

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. 19-0803-EL-BLN
Need for the Kirby-Roberts 138 kV Transmission Line)
Loop to Crissinger Substation 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 on May 16, 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 May 16, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 19-0803-EL-BLN
Project Name: Kirby-Roberts 138 kV Transmission Line
Loop to Crissinger Substation Project
Project Location: Marion County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: April 15, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Dates: April 25 and May 1, 2019
Report Date: May 9, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: May 16, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell, G. Zeto, F. Butt 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) is proposing to expand the Crissinger Substation by approximately 11.8 percent, which includes 78 linear feet of new fence. ATSI needs to use two open bay positions to add new circuit breakers. The substation's configuration would shift from a four-breaker ring bus to a six-breaker ring bus.

The project also includes the looping the existing Kirby-Roberts 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line into the Crissinger Substation, by adding approximately 1.2 miles of double circuit transmission line. The project would create two new transmission lines, the Crissinger-Kirby 138 kV transmission line and the Crissinger-Roberts #2 138 kV transmission line. The proposed transmission line loop would be constructed using 21 new wood pole structures and two new braced-post steel poles. The existing 100-foot right-of-way would be expanded by 30 feet.

The project will help to provide improved operational flexibility during maintenance and restoration efforts. Additionally, it will help reduce the amount of potential local load loss (approximately 99 MW) under contingency conditions.

The capital costs of this proposed transmission project total approximately \$ 7,647,700 and those costs would be borne by the Applicant.

This project was included in the Applicant's 2019 Long-Term Forecasting report, Case No. 19-0806-EL-FOR and is a PJM Supplemental RTEP project.¹ The project has been assigned PJM RTEP number s1696.²

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Pleasant, Green Camp and Marion townships, Marion County. The project area is entirely surrounded by agricultural and rural residential uses.

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.

Surface Waters

The survey corridor contains three streams including one perennial, two intermittent streams. No poles would be located in streams. No in-water work is planned, and no permanent impacts are anticipated.

The survey corridor contains six wetlands, including two Category 2 wetlands and four Category 1 wetlands. None of the replacement structures would be located within wetlands, and no wetland fill is proposed.

Construction access may require wetland and stream crossings. The Applicant has committed to use timber matting to avoid permanent impacts to wetlands and streams. Erosion control measures including silt fencing would be used where appropriate to minimize runoff impacts to stream channels. The Applicant would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

Several structures to be replaced and the associated access roads would be within floodplain areas. Staff recommends that the Applicant coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain any necessary floodplain development permit prior to construction in these areas.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Some tree clearing would be required for this project. The project area is within the range of state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species would be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, Staff recommends that the Applicant adhere to seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for all trees three inches or greater in diameter, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company, and American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, "2019 Electric Long Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Case No. 19-806-EL-FOR, April 15, 2019.

2. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed May 7, 2019
<https://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

allows a different course of action. The proposed project is expected not to impact any bat hibernacula.

Impacts to other state and federally listed species are not anticipated, due to no proposed in-water work and a lack of suitable habitats.

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 May 16, 2019.

Conditions

- (1) Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations. The Applicant shall provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, to Staff within seven days of issuance or receipt by the Applicant.
- (2) Prior to construction in floodplains, the Applicant shall coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain any applicable floodplain development permits.
- (3) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than three inches in diameter, unless coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 19-0803-EL-BLN

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