



Legal Department

American Electric Power
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September 14, 2017

Chairman Asim Z. Haque
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Hector Garcia
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**Re: PUCO Case No. 17-1777-EL-BLN
In the Matter of the Letter of Notification for the
Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138kV Transmission Line Project**

Dear Chairman Haque,

Attached please find a copy of the Letter of Notification (LON) for the above-captioned project ("Project") by AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. This filing and notice is in accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-05

A copy of this filing will also be submitted to the executive director or the executive director's designee. A copy will be provided to the Board Staff, including an electronic copy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hector Garcia

Hector Garcia
Counsel for AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

cc. John Jones, Counsel OPSB Staff
Jon Pawley, OPSB Staff

Letter of Notification for the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138kV Transmission Line Relocation Project



PUCO Case No. 17-1777-EL-BLN

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section
4906-6-05

Submitted by:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

September 14, 2017

4906-6-05 ACCELERATED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (“AEP Ohio Transco”) provides this Letter of Notification (“LON”) to the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-5(B) GENERAL INFORMATION

B(1) Project Description

The name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification.

AEP Ohio Transco is proposing the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Line Relocation Project (the “Project”), located in Section 18 of Township 6 North, Range 7 West, Franklin Township, Monroe County, Ohio. The Project consists of relocating the existing Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line in order to accommodate future construction of the new Herlan – Blue Racer 138 kV Transmission Line, which is the subject of OPSB Case No. 16-1858-EL-BTX. The existing transmission line is approximately 0.20 mile in length and traverses the short distance between the AEP Blue Racer and the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation Berne substations. Figure 1.1 in Appendix A shows the location of the Project. Figures 1.2 in Appendix A show the existing AEP Ohio Transco 138 kV transmission line location, the existing substations, and the proposed relocated 138 kV line.

The Project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification (“LON”) because it is within the types of projects defined by Item 1(b) of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01 *Appendix A Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*

(1) New construction, extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:

(b) Line(s) greater than 0.2 miles in length but not greater than two miles in length.

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 17-1777-EL-BLN.

B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

The purpose of this Project is to relocate the approximately 0.20 mile Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line approximately 220 feet to the east in order to accommodate the future construction of the Herlan – Blue Racer 138 kV Transmission Line. In order to construct the relocated line, the Project will require approximately 400 feet of new 100-foot-wide ROW through property owned by Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation and approximately 550 feet of new 100-foot-wide ROW through property owned by Blue Racer Midstream, LCC. The Herlan – Blue Racer 138 kV Transmission Line is part of the PJM Baseline system reliability upgrade (identifier b2701).

The Blue Racer Station provides electric power to a natural gas transmission facility known as the Texas Eastern Berne facility. The Texas Eastern Berne gas facility operates as a vital natural gas pipeline compressor station. Currently, the Blue Racer Station's only source of electricity is the Summerfield-Berne 138 kV transmission line. The Project proposes relocating the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line by adjusting a bay position within Blue Racer Station from the north side to the south side. This adjustment will reduce the number of scheduled outages, and the risk of unscheduled electric outages, to the Summerfield-Berne 138 kV transmission line, and therefore minimize electric service interruption to the Texas Eastern Berne gas facility during both the construction of the Herlan – Blue Racer 138 kV Transmission Line and the future reconstruction of the Summerfield-Berne 138 kV transmission line. Upon completion of the Project, the Summerfield-Berne 138 kV transmission line will no longer be the only source supplying energy to the Texas Eastern Berne gas facility, resulting in a significant enhancement of the reliability of energy supply to these gas transmission facilities.

B(3) Project Location

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the project area.

Figures 1-1 and 1-2 in Appendix A show the location of the proposed Project in relation to the existing electric transmission system in the vicinity.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

Due to the proximity of the existing Texas Eastern Berne and Blue Racer substations, the location of the Project is the most economically viable solution as it requires a minimal amount of new ROW. No other alternatives were considered. The proposed Project will not result in any significant socioeconomic, ecological, or construction impacts due to the minimal length of the Project and the industrial land use in the Project's vicinity. The proposed Project minimizes the impact of the relocation of these facilities on the gas company facilities that will be crossed by the new (relocated) electric transmission line.

B(5) Public Information Program

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The Project will be located on AEP Ohio Transco property and approximately 400 feet of new ROW that will be acquired from Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation and approximately 550 feet of new ROW that will be acquired from Blue Racer Midstream. Coordination with these

property owners are in progress. In addition, AEP Ohio Transco will comply with the information stated below.

AEP Ohio Transco will inform affected property owners and tenants about this Project through several different mediums. Within seven days of filing this Letter of Notification (“LON”), AEP Ohio Transco will issue a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Project area. The notice will comply with all requirements of OAC Section 4906-6-08(A)(1-6). Further, AEP Ohio Transco has mailed (or will mail) a letter, via first class mail, to affected landowners, tenants, contiguous owners and any other landowner AEP Ohio Transco may approach for an easement necessary for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the Project. The letter will comply with all requirements of OAC Section 4906-6-08(B). AEP Ohio Transco maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) which provides the public access to an electronic copy of this LON and the public notice for this LON. A paper copy of the LON will be served to the public library in each political subdivision for this Project. AEP Ohio Transco retains ROW land agents that discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities and convey this information to affected owners and tenants.

B(6) Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

AEP Ohio Transco anticipates that construction of the Project will begin during the first quarter of 2018, and the in-service date (completion date) of the Project will be approximately March 2018.

B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 1.1 in Appendix A identifies the location of the Project on the USGS quadrangle map

with coverage of the Project area. Figure 1.2 in Appendix A is an aerial map of the Project. To visit the Project from Columbus, take I-70 East toward Cambridge. Take exit 180A to merge onto I-77 South toward Marietta. Take Exit 25 for OH-78 and turn left onto Ohio State Route (OH-78). Continue east onto OH-78 and turn right onto Swazey Road. The Project is located between the intersection of Swazey Road and Township Highway 240 in Franklin Township.

B(8) Property Agreements

The applicant shall provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

The existing Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line crosses two parcels, one owned by AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (Parcel ID 060020210000) and one owned by Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Parcel ID 060020020000). AEP Transco will obtain approximately 400 feet of 100-foot-wide ROW on the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation parcel and approximately 550 feet of 100-foot-wide ROW across two properties owned by Blue Racer Midstream, LLC (Parcel IDs 060020170000 and 060020041000). No other property easements, options, or land use agreements are necessary to construct the Project or operate the transmission line.

B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the Project:

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

The Project involves the installation of three (3) new poles. The two (2) 138 kV single circuit, heavy angle dead-end steel monopole structures and one (1) 138 kV single

circuit, direct-embed tangent structure will stand at approximately 70 to 80 feet in height. AEP Ohio Transco anticipates that the Project will use 1,033 kcmil Curlew 54/7 ACSR conductors, along with 7#8 alumoweld shield wire. All dead-ends will utilize pier foundations with anchor cages. The design and operating voltage will be 138 kV. Structure diagrams are presented in Appendix B. The proposed transmission line work will occur within a new 100-foot-wide ROW acquired through parcels owned by Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation and Blue Racer Midstream, LLC.

