

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. 17-2444-EL-BNR
Need for the Chamberlin-Hudson Muni East 138 kV)
Transmission Line Structure 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 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on December 15, 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 December 15, 2017, which is the 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
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 17-2444-EL-BNR
Project Name: Chamberlin-Hudson Muni East 138 kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project
Project Location: Summit County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: December 5, 2017
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: July 12, 2017
Report Date: December 8, 2017
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** December 15, 2017
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 and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) proposes to replace Structure 7920 on the Chamberlin-Hudson Muni East 138 kilovolt Transmission Line. The existing steel lattice tower structure would be replaced with a 3-pole wood dead-end structure. The Applicant is currently replacing conductors and associated structures on this segment of the transmission line as part of Case No. 17-1481-EL-BLN, which was certificated by the Ohio Power Siting Board on August 1, 2017.

The Applicant has ascertained that Structure 7920 also needs to be replaced due to deterioration and its inability to safely support new heavier conductors. Staff recommends that the automatic approval date be accelerated to allow the Applicant to coordinate construction with a scheduled outage. The replacement structure would be installed in approximately the same location as the original structure.

The previously certificated project is part of an integrated maintenance effort to address potential age-related conductor clearance violations. This transmission line was originally constructed in 1956. The estimated capital costs of the pending project total approximately \$130,000.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use and Cultural Resources Impacts

The project is located in the city of Twinsburg. Land use in proximity to the project is industrial. The nearest residence is located more than 600 feet away. The project is located entirely on existing right-of-way and easement modifications are not required. No institutional or other sensitive land uses are present in the vicinity. The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that adverse impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant consulted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of their application. The consultation revealed that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal is required, and no work is proposed within wetlands or streams. If any streams or wetlands must be crossed during construction, ATSI plans to utilize appropriate best management practices such as temporary bridging or construction matting to minimize mechanized impacts.

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 December 15, 2017.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-2444-EL-BNR

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