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October 24, 2017

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Barcy McNeal
Administration/Docketing
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Dominion Energy Ohio Construction Notice for PIR #778
Replacement Project, Case No. 17-1973-GA-BNR**

Dear Ms. McNeal:

On October 13, 2017, the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") Staff issued a Report of Investigation approving the Construction Notice subject to a number of conditions. Within this set of conditions, Condition No. 2 requires Dominion Energy Ohio ("DEO") to 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.

In compliance with Condition No. 2, attached is the letter from ODNR. Thus DEO is in compliance with Staff Report Condition No. 2.

If you have any questions please call at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Sally W. Bloomfield

Attachment

Cc: Ashton Holderbaum (w/Attachment)



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
Paul R. Baldrige, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6649
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October 10, 2017

Tara Buzzelli
Dominion Energy Services, Inc.
320 Springside Drive, Suite 320
Akron, Ohio 44333

Re: 17-602; The East Ohio Gas Company - Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Program, Ohio Listed Species Consultation, PIR 778 - Dueber Avenue SW

Project: The proposed project involves the replacement of approximately 3,367 feet of natural gas pipeline (four [4]- and twelve [12]-inch diameter under the PIR program.

Location: The proposed project is located in Canton Township, Stark County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. 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 National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the long-solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. This species prefers fens, bogs and marshes, but also is known to inhabit wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods, and the shallow sluggish waters of small streams and ditches. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of this species, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler
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2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
John.Kessler@dnr.state.oh.us

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

Summary: Correspondence of Dominion Energy Ohio in Compliance with Staff Report
Condition No. 2 electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Sally W. Bloomfield