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line. The discussion shall include:

B(9)(b)(i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Strength Levels

This section is not applicable. There are no occupied residences or institutions located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(b)(ii) Design Alternatives

A discussion of the applicant's consideration of design alternatives with respect to electric and magnetic fields and their strength levels, including alternate conductor configuration and phasing, tower height, corridor location, and right-of-way width.

There are no occupied residences or institutions located within 100 feet of the Project. The transmission line work associated with the Project will occur through existing AEP Ohio Transco's property and acquired easements. Therefore, no design alternatives were considered.

B(9)(b)(ii)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is composed of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$500,000.

B(10) Social and Economic Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project.

B(10)(a) Operating Characteristics

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is located within Franklin Township, Monroe County, Ohio. The Project area is surrounded by industrial development related to natural gas production located along Route 44, and forested land with interspersed areas of vacant/agricultural land. As shown in Figure 1-1, gas pipelines are located north, east, and west of the Project area. No impact to the existing gas lines is anticipated. Approximately 0.36 acre of tree clearing is anticipated for the Project. No wetlands are present in the Project area.

There are no residences within 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Project. There are no parks, schools, churches, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, or nature preserve lands within 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Project.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

The proposed Project is not located within agricultural district lands based on

coordination with the Monroe County Auditor's Office. Additionally, no agricultural row crop land is present within the Project area (See Figure 1.2 in Appendix A).

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

In August 2017, AEP Ohio Transco's consultant completed a Phase I Cultural Resource Management Investigation for the Project. This study is presented in Appendix D. Field investigations were conducted for access roads, laydown yards, pull areas, and station expansion associated with the project. No buildings or structures older than 50 years are directly impacted.

The Project area is located west of Lewisville, and northwest of Summerfield. East of the proposed route is a gas pipeline and to the west is the existing 138 kV Summerfield – Berne Transmission Line. The Project area is located in an area of steep upland terrain and dissected with narrow ridge tops and steep sided stream valleys.

The literature review conducted for this Project did not indicate previously recorded resources within the Project area. There were no previous surveys or archaeological sites identified in the vicinity of the relocated Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line.

The field investigation involved subsurface testing and visual inspection. These investigations did not result in the identification of cultural materials. There are no significant or historic properties identified within the area of potential effect for this Project. No further work is deemed necessary for the Project.

B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

A Notice of Intent (“NOI”) will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000004, and AEP Ohio Transco will implement and maintain best management practices as outlined in the project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize erosion and control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events. None of the three proposed steel pole structures will be installed in any streams or wetlands, and no tree clearing will be required in forested wetlands (see Appendix C). Consequently, the Project will not require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Pre-Construction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

No structures or proposed access roads are located within a 100-year floodplain area. Therefore, no floodplain permitting is expected to be required for the Project. There are no other known local, state or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation,

and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) *Ohio Federally-Listed, Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species August 2017* (available at <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/lists/pdf/OhioSppList08August2017.pdf>) was reviewed to determine the threatened and endangered species currently known to occur in Monroe County. This USFWS publication lists Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; federally listed endangered) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; federally listed threatened) currently known in Monroe County.

Several state-listed threatened and endangered species, species of concern, and special interest species are listed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/species%20and%20habitats/state-listed%20species/monroe.pdf>) as occurring or potentially occurring in Monroe County. The Ohio DNR lists Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*; state listed endangered, federal listed species of concern), Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*; state listed endangered), Ohio Pigtoe (*Pleurobema cordatum*; state listed endangered), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; state and federal listed endangered), Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*; state listed endangered), Tippecanoe Darter (*Etheostoma tippecanoe*; state listed threatened), Channel Darter (*Percina copelandi*; state listed threatened), River Darter (*Percina shumardi*; state listed threatened), Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*; state listed species of concern), River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*; state listed species of concern), Allegheny Crayfish (*Orconectes (Crokerinus) obscurus*; state listed species of concern), Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*; state listed species of concern), Round Pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*; state listed species of concern), Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*; state listed species of concern), Silver – haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*; state listed species of concern), Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*; state species of concern), Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*; state species of concern), Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*; state listed species of concern), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; state listed species of concern and federally listed threatened), Tri colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; state species of concern), Hydroptila Chattanooga; state listed species of concern), and Rough Pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*; state listed

extirpated).

The Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and other state-listed species occurring in Monroe County are addressed in detail in the Ecological Resources Inventory Report included in Appendix C.

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. In an email letter dated September 6, 2017 (see Appendix C), the USFWS indicated that the Project lies within the range of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. Due to this potential, the USFWS/ODNR recommends seasonal tree cutting for trees ≥ 3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse impacts to these species. The proposed Project area contains two habitat types: pasture and riparian forest. Although minimal tree clearing is anticipated, construction will occur between January 2018 and March 31, 2018 during the recommended season. Therefore, the Project is not likely to adversely affect those species.

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, coordination letters have been submitted to the ODNR Division of Wildlife (“DOW”), Ohio Natural Heritage Program (“ONHP”) and ODNR-Office of Real Estate. Correspondence from ODNR DOW/ONHP will be provided to the OPSB once they are received.

