

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) 17-0348-EL-BNR
Need for the Eber-Swanton 138 kV Transmission Line)
Relocation for Norfolk Southern Railway 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 May 19, 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 May 19, 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
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 17-0348-EL-BNR
Project Name: Eber-Swanton 138 kV Transmission Line
Relocation for Norfolk Southern Railway Project
Project Location: Lucas County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: February 17, 2017
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: March 3, 2017
Report Date: May 12, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: May 19, 2017
Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to modify two sections of the Eber-Swanton 138 kilovolt Transmission Line to support a Norfolk Southern Railway expansion project. These areas are separated by approximately 6,600 feet along the existing transmission line.

The western section would require the relocation of two structures and the removal of another structure. The relocated structures would remain within the existing right-of-way for a total distance of 950 feet. The eastern section requires a shift of two structures within the right-of-way and the relocation of three structures outside the right-of-way onto the railroad's property. The total length of the eastern section is 1,015 feet. The estimated capital costs of the project total approximately \$802,125.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The western section of the project is located in the village of Swanton and the eastern section is located in Swanton Township, both within Lucas County. Land use in proximity to the project is primarily comprised of railroad, rural residential, and agricultural uses. No institutional or other sensitive land uses are present in the vicinity. The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical and archaeological sites. The survey determined that impacts to historical properties are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant has consulted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of their application to the Board. The consultation revealed that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal is required and no work is proposed within wetlands or streams.

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 application on May 19, 2017.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 17-0348-EL-BNR

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