

Construction Notice for the Wagenhals- West Canton 138 kV Transmission Line Project



Case No. 19-0865-EL-BNR

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code
Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

May 24, 2019

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE WAGENHALS-WEST CANTON 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

**Ohio Power Company's
Wagenhals-West Canton 138 kV Transmission Line Project**

4906-6-05

Ohio Power Company ("AEP Ohio") provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

AEP Ohio proposes the Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Transmission Line project "Project", located in Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio. The purpose of this Project is to install one structure to increase the clearance height of the Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV line. The Project will be constructed on existing AEP Ohio property. Appendix A shows the location of the Project.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice ("CN") because it is within the types of projects defined by (2)(a) of Appendix A to O.A.C. 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

2. Adding new circuits on existing structures designed for multiple circuit use, replacing conductors on existing structures with larger or bundled conductors, adding structures to an existing transmission line, or replacing structures with a different type of structure, for a distance of:

(a) Two miles or less.

The Project has been assigned Case No. 19-0865-EL-BNR

B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

This project is to support upgrades to an existing distribution station. This 138kV transmission line modification is necessary in order to be able to construct the new facilities at the distribution station and provide proper clearances. In the 2019 AEP Ohio Transco LTFR, the line modification is mentioned in form FE-T9 on page 113. It is listed as a project component of the Northeast Canton Station Project. The PJM number is Supplemental Project S1620.

B(3) Project Location

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the Project area.

Figure 2 (in Appendix A) shows the location of the Project in relation to existing transmission lines and electrical facilities.

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B(4) Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

The proposed pole location was chosen to ensure minimal impacts to the surrounding area. Because the structure will be placed on AEP Ohio property within the centerline of the existing Wagenhals-West Canton line, there will be no additional impacts to any areas outside the existing right-of-way ("ROW") corridor. The resulting alignment represents the most suitable and least-impactful pole location alternative and poses no impacts to socioeconomic, ecological, or engineering aspects. Details regarding socioeconomic, land use, and ecological information is presented in Section B(10).

B(5) Public Information Program

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

Because the Project will be located fully on AEP Ohio Property, no other property owners or tenants will be affected. AEP Ohio maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. A paper copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project.

B(6) Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in the second quarter of 2019, and the anticipated in-service date will be approximately July 2019.

B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 3 (Appendix A) identifies the proposed location of the new pole along existing alignments of the transmission lines on an aerial image with marked streets, roads, and highways.

To visit the site from Columbus, travel north on Interstate 71 approximately 70 miles to U.S. Route 30 East (Exit 176). Travel east on U.S. Route 30 approximately 55 miles to Interstate 77/U.S. Route 62 in Canton. Travel north on Interstate 77 North /U.S. Route 62 East approximately 4 miles to Exit 107B. Taking exit 107B, follow U.S. 62 east approximately 2.5 miles to Middlebranch Avenue NE. Turn left and follow Middlebranch Avenue NE approximately 1 mile to Martindale Road NE. At the intersection, turn right and continue to follow Middlebranch Avenue NE north approximately 1 mile and arrive at the Northeast Canton Station on the right (Project Site).

B(8) Property Agreements

The Project is located on property owned by AEP Ohio. No other property easements, options, or land use agreements are necessary to construct the Project or operate the transmission line.

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B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

The transmission line construction will include the following:

Voltage: 138kV
Conductors: 556,500 cm ACSR (26/7) (Wagenhals-W.Canton Ckt) & 565,300 cm ACSS/TW Type 16 (Wagenhals-Wayview Ckt)
Static Wire: 159,000 cm ACSR (12/7)
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 Feet
Structure Types: Double circuit, steel pole, direct embedded, Tangent structure.

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line.

No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project. Therefore, no electric and magnetic field assessment was conducted nor were alternate designs considered.

B(9)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$308,000 of a Class 3 estimate.

B(10) Social and Economic Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project:

B(10)(a) Land Use Characteristics

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is located within Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio, approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the City of Canton, on the east side of Middlebranch Avenue Northeast. The proposed structure is located on southwest corner of the parcel of land where the existing Northeast Canton Station is located. The land use at the Project location is industrial (utility ROW and facilities) with a regularly maintained mowed lawn. The proposed Wagenhals-West Canton 138 kV transmission line structure will not impact existing land uses or future land use patterns near the site; furthermore, it will be located within an existing electric

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transmission line corridor and within a parcel of an existing station, thereby minimizing visual impacts to the area. Vegetation communities within the Project Area include maintained mowed lawn and an emergent wetland to the east.

There are no cemeteries, schools, or other community facilities located within 1,000 feet of the proposed Project location. Two churches are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed Project location. The nearest residence is approximately 150 feet to the southwest of the proposed structure. (Appendix A – Figure 3).

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

As all work is to be accomplished entirely within an existing station property and existing transmission line ROW with no proposed expansion; no agricultural lands, including designated Agricultural Districts, will be impacted by the proposed work.

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archaeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

In January 2019, AEP Ohio's consultant reviewed the Northeast Canton Station Project site for a cultural resources impact assessment. The Project area was examined through Phase I cultural resources investigation to address archaeological and architectural resources in the Project area. A literature review indicated that there are no formally recorded resources located in the Project area. A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted in January 2019 utilizing both pedestrian reconnaissance and shovel testing within the survey areas. No archaeological sites were identified within the current Project area, and the site was found to largely be at least partially disturbed. Therefore, AEP Ohio's consultant recommends no further archaeological work and a consideration of "no historic properties or landmarks affected" is appropriate for the Project.

The architectural and historical resources survey was conducted in January 2019 did not result in the identification of any historic properties, or properties considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. AEP Ohio's consultant recommends a finding of "no historic properties affected," and recommends no further cultural resource management work for the Project.

These reports for Northeast Canton Station project were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office ("OHPO") on January 14, 2019. AEP Ohio received concurrence on February 13, 2019 (Appendix C).

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B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

Coordination with the Ohio History Connection (OHC), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”), and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) has been completed and coordination letters can be found in Appendix C. There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

Coordination with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) Division of Wildlife (“DOW”) was initiated to obtain Ohio Natural Heritage Database records within a 1-mile radius of the proposed Northeast Canton Station Study Area. The response letter dated February 25, 2019 (Appendix B) indicated that a review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database there are no records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the Project area. Furthermore, the letter states that there are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. Lastly, the ODNR indicated that they are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the Project area.

However, the Project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. No trees are proposed to be cut as part of this Project, therefore impacts to the Indiana bat are not anticipated.

The Project is also within the range of the long-solid (*Fusconaia maculate maculate*), a state endangered mussel, and the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish, and due to the location of the Project, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, the Project is not likely to impact these species or other aquatic species.

The Project is also within the range of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the Project site and within the vicinity of the Project area, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species.

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office on January 15, 2019, seeking technical assistance on the Project for potential impacts to federally threatened or endangered species. In their response letter dated February 13, 2019 (Appendix B), the USFWS indicated that due to the project, type, size, and location, they do not anticipate that the proposed Project will adversely affect federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species. The USFWS letter did not include comments specific to federally listed species.

Based on the nature of the proposed Project activities and habitat characteristics of the surrounding vicinity, construction impacts to protected species are not anticipated.

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B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

As all work is to be accomplished entirely within an existing sub-station property and existing transmission line rights-of-way with no expansion of rights-of-way, no areas of ecological concern occur within the project area. A map of the proposed pole location and environmental assets are presented in Figure 4.

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions





Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of AEP Ohio's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

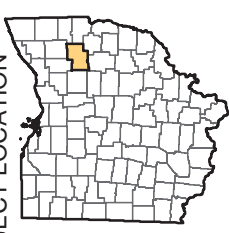
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE WAGENHALS-WEST CANTON 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
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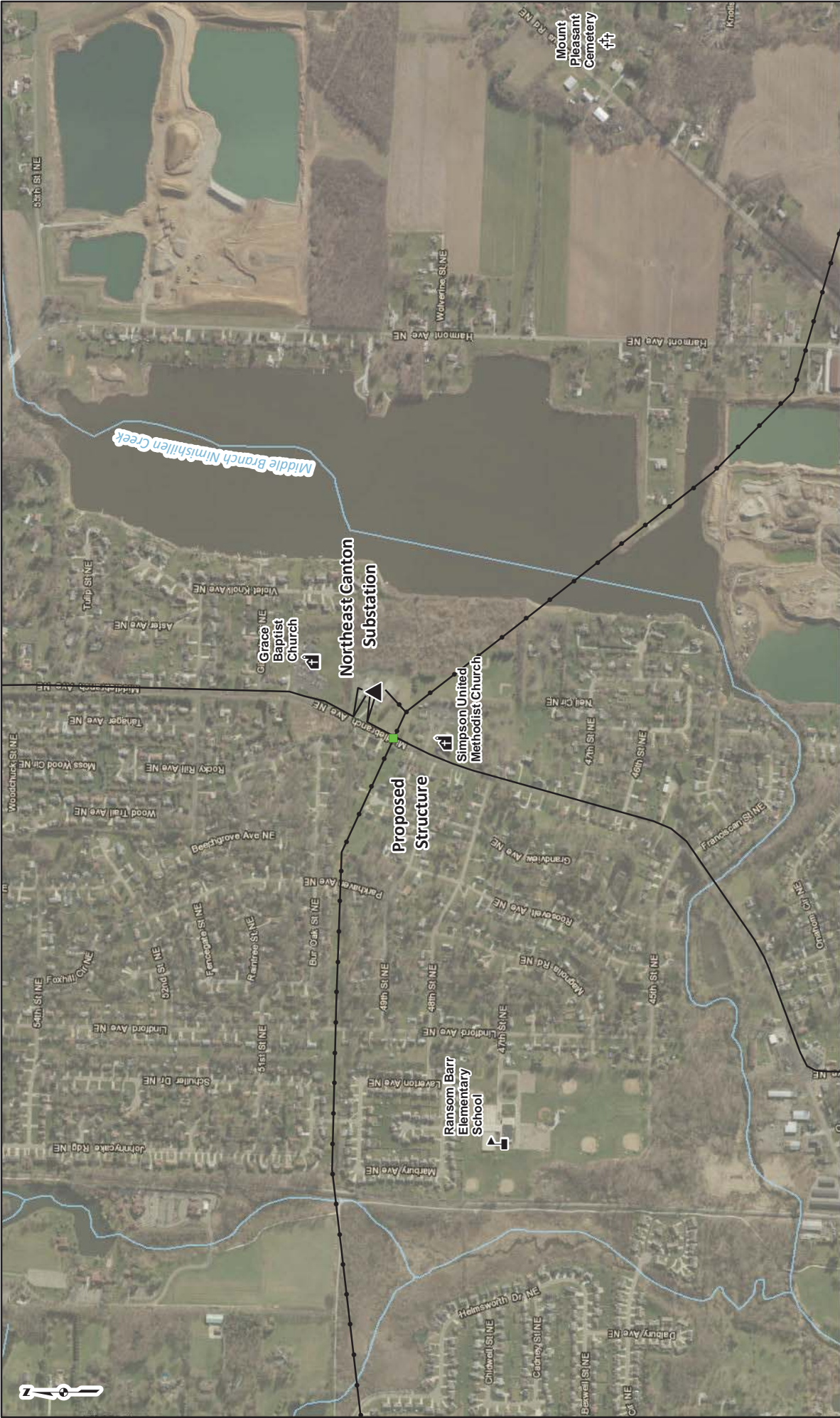
Appendix A Project Maps