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the

investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

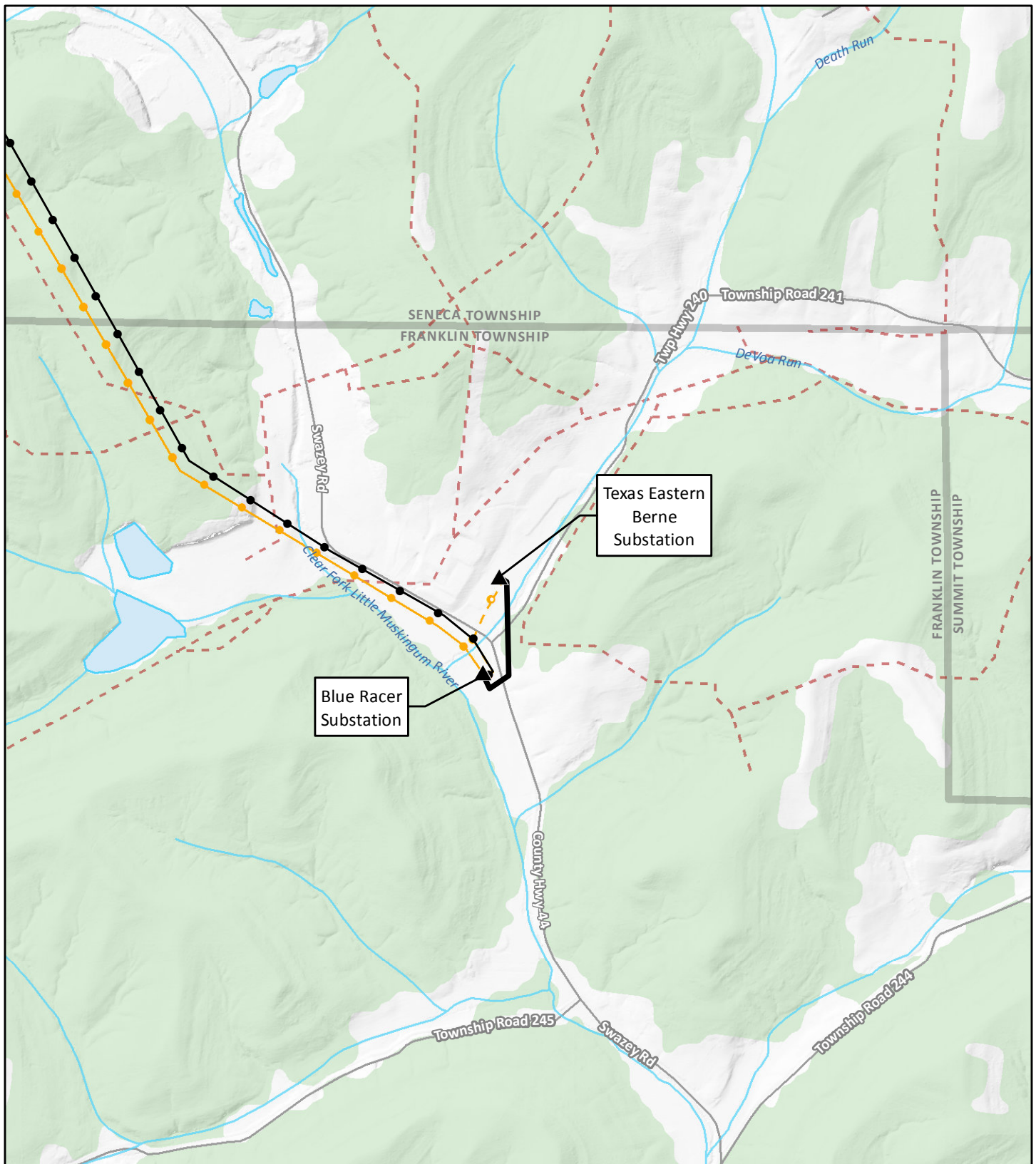
Correspondence received from USFWS (see Appendix C) indicates that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat near the Project area. Correspondence from ODNR DOW/ONHP is anticipated and will provide information on any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves or parks, national wildlife refuges, or other parks or forests within the Project area. No National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands were identified within this area as result of a wetland and stream delineation survey that was completed by AEP Ohio Transco's consultant. Results of this survey and photographs of the Project area are provided in Appendix C of the Ecological Resources Inventory Report.

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

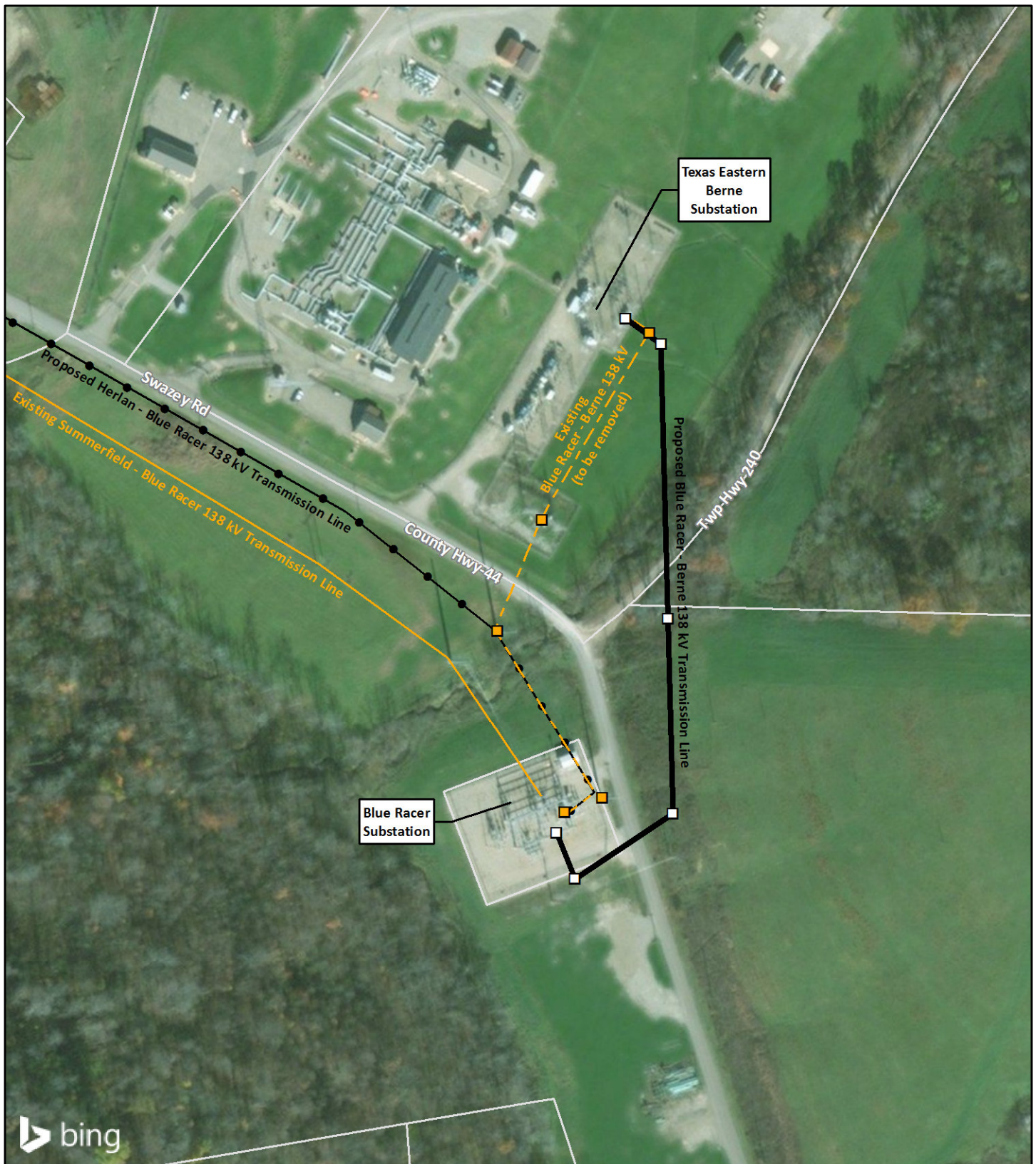
To the best of AEP's knowledge, there are no known unusual conditions that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

Appendix A: Project Maps



<p>▲ Substation</p> <p>— Proposed Blue Racer - Berne 138 kV Line</p> <p>— Proposed Herlan - Blue Racer 138 kV Line</p> <p>Existing Transmission Line</p> <p>● 138 kV</p> <p>○ 138 kV (to be removed)</p>	<p>--- Pipeline</p> <p>— Stream or River</p> <p>■ Waterbody</p> <p>■ Forested Area</p> <p>□ Administrative Boundary</p>	<p>Data Sources: AEP (2017), USGS (2016), USFWS (2016), ESRI (2013), US Census (2015), NPMS (2016)</p>		<p>Figure 1-1 Project Location Map</p>
<p>Coordinate System: State Plane Ohio South NAD 83</p>	<p>AEP OHIO Blue Racer - Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line</p> <p>0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet</p>			

August 18, 2017



bing

- Proposed Transmission Structure
- Proposed Blue Racer - Berne 138 kV Line
- Proposed Herlan - Blue Racer 138 kV Line
- Existing Structure (to be removed)
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line (to be removed)
- Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP (2017),
USGS (2017), Bing (2017)

