

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice)
Application of Dominion Energy Ohio for the PIR 778) **17-1973-GA-BNR**
12-inch High Pressure Distribution Line 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 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on October 20, 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 20, 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 No.: 17-1973-GA-BNR
Project Name: PIR 778 Greentree Avenue Project
Project Location: Stark County
Applicant: Dominion Energy Ohio
Application Filing Date: September 28, 2017
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: October 12, 2017
Report Date: October 13, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: October 20, 2017
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Dominion Energy Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace approximately 0.64 mile of existing 8-inch diameter pipeline with 0.7 mile of 12-inch pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 160 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.375 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 42,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would primarily utilize open cut trench construction methods, but may utilize conventional or directional boring methods at road crossings and in environmentally-sensitive areas. The existing pipeline would be removed as the new pipeline replaces it. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in October 2017 and place the line in service by December 2017. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$957,425.

Site Description

The replacement pipeline begins east of Dueber Avenue SW, travels west for approximately 0.7 mile, and ends just east of Interstate 77 in the City of Canton and Canton Township. The surrounding land use is a mix of mowed lawns, forest, wetlands, and residential areas. The entire length of the replacement pipeline would be located within public right-of-way and existing easements owned by the Applicant. The pipeline would be offset from the existing pipeline by 10 feet with the exception of the west end of the project where the replacement pipeline would follow a new easement along the property line where it would intersect the existing line at Greentree

Avenue. Construction would occur within a 60-foot wide easement. The Applicant states laydown areas are necessary for the project and the locations for them would be determined by the winning contractor. Staff recommends the Applicant submit these plans once finalized for Staff review prior to construction.

Basis of Need

The Applicant has informed Staff that the existing pipeline was installed prior to 1955. The new pipeline would enable the Applicant to continue to meet system demand. In addition, the pipeline would allow for a complete integrity evaluation along the pipeline and would help maintain pipeline safety and integrity.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would intersect Dueber Avenue SW and Greentree Avenue SW. The Applicant proposes to utilize either open cut trenching or directional boring at each road crossing. The Applicant plans to submit construction plans to Stark County for the appropriate road crossing permits and coordinate temporary road closures, if required, with the County.

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. No new access roads would be required during construction. The Applicant would utilize existing roads for all access. The Applicant would ensure that all property owners and tenants have access to their residences and/or property during construction.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. No known historic or archaeological features are located within or adjacent to the project area.

Surface Waters

The project area contains one intermittent stream totaling 63 linear feet within the right-of-way. The project area contains one category 2 wetland that represents 0.172 acre of within the right-of-way. One pond exists just outside of the project right-of-way. The Applicant would avoid these resources and would utilize best management practices, including silt fencing and filter socks, to minimize siltation.

The Applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Applicant has developed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and submitted the plan to the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Staff for review and approval. The Applicant submitted a courtesy copy of this plan to the City of Canton.

Threatened and Endangered Species

State and federally-listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Approximately 0.5 acre of tree clearing would be necessary for this project. Three potential roost trees were identified within the project area. The Applicant has committed to restrict clearing to

the seasonal clearing dates between October 1 and March 31 in order to avoid impacts to these species.

The project lies within the range of the federal species of concern the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The bald eagle is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. No bald eagles or bald eagle nesting sites were observed within or adjacent to the study area, and no impacts are anticipated for this species.

The project lies within the range of the federally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*). Due to the type of habitat within the project area, no impacts to this species are anticipated.

The Applicant submitted a coordination letter to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on September 14, 2017 for any additional state-listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area. The Applicant would provide Staff with any comments from the ODNR review of the project and continue coordination with the ODNR and Staff based on the ODNR comments.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 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 October 20, 2017.

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) Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall obtain a coordination letter from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in regards to impacts to state and federally-listed species and/or their suitable habitat, and shall coordinate with the ODNR and with Staff regarding compliance with the letter.
- 3) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than three inches in diameter, unless coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) allows a different course of action.
- 4) Prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit to Staff, for review and confirmation that it complies with this condition, a project construction plan which includes the specific locations of its laydown areas. If the specific locations chosen appear to have additional adverse impacts, the Applicant shall either propose different specific locations without such impacts, or refile its application.

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Case No(s). 17-1973-GA-BNR

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