

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 18-1681-EL-BLN
Need for the Chrysler-Maclean 138 kV Transmission)
Line Tap to First Solar 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 January 29, 2019, 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 January 29, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 18-1681-EL-BLN
Project Name: Chrysler-Maclean 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to First Solar Project
Project Location: Wood County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: December 31, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: January 9, 2019
Report Date: January 17, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: January 29, 2019
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 construct a new 138 kilovolt single circuit transmission line tap, 9,807 feet in length. The line would be installed on 28 wood pole structures, paralleling State Route 795 and Tracy Road in Wood County.

The project is needed to supply electrical service to First Solar's new manufacturing facility. The capital costs of this transmission project total \$3,732,800, and those costs would be borne by the Applicant.

The Applicant did not include the proposed project in its most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing, as it was not known at that time. The project was submitted to PJM Interconnection, LLC. (PJM) as a baseline project. PJM assigned the project upgrade ID No. s1694. The construction status of the transmission project can be tracked on PJM's website.¹

1. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed January 8, 2019, <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Perrysburg Township and Lake Township. A significant portion of the proposed route is within existing distribution line right-of-way, as the distribution line easements can accommodate a transmission line overbuild. Land use in proximity to the project consists of highway, commercial, undeveloped, and agricultural land uses. One parcel of the agricultural land use is listed as an Agricultural District. The proposed transmission facility is not expected to have a significant impact on the viability as agricultural land for this Agricultural District.

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

The Applicant's investigation concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. Adequate ingress and egress are available from adjacent roadways and existing commercial facilities for construction. No woodlots, wetlands, streams, or ponds are present within the limits of construction. Any removal of nearby trees that could present a danger to the line would be conducted in accordance with Indiana bat seasonal restrictions. Best management practices would be employed 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 January 29, 2019.

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). 18-1681-EL-BLN

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