify a stable phase of a native community that persists under some disturbance)	No	2.09
New Field	Area is seeded with a mix of native and non-native herbaceous species such as fescues, bromes, and orchard grass area within existing right-of-way is intermittently mowed/sprayed to prevent growth of woody species.	No	0.61
Agricultural Row Crop Field	Highly disturbed and seasonally plowed for row crop use (barren ground when outside of growing season).	No	0.28
Palustrine Forested Wetland (PFO)	Intermediate Disturbance (dominated by plants that typify a stable phase of a native community that persists under some disturbance).	No	0.47
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (PEM)	Early successional stage wetlands forming from fallow crop land or pasture; made up of sedges, rushes, and goldenrods ( <i>Solidago</i> spp.); susceptible to invasive plant species such as reed canarygrass ( <i>Phalaris</i>	No	0.05



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	<i>arundinaceus</i> ) and cattails ( <i>Typha</i> spp.).		
Total			3.50

# CLOUSE STATION 138 KV LINE EXTENSION PROJECT, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

## 3.2 WETLANDS

Table 2. Summary of Wetland Resources Found within the Clouse Station 138kV Line Extension Project Area, Perry County, Ohio

Wetland Name	Photo Numbers <sup>1</sup>	Isolated?	Wetland Classification <sup>2</sup>	ORAM Score <sup>5</sup>	ORAM Category	Delineated Area (acres) within Project Area
Wetland 1	12, 13	No	PFO <sup>3</sup>	44	2 (Modified)	0.33
	14, 15	No	PEM <sup>4</sup>			0
Wetland 2	18	No	PFO <sup>3</sup>	47	2	0.14
Wetland 3	21	No	PFO <sup>3</sup>	47	2	0
	22	No	PEM <sup>4</sup>			0.05
Wetland 4	24	No	PEM <sup>4</sup>	28	1	0
<sup>1</sup> Appendix C – Representative Photographs						
<sup>2</sup> Wetland classification is based on Cowardin et al. (1979).						
<sup>3</sup> PFO = Palustrine Forested Wetland						
<sup>4</sup> PEM = Palustrine Emergent Wetland						
<sup>5</sup> ORAM Score and Category are based on the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands v. 5.0 (Mack 2001).						

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### 3.3 STREAMS

Table 3. Summary of Stream Resources Found within the Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Perry County, Ohio

Stream Name	Photo Numbers <sup>1</sup>	Receiving Waters	Stream Flow Regime	Stream Evaluation Method	Stream Evaluation Score	OHWB Width (feet) <sup>2</sup>	Delineated Length (feet) within Project Area
Stream 1	1,2,4,5	Rush Creek	Perennial	QHEI	59/65.5	8.0/15.1	483
Stream 2	6,7	Rush Creek	Intermittent	HHEI	37	2.4/1.0	0
Stream 3	8,9	Rush Creek	Intermittent	HHEI	16	1.5	67
Stream 4	10,11	Rush Creek	Intermittent	HHEI	33	1.8	0
<sup>1</sup> Appendix C – Representative Photographs							
<sup>2</sup> OHWB = Ordinary High Water Mark							

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## 3.4 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 4. Summary of Potential Ohio State-Listed Species within the Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Perry County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	State <sup>1</sup> Listing	Known to Perry County?	Known Within One Mile of Project Area? <sup>2</sup>	Habitat Preference	Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
American burying beetle	Nicrophorus americanus	E	Yes	No	American burying beetles have been documented in several vegetation types, including native grassland, grazed pasture, riparian zones, coniferous forest, mature forest, and oak-hickory forest, as well as on a variety of soil types (USFWS 1991). Ecosystems supporting populations of this species are diverse and include forest, scrub-shrub, forest edge, grassland, prairie, riparian areas, mountain slopes, and maritime scrub communities (USFWS 1991; USFWS 2014). The American burying beetle is a habitat generalist and readily moves between different habitats. However, they are believed to have more selective breeding habitat (suitable soils and vegetation layer) compared to their feeding habitat (USFWS 2014).	Yes	This species is not known to occur within the Project area and habitats within the Project area are not similar to others in Ohio currently known to support this species. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.	Due to the habitat requirements of this species, the project is not likely to impact this species.
Indiana bat	Myotis sodalis	E	Yes	No	This bat is likely distributed throughout Ohio, though not uniformly. It generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas. Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007, USFWS 2016a). Roosts have occasionally been cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).	Yes	AEP proposes to remove trees between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.	ODNR recommends clearing trees between October 1 and March 31 to avoid potential adverse effects to this species; if trees must be cut in the summer months, ODNR recommends a mist net survey between June 1 and August 15 – prior to tree cutting.
Black bear	Ursus americanus	E	Yes	No	Wide variety of heavily wooded habitats, ranging from swamps and wetlands to dry upland hardwood and coniferous forests. Although they will utilize open areas, bears prefer wooded cover with a dense understory (NatureServe 2016).	Yes	No occurrences of this species are known from the project vicinity. Due to the mobility of this species, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the mobility of this species, the project is not likely to impact the black bear.

