

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice of)
Dominion Energy Ohio for the PIR #792 Richmond) Case No. 17-2375-GA-BNR
Road City of Beachwood 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 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 December 20, 2017, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Tammy Turkenton
Director, Rates and Analysis
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-1825

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 17-2375-GA-BNR
Project Name: PIR #792 Richmond Road Project
Project Location: Cuyahoga County
Applicant: Dominion Energy Ohio
Application Filing Date: November 28, 2017
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: December 5, 2017
Report Date: December 13, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: December 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 0.84 miles of existing 26-inch diameter pipeline with 1.05 miles of 30-inch pipeline. Of the 1.05 miles, approximately 1,382 feet of pipeline would be placed in the existing pipeline location in the right-of-way, 3,030 feet would be placed within the same right-of-way but shifted 75 feet to the western side of the road, and 1,040 feet of pipeline would be placed in new right-of-way. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 299 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 65,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would utilize open cut trench construction methods to install the pipeline. The existing pipeline would be removed as the new pipeline replaces it in the most northern section of the project. In the rest of the project, the existing pipeline would be abandoned in place. The pipeline replacement project begins at the Richmond Road and Cedar Road intersection in Beachwood, Ohio and travels south along Richmond Road until it veers east along Ramsay Road where it concludes at the intersection of Ramsay Road and Fairmount Boulevard.

The Applicant proposes to begin construction in March 2018 and place the line in service by September 2018. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$5.68 million.

Site Description

The existing pipeline would be removed as the new pipeline replaces it from the northern most point of the project at the Cedar Road and Richmond Road intersection travelling south to the Richmond Road and George Zeiger Drive intersection. From this intersection travelling south to the Richmond Road and Ramsay Road intersection, the replacement pipeline would be offset within the existing right-of way by 75 feet from the east side of Richmond road to the west side of Richmond Road.

The replacement line would then travel east along Ramsay Road in new right-of-way where the project concludes at the Ramsay Road and Fairmount Boulevard intersection. The existing pipeline would be abandoned in place from the Richmond Road and Ramsay Road intersection travelling south to Fairmount Boulevard and then east along Fairmount Boulevard until it concludes at the Ramsay Road intersection.

The surrounding land use is a mix of residential and commercial property. Construction of the replacement pipeline would be located within existing public right-of-way and a 20-foot wide easement along Ramsay Road.

Basis of Need

The Applicant states the replacement is being conducted in order to meet the current system supply demands and to maintain safety and integrity of the pipeline. The Applicant informed Staff that the project was based on risk ranking software that is used to plan all of the Applicant's proactive mainline replacement projects. The pipeline in this project has a history of leaks, but the primary drivers behind the decision to replace it were the size and pressure of the existing pipe, the lack of coating on the existing pipe, and the high density of buildings in the area for a high-pressure pipeline. The pipeline to be replaced was installed in 1951.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would intersect seven roads and cross in front of numerous driveways, as well as cross several driveways on Ramsay Road. The Applicant proposes to utilize open cut trenching at each road and driveway crossing. Staff recommends that in situations where concrete driveways are crossed by the pipeline route, that full panels be replaced to alleviate cracking and mismatched concrete along the right-of-way. Once construction plans are finalized, the Applicant stated that it will submit construction plans to the City of Beachwood Engineering Department for the appropriate road crossing and temporary driveway construction-related permits and will coordinate temporary road closures, if required, with the City.

The Applicant stated that it will send notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners the week of February 5, 2018. The Applicant will 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. One Ohio Historic Inventory property was found to have existed within the study area of the replacement line, the Centenary Church. However this property has been previously demolished.

Surface Waters

The gas transmission line right-of-way does not contain any streams, wetlands or ponds.

The Applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The application was approved by the Ohio EPA on August 9, 2016.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The state and federal listed species and/or their suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recommend that removal of any trees greater than three inches in diameter only occur from October 1 through March 31, unless coordination with the ODNR and the USFWS allows a different course of action. The Applicant states tree clearing will be required in order to implement the project. The Applicant will plant replacement trees per the requirements of the City of Beachwood.

The project lies within the range of the federal and state endangered Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), the state endangered piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the state endangered king rail (*Rallus elegans*), the state endangered upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), the state endangered black bear (*Ursus americanus*), the state threatened spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), the state threatened Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), the state threatened channel darter (*Percina copelandi*), and the state threatened bigmouth shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*). Due to the location of the project, the type of work proposed, the mobility of the species, no in water work planned for the project and the lack of suitable habitat along the project, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

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 20, 2017, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

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) The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic-related issues with the appropriate entities (including the Ohio Department of Transportation, local authorities, and public and emergency services) to ensure that the flow of traffic will be maintained along public roadways and private drives during construction, or that appropriate plans will be followed for temporary traffic diversions.

- (3) 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.
- (4) 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 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 17-2375-GA-BNR

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