

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice)
Application of Dominion East Ohio for the Line 4625) 17-0823-GA-BNR
Mainline Extension and Regulation Installation 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 June 16, 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 June 16, 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: 17-0823-GA-BNR
Project Name: Line 4625 Mainline Extension and Regulation Installation Project
Project Location: Mahoning County
Applicant: Dominion East Ohio
Application Filing Date: May 25, 2017
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: June 2, 2017
Report Date: June 9, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: June 16, 2017
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: G. Zeto, E. Morrison

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 extend 1,127 feet of new 12-inch natural gas pipeline along Guadalupe Avenue and Alameda Avenue in the city of Youngstown, to a new regulation station. The proposed project would occur within road right-of-way and an existing easement owned by the Applicant between the street and sidewalks.

The project is needed because the existing regulator station is below ground and is a safety and reliability concern. The new above ground station would alleviate these concerns and requires the installation of the new pipeline extension to reach the new regulation station site.

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 174 pounds per square inch gauge. The Applicant proposes to commence construction in July 2017 and place the new line in-service by September 30, 2017.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

Current land uses in the project area consists of residential and institutional areas with land covers of maintained lawn and pavement. The project includes three open-cut road crossings. As a result, the project would create some disturbance to traffic flow and would require road permitting. None of the properties within the project area are designated as agricultural district lands. No structures

or fences would need to be removed. However, the project may require the removal of several mature landscape trees.

The Applicant provided notification letters to affected property owners. Another letter would be sent prior to the start of construction and will contain a complaint resolution process.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant performed a literature review of cultural resources for the project in November 2016. According to the records search, no Ohio Archaeological Inventory Properties, Determination of Eligibility Properties, National Register Listed Properties, Ohio Historic Inventory Properties, National Register Listed Districts, or Phase 1, 2, or 3 Survey Areas were identified within or adjacent to the project area. It is the opinion of the Applicant's consultant that the project does not have the potential to contain intact archaeological resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Surface Waters

The project would not impact any surface water resources. The project would impact less than one acre of land and would not require an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General Permit OHC000004. The Applicant developed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which has been submitted to the City of Youngstown.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project area is within the range of the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species may be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Staff generally recommend seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter. The Applicant plans to remove one large tree at the south end of the project during the summer months. The Applicant states that this tree does not exhibit habitat for the Indiana or northern long-ear bat, is not within 1000 feet of any forested area, and no potential maternity roost trees were identified within 150 feet of the tree. Therefore, environmental concerns with removing this tree outside of the seasonal tree clearing window of Oct 1 through March 31 would be minimal. Additionally, the Applicant identified one tree which could potentially support a maternity roost for bats. The Applicant has routed the pipeline around this tree, but anticipates that the city may request they remove it. In this event, the Applicant would conduct an emergent survey prior to removal. Staff recommends that the results of any survey efforts be coordinated with Staff and ODNR prior to removal of this tree.

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 June 16, 2017, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

- (1) Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations. The Applicant shall provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, to Staff within seven days of issuance or receipt by the Applicant.
- (2) In the event that removal of the potential bat maternity roost tree becomes necessary, emergent survey efforts shall be coordinated with Staff and ODNR prior to removal.
- (3) The Applicant shall maintain traffic along public roadways and adjacent land uses during construction.
- (4) Damage to lawns, sidewalks, and parking areas as a result of this project shall be restored to original conditions upon completion of construction, and subsequently monitored for settling, cracking and sinking during operation of the facility. Unless otherwise directed by the property owner, concrete panels (if applicable) shall be replaced in their entirety rather than cut and patched.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/9/2017 11:45:06 AM

in

Case No(s). 17-0823-GA-BNR

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Adam Bargar on behalf of Staff of OPSB