<sup>1</sup> E= Endangered; I= Threatened

<sup>2</sup> According to correspondence from ODNR Natural Heritage Database. (Appendix B).

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Table 5. Summary of Potential Federally Listed Species within the Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Perry County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing	Known to Perry County?	Habitat Preference	Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	Potential for Occurrence
American burying beetle	Nicrophorus americanus	E	Yes	American burying beetles have been documented in several vegetation types, including native grassland, grazed pasture, riparian zones, coniferous forest, mature forest, and oak-hickory forest, as well as on a variety of soil types (USFWS 1991). Ecosystems supporting populations of this species are diverse and include forest, scrub-shrub, forest edge, grassland prairie, riparian areas, mountain slopes, and maritime scrub communities (USFWS 1991; USFWS 2014). The American burying beetle is a habitat generalist and readily moves between different habitats. However, they are believed to have more selective breeding habitat (suitable soils and vegetation layer) compared to their feeding habitat (USFWS 2014).	Yes	This species is not known to occur within the Project vicinity and habitats within the Project area are not similar to others in Ohio currently known to support this species. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.	Due to the type, size and location of the project, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects.
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septentrionalis	T	Yes	The northern long-eared bat is found throughout Ohio. This species generally forages in forested habitat and openings in forested habitat and utilizes cracks, cavities, and loose bark within live and dead trees, as well as buildings as roosting habitat (Brack et al. 2010; USFWS 2016b). The species utilizes caves and abandoned mines as winter hibernacula. Various sized caves are used providing they have a constant temperature, high humidity, and little to no air current (Brack et al. 2010).	Yes	AEP proposes to remove trees between October 1 and March 31; Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.	Due to the type, size and location of the project, and the proposed removal of trees between October 1 and March 31, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects.
Indiana bat	Myotis sodalis	E	Yes	This bat is likely distributed throughout Ohio, though not uniformly. It generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas. Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2016a). Roosts have occasionally been cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).	Yes	AEP proposes to remove trees between October 1 and March 31; Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.	Due to the type, size and location of the project, and the proposed removal of trees between October 1 and March 31, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects.

<sup>1</sup> E= Endangered; T= Threatened

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbodies delineation and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species or their habitats within the Project area on January 15, February 5, March 13, and May 12, 2016, 2016. During the field surveys, two palustrine forested wetlands and one palustrine emergent wetland, altogether totaling approximately 0.52 acres, were identified in the Project area. Additionally, two streams totaling approximately 550 linear feet in length were identified within the Project area. Stream 1 is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as an impaired waterway (Waterbody ID: OH050302040102; USEPA 2016). Tables 2 and 3 have more information regarding the wetlands and streams identified within the Project area.

The information provided by Stantec regarding wetland and stream boundaries is based on an analysis of the wetland and upland conditions present within the Project area at the time of the fieldwork. The delineations were performed by experienced and qualified professionals using regulatory agency-accepted practices and sound professional judgment.

The Project area includes potential habitat for American burying beetle, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, and the black bear. However, no occurrences of any of these are known from the Project area or a one-mile radius of it, according to correspondence received from the ODNR (Appendix B). Additionally, due to the mobility of the black bear, this Project is not likely to impact these species. No occurrences or sign of these species were encountered during the field surveys.

The Project area includes potential roosting and foraging habitat for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. However, the ODNR (Appendix B) has no records of these species within the Project area or a one-mile radius of it. Due to the presence of potential habitat for these species, the USFWS and ODNR recommends clearing trees between October 1 and March 31 to avoid potential adverse effects to these species. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the ODNR and USFWS recommended a bat mist net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any tree cutting (Appendix B). At this time, AEP anticipates clearing trees between October 1 and March 31.