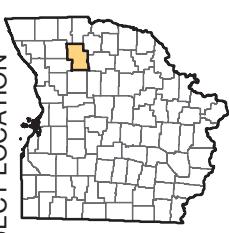


PROJECT LOCATION  STARK COUNTY, OHIO	<p>REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE: CANTON EAST (1985), OHIO, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 04/2019. EXISTING AEP TRANSMISSION LINES, AEP, 2019.</p>	LEGEND <ul style="list-style-type: none">SubstationProposed StructureExisting 69 kV Transmission LineExisting 138 kV Transmission Line	<p>0 250 500 1,000 Feet</p> 	FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP
				<div><p>WAGENHALS - WEST CANTON TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER</p></div> <div>DRAWN BY: KJB CHECKED: EFJ DATE: 4/5/2019 APPROVED:</div> <div><p>AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SCHEDULED PROJECT</p></div>



PROJECT LOCATION  STARK COUNTY, OHIO	REFERENCES: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY, STARK COUNTY, 2016, ACCESSED 04/2019, WORLD TRANSPORTATION, ESRI, DELORME, HERE, MAPMYINDIA, TOMTOM, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI/ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 04/2019.	LEGEND <ul style="list-style-type: none">SubstationProposed StructureExisting 69 kV Transmission LineExisting 138 kV Transmission Line	FIGURE 2 EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE MAP



<p>PROJECT LOCATION</p>  <p>STARK COUNTY, OHIO</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substation Proposed Structure Church Cemetery School NHD Stream Existing 69 kV Transmission Line Existing 138 kV Transmission Line 	<p>FIGURE 3 VICINITY MAP</p> <p>WAGENHALS - WEST CANTON TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER</p> <p>gai consultants</p> <p>DRAWN BY: KJB CHECKED: EFJ DATE: 4/5/2019 APPROVED:</p>
<p>REFERENCES: ESRI WORLD IMAGERY, STARK COUNTY, 2016, ACCESSED 04/2019. WORLD TRANSPORTATION, ESRI, DELORME, HERE, MAPMYINDIA, TOMTOM, © OPENSOURCE MAP COMMUNITY, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 04/2019. NHD STREAMS, NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET (NHD), USGS, 2018. LANDMARK DATA, ESRI ARCGIS ONLINE, 2015.</p>	<p>0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet</p>	<p>G:\C170352.73 - GIS\MXD\CN\Exhibit_3_Project_Vicinity_Map_A_Landscape_2019_04.mxd</p>

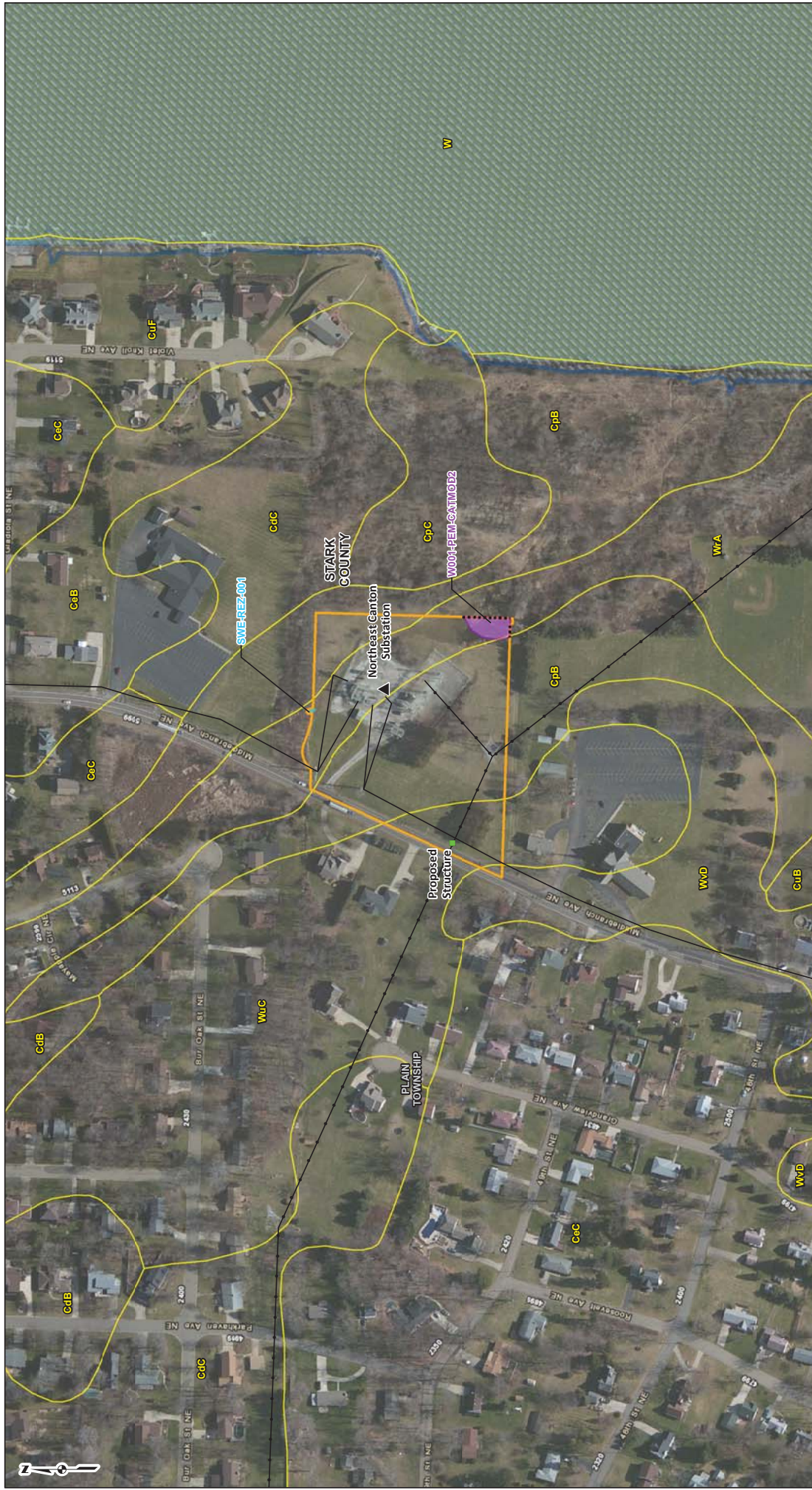


FIGURE 4

NORTHEAST CANTON STATION
EXPANSION PROJECT
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: JTH
CHECKED: EFJ

G:\C170352.73 - GIS\MXD\Misc\2019 05 20 Overview Map\Overview Map 2019 05 20.mxd

REFERENCES: ESHI WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY), ARGGIS (ESRI), OPENSTREETMAP, MAPBOX, MAPBOX GL, ESRI, FORNBERG, MAPBOX, MAPBOX GL, OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI ARGIS ONLINE, ACCESSSED 05/2019, NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY (NWI) WATERS, USFWS, 2018, NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), OHIO, 2018, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE (SCS) NATIONAL SOIL SURVEY, STARK COUNTY, OHIO (USDA/NRCS, 2017), OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR) LAND, 2018.



PROJECT LOCATION

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

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Appendix B Ecological Resources Inventory Report

Ecological Survey Report

AEP Ohio Transmission Company
Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project
Stark County, Ohio

GAI Project Number: C170352.73, Task 001

February 2019



Prepared by: GAI Consultants, Inc.
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Ecological Survey Report

AEP Ohio Transmission Company
Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project
Stark County, Ohio

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1.0 Introduction

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI), on behalf of American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP), completed an ecological survey for the Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project (Project) located in Stark County, Ohio (OH). The proposed Project involves the expansion of the existing Northeast Canton Station.

Ecological surveys were completed on January 16, 2019 and February 7, 2019. The Project study area consists of an approximately 4.65 -acre area, including the existing station and immediately surrounding area, as shown on Figure 1.

The Project study area is located within the City of Canton-Middle Branch Nimishillen Creek (United States Geological Survey [USGS] Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] #050400010504) watershed.

This report details the results of the ecological surveys regarding the existence of aquatic resources within the Project area (Figure 2). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Determination Data Forms are provided in Appendix B and Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM) Data Forms are provided in Appendix C.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Wetlands

The 1987 USACE *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Wetlands Delineation Manual) (USACE, 1987) and the 2010 *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region, Version 2.0* (Regional Supplement) (USACE, 2010) describe the methods used to identify and delineate wetlands that fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE. This approach recognizes the three (3) parameters of wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils to identify and delineate wetland boundaries. In accordance with the Wetlands Delineation Manual and Regional Supplement, GAI completed preliminary data gathering and onsite inspections.

