

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 17-1571-EL-BNR
Need for the Inland-Harding (S-8) 345 kV Transmission)
Line Structure Addition)**

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:

This letter informs the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board), applicant, and any interested party that the above referenced accelerated application has been suspended from automatic approval pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-09. The Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days from the date of suspension.

Additionally, please review the attached *Staff Report of Investigation*, which has been filed in accordance with Board rules. Within this *Staff Report of Investigation*, Staff recommends that the Board deny the application for the reasons set forth therein.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 17-1571-EL-BNR
Project Name: Inland-Harding (S-8) 345 kV
Transmission Line Structure Addition
Project Location: Cuyahoga County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: July 31, 2017
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: August 8, 2017
Report Date: October 27, 2017
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** Not Applicable
Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell, J. Cross

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to install one new steel monopole structure with a concrete foundation within the right-of-way of the existing Inland-Harding (S8) and Harding-Leroy Center (S-6) 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. The Applicant asserts that the new structure is needed to facilitate the addition of wireless communication facilities, if they are approved by appropriate authorities. The Applicant has not asserted any need for the new structure that would be associated with the safe operation of the existing transmission line. The estimated capital costs of the project total \$464,428, which would be borne by the wireless communication provider.

The currently existing structure, Structure 15517, supports both the double circuit transmission lines and wireless communication equipment. ATSI modeled loading criteria and determined that additional wireless communication equipment could cause the existing structure to become overloaded. In order to accommodate a request to support additional wireless communication equipment, the Applicant proposes to install a new electric transmission structure approximately 30 feet to the northeast of the existing functional structure. The existing structure would remain in operation during installation of the new structure, in order to allow ATSI to avoid simultaneous outages on two existing transmission lines.

The new pole would be designated as Structure 15517-1. After installation of Structure 15517-1, the conductors for the Inland-Harding (S-8) 345 kV Transmission Line would be permanently

transferred from the Structure 15517 to Structure 15517-1. The conductors for the Harding-Leroy Center (S-6) 345 kV Transmission Line would remain attached to Structure 15517.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project is located within the city of Cleveland. The existing electric transmission line is situated between an active railroad line and medium density urban residential land uses. Institutional or other sensitive land uses are not located in proximity to the project. The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected. No new right-of-way is required.

Staff acknowledges that condensing the potential impacts associated with multiple structures into a single structure would be consistent with sound land use planning. However, in this instance, both the existing and new structure would be left in place. Thus, the net result of the Applicant's proposal essentially would be no different than if a stand alone cell tower were to be placed in the vicinity of the proposed structure.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant has consulted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of its application to the Board. The consultation revealed that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal is required and no work is proposed within wetlands, streams, or regulated flood plains.

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 does not meet the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Specifically, the Applicant has not established that the proposed facility is needed for operation of the transmission line. Staff does not recommend approval of this application. The executive director, by contemporaneous filing with this *Staff Report of Investigation*, has acted to suspend this automatic approval process for this accelerated certificate application. Furthermore, Staff recommends that, when the Board acts to approve, modify, or deny this accelerated certificate application within 90 days, that the Board deny this application.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-1571-EL-BNR

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