The ODNR (Appendix B) is also unaware of any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the Project area or a one-mile radius of it.

The ODNR recommended that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided or minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

- Brack, Virgil Jr., Dale W. Sparks, John O. Whitaker Jr., Brianne L. Walters, and Angela Boyer. 2010. Bats of Ohio. Indiana State University Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation.
- Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter V., F.C. Golet, E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report No. FWS/OBS/-79/31. Washington, D.C. Environmental Laboratory. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*, Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.
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## Appendix A Figures

### A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Figure No.

1

Title

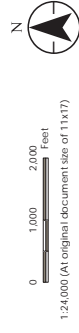
## Project Location Map

Client/Project

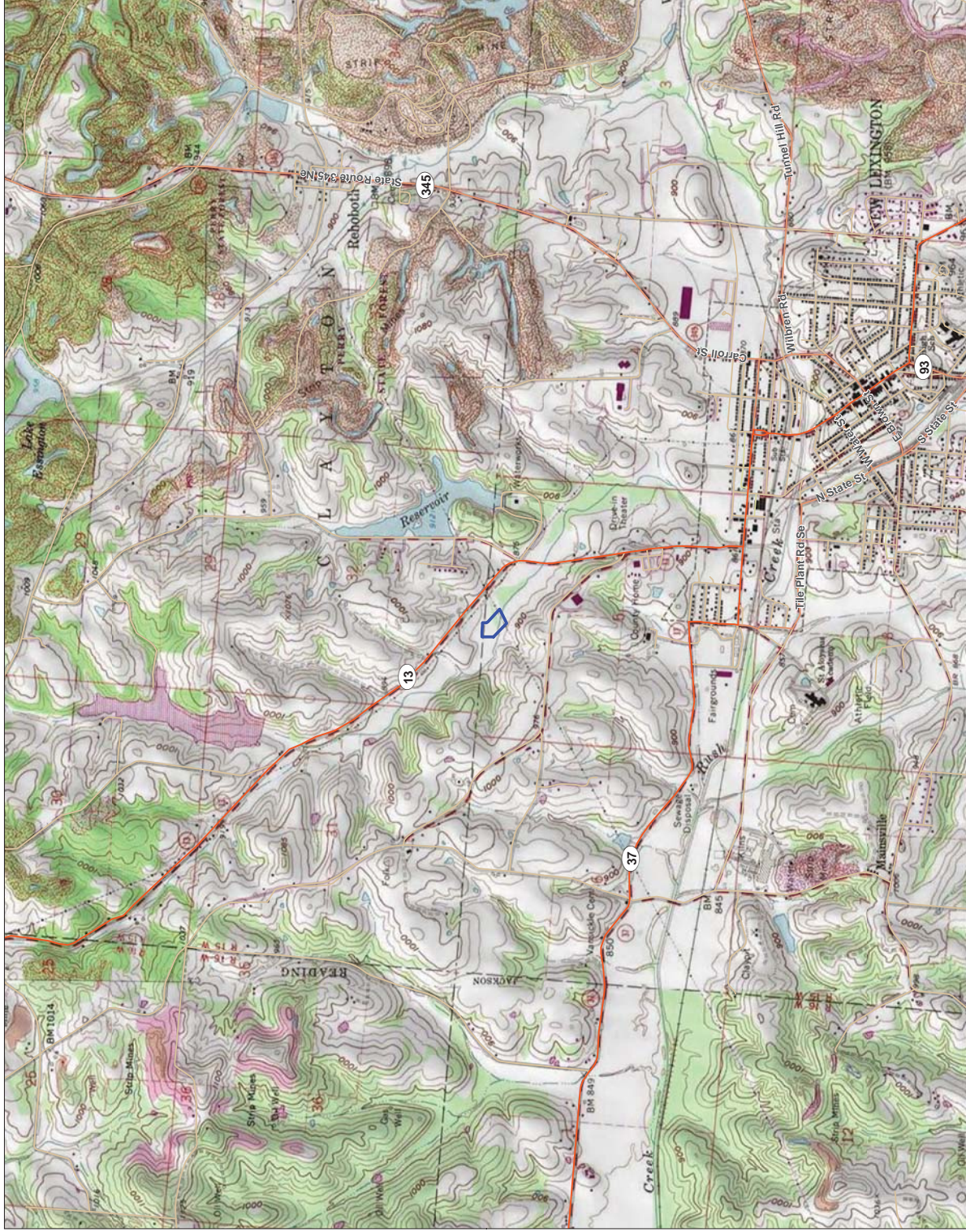
American Electric Power  
Couse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project Location

