

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of American)
Transmission Systems, Incorporated for an)
Amendment to the East Springfield-Tangy 138 kV) **Case No. 18-0594-EL-BTA**
Loop to Broadview Substation)

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 rules. The application in this case is subject to an approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Respectfully submitted,



Tamara S. Turkenton
Director, Rates and Analysis
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Project Name: Amendment to the East Springfield-Tangy 138 kV Loop to Broadview Substation
Case Number: 18-0594-EL-BTA
Project Location: Clark County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: May 18, 2018
Inspection Date: July 18, 2018
Report Date: August 16, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell, J. Cross and G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Application Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) is proposing an amendment to the East Springfield-Tangy 138 kV Loop to Broadview Substation, which was approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board on August 17, 2017 in Case No. 16-1982-EL-BTX. Three adjustments are proffered to accommodate property owner requests and to reduce overall project impacts. None of the adjustments involve new property owners. Additionally, the Applicant has proposed to change the conductor size from 336 Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) to 795 ACSR. The proposed change in conductor would not result in a change to the structure design, structure quantity, structure locations or estimated costs as defined in the certificated application.

Adjustment One involves a shift of approximately 400 feet to the west as depicted on Figure 3A of the application. The original route centerline would be moved to avoid diagonal parcel crossings, minimizing potential impacts to farming practices. Additionally, Adjustment One more closely parallels an existing transmission line alignment.

Adjustment Two is shown on Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C of ATSI's application. Adjustment Two is also being proposed to further reduce impacts to farming operations. Adjustment Two proposes alignment shifts along the certificated centerline on an east-west axis of approximately 11,000 feet. These alignment shifts vary approximately 80 feet to the north or south.

Adjustment Three is illustrated on Figure 3D of ATSI's application. Similar to Adjustment One, Adjustment Three is proposed to alleviate diagonal parcel crossings, by instead following existing property lines, where possible.

Application Review

Social Impacts

In Staff's opinion, the proposed adjustments are not expected to significantly alter existing land uses, including agricultural land, or to change the estimated capital costs for the project. These alignment sections have been studied for the presence of archaeological and historic impacts and no significant adverse impacts on cultural resources are expected. Adjustment Three is expected to further reduce viewshed impacts to a barn that was deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Surface Waters

Adjustment Three would result in the avoidance of one previously crossed perennial stream, but would cross two previously avoided category 2 wetlands. Additional wetland impacts would total approximately 0.54 acre. No structures would be placed within wetlands. Adherence to the conditions of the original certificate as well as implementation of the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan would minimize impacts to surface water resources that would occur as a result of the proposed adjustment.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Applicant has continued to coordinate with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the potential nearby habitat of listed species, including the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), and eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*). These agencies have concurred with the Applicant's proposed avoidance measures. The proposed adjustment would not result in increased impacts to listed wildlife species. Adherence to the conditions of the original certificate would minimize impacts to listed species.

Recommended Findings

Staff recommends that the Board approve the application, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions:

- (1) The Applicant shall continue to adhere to all conditions of the Opinion, Order, and Certificate for the East Springfield-Tangy 138 kV Loop to Broadview Substation in Case No. 16-1982-EL-BTX, or as the conditions may be amended through this application.
- (2) At least 30 days prior to the start of construction associated with Adjustment Three, the Applicant shall conduct a separate preconstruction conference to address specific measures that are applicable to potential construction impacts. Staff, the Applicant, and representatives of the prime contractor and/or subcontractors for the project shall attend.

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Case No(s). 18-0594-EL-BTA

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