2.1.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

The preliminary data gathering is used to compile and review information that may be helpful in identifying wetlands and/or areas that warrant further inspection during the investigation. The preliminary data gathering included a review of the following:

- ▶ USGS 7.5-minute topographic mapping for Canton East (1985), Canton West (1986), Hartville (1985) and North Canton (1985), OH (Figure 1);
- ▶ United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping (USFWS, 2017) (Figure 2);
- ▶ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Hazard Layer (FEMA, 2015) (Figure 2); and
- ▶ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS, 2017) soil mapping (Figure 2).

Topographic mapping is used to identify mapped streams and the overall shape of the landscape in the Project area to determine potential locations for wetlands, such as floodplains and depressions. NWI mapping is used to determine locations where probable wetlands are located based on infrared photography. Soil mapping is reviewed to determine the location and extent of mapped hydric soils that have a high probability of containing wetlands.

2.1.2 Onsite Inspection

The methodology described in the Regional Supplement identifies areas meeting the definition of a wetland by evaluating three parameters: hydrology, vegetation, and soil. During the on-site inspection, GAI staff traversed the Project study area on foot to determine if any indicators of wetlands were present. When indicators of wetlands were observed, an observation point was established, and a Wetland Determination Data Form (Data Form) was completed to determine if all three wetland indicators were present.

The presence of wetland hydrology is determined by examining the observation point for primary and secondary indicators of wetland hydrology. The presence of any primary indicator signifies the presence of wetland hydrology, or the presence of two (2) or more secondary indicators signifies the presence of wetland hydrology.

Vegetation is characterized by four (4) different strata. This included trees (woody plants, excluding vines, three inches or more [≥ 3.0 "] in diameter at breast height [DBH]), saplings/shrubs (woody plants, excluding vines, less than three inches [> 3.0 "] DBH and greater than or equal to [\geq] 3.28 feet tall), herbs (non-woody plants, regardless of size, and all other plants less than [$<$] 3.28 feet tall), and woody vines (greater than [$>$] 3.28 feet tall). In general, trees and woody vines are sampled within a thirty-foot (30.0') radius, saplings and shrubs are sampled within a fifteen-foot (15.0') radius, and herbs are sampled within a five-foot (5.0') radius.

When evaluating an area for the presence of hydrophytes, classification of the indicator status of vegetation is based on *The National Wetland Plant List: 2016 Update of Wetland Ratings* (Lichvar et al., 2016). The list of possible indicator statuses for plants is as follows:

- ▶ Obligate Wetland (OBL) - Obligate Wetland plants occur in standing water or in saturated soils;
- ▶ Facultative Wetland (FACW) - Facultative Wetland plants nearly always occur in areas of prolonged flooding or require standing water or saturated soils but may on rare occasions, occur in non-wetlands;
- ▶ Facultative (FAC) - Facultative plants occur in a variety of habitats, including wetland and mesic to xeric non-wetland habitats but often occur in standing water or saturated soils;
- ▶ Facultative Upland (FACU) - Facultative Upland plants typically occur in xeric or mesic non-wetland habitats but may frequently occur in standing water or saturated soils; and
- ▶ Obligate Upland (UPL) - Obligate Upland plants almost never occur in water or saturated soils.

Presence of hydrophytic vegetation is determined by using a Rapid Test, Dominance Test or Prevalence Index. The Rapid Test finds a vegetation community to be hydrophytic if all dominant species are OBL or FACW. Hydrophytic vegetation is considered present based on the Dominance Test if more than fifty percent (50%) of dominant species are OBL, FACW, or FAC. The Prevalence Index weighs the total percent of vegetation cover based on the indicator status of each plant. Hydrophytic vegetation is considered present when the Prevalence Index is less than or equal to (\leq) 3.0 (USACE, 2010).

To determine the presence of hydric soils, soil data is collected by digging a minimum sixteen inch (16.0") deep soil pit. The soil profile is studied and described, while possible hydric indicators were examined. Soil indicators described in the Wetlands Delineation Manual and

Regional Supplement are used to determine the presence of hydric soils. The presence of any of these indicators signifies a hydric soil.

If all three parameters, including wetland hydrology, a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils, are identified at a single observation point, the area is determined to be a wetland. Once a wetland is identified, the boundary is delineated.

Wetland boundaries are determined by looking for locations in which one of the three wetland indicators would transition into an upland characteristic. When the transition is identified, a Data Form is completed in the Upland Area. Wetland boundaries are then marked in the field using pink flagging labeled "WETLAND DELINEATION." The locations of the flags are recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Each wetland is codified with a unique identifier indicating the feature type and number (e.g., W001).

Wetlands are then classified using the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* as modified for NWI Mapping Convention. This system classifies wetlands based on topographic position and vegetation type. Palustrine system wetlands found within the study area are classified as Palustrine Emergent (PEM), Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PSS), Palustrine Forested (PFO), or Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom (PUB) based on aerial coverage of the vegetative community across the extent of the wetland boundary (Cowardin et al., 1979).

2.2 Waterbodies

As with wetlands, Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and state regulations protect waterbodies in OH. Generally, waterbodies are defined as environmental features that have defined beds and banks, ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), and contain flowing or standing water for at least a portion of the year.

2.2.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

During the preliminary data gathering, the USGS 7.5-minute topographic mapping is examined for the presence of mapped waterbodies including perennial and intermittent streams. In addition, the topographic mapping is used to identify areas likely to contain unmapped waterbodies including ephemeral streams (USGS, 1978 and 1986) (Figure 1).

The OEPA 401 Water Quality Certification for Nationwide Permits Stream Eligibility Web Map (OEPA, 2017) is used to determine eligibility for coverage under the 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the 2017 Nationwide Permits (NWP). Furthermore, the map is used to identify any ineligible areas that may require a CWA Section 401 individual permit from the OEPA should stream impacts occur within the Project area (OEPA, 2017) (Figure 3).

2.2.2 Onsite Inspection

During the onsite inspection, GAI staff traversed the study area, concurrently with the wetland inspection, whereby waterbodies were identified. Waterbodies were identified based on the morphological and hydrologic characteristics of the channel and the presence of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

When a waterbody is identified, field measurements are collected. The measurements include top of bank width, top of bank depth, pool depth, water depth, OHWM width, and OHWM depth. A detailed description of substrate composition is also recorded. Waterbodies are then delineated using white flagging marked with the GAI stream code (e.g., S001). The tops-of-bank for streams wider than ten feet (>10.0') area delineated, while the centerline of smaller streams are delineated. The locations of the flags are recorded using a sub-meter-capable hand-held GPS unit.

2.3 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

GAI conducted a literature review of potential Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species in the vicinity of the Project study area. Potential habitat for RTE species as a result of the literature review was noted during the ecological survey.

2.3.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

A request for review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database (ONHD) is submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to determine if any state-listed Threatened or Endangered species occur within a one-mile (1.0 mi) radius of the Project area. A request is also submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office to determine if any federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species occur within the vicinity of the Project area.

2.3.2 Onsite Inspection

During the onsite inspection, GAI staff traversed the study area in conjunction with the wetland and waterbody inspections to determine if suitable habitat for state- and/or federally-listed RTE species are present within the study area.

3.0 Results

3.1 Wetlands

3.1.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

Desktop review of available USFWS NWI digital data for the Project revealed no NWI mapped wetlands located within the Project study area (USFWS, 2017).

According to the USDA-NRCS soil mapping, four (4) soil map units are located within the Project study area (Figure 2). None of the soil map units are classified as hydric and none are known to contain hydric inclusions.

3.1.2 Onsite Inspection

One (1) PEM wetland was identified and delineated within the Project study area. In order to document site conditions, USACE Data Forms were completed for the wetland and upland reference. Information on the delineated wetland can be found in Table 1 and photographs of the wetland are included in Appendix A.

3.1.3 Regulatory Discussion

The USACE guidance divides waterbodies into three (3) groups: Traditionally Navigable Waters (TNWs), non-navigable Relatively Permanent Waters (RPWs), and non-navigable Non-RPWs. TNWs are waterbodies which have been, are, or may be susceptible to use in interstate commerce, including recreational use of the waterbody. RPWs are waterbodies that flow year-round, or at a minimum seasonally, by exhibiting continuous flow for at least three (3) consecutive months, but are not TNWs (USACE, 2007). Non-RPWs are waterbodies that do not flow continuously for at least three consecutive months, are not TNWs or RPWs, but typically exhibit characteristic beds, banks, and OHWM (USACE, 2007).

The status of wetlands is determined partly based on the classification of the waterbody that the wetland is associated with, and the degree of that association. Wetlands that abut or are adjacent to TNWs are jurisdictional. Wetlands that abut RPWs are jurisdictional. Wetlands that are adjacent to RPWs and wetlands that abut or are adjacent to Non-RPWs must be subjected to the Significant Nexus Test (SNT) to determine their jurisdictional status. Generally, the

USACE considers wetlands that are isolated, meaning that they are not associated with any other surface water feature, as non-jurisdictional; and wetlands that abut or are adjacent to Non-RPWs as needing further examination by the USACE to determine and verify whether they exhibit a significant nexus to waters of the United States. If these wetlands exhibit a significant nexus, they are jurisdictional; if not, they are not subject to USACE jurisdiction (USACE, 2007).

Wetlands that do not exhibit an association with any surface water are categorized as "isolated" under present USACE guidance and policy (USACE, 2017). These wetlands are regulated by the OEPA Division of Surface Water, and may require an Isolated Wetland Permit.

As regulated by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules 3745-1-50 through 3745-1-54, wetlands were also evaluated using the ORAM to determine the appropriate wetland category. Any wetland score that fell within a gray zone between categories was scored one of two ways. Either the wetland was assigned to the higher of the two categories or it was assessed using a non-rapid method to determine its quality (Mack, 2001). The category assigned to a particular wetland determines the requirement, if any, for additional levels of protection administered by the OEPA.

W001-PEM-CATMOD2 is assumed to be hydrologically connected to the offsite waterbody, Middle Branch Nimishillen Creek. The jurisdictional status provided in Table 1 is the opinion of GAI and must be confirmed by USACE and state agencies through the Jurisdictional Determination (JD) process.