19270438  
Technical Review by AEP on 2016-07-19  
115M, R19W, S32  
Prep: SCS, GAT  
Independent Review: J138 on 2017-07-19



Legend



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP
3. Background: USGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangles



A.2      FIGURE 2 – WETLAND & WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP





A.3      FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

Figure No.

3

Title

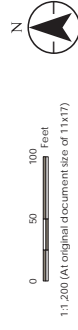
## Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

American Electric Power  
Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project Location

193704188  
Technical Review by AEP on 2016-02-20  
115M, R13W, S32  
Independent Review by USFWS on 2016-07-21  
Proposed 138 kV Line Extension Project



### Legend

- Potential Bat Roost Tree
- Project Area
- Proposed 138 kV Transmission Lines
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
- Field Delineated Wetland
- Field Delineated Waterway
- Habitat Type
  - Agricultural Row Crop Field
  - Second Growth Riparian Forest
  - PEM Wetland
  - PFO Wetland
  - New Field

\*No parks, wildlife management areas or nature preserves were identified within the Project Area or its vicinity.  
(Sources: ODNR, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, PADUS)



### Notes

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
- Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, MADS
- Orthophotography 2015 NAD





## 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

January 27, 2016

Jesse Binau  
Stantec Consulting, Inc.  
11687 Lebanon Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Dear Mr. Binau,

I have reviewed the Natural Heritage Database for the Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension project area, including a one mile radius, in Pike Township, Perry County, Ohio. The numbers/letters on the list below correspond to the areas marked on the accompanying map.

- A. Perry State Forest – ODNR Division of Forestry  
1. Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community

We are unaware of any geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves or parks or national wildlife refuges, parks or forests 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.