Coordinate System:
State Plane Ohio South
NAD 83



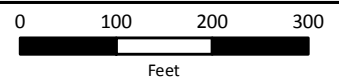
August 18, 2017



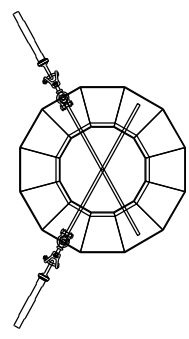
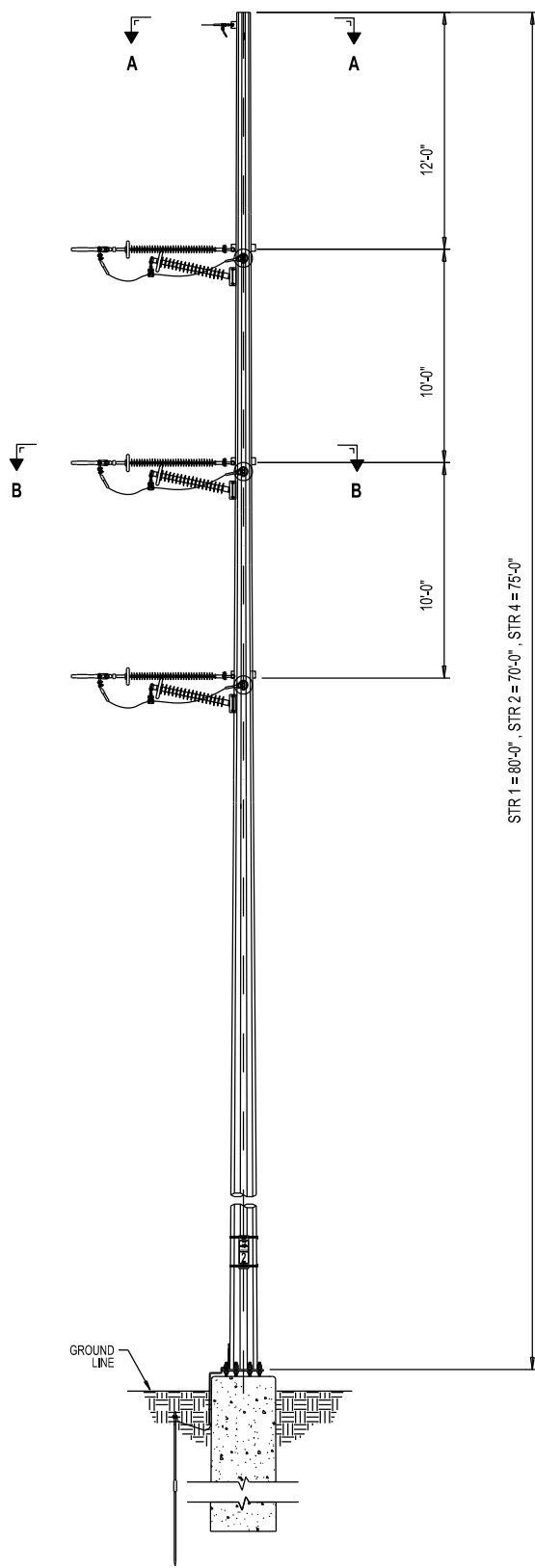
Figure 1-2
Project Layout Map



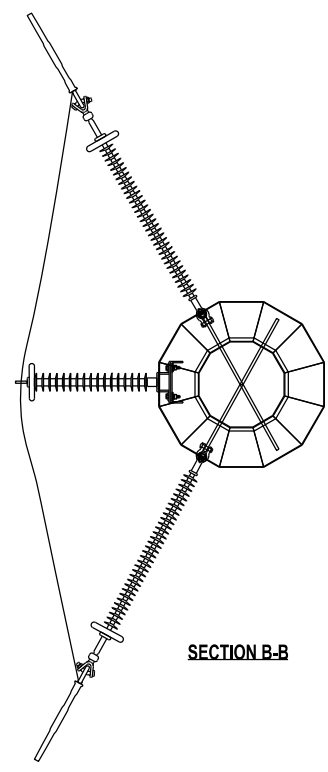
**Blue Racer - Texas Eastern Berne
138 kV Transmission Line**