3.2 Waterbodies

3.2.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

Desktop review of the available USGS topographic mapping revealed no previously mapped stream segments located within the Project study area (Figure 1). Desktop review of OEPA's Stream Eligibility Web Map revealed the Project is located within a watershed categorized as "Eligible" for automatic 401 WQC coverage (Figure 3).

3.2.2 Onsite Inspection

No stream segments were identified within the Project study area.

3.2.3 Regulatory Discussion

As with wetlands, present USACE guidance and policy determines the jurisdictional status of waterbodies identified during the Project. TNWs and RPWs are jurisdictional. Non-RPWs must be subjected to the SNT by USACE to determine their jurisdictional status. If Non-RPWs exhibit a Significant Nexus, as defined in USACE guidance documents, they are jurisdictional. If not, they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the USACE (USACE, 2017).

Streams are generally defined as environmental features that have defined beds and banks, an OHWM, and contain flowing or standing waters for at least a portion of the year (USACE, 2005). Streams were classified as perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral based upon presence of flow, estimated duration of flow, stream bed characteristics, and presence of aquatic biota. The USACE *Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook* (USACE, 2007) was used to determine stream classification and flow status.

As regulated by OAC Chapter 3745-1-24, streams were also assessed according to OEPA guidance using either the HHEI for watersheds less than one square mile ($<1.0 \text{ mi}^2$) in size, or the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) for watersheds between one and twenty square miles ($1.0\text{-}20.0 \text{ mi}^2$) in size.

3.3 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

3.3.1 Preliminary Data Gathering

Desktop review of ODNR, Division of Wildlife's Ohio's Listed Species revealed 336 Endangered, Threatened, Species of Concern, and Species of Interest located in OH (ODNR, 2017). Seventeen (17) of the state-listed species are considered federally endangered, and four (4) are federally threatened.

A review of the USFWS *County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species for Ohio*, as well as the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website revealed two (2) federally Endangered or Threatened species that may occur within the Project study area (USFWS, 2017). The list of species includes the following:

- ▶ Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) - Endangered; and,
- ▶ Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) - Threatened

In addition to the species listed above, there are seven (7) species of migratory birds that may occur within the Project study area.

3.3.2 Onsite Inspection

Potential habitat for RTE species was evaluated within the Project study area. In general, the habitat within the study area consists of maintained lawn and forested edge. No streams were identified within the study area. Representative photographs of the identified habitat types are included in Appendix A.

3.3.3 Regulatory Discussion

State-listed RTE species fall under the jurisdiction of the ODNR, Division of Wildlife, while federally-listed species are covered under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Act aim to extend protection to certain bird species that fall under the jurisdiction of the USFWS. Based on the desktop review and onsite inspection, informal consultation with the ODNR and USFWS has been initiated to determine if any activities associated with the proposed Project may affect state- and/or federally-listed RTE species. The ODNR and USFWS consultation letters were submitted on January 15, 2019, and are provided in Appendix D. A response from the USFWS was received on February 13, 2019 and a response from the ODNR was received on February 25, 2019. Both response letters are provided in Appendix D

4.0 Conclusions

Ecological surveys were conducted within the Project study area on January 16, 2019 and February 7, 2019. One (1) PEM wetland was identified within the Project study area. No stream segments were identified within the Project study area. A summary of the delineated aquatic feature is provided in Table 1 and a map of its location is depicted on Figure 2. Photographs of the wetland are included in Appendix A. Wetland Determination Data Forms documenting the investigation are provided in Appendix B and the ORAM Data Form is provided in Appendix C.

The jurisdictional status of this feature is considered preliminary and should be confirmed with the USACE and state agencies through the formal JD process.

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TABLES

Table 1
Wetlands Identified Within the Project Study Area

Wetland I.D. ¹	Latitude ²	Longitude ²	Proximal Waterbody	USACE Classification ³	Cowardin Classification ⁴	Size (acres)	ORAM v. 5.0 Score ⁵	ORAM Category ⁶	Figure 2 (sheet)
W001-PEM-CATMOD2	40.850943	-81.335443	Middle Branch Nimishillen Creek	Jurisdictional; Adjacent	PEM	0.08	34	Modified 2	1

Notes:

- 1 GAI map designation.
- 2 North American Datum, 1983.
- 3 Jurisdictional status is the opinion of GAI and must be confirmed by USACE and state agencies through the JD process.
- 4 PEM - Palustrine Emergent.
- 5 Interim scoring breakpoints for wetland regulatory categories for ORAM v 5.0 Score: Category 1 score 0 - 29.9; Category 1 or 2 gray zone ORAM score 30 - 34.9; Category modified 2 ORAM score 35 - 44.9; Category 2 ORAM score 45 - 59.9; Category 2 or 3 ORAM score 60 - 64.9; Category 3 ORAM score 65 - 100. OEPA Ecology Unit Division of Surface Water. *ORAM v. 5.0 Qualitative Score Calibration*. Dated August 15, 2000. http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/401/oram50sc_s.pdf.
- 6 OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) defines Category 1 wetlands as wetlands which "...support minimal wildlife habitat, and minimal hydrological and recreation functions," and as wetlands which have "...hydrologic isolation, low species diversity, a predominance of non-native species, no significant habitat or wildlife use, and limited potential to achieve beneficial wetland functions." Category 2 wetlands are defined as wetlands which "...support moderate wildlife habitat, or hydrological or recreational functions," and as wetlands which are "...dominated by native species but generally without the presence of, or habitat for, rare, threatened or endangered species; and wetlands which are degraded but have a reasonable potential for reestablishing lost wetland functions." Degraded but Restorable Category 2 Wetlands are according to OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) states that wetlands that are assigned to Category 2 constitute the broad middle category that "...support moderate wildlife habitat, or hydrological or recreational functions," but also include "...wetlands which are degraded but have a reasonable potential for reestablishing lost wetland functions." OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) defines Category 3 wetlands as wetlands which "...support superior habitat, or hydrological or recreational functions," and as wetlands which have "...high levels of diversity, a high proportion of native species, or high functional values."

Table 2
ODNR and USFWS RTE Species and Critical Habitat Review Results

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Type	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Type Present Within the Project Area?	Impacts to Habitat/Species Anticipated?	Restricted Construction Dates
Bats						
Indiana bat ²	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Trees >3" dbh, caves abandoned mines, wooded areas with loose tree bark or dead or dying trees	E, FE	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	April 1 to September 30
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Roost in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and snags; Hibernates in caves and mines with constant temperatures, high humidity, and no air currents	SC, FT	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	April 1 to September 30
Fish						
Iowa darter ²	<i>Etheostoma exile</i>	Natural lakes and very sluggish streams or marshes with dense to moderate aquatic vegetation and clear waters over a sandy substrate	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Insects						
Regal Fritillary	<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Tall grass and mixed-grass prairies	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Mammals						
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Large forested areas	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Mussels						
Long-solid ²	<i>Fusconaia maculata maculate</i>	Large or small rivers with gravel substrate	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Perfers clean, loose sand and gravel in medium to small rivers and streams	E, FE	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Rabbitsfoot	<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>	Clear waters of small and medium sized rivers on riffle and shoal areas near banks	E, FT	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Type	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Type Present Within the Project Area?	Impacts to Habitat/Species Anticipated?	Restricted Construction Dates
Plants						
Small purple-foxglove	<i>Agalinis purpurea var. parviflora</i>	Damp, open situations; Shores, fens, and barrens	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Variiegated scouring-rush	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Wet thickets, bogs, and sandy shores	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Bog bedstraw	<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	Open areas of sphagnum bogs, fens, sedge meadows, and marshy ground along streams and lakes	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Flat-leaved rush	<i>Juncus platyphyllus</i>	Wet habitats; riverbanks and pond margins	E	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Bog willow	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Neutral bogs, sedge meadows, and willow thickets at the edge of wet meadows	E	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Few-seeded sedge	<i>Carex oligosperma</i>	Open, wet situations in acidic substrates; Peat bogs, marshes, and bog lakes	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Green spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis flavescens</i>	A variety of wet, open situations; Shores, pond margins, bog mats, and fields	T	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Simple willow-herb	<i>Epilobium strictum</i>	Wet, semi-open to open situations; Swamps, bogs, mossy thickets, sedge marshes, and wet meadows	T	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Tawny cotton-grass	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>	Open, moist situations, usually in acidic substrates; Bogs, peaty meadows, and lake margins	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Sharp-glumed manna grass	<i>Glyceria acutiflora</i>	Wet soil; Shallow water of ponds and swamps	T	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Northern St.John's-wort	<i>Hypericum boreale</i>	Wet, open to semi-open situations; Shallow water, marshes, and peaty, sandy or mucky lakeshores	T	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Leggett's pinweed	<i>Lechea pulchella</i>	Dry to moist sandy plains, shores, and open woods	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Flat-stemmed pondweed	<i>Potamogeton zosteriflorus</i>	Shallow to deep waters of lakes, rivers, creeks, and wet swales	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Marsh five-finger	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Lake shores, marshy riversides, and stream margins	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-

