

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. 18-1047-EL-BNR  
Need for the Seville-Star 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 October 1, 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 October 1, 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:** 18-1047-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Seville-Star 138 kV Transmission Line  
Structure Replacement Project  
**Project Location:** Wayne County  
**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Incorporated  
**Application Filing Date:** July 2, 2018  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** July 25, 2018  
**Report Date:** September 24, 2018  
**Recommended Automatic  
Approval Date:** October 1, 2018  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell and 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 one existing guyed wood pole structure with a taller steel deadend structure supported on a concrete foundation. Structure 10299 is currently situated along the Seville-Star 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line. The replacement structure would be located in approximately the same location as the existing pole.

The project is needed because the existing structure has sustained extensive woodpecker damage. The current structure was installed around 1980 and it failed a field inspection test in December 2017. Subsequent field inspections and further engineering analysis determined that the current conductor height would not meet National Electric Safety Code design standards. The Applicant's engineering design protocol also includes an additional five feet of vertical clearance to provide further safeguards. This project was included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing, under Case No. 18-1501-EL-FOR.<sup>1</sup> The estimated capital costs of this proposed project total approximately \$101,000.

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1. FirstEnergy, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," *Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 18-0449-EL-FOR*, April 16, 2018.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Land Use*

The project area is located in Chippewa Township, Wayne County. The existing structure is situated adjacent to an active railroad. The surrounding land use is primarily composed of rural residential and vacant shrub forested uses. The project area is located within existing right-of-way, and no new easements are required.

### *Cultural Resources*

ATSI 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*

Adequate ingress and egress are available for construction from the existing access road. The Applicant's investigation concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal would be required. No permanent impacts to wetlands or waterbodies are anticipated. Best management practices would be employed to mark and avoid any delineated wetlands to the extent practicable. Construction matting would be utilized to cross delineated wetlands and storm water controls would be installed to prevent soil erosion.

## **Conclusion**

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 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 October 1, 2018.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 18-1047-EL-BNR**

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