Appendix B: Design Drawings




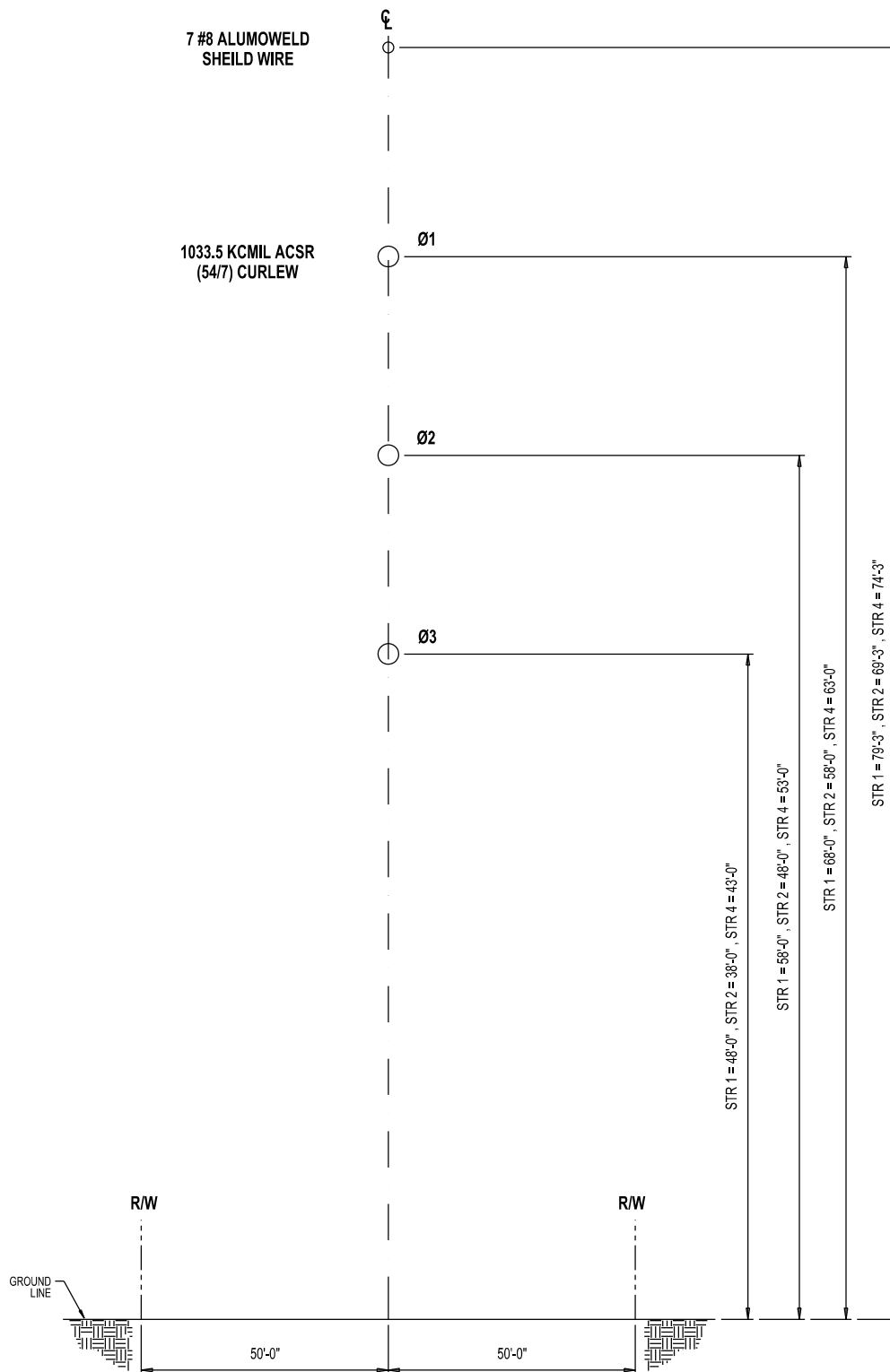
SECTION A-A




SECTION B-B

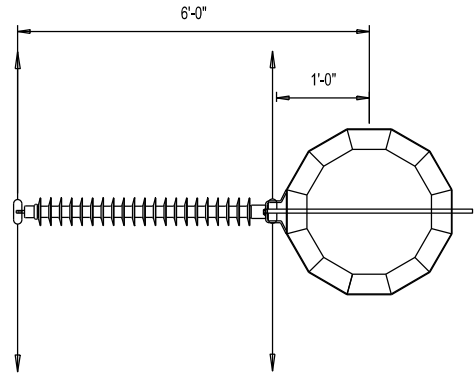
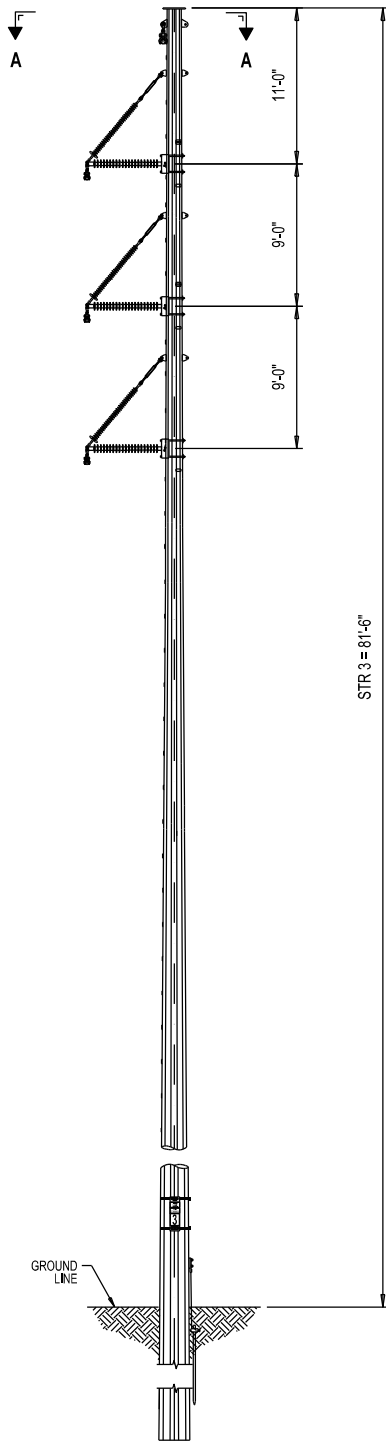
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REV	DESCRIPTION		BY	DATE		BLUE RACER - TEXAS EASTERN 138KV LINE				
A	FOR REVIEW		ECI	09/13/17		PROPOSED BLUE RACER-TEXAS EASTERN TYPICAL DEADEND STRUCTURE CONFIGURATION				
ENGR: JGG		DRAWN: SLB	CHECKED: JGG			APPROVED: ECI	DATE: 9/13/17	DRAWING No.	SHEET No.	REV. No.
							FIGURE 1		1	A




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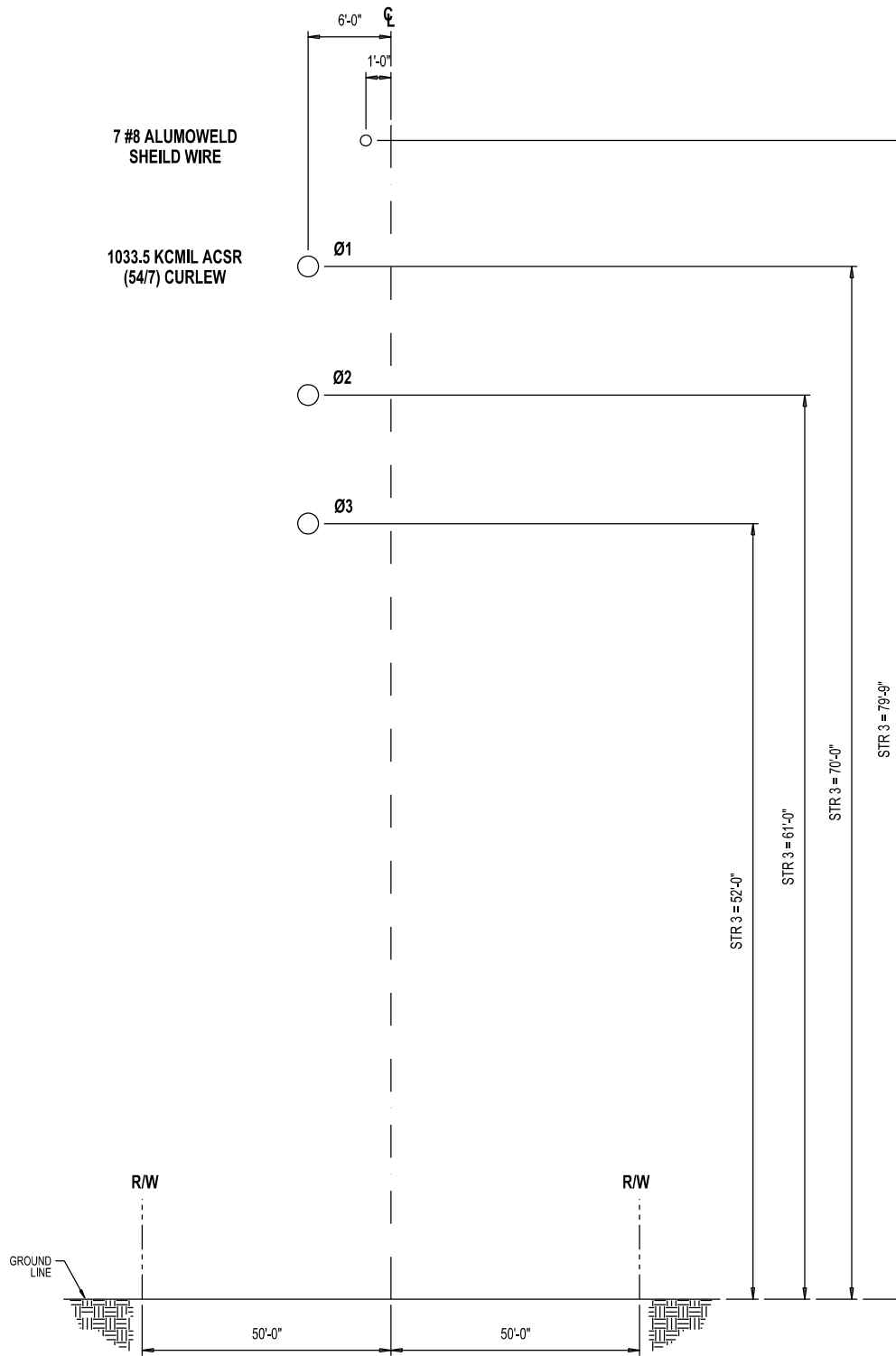
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ENGR: JGG		DRAWN: SLB		CHECKED: JGG		APPROVED: ECI	
				DATE: 9/13/17		DRAWING No. FIGURE 1	
						SHEET No. 2	REV. No. A