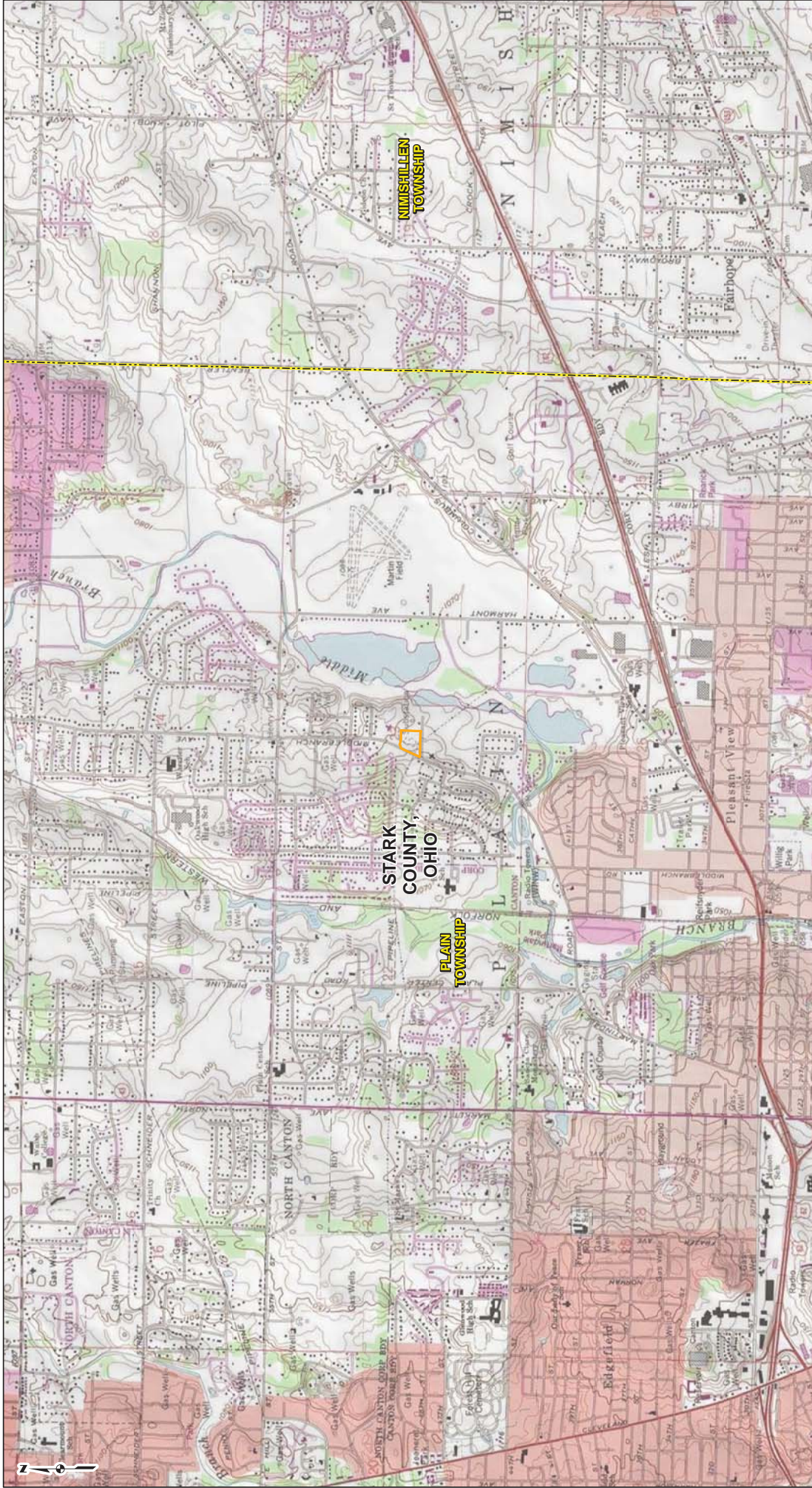
Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Type	Listing Status ¹	Habitat Type Present Within the Project Area?	Impacts to Habitat/Species Anticipated?	Restricted Construction Dates
Plants (Continued)						
Pitcher-plant	<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	Open areas of sphagnum bogs and marl fens	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Hooded ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	Usually calcareous soils in alkaline fens, rich open woods, and wet sands	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Drummond's aster	<i>Symphotrichum drummondii</i>	Open to semi-open situations, often in dry, calcareous substrates; Prairies, open woods, woods edges, thickets, and roadsides	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Flat-leaved bladderwort	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	Full sun, in both bogs and fens; Floating or rooted in mud in quiet, shallow waters	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Small cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	Acidic sphagnum mounds in bogs, usually in drier areas of the bog	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Highbush-cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</i>	Moist forests and forest edges, thickets, and on rocky slopes, margins of wetlands, streambanks, river terraces, and rocky shorelines	T	Yes	No; Impacts to this species are not anticipated, per the agency responses	-
Wild rice	<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	Full sun, in water no more than two feet deep	T	No	No; Known habitat types are not present within the Project area	-
Reptiles						
Spotted turtle ²	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Fens, bogs and marshes. Wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods and shallow sluggish aters of small streams and ditches	T	Yes	No; Per ODNR response, impacts to this species are not anticipated	

Notes:

¹ E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; FE = federal endangered; FT = federal threatened; FSC = federal species of concern; FC = federal candidate.

² ODNR, Division of Wildlife (DOW) comments included in the ODNR response, dated February 25, 2019.

FIGURES



PROJECT LOCATION

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: CANTON EAST (1985), CANTON WEST (1986), HARTVILLE (1985), AND NORTH HESRI (1985).
USDA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 02/2019.

LEGEND

- STUDY AREA
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY



FIGURE 1

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

NORTHEAST CANTON STATION
EXPANSION PROJECT
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER



DRAWN BY: JTH
CHECKED: EFJ

DATE: 2/19/2019
APPROVED:

APPENDIX A

Photographs



Photograph 1. Wetland W001-PEM-CATMOD2, Facing South



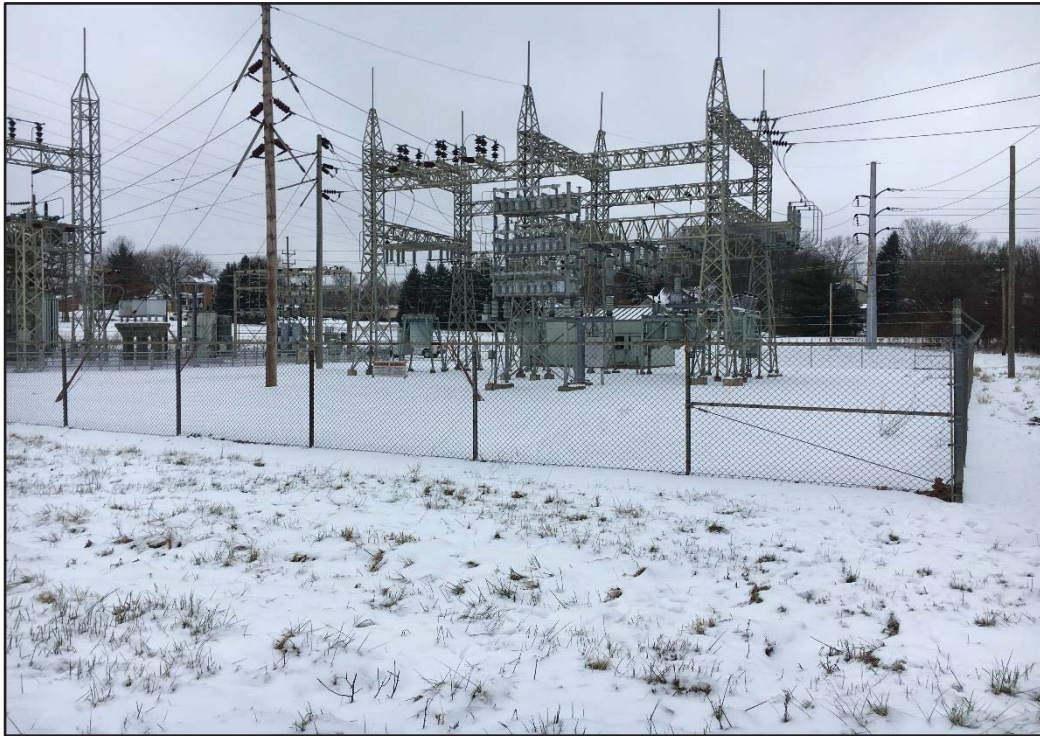
Photograph 2. Wetland W001-PEM-CATMOD2, Facing West



Photograph 3. Representative upland habitat, Facing North



Photograph 4. Representative upland habitat, Facing East



Photograph 5. Representative upland habitat, Facing West



Photograph 6. Representative upland habitat, Facing Southwest

APPENDIX B

Wetland Determination Data Forms

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Northeast Cane Station City/County: Stark CO Sampling Date: 1/16/19
 Applicant/Owner: AEP State: OH Sampling Point: WOOL-PEM
 Investigator(s): REZ, KLV Section, Township, Range: NO PLSS
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 170
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR 2 Lat: 40851023 Long: -81335394 Datum: NAD83
 Soil Map Unit Name: Wheating silt loam 6-12% slopes NWI classification: none
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes <u>X</u> No <u> </u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <u>X</u> No <u> </u>
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes <u>X</u> No <u> </u>	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes <u>X</u> No <u> </u>	

Remarks:

Taken w/in depression along edge of maintained lawn & forest
 PEM rep. to WOOL-PEM-CATMOO2

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

X Surface Water (A1)
X High Water Table (A2)
X Saturation (A3)
 Water Marks (B1)
 Sediment Deposits (B2)
 Drift Deposits (B3)
 Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
 Iron Deposits (B5)
 Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
 Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
 Aquatic Fauna (B13)

 True Aquatic Plants (B14)
 Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
 Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
 Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
 Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
 Thin Muck Surface (C7)
 Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

 Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
 Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
X Drainage Patterns (B10)
 Moss Trim Lines (B16)
 Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
 Crayfish Burrows (C8)
X Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
 Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
X Geomorphic Position (D2)
 Shallow Aquitard (D3)
 Microtopographic Relief (D4)
X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes X No Depth (inches): 1"
 Water Table Present? Yes X No Depth (inches): 2"
 Saturation Present? Yes X No Depth (inches): 0"
 (includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes X No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

N/A

Remarks:

Wetland hydrology indicators A1, A2, A3, B10
 C9, D2 & D5 observed

VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

Sampling Point: ND001-PEM

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30x30</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. <u>Absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15x15)

1. <u>Absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5x5)

1. <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>FACW</u>
2. <u>Syntherisma sanguinalis</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>FACW</u>
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: 50 20% of total cover: 20

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30x30)

1. <u>Absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)
Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)
Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by:
OBL species _____ x 1 = _____
FACW species _____ x 2 = _____
FAC species _____ x 3 = _____
FACU species _____ x 4 = _____
UPL species _____ x 5 = _____
Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A = _____

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- ☒ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
☒ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
_____ 3 - Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$
_____ 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
_____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation¹ (Explain)

¹Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vine – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?

