

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of  
Dominion East Ohio for the PIR 788 Pipeline  
Replacement Project** )  
 )  
 ) **16-2334-GA-BNR**  
 )

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 March 30, 2017, 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 March 30, 2017, 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:** 16-2334-GA-BNR  
**Project Name:** PIR 788 Pipeline Replacement Project  
**Project Location:** Allen County  
**Applicant:** Dominion East Ohio  
**Application Filing Date:** December 29, 2016  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** March 6, 2017  
**Report Date:** March 23, 2017  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** March 30, 2017  
**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

Dominion East Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace an approximately 0.75-mile long section of 8-inch diameter natural gas pipeline with a 12-inch pipeline. The existing pipe would be abandoned in place, and the proposed replacement would be offset approximately 15 feet to the west. The project is located entirely within existing easement. The project is needed to take the existing aging and obsolete pipeline out of service and to ensure a safe and constant natural gas supply to customers.

The 12-inch diameter pipeline would be constructed of steel with a wall thickness of approximately 0.375-inch and a maximum allowable operating pressure of 350 pounds per square inch gauge. The Applicant plans to commence construction of the project in April 2017 and to place the new pipeline in-service by December 2017.

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The project is located entirely within public road right-of-way. Most impacts would be limited to the grass areas immediately adjacent to the road, while a small amount of work would impact driveways and the paved roadway. The pipeline is in the vicinity of property associated with 11 residential buildings, the Shawnee Alliance Church, Shawnee Elmwood Primary School, and four commercial buildings. No trees, structures, or fences would need to be removed. However, several mailboxes and a small amount of landscaping would be impacted. The Applicant is committed to

restoring these areas to their pre-existing condition. Staff recommends the Applicant maintain traffic along the roadway and access to adjacent land uses during construction.

The Applicant provided notification letters to affected property owners. A second letter, describing a complaint resolution process, would be sent to affected property owners prior to the start of construction.

### *Cultural Resources*

Due to previous ground disturbance and the absence of previously documented historic sites in the project area, impacts to historical and cultural resources are not anticipated.

### *Surface Waters*

No streams or wetlands were delineated within the project area. A Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General Permit OHC000004 – Construction Storm Water was submitted for this project in May 2016. The permit was issued in June 2016. The Applicant also developed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which was approved by the Allen County Engineer's Office in May 2016.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The project is within the range of the state endangered upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program. If this type of habitat will be impacted, staff recommends that construction be avoided in this habitat during the species nesting period of April 15 through July 31. Impacts to other state or federal 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 March 30, 2017, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

### **Conditions**

- (1) Construction in upland sandpiper preferred nesting habitat types shall be avoided during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources allows a different course of action.
- (2) The Applicant shall maintain traffic along public roadways and access to adjacent land uses during construction.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**3/23/2017 3:57:19 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-2334-GA-BNR**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Yvonne W Cooper on behalf of  
Staff of OPSB