SECTION A-A

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ENGR: JGG		DRAWN: SLB		CHECKED: JGG			APPROVED: ECI		DATE: 9/13/17					
							DRAWING No.		FIGURE 2		SHEET No.	1	REV. No.	A



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ENGR: JGG		DRAWN: SLB		CHECKED: JGG		APPROVED: ECI	
				DATE: 9/13/17		DRAWING No. FIGURE 2	
						SHEET No. 2	REV. No. A

Appendix C: Ecological Report

**Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138
kV Transmission Line Project, Monroe
County, Ohio**

**Ecological Resources Inventory
Report**



Prepared for:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Prepared by:
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11687 Lebanon Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

September 12, 2017

BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

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BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

1.0 Introduction

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP) is proposing to construct approximately 0.2 miles of new 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Blue Racer substation facility and the Texas Eastern Berne substation facility in Monroe County, Ohio (Figure 1, Appendix A). The Project will include the construction of four structures along the proposed route (Figure 1; Appendix A). The Project area was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, open water features, upland drainage features, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on August 22, 2017. The approximate locations of features located up to 50 feet outside of the right-of-way (ROW) limits were also recorded during the field surveys, where landowner access was permitted. However, no data forms were collected on features that did not extend into the existing ROW. These features are shown on the Figure 2 maps in Appendix A as “approximate” streams (waterways), and upland drainage features.

2.0 Methods

2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

Prior to completing the 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).

2.2 STREAM DELINEATION

Streams that demonstrated a continuously defined channel (bed and bank), ordinary high water mark (OHWM), and the disturbance of terrestrial vegetation were delineated within the Project area, per the protocols outlined in the USACE's Guidance on Ordinary High Water Mark Identification (Regulatory Guidance Letter, No. 05-05) (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 global positioning system (GPS) unit and mapped with geographic information system (GIS) software. Additionally, the locations of ponds/open water features and upland drainage features (which lacked a continuously defined bed and bank/OHWM) identified within the Project area were also recorded with a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit during the field surveys.

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 habitats within the Project area, and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by these species.

BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

3.0 Results

3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on August 22, 2017 for wetlands, waterbodies, and threatened and endangered species or their habitats. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the waterbodies identified by Stantec within the Project area, as well as the locations of upland drainage features identified within the Project area. Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the habitats and locations of any identified rare, threatened or endangered species observed within the Project area. Representative photographs of the streams, upland drainage features, and other habitats identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination, QHEI, and HHEI data forms are included in Appendix D.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Found within the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Monroe County, Ohio

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
Mixed Early Successional/ Second Growth Riparian Forest	Moderate Disturbance/Natural Community (dominated by native woody and herbaceous species and/or opportunistic invaders).	No	0.40
Old Field	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by opportunistic invaders and/or native highly tolerant taxa).	No	0.76
Existing Road	Extreme Disturbance/existing gravel and/or paved road.	No	0.16
Industrial	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by opportunistic invaders, planted non-native species, and/or native highly tolerant taxa).	No	0.60
Maintained Lawn	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by opportunistic invaders, planted non-native species, and/or native highly tolerant taxa).	No	0.54
Total			2.46

BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

3.2 WETLANDS

Stantec completed field surveys for wetlands within the Project area on August 22, 2017. No wetlands were identified within the Project area. However, a non-jurisdictional determination data form was completed for the Project area and is included in Appendix D. Representative photographs of the site are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations and data determination point locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A).

3.3 STREAMS

Stantec completed field surveys for waterbodies within the Project area on August 22, 2017. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the waterbodies (streams) identified by Stantec within the Project area, as well as the locations of non-jurisdictional upland drainage features identified within the Project area. Representative photographs of the streams and upland drainage features are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2 and Figure 3, Appendix A). Completed QHEI and HHEI data forms are included in Appendix D. Information regarding the streams identified within the Project area is provided in Table 3.

Table 2. Summary of Stream Resources Found within the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Monroe County, Ohio

Stream Name	Photo Location Number ¹	Receiving Waters	Stream Flow Regime ²	Stream Evaluation Method	Stream Evaluation Score	OHEM Width (feet) ³	Delineated Length (feet) within Project Area
Stream 1 (Death Run)	2	Robinson Run	Perennial	QHEI	56.5	6.5	160
Stream 2	3	Death Run	Ephemeral	HHEI	14	1.0	97
Stream 3	4	Death Run	Ephemeral	HHEI	31	1.5	56
TOTAL							313
¹ Appendix C – Representative Photographs as shown on Figure 2 and Figure 3 (Appendix A)							
² Stream classification is based on Federal Register/Vol. 67, No. 10 (USACE 2002)							
³ OHEM = Ordinary High Water Mark							

3.4 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 3. Summary of Potential Ohio State-Listed Species within Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Monroe County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Monroe County? ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area? ³	Habitat Preference	Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Amphibians								
Eastern Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	E	Yes	ODNR response is pending	Found mostly in unglaciated portions of Ohio and prefers large, swift flowing streams where they hide under larger rocks (ODNR 2017b).	No	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work will take place in perennial streams. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
Fish								
Channel Darter	<i>Percina copelandi</i>	T	Yes	ODNR response is pending	Habitat includes warm, low and moderate gradient rivers and large creeks in areas of moderate current. This darter usually is found over sand and gravel substrates. It prefers clear water and silt-free bottoms. Channel darters may overwinter in quiet pools or backwaters. Spawning generally occurs over gravel, rubble, or rock-strewn bedrock in moderate or swift current (NatureServe 2017).	No	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work will take place in perennial streams. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
Tippecanoe Darter	<i>Etheostoma tippecanoe</i>	T	Yes	ODNR response is pending	This fish prefers medium to large streams in the Ohio River drainage system and are found in riffles of moderate current with substrate of gravel or cobble sized rocks (ODNR 2017b).	No	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work will take place in perennial streams. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
River Darter	<i>Percina shumardi</i>	T	Yes	ODNR response is pending	Large rivers and lower portions of tributaries; deep chutes and riffles where current is swift and bottom is coarse gravel or rock (NatureServe 2017).	No	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work will take place in perennial streams. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
Mussels								
Ohio Pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema cordatum</i>	E	Yes	ODNR response is pending	This mussel prefers strong currents of large rivers with substrates of sand and gravel, though it is somewhat tolerant of lentic systems (NatureServe 2017).	No	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work will take place in perennial streams. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
Insects								

BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Monroe County? ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area? ³	Habitat Preference	Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Regal Fritillary	<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	E	Yes	ODNR response is pending	Occurs in tallgrass prairie remnants and other open sites including damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and pastures (Butterflies and Moths of North America 2017).	Yes	Some potentially suitable habitat (old field) is present within Project area.	ODNR comments are pending.
Mammals								
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Yes	Yes	The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species 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 2017b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of 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	No hibernacula were observed in the Project area. AEP intends to avoid areas with summer roost habitat to the extent possible. AEP will determine if any summer tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable roost habitat and will proceed accordingly.	ODNR comments are pending.
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	E	Yes	ODNR response is pending	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 2017).	Yes	Suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project area. However, due to the mobility of the species, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR comments are pending.
¹ E=Endangered; T=Threatened ² According to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, State Listed Wildlife Species by County (ODNR 2017a). ³ According to Ohio Natural Heritage Program (Appendix B).								

Table 4. Summary of Potential Federally-Listed Species within the Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Monroe County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Monroe County? ²	Habitat Preference	Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	USFWS Comments/ Recommendations
Mammals							
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Yes	The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species 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 2017b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of 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	No hibernacula were observed in the Project area. AEP intends to avoid areas with summer roost habitat to the extent possible. AEP will determine if any summer tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable roost habitat and will proceed accordingly.	The project is located in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, the USFWS recommends that trees ≥ 3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because this project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to this species. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees ≥3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) is recommended. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to the Indiana bat are insignificant or discountable.
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	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 2016). 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	No hibernacula were observed within the Project area. AEP intends to avoid areas with summer roost habitat to the extent possible. AEP will determine if any summer tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable roost habitat and will proceed accordingly.	Should the project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, USFWS recommends trees be saved whenever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination is requested. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, USFWS recommends that removal of trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse effects to this species. Incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule.
¹ E=Endangered; T=Threatened ² According to USFWS (2017a).							

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbodies delineation and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species within the Project area on August 22, 2017. During the field surveys, two ephemeral streams totaling approximately 153 linear feet in length, and one perennial stream totaling approximately 160 linear feet in length were delineated within the Project area. No wetlands were observed within the Project area. See Table 2 for more information regarding the 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 field work. The delineations were performed by experienced and qualified professionals using regulatory agency-accepted practices and sound professional judgment.

An ODNR Ohio Natural Heritage Program Data Request and request for ODNR Office of Real Estate Environmental Review were sent on August 21, 2017, but a response has not yet been received.

The Project area is located in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Appendix B). Therefore, the USFWS recommends that trees ≥ 3 inches diameter breast height (dbh) be saved wherever possible. Because the Project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Because Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the Project has been confirmed, clearing of trees ≥ 3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, the Service recommends that removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable. According to the USFWS (Appendix B), because Indiana bat presence has already been confirmed in the project vicinity, any additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence surveys for this species. If seasonal tree clearing is implemented, the USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species due to the project type, size, and location. (Appendix B).

Additionally, the USFWS indicated that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix B). The USFWS 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.

BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

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BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

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Appendix A Figures

A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

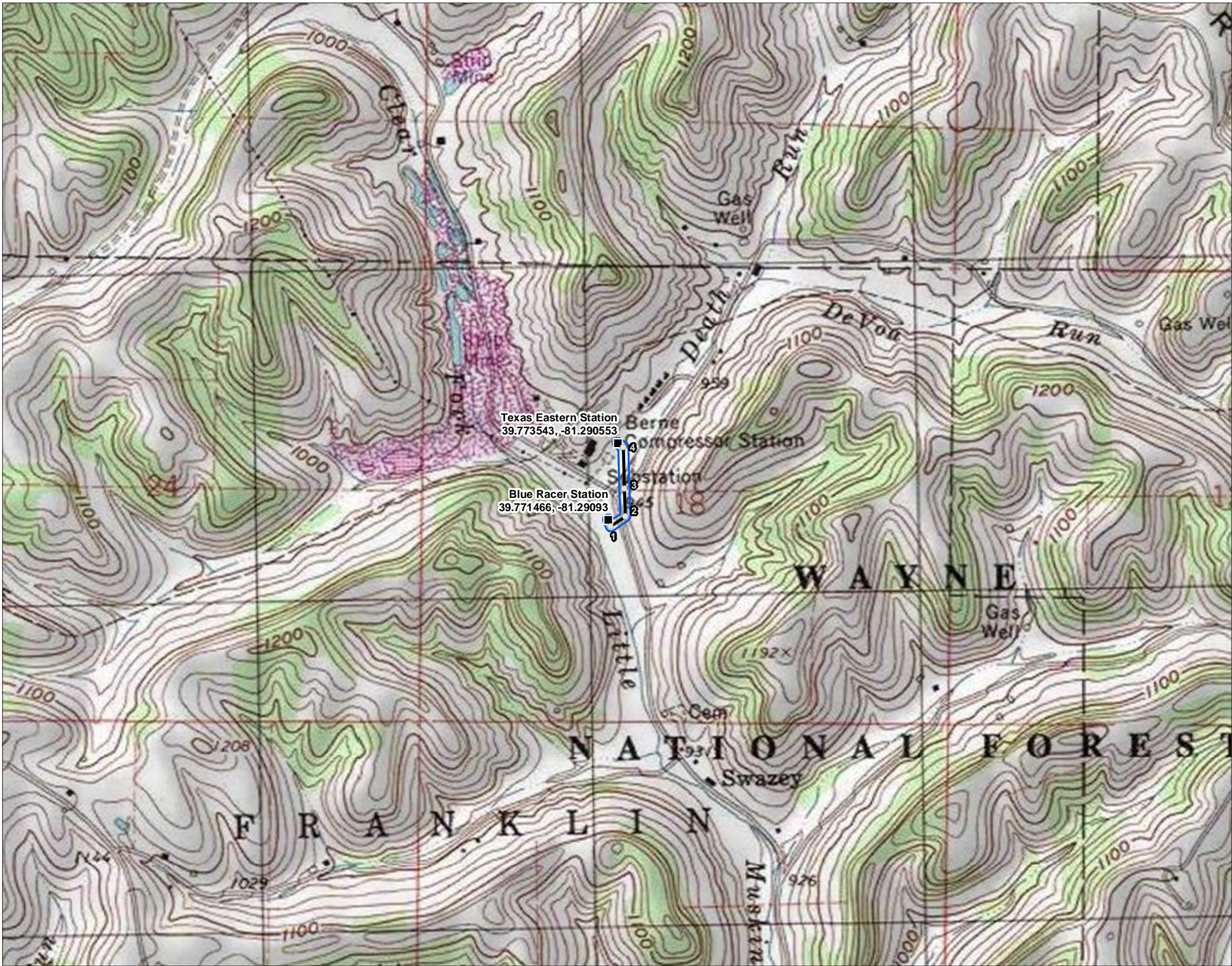


Figure No.
1

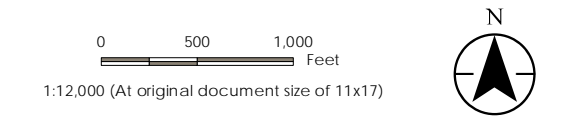
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Project Location Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV
Transmission Line Project