Yes ☒ No _____

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

Wetland veg is dominant

Sampling Point: WOOL-PEM

Eastern Mountains and Piedmont – Version 2.0

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Northeast Canton Station City/County: Stark CO Sampling Date: 1/16/19
 Applicant/Owner: AEP State: OH Sampling Point: W001-UPK
 Investigator(s): REZ, IHLV Section, Township, Range: NO PLSS
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): mound Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 2%
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): L2R2 Lat: 40.851421 Long: -81.335628 Datum: NAD83
 Soil Map Unit Name: Whiting silt loam 0-12% slopes NWI classification: None
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes <u> </u> No <u>X</u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?	Yes <u> </u> No <u>X</u>
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes <u> </u> No <u>X</u>		
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes <u> </u> No <u>X</u>		

Remarks:

Taken on mounded area adjacent to substation
 Upland rep. to W001-PEM-CATMOO2

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:		Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)
Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)		
<u> </u> Surface Water (A1)	<u> </u> True Aquatic Plants (B14)	<u> </u> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
<u> </u> High Water Table (A2)	<u> </u> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<u> </u> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
<u> </u> Saturation (A3)	<u> </u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)	<u> </u> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<u> </u> Water Marks (B1)	<u> </u> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<u> </u> Moss Trim Lines (B16)
<u> </u> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<u> </u> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	<u> </u> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<u> </u> Drift Deposits (B3)	<u> </u> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<u> </u> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<u> </u> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<u> </u> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<u> </u> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<u> </u> Iron Deposits (B5)		<u> </u> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
<u> </u> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)		<u> </u> Geomorphic Position (D2)
<u> </u> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)		<u> </u> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<u> </u> Aquatic Fauna (B13)		<u> </u> Microtopographic Relief (D4)
		<u> </u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes No X Depth (inches):
 Water Table Present? Yes No X Depth (inches):
 Saturation Present? Yes No X Depth (inches):
 (includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes No X

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

N/A

Remarks:

No primary or secondary wetland hydrology indicators observed.

VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

Sampling Point: WOOL-UP

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30x30</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. <u>absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>5x15</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. <u>absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5x5</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. <u>Verbena urticifolia</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FAC</u>
2. <u>Rumex crispus</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>
3. <u>Solidago canadensis</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>
4. <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACW</u>
5. <u>Dactylis glomerata</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u>
6. <u>Phytolacca americana</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: 50 20% of total cover: 20

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30x30</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. <u>absent</u>			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

_____ = Total Cover
50% of total cover: _____ 20% of total cover: _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)
Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)
Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 50 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species _____	x 1 = _____
FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>
FAC species <u>45</u>	x 3 = <u>135</u>
FACU species <u>45</u>	x 4 = <u>180</u>
UPL species _____	x 5 = _____
Column Totals: <u>100</u> (A)	<u>335</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.35</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- ___ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- ___ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- ___ 3 - Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$
- ___ 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation¹ (Explain)

¹Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vine – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No X

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

Upland veg is dominant + prevalent

SOIL

Sampling Point: W001-VPL

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

¹Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

²Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR N**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) (**LRR N, MLRA 147, 148**)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)

- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) (MLRA 147, 148)
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) (MLRA 147, 148)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) (LRR N, MLRA 136)
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) (MLRA 136, 122)
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) (MLRA 148)
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) (MLRA 127, 147)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils³:

- ☐ 2 cm Muck (A10) (MLRA 147)
☐ Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
 (MLRA 147, 148)
☐ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19)
 (MLRA 136, 147)
☐ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)

³Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No X

Remarks:

Non Hydric soils

APPENDIX C

Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM) Data Forms

Site: NE Canton Station Rater(s): REZ Date: 1/16/19

1	1
max 6 pts.	subtotal

Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

W001-PEM-CATMOD2

Select one size class and assign score.

- ☐ >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
- ☐ 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
- ☐ 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
- ☐ 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
- ☐ 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
- ☒ 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
- ☐ <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

5	6
max 14 pts.	subtotal

Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.

- ☐ WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
- ☐ MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
- ☒ NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
- ☐ VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)

2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.

- ☒ VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
- ☒ LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
- ☒ MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
- ☐ HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

14	20
max 30 pts.	subtotal

Metric 3. Hydrology.

3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.

- ☐ High pH groundwater (5)
- ☐ Other groundwater (3)
- ☒ Precipitation (1)
- ☐ Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
- ☐ Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)

3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.

- ☐ >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
- ☐ 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
- ☒ <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)

3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (12)
- ☒ Recovered (7)
- ☐ Recovering (3)
- ☐ Recent or no recovery (1)

3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.

- ☐ 100 year floodplain (1)
- ☒ Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
- ☐ Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
- ☐ Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)

3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.

- ☒ Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
- ☐ Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
- ☐ Seasonally inundated (2)
- ☐ Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- ☐ ditch
- ☐ tile
- ☐ dike
- ☐ weir
- ☐ stormwater input

- ☐ point source (nonstormwater)
- ☒ filling/grading
- ☐ road bed/RR track
- ☐ dredging
- ☐ other

12	32
max 20 pts.	subtotal

Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (4)
- ☒ Recovered (3)
- ☐ Recovering (2)
- ☐ Recent or no recovery (1)

4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.

- ☐ Excellent (7)
- ☐ Very good (6)
- ☐ Good (5)
- ☐ Moderately good (4)
- ☒ Fair (3)
- ☐ Poor to fair (2)
- ☐ Poor (1)

4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (9)
- ☒ Recovered (6)
- ☐ Recovering (3)
- ☐ Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- ☐ mowing
- ☐ grazing
- ☐ clearcutting
- ☐ selective cutting
- ☐ woody debris removal
- ☐ toxic pollutants

- ☐ shrub/sapling removal
- ☐ herbaceous/aquatic bed removal
- ☐ sedimentation
- ☐ dredging
- ☐ farming
- ☐ nutrient enrichment

32
subtotal this page

Site: NE Canton Station Rater(s): REZ Date: 1/16/19

32

subtotal first page

W001-PEM-CATMOD2

0 32

max 10 pts.

subtotal

Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

Check all that apply and score as indicated.

- ☐ Bog (10)
- ☐ Fen (10)
- ☐ Old growth forest (10)
- ☐ Mature forested wetland (5)
- ☐ Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- ☐ Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- ☐ Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- ☐ Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- ☐ Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- ☐ Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- ☐ Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

2 34

max 20 pts.

subtotal

Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography.

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- ☒ Aquatic bed
- ☐ Emergent
- ☐ Shrub
- ☒ Forest
- ☐ Mudflats
- ☐ Open water
- ☐ Other

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersion.

Select only one.

- ☐ High (5)
- ☐ Moderately high(4)
- ☐ Moderate (3)
- ☐ Moderately low (2)
- ☒ Low (1)
- ☐ None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- ☐ Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- ☒ Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- ☐ Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- ☐ Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- ☐ Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- ☐ Vegetated hummocks/tussocks
- ☐ Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- ☐ Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- ☐ Amphibian breeding pools

Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

34

MOD2

End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.

APPENDIX D

ODNR and USFWS Correspondence



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
Paul R. Baldrige, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6649
Fax: (614) 267-4764

February 25, 2019

Rita Zack
GAI Consultants, Inc.
3720 Dressler Road NW
Canton, Ohio 44718

Re: 19-060; Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project

Project: The proposed project involves the expansion of the existing Northeast Canton Station within the AEP owned property.

Location: The proposed project is located in Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no other records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the long-solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. This species prefers fens, bogs and marshes, but also is known to inhabit wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods, and the shallow sluggish waters of small streams and ditches. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Sarah Tebbe, Environmental Specialist, at (614) 265-6397 or Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler
Environmental Services Administrator



Canton Office
3720 Dressler Road Northwest
Canton, Ohio 44718

T 330.433.2680
F 330.433.2694

January 15, 2019
Project C170352.73

Environmental Review Staff
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife - Ohio Natural Heritage Program
2045 Morse Road, Building G-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

**American Electric Power
Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project
Request for Technical Assistance Regarding Threatened
and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat
Stark County, Ohio**

Dear Staff:

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI), on behalf of American Electric Power (AEP), is requesting information regarding state- and federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the vicinity of the Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project (Project) in Stark County, Ohio. As part of this request, please also provide information specific to any threatened and endangered bats. GAI is also requesting the locations of any known golden or bald eagle nests known in the area.

The proposed Project involves the expansion of the existing Northeast Canton Station within the AEP owned property.

The study area for the Project is shown on the attached map (Figure 1). The habitat within the study area consists of maintained lawn and forest edge. Project shapefiles have been included to aid in your review.

GAI and AEP thank you in advance for your assistance. Please contact me at 234.203.0773 or via email at r.zack@gaiconsultants.com if you have any questions or require further information.

