

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application** )  
**of American Electric Power Ohio Transmission** )  
**Company for a Certificate of Environmental** ) **Case No. 18-0149-EL-BLN**  
**Compatibility and Public Need for the Newbery Station** )  
**and Extension 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 (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval June 7, 2018, 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 June 7, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom  
Chief of Siting, Efficiency and Renewables Division  
Rates and Analysis Department  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
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## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 18-0149-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** Newbury Station and Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Putnam County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** March 8, 2018  
**Filing Type:** Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Date:** May 21, 2018  
**Report Date:** May 31, 2018  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** June 7, 2018  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, J. Cross, G. Zeto

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Project Description

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco or Applicant) proposes to construct a new substation (Newbury Station) and transmission line extension in Putnam County. The Newbury Station would occupy 0.5 acre and the associated transmission line would be 0.6 mile in length. The project would be constructed on a 67-acre property that is owned by an existing customer (Pro-Tec Coating Company).

The station would consist of a 138 kilovolt (kV) double circuit configuration and would have a perimeter fence. No transformers are required for the station. Equipment within the substation would consist of two 138 kV circuit breakers, a control building, switches, and two bus supports. The transmission extension would consist of 10 steel poles, a 138 kV double circuit, and a 69 kV single circuit underbuild.

The capital cost of the project is estimated at \$8 million. The Applicant has indicated to Staff that AEP Ohio Transco would cover the cost of transmission facilities allowing for a through path for the 138 kV transmission system (substation and double circuit transmission line) and the customer would be responsible for covering a portion of cost of the radial feed to their facility. The Applicant further stated that this allocation is in conformance with current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules regarding cost allocation and network improvements, and that such costs would be incorporated into AEP Ohio Transco's transmission rates. It is concerning to Staff that costs that appear to be incurred on behalf of a single specific customer are required to be allocated to all transmission customers. Once built, the customer would transfer the station property and easement

for the transmission line extension right-of-way to AEP Ohio Transco. Construction would likely commence in the summer of 2018, with the facility being placed in service by December 2018.

### **Basis of Need**

The project is needed for an AEP Ohio Transco customer who has requested a new dedicated station to supply 55 megawatts (MW) of peak power. The proposed station would interconnect to the existing transmission facilities through a new 0.6-mile long double-circuit 138 kV transmission line extension.

The project would introduce a new delivery point of 138 kV service to the industrial customer who is expanding their operations with a new processing facility. The customer currently has a delivery point with the existing Yellow Creek substation, but would require an additional 55 MW of peak power with the expanded facility. Due to this increased load, in order to provide adequate service, the Applicant needs to reconfigure transmission facilities on site and in the neighboring Leipsic area. As a result, the Applicant is proposing the Newbury Station and double circuit transmission line extension.

This project was included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing, Case No. 18-1501-EL-FOR. The Applicant plans to submit the project as a future supplemental project to PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM). The project would be issued a supplemental PJM upgrade ID. The construction status of transmission project could then be tracked on PJM's website.<sup>1, 2</sup>

### **Nature of Impacts**

#### *Land Use*

The property in the immediate vicinity of the project contains manufacturing buildings, a railyard, an existing substation (Yellow Creek substation), utility lines, and offices. No public roadways would be crossed with the transmission line extension.

The surrounding land use is a mix of agricultural and light industrial uses. The project is not located within any agricultural district lands, and there are no wetlands or streams present. No residences are located on site. The Applicant performed cultural resources research studies for the proposed project area and determined that no potential impacts to archaeological sites are expected from the project. The Applicant submitted these findings to Staff and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

#### *Surface Waters*

The project site does not contain any streams or wetlands. The Applicant would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Applicant would utilize best management practices, as outlined in a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, to minimize erosion and control sedimentation. The project does not cross a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permit would be required.

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1. AEP Ohio Transmission Company, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 18-1501-EL-FOR, April 16, 2017.

2. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed May 18, 2018, <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Land within the project area is either maintained lawn or disturbed by current construction. The project does not contain suitable habitat for state or federal listed species.

### **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. Subject to the following condition, Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on June 7, 2018.

### **Condition:**

- 1) The Applicant shall docket the PJM Interconnection supplemental upgrade ID in this case and provide to Staff a copy of the presentation presented at the applicable PJM committee.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/31/2018 3:45:08 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 18-0149-EL-BLN**

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