Project Location
Monroe County, Ohio

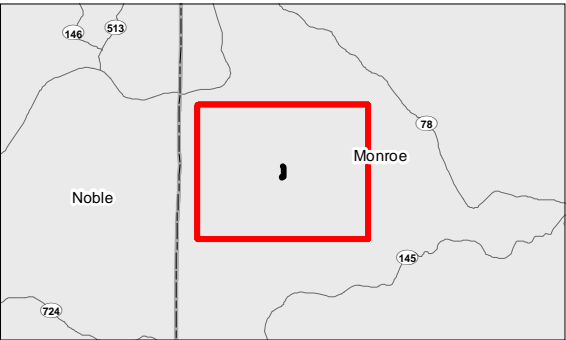
193705590

Prepared by JH on 2017-08-25
Technical Review by NN on 2017-09-11
Independent Review by DJG on 2017-09-11



Legend

- Substation
- Proposed Structure Location
- ~ Proposed Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line
- Project Area (100ft ROW)



- Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
 2. Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP
 3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle: Summerfield, OH (1978).



**BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE
COUNTY, OHIO**

A.2 FIGURE 2 – WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP



Figure No.

2

Title
Wetland and Waterbody
Delineation Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV
Transmission Line Project

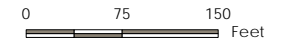
Project Location
Monroe County, C

193705590

Prepared by JLH on 2017-08-16

Technical Review by NN on 2017-09-11













Independent Review by DJG on 2017-09-11



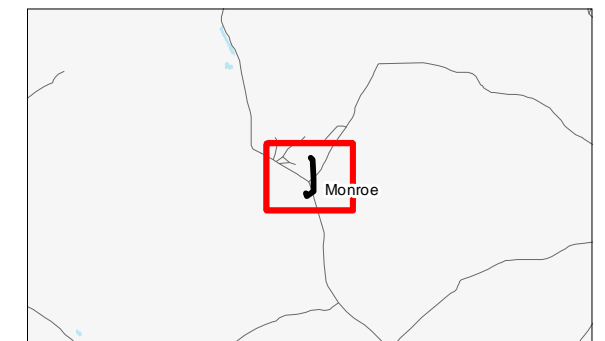
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Legend

-  Substation
-  Proposed Structure Location
-  Proposed Blue Racer-Texas Eastern
Berne 138 kV Transmission Line
-  Project Area (100ft ROW)
-  Existing Culvert
-  Photo Location
-  Wetland Determination Sample
Point
-  Field Delineated Waterway
-  Approximate Waterway
-  Upland Drainage Feature
-  Approximate Upland Drainage
Feature
- FEMA Flood Hazard Area*
 -  100-year Flood Zone
 -  100-year Floodway

*No features within data frame



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP, USFWS, USGS, FEMA, NADS, OGRIP
3. Orthophotography: 2015 NAIP



BLUE RACER – TEXAS EASTERN BERNE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, MONROE
COUNTY, OHIO

A.3 FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP



Figure No.

3

Title

Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV
Transmission Line Project

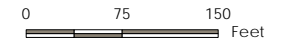
Project Location
Monroe County, OH

193705590

Prepared by JLH on 2017-08-25

Technical Review by NN on 2017-09-11










Independent Review by DJG on 2017-09-11








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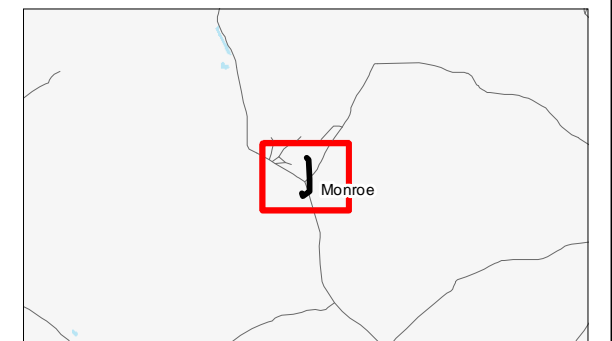


Legend

-  Substation
-  Proposed Structure Location
-  Proposed Blue Racer-Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line
-  Project Area (100ft ROW)
-  Photo Location
-  Field Delineated Waterway
-  Approximate Waterway
-  Upland Drainage Feature
-  Approximate Upland Drainage Feature

Habitat Area

-  Existing Roadway
-  Industrial
-  Maintained Lawn
-  Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Riparian Forest
-  Old Field



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS, OGRIP
3. Orthophotography: 2015 NAIP



Appendix B Agency Correspondence

Godec, Daniel

Subject: Blue Racer - Texas Eastern 138 kV Transmission Line, Monroe Co. OH

From: susan_zimmermann@fws.gov [mailto:susan_zimmermann@fws.gov] **On Behalf Of** Ohio, FW3

Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 2:50 PM

To: Binau, Jesse <Jesse.Binau@stantec.com>; nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; kate.parsons@dnr.state.oh.us

Subject: Blue Racer - Texas Eastern 138 kV Transmission Line, Monroe 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# 03E15000-2017-TA-1805

Dear Mr. Binau,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. The following comments and recommendations will assist you in fulfilling the requirements for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that proposed developments avoid and minimize water quality impacts and impacts to high quality fish and wildlife habitat (e.g., forests, streams, wetlands). Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. All disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES COMMENTS: All projects in the State of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*). In Ohio, presence of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, we recommend that trees ≥ 3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because the project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees ≥ 3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, we recommend that removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable. **Please note that, because Indiana bat presence has already been confirmed in the project vicinity, any additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence surveys for this species.**

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 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.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other 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 Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

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 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.

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.

Sincerely,



Dan Everson

Field Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW

Appendix C Representative Photographs

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 1. Representative view of sample point 1 (SP 1) within old field habitat.
Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 1. Representative view of sample point 1 (SP 1) within old field habitat.
Photograph taken facing east.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 2. Representative view of Stream 1 (Death Run).
Photograph taken facing northeast looking upstream.



Photo Location 2. Representative view of Stream 1 (Death Run).
Photograph taken facing southwest looking downstream.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 3. Representative view of Stream 2 (man-made ditch).
Photograph taken facing west looking upstream.



Photo Location 3. Representative view of Stream 2 (man-made ditch).
Photograph taken facing east looking downstream.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 4. Representative view of Stream 3.
Photograph taken facing east looking upstream.



Photo Location 4. Representative view of Stream 3.
Photograph taken facing west looking downstream.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 5. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 6. Representative view of mixed early successional/second growth riparian forest habitat. Photograph taken facing north.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 7. Representative view of industrial habitat. Photograph taken facing southwest.



Photo Location 8. Representative view of maintained lawn habitat. Photograph taken facing north.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Blue Racer – Texas Eastern Berne 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Monroe County, Ohio



Photo Location 9. Representative view of existing gravel road. Photograph taken facing northeast.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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9/14/2017 1:35:00 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-1777-EL-BNR

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