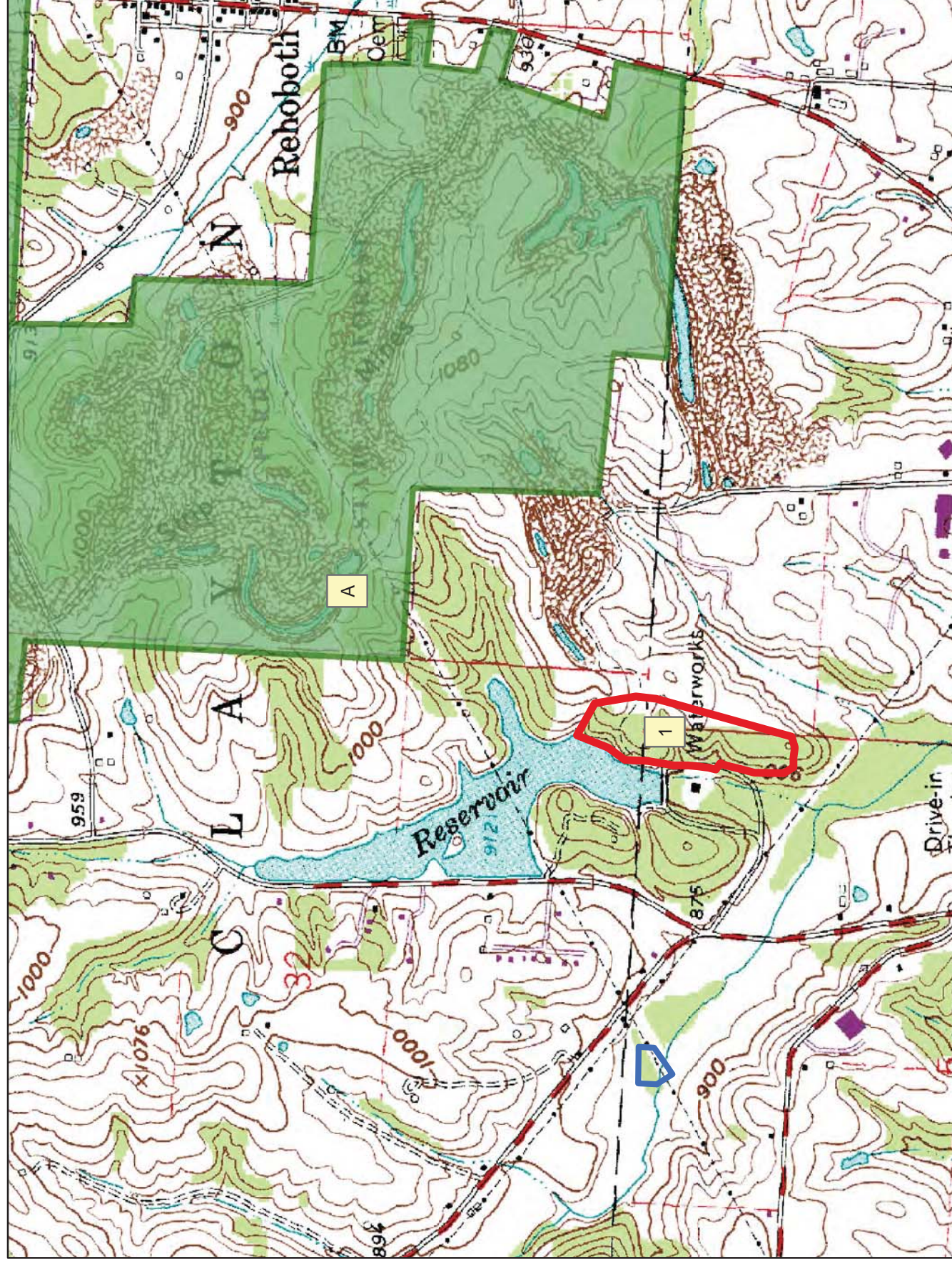
Sincerely,

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

Debbie Woischke  
Ohio Natural Heritage Program



# Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project







# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

## Office of Real Estate

*Paul R. Baldrige, Chief*  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, OH 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6649  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

February 29, 2016

Jesse Binau  
Stantec  
11687 Lebanon Road  
Cincinnati OH 45241-2012

**Re:** 16-060; AEP 138kV Line Extension Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves the extension of an existing electric transmission line.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Pike Township, Perry County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. 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 National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do 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.

**Natural Heritage Database:** The Natural Heritage Database has the following data at or within a one mile radius of the project area:

Perry State Forest – ODNR Division of Forestry  
Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no state potentially threatened plants or special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. We are unaware of any geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area.

The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. This information is provided to inform you of features present within your project area and vicinity.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare

species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

**Fish and Wildlife:** The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of this species, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) a state and federal endangered beetle. Due to the habitat requirements of this species, the project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments .Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler  
ODNR Office of Real Estate  
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693  
John.Kessler@dnr.state.oh.us

**From:** [susan\\_zimmermann@fws.gov](mailto:susan_zimmermann@fws.gov) [mailto:[susan\\_zimmermann@fws.gov](mailto:susan_zimmermann@fws.gov)] **On Behalf Of** Ohio, FW3  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:44 AM  
**To:** Binau, Jesse  
**Subject:** AEP - Clouse Station Project, Perry Co. OH



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-0674

Dear Mr. Binau,

We have received your recent correspondence regarding potential impacts to federally listed species in the vicinity of the above referenced project. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. We recommend that proposed activities minimize water quality impacts, including fill in streams and wetlands. Best management practices should be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

**FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES COMMENTS:** Due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

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 Endangered Species Act (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.

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.), 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](mailto: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](mailto:ohio@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Dan Everson

Field Office Supervisor

## Appendix C Representative Photographs



American Electric Power  
Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project  
Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 1. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing upstream/west within existing powerline right-of-way.



Photograph 2. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing downstream/east within existing powerline right-of-way.



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Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project  
Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 3. View of Stream 1 and new field habitat within existing right-of-way. Photo taken facing northeast.



Photograph 4. View of Stream 1 within second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 5. View of Stream 1 within second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing downstream/east.



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



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 7. View of Stream 2. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.



Photograph 8. View of Stream 3. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.



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Photograph 9. View of Stream 3. Photograph taken facing downstream/south.



Photograph 10. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 11. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing downstream/south.



Photograph 12. View of Wetland 1 and wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing southeast.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 13. View of Wetland 1 and wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing northwest.