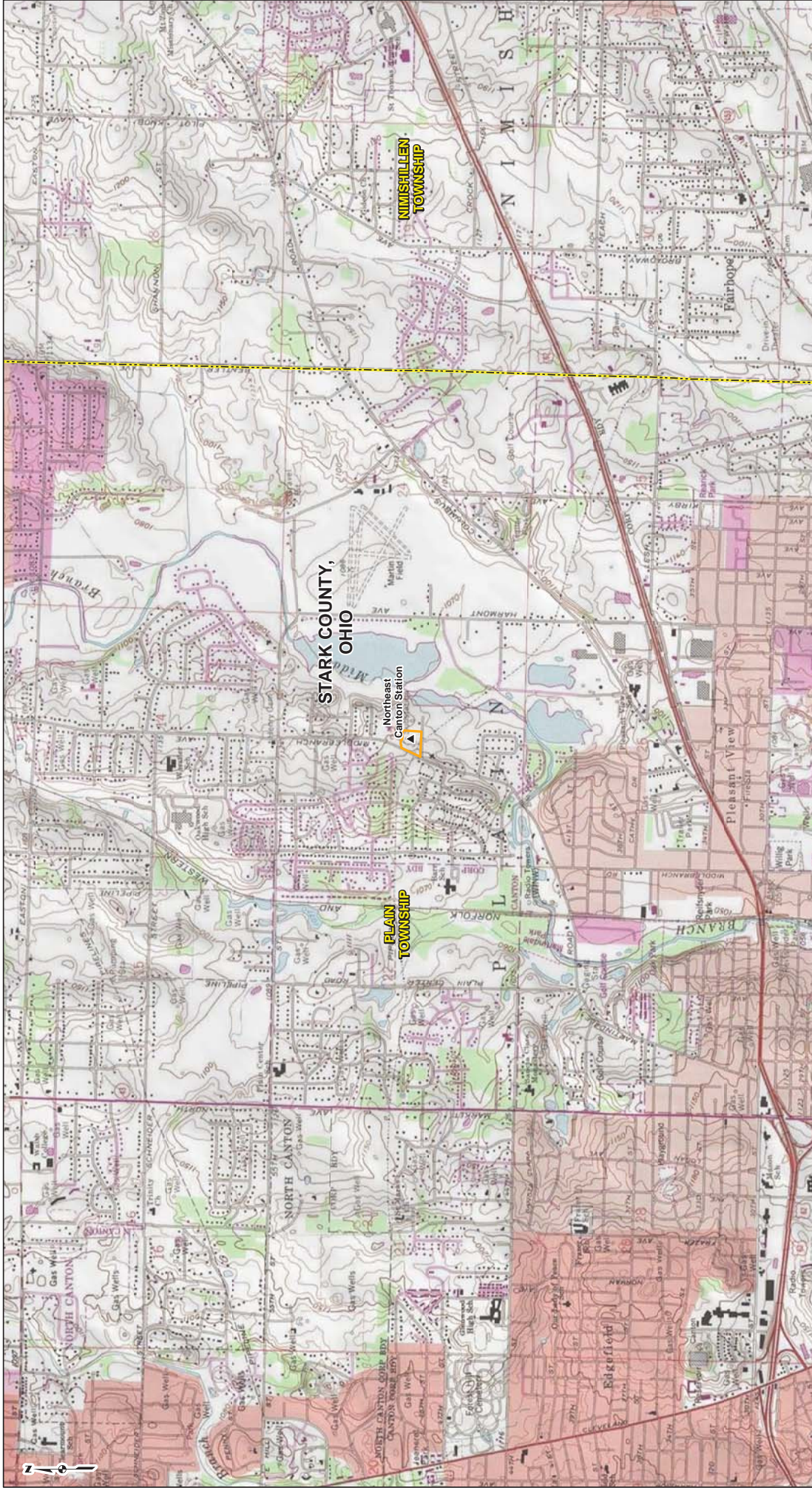
Sincerely,
GAI Consultants, Inc.

Rita E. Zack
Project Environmental Specialist

REZ/djz

Attachments: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)
Project Shapefiles

ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5 TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES:
CANTON EAST (1980), CANTON WEST (1986), HARTSVILLE
EAST (1986), HARTSVILLE WEST (1986). OBTAINED
THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 01/2019.

LEGEND

▲ Substation

Study Area

County Boundary

Township Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 4,000

Feet

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

NORTHEAST CANTON STATION
EXPANSION PROJECT
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: JTH
CHECKED: EFJ

DATE: 1/15/2019
APPROVED:

G:\C170352.73 - GIS\MXD\Agency_Consultation\Project_Location_2019_01_15.mxd

Rita Zack

From: susan_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:59 PM
To: Rita Zack
Subject: GAI No. C170352.73 - AEP Northeast Canton Service Center Project, Stark Co.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL MESSAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2019-TA-0669

Dear Ms. Zack,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no Federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area.

FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES COMMENTS: Due to the project, type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrice Ashfield".

Patrice Ashfield,
Ohio Field Office Supervisor



Canton Office
3720 Dressler Road Northwest
Canton, Ohio 44718

T 330.433.2680
F 330.433.2694

January 15, 2019
Project C170352.73

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230

**American Electric Power
Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project
Request for Technical Assistance Regarding Threatened
and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat
Stark County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Everson:

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI), on behalf of American Electric Power (AEP), is requesting information regarding state- and federally-listed threatened and endangered species in the vicinity of the Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project (Project) in Stark County, Ohio. As part of this request, please also provide information specific to any threatened and endangered bats. GAI is also requesting the locations of any known golden or bald eagle nests known in the area.

The proposed Project involves the expansion of the existing Northeast Canton Station within the AEP owned property.

The study area for the Project is shown on the attached map (Figure 1). The habitat within the study area consists of maintained lawn and forest edge. Project shapefiles have been included to aid in your review.

GAI and AEP thank you in advance for your assistance. Please contact me at 234.203.0773 or via email at r.zack@gaiconsultants.com if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,
GAI Consultants, Inc.

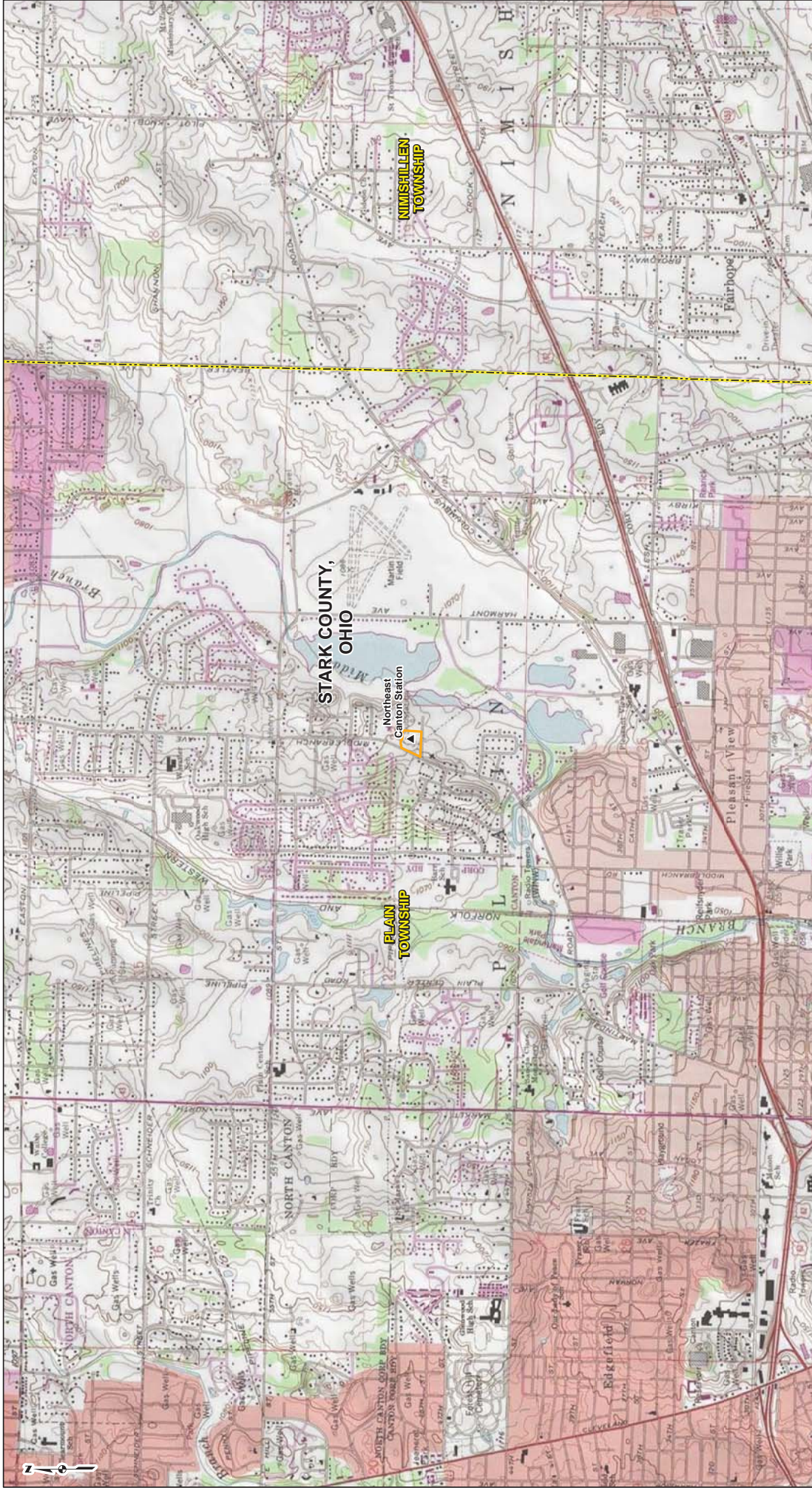
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rita Zack'.

Rita E. Zack
Project Environmental Specialist

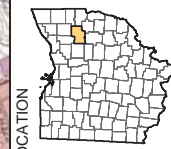
REZ/djz

Attachments: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)
Project Shapefiles

ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



REFERENCE: USGS 7.5 TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES:
CANTON EAST (1980), CANTON WEST (1986), HARTSVILLE
EAST (1980), HARTSVILLE WEST (1986). DATA OBTAINED
THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 01/2019.



PROJECT LOCATION

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

LEGEND

- Substation
 - Study Area
 - County Boundary
 - Township Boundary
- 0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

NORTHEAST CANTON STATION
EXPANSION PROJECT
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: JTH
CHECKED: EFJ
DATE: 1/15/2019
APPROVED:

G:\C170352.73 - GIS\MXD\Agency_Consultation\Project_Location_2019_01_15.mxd

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE WAGENHALS-WEST CANTON 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
PROJECT

Appendix C Agency Coordination Letters



In reply, refer to
2019-STA-43791

February 13, 2019

Mr. Ryan J. Weller
Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212

RE: Northeast Canton Station Project, Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on January 14, 2019 regarding the proposed Northeast Canton Station Project, Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Approximately 1.9 ha (4.7 ac) Northeast Canton Station Project in Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio* by Weller & Associates, Inc. (2019).

A literature review, visual inspection, shovel test, and shovel probe excavation was completed as part of the investigations. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project area. No archaeological sites were identified during this survey. Based on the information provided, our office agrees with your determination and no further archaeological work is necessary.

The following comments pertain to the *History/Architecture Investigations for the 1.9 ha (4.7 ac) Northeast Canton Station Project in Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio* by Weller & Associates, Inc. (2019).

A literature review and field survey were completed as part of the investigations. Several properties fifty years of age or older were identified within the project area and/or 1,000 foot study area. It is Weller's recommendation that the identified properties are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to historical and architectural insignificance. Our office agrees with Weller's recommendations of eligibility.

