

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application)
of NGO Transmission for the Line 3-E 10-inch) **17-1476-GA-BNR**
Replacement 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 Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.03 and Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on October 2, 2017, unless suspended by the Board, an administrative law judge, or the chairperson or executive director of the board for good cause shown. 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 October 2, 2017, which is the recommended 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: 17-1476-GA-BNR
Project Name: Licking Trails (Line 3-E) Pipeline Replacement Project
Project Location: Licking County
Applicant: NGO Transmission
Application Filing Date: July 3, 2017
Filing Type: Construction Notification Report
Inspection Date: August 11, 2017
Report Date: September 25, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: October 2, 2017
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum, E. Morrison

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

NGO Transmission (Applicant) proposes to replace approximately 1,600 feet of existing 8-inch diameter bare steel pipeline with 10-inch coated steel pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 275 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG).

The Applicant would use open cut trench installation methods to cross open field and boring installation methods to cross beneath Interstate 70 and Licking Trails Road. The northern portion of the project would tie into existing 10-inch coated steel main, and the southern end would tie into the Harbor Hills regulator station. The Applicant states they will remove the old pipeline where applicable. The applicant proposes to begin construction in October 2017, and place the line in-service by November 1, 2017. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project to be \$175,000.

Site Description

The pipeline replacement would begin with a tie-in to the existing pipe north of Interstate 70 and approximately 0.25 mile west of Licking Trails Road. From there, the new pipeline would follow the existing pipeline route to the southeast, and connect with the Harbor Hills regulator station east of Licking Trails Road, approximately 300 yards south of Interstate 70. The surrounding land use is mostly agricultural crop fields. The project would be located within existing easements owned by the Applicant and cross beneath two public right-of-ways.

Basis of Need

Due to the age and condition of the existing gas pipeline, as well the number of leaks recorded on it, this portion of main has been chosen for replacement by the Applicant.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would cross Licking Trails Road at the Harbor Hills regulator station and Interstate 70 approximately 0.25 mile west of Licking Trails Road. The Applicant proposes to bore under both road crossings. The Applicant has obtained the road crossing permit from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Interstate 70 crossing, and currently is in the process of obtaining a permit from the Licking Township Trustees.

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. The Applicant has blanket easements for installation of the replacement pipeline. Both bore strings would be welded and pulled from the property south of Interstate 70 and west of Licking Trails Road in order to minimize impacts.

Agricultural Land

The proposed pipeline would not be located in Agricultural District Lands but would be located within four parcels zoned for agricultural use. Construction of the pipeline would not present long-term impacts to agricultural production.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. The review identified previously recorded archaeological sites adjacent to the project area. However, the Applicant concluded that Phase I investigatory work was not necessary, because the project is located within already disturbed contexts. Installation of the replacement pipeline would not impact any significant cultural resources.

Surface Waters

The project area contains two intermittent streams. Neither of the streams would be impacted. No wetlands or ponds occur within the project area. The Applicant states they are coordinating with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to obtain the necessary permit, the Ohio EPA general stormwater construction permit, for the project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

State and federal listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant states that no tree clearing would be necessary for the project, therefore no impacts to these species are anticipated.

The project lies within the range of the state threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*). Due to the type of habitat along the project route and in the project area, no impacts to this species are 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 October 2, 2017, provided that the following condition is satisfied.

Condition:

- 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.

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Case No(s). 17-1476-GA-BNR

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