Photograph 14. View of Wetland 1 and wetland determination sample point SP 2. Photograph taken facing south.



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Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project  
Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 15. View of Wetland 1 and wetland determination sample point SP 2. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph 16. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph taken facing west.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 17. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 18. View of Wetland 2 and wetland determination sample point SP 4. Photograph taken facing north.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 19. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 5. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 20. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 6. Photograph taken facing east.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 21. View of Wetland 3 and wetland determination sample point SP 7. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 22. View of Wetland 3 and wetland determination sample point SP 8. Photograph taken facing east.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 23. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 9. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photograph 24. View of Wetland 4 and wetland determination sample point SP 10. Photograph taken facing northeast.



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Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project  
Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 25. View of upland at wetland determination sample point SP 11. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photograph 26. View of new field habitat within existing powerline right-of-way. Photograph taken facing southwest.



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Clouse Station 138 kV Line Extension Project  
Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 27. View of existing powerline right-of-way. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photograph 28. View of emergent wetland habitat within Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing west.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 29. View of residential lawn habitat and junkyard. Photograph taken facing southeast.



Photograph 30. View of fallow corn field. Photograph taken facing south.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 31. View of gravelled area and fallow corn field. Photograph taken facing west.



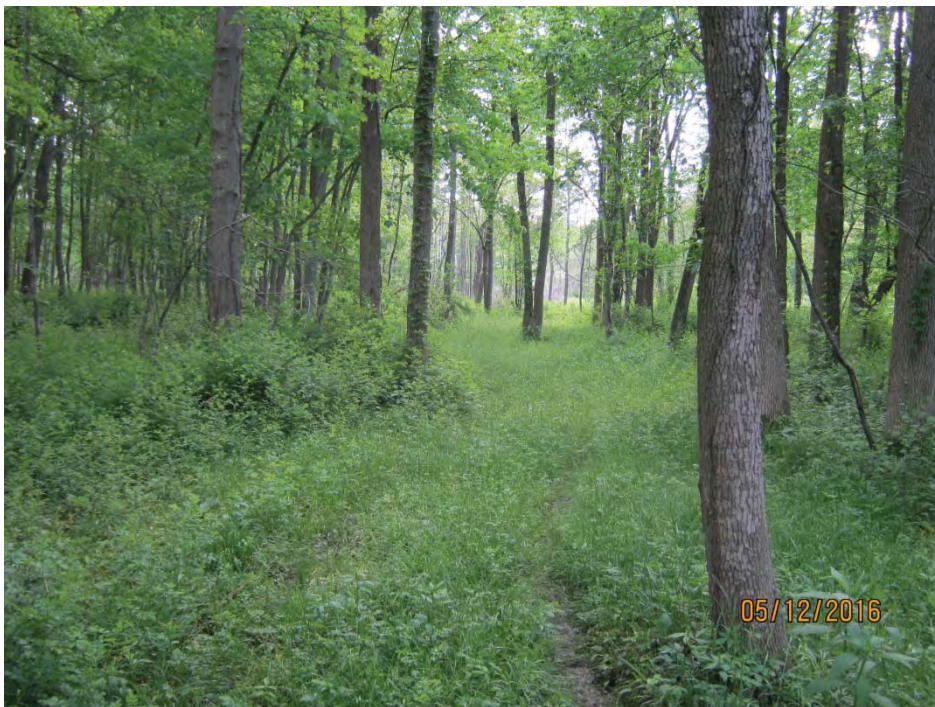
Photograph 32. View of fallow corn field. Photograph taken facing northwest.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 33. View of second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph 34. View of second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing east.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 35. View of maintained right-of-way. Photograph taken facing east.



