

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Application of South Field Energy,)
LLC for a First Amendment to the Certificate of)
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Issued in) Case No. 19-0638-EL-BGA
Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN)**

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: First Amendment to the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Issued in Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN

Case Number: 19-0638-EL-BGA

Project Location: Columbiana County

Applicant: South Field Energy, LLC

Application Filing Date: March 19, 2019

Inspection Dates: March 20 and March 22, 2019

Report Date: April 22, 2019

Applicant's Waiver Requests: None

Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell and G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Condition
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Application Description and Need

South Field Energy, LLC (Applicant) is proposing an amendment to the South Field Energy facility, a dual fuel combined-cycle electric generation plant. The South Field Energy facility is currently under construction and was approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) on September 22, 2016 (ref: Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN).

With this amendment, the Applicant seeks the Board's permission to increase the limit of disturbance (LOD) area along the southern boundary of the generation site. The current boundary line would shift approximately 60 feet further south at the eastern end and about 152 feet further south at the western end. The LOD increase is needed to accommodate a temporary topsoil storage area. The topsoil would be graded and stabilized by seeding until it would be re-excavated for final project restoration.

The Applicant also proposes to construct a temporary material and equipment laydown area at the existing Buckeye Water District property, which is adjacent to the generation facility site. The laydown area would constitute approximately 20 acres. The Applicant expects to lease the laydown area for 24 months from the Buckeye Water District. The lease would be structured to allow the Buckeye Water District to keep any property improvements. Otherwise, the Applicant would restore the leased laydown area and remove any installed gravel.

Application Review

Social Impacts

In Staff's opinion, the proposed adjustments are not expected to significantly alter existing land uses. Impacts would be almost entirely confined to the existing industrial use properties. The Buckeye Water District property and the generation facility site have been studied for the presence of archaeological and historic impacts and no significant adverse impacts on cultural resources are expected.

Surface Waters

Neither the proposed laydown area, nor the topsoil storage area would require any fill of wetlands. The Applicant delineated five wetlands in the vicinity of the laydown area. However, wetland E is the only wetland within the boundary of the laydown area. The Applicant stated that this wetland would be surrounded by a silt fence and there would be no development in this area. The Applicant also asserts that it would place signage at the periphery of the wetland indicating the presence of a protected wetland. No wetlands were delineated in the topsoil storage area. No streams, ponds, or 100-year floodplains would be impacted.

The Applicant would develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) for the temporary laydown area. The existing NPDES and SWPPP would be updated for the main facility to incorporate the topsoil storage area.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The laydown area is comprised of grassy areas and a paved road. No tree clearing would be required at either the laydown area or the topsoil storage area. The proposed project areas have been routinely disturbed by mowing and hay production. Due to lack of suitable habitats, impacts to state and federal listed species are not anticipated.

Recommended Findings

Staff recommends that the Board approve the application, provided that the following condition is satisfied.

Condition:

- (1) The Applicant shall continue to adhere to all conditions of the Opinion, Order, and Certificate for the South Field Energy facility in Case No. 15-1716-EL-BGN, as amended through this application.

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Case No(s). 19-0638-EL-BGA

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