Based on the information provided, we agree the project will not affect historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional historic properties are discovered during implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2022, or by e-mail at khorrocks@ohiohistory.org, or Joy Williams at jwilliams@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Krista Horrocks, Project Reviews Manager
Resource Protection and Review

cc: Pattarin Jarupan, AEP (rmhoward@aep.com)
Alicia Cross, AEP (amcross@aep.com)

RPR Serial No: 1077121-1077122



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
Paul R. Baldrige, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6649
Fax: (614) 267-4764

February 25, 2019

Rita Zack
GAI Consultants, Inc.
3720 Dressler Road NW
Canton, Ohio 44718

Re: 19-060; Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project

Project: The proposed project involves the expansion of the existing Northeast Canton Station within the AEP owned property.

Location: The proposed project is located in Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no other records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the long-solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. This species prefers fens, bogs and marshes, but also is known to inhabit wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods, and the shallow sluggish waters of small streams and ditches. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Sarah Tebbe, Environmental Specialist, at (614) 265-6397 or Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler
Environmental Services Administrator



Canton Office
3720 Dressler Road Northwest
Canton, Ohio 44718

T 330.433.2680
F 330.433.2694

January 15, 2019
Project C170352.73

Environmental Review Staff
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife - Ohio Natural Heritage Program
2045 Morse Road, Building G-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

**American Electric Power
Northeast Canton Station Expansion Project
Request for Technical Assistance Regarding Threatened
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Dear Staff:

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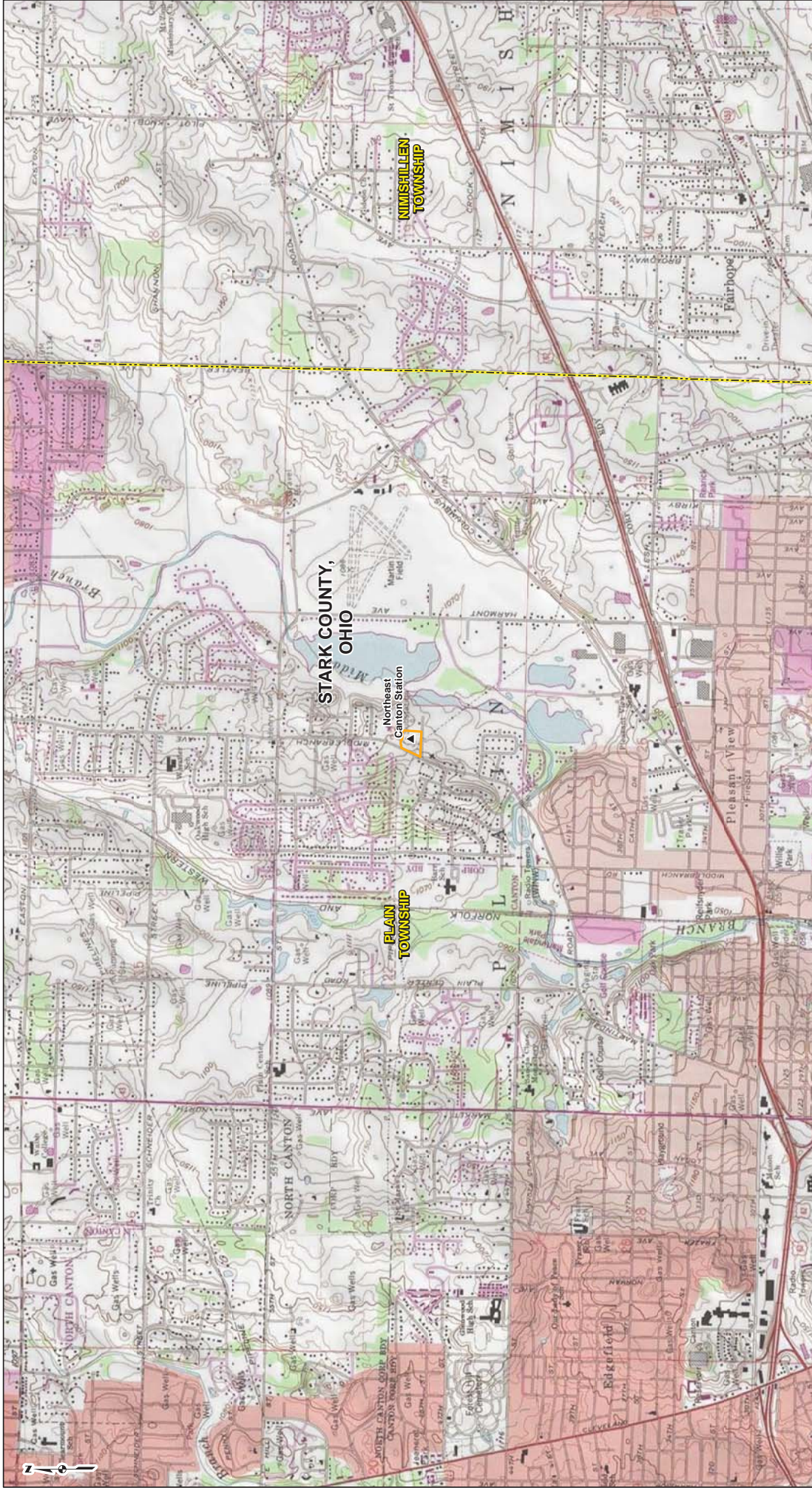
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Rita E. Zack
Project Environmental Specialist

REZ/djz

Attachments: Attachment 1 (Project Location Map)
Project Shapefiles

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LEGEND

▲ Substation

Study Area

County Boundary

Township Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 4,000

Feet

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EXPANSION PROJECT
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: JTH

CHECKED: EFJ

DATE: 1/15/2019

APPROVED:

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Rita Zack

From: susan_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:59 PM
To: Rita Zack
Subject: GAI No. C170352.73 - AEP Northeast Canton Service Center Project, Stark Co.

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January 15, 2019
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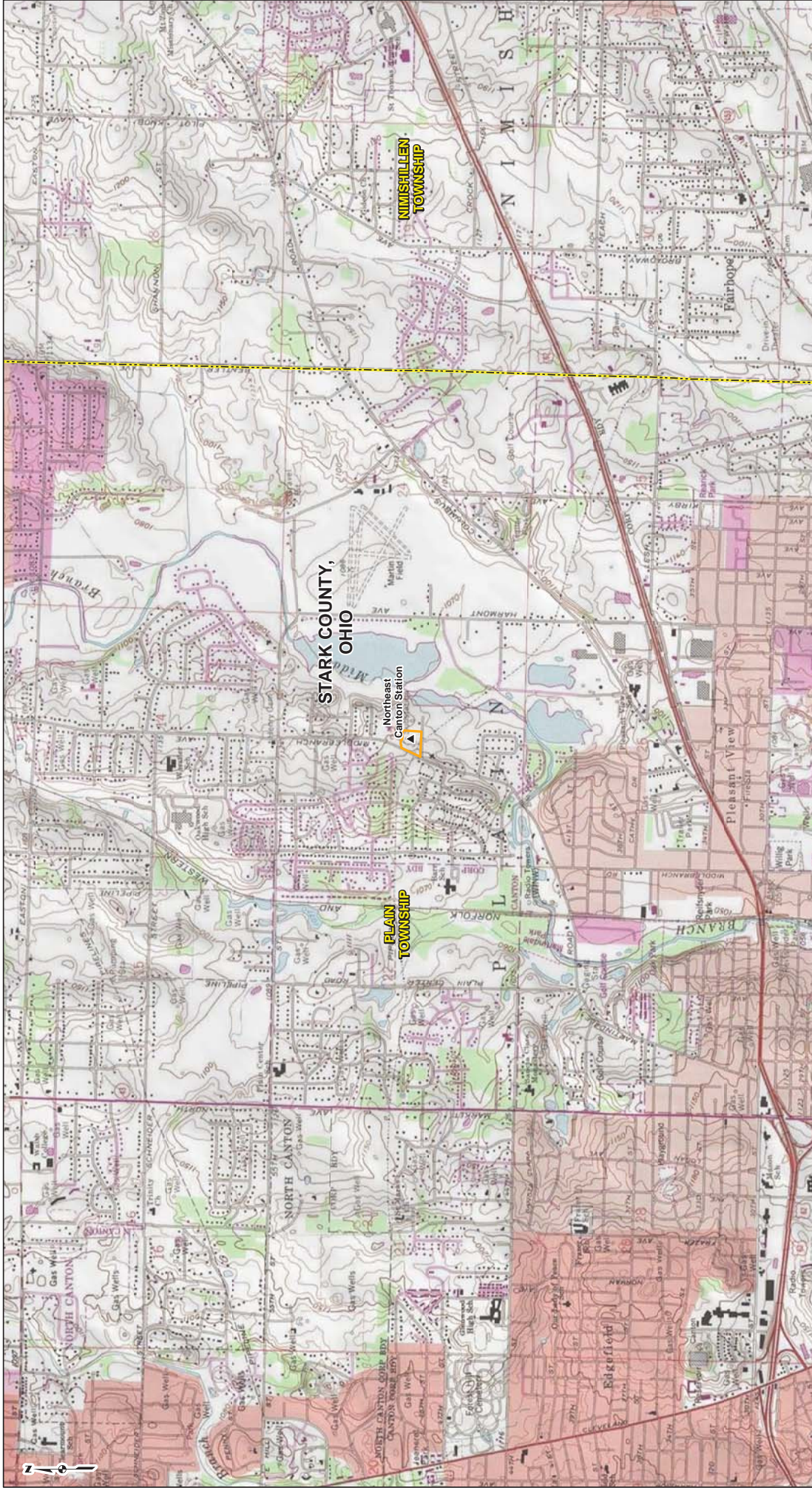
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Rita E. Zack
Project Environmental Specialist

REZ/djz

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/24/2019 1:04:51 PM

in

Case No(s). 19-0865-EL-BNR

Summary: Notice -Construction Notice for the Wagenhals-West Canton 138 kV Transmission Line Project electronically filed by Ms. Christen M. Blend on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.