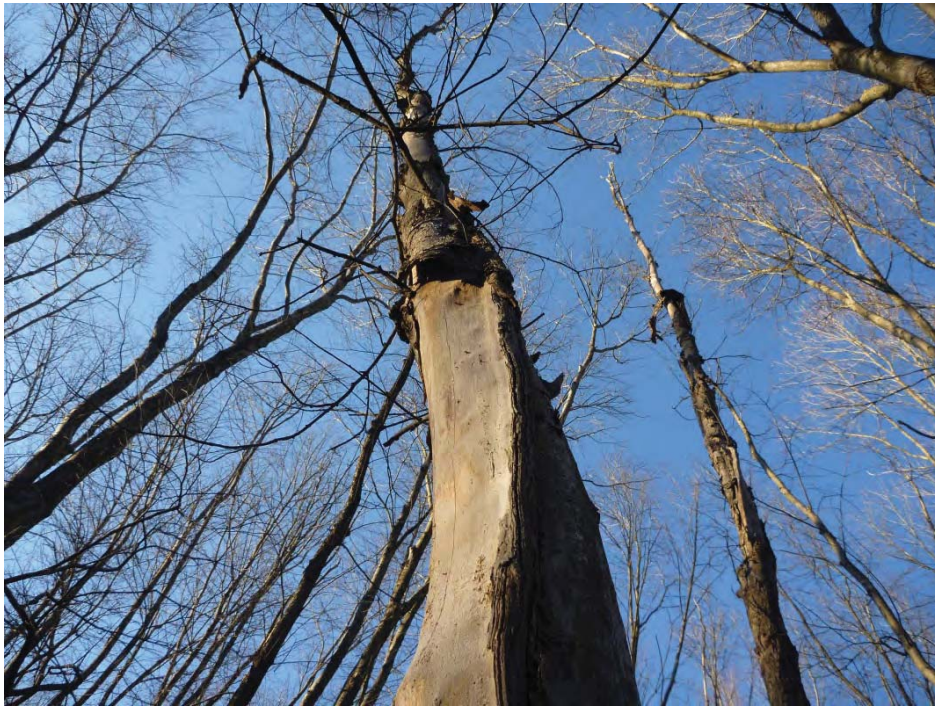
Photograph 36. View of second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing south.



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Perry County, Ohio



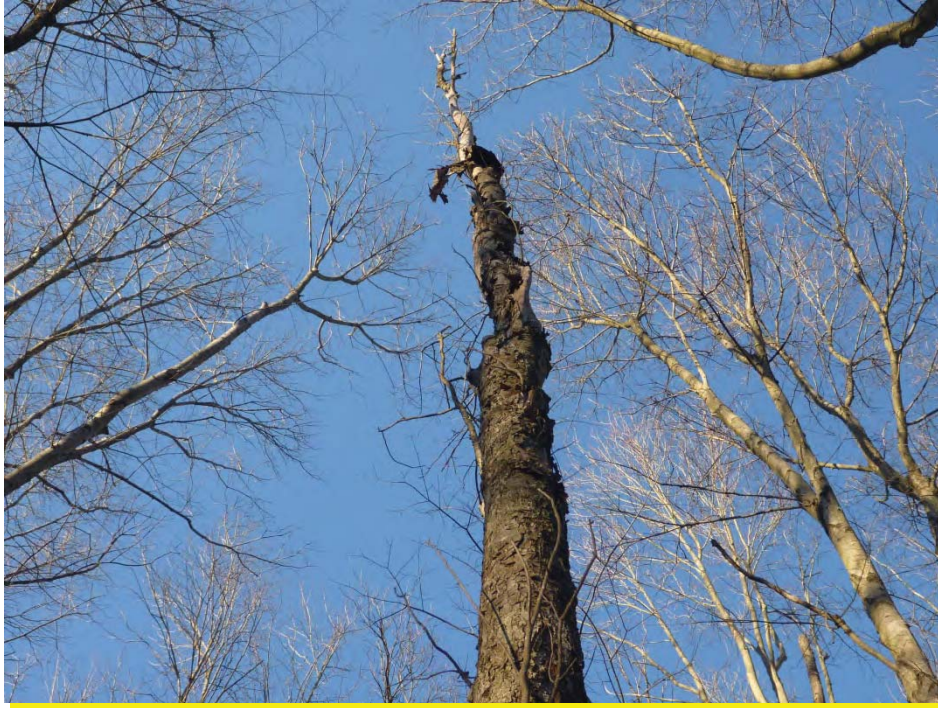
Photograph 37. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within maintained second growth forest habitat.



Photograph 38. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 39. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.



Photograph 40. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.



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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 41. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.



Photograph 42. View of potential bat roost tree (red maple). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.

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Perry County, Ohio



Photograph 43. View of potential bat roost tree (American elm). Tree located within second growth forest habitat.



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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/22/2016 5:52:59 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-1731-EL-BNR**

Summary: Notice electronically filed by Mr. Hector Garcia on behalf of AEP Ohio  
Transmission Company