

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 19-1177-EL-BLN
Need for the Brim Substation Expansion Project)**

Members of the Board:

Chairman, Public Utilities Commission	Ohio House of Representatives
Director, Development Services Agency	Ohio Senate
Director, Department of Health	
Director, Department of Agriculture	
Director, Environmental Protection Agency	
Director, Department of Natural Resources	
Public Member	

To the Honorable Power Siting Board:

Please review the attached Staff Report of Investigation, which has been filed in accordance with Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) rules. The accelerated certificate application in this case is subject to an automatic approval process as required by Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.03 and Ohio Administrative Code 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on July 10, 2019, unless suspended by the Board, an administrative law judge, or the chairperson or executive director of the Board for good cause shown. If suspended, the Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days from the date of suspension.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to July 10, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
Chief of Siting, Efficiency and Renewables Division
Rates and Analysis Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-7707
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 19-1177-EL-BLN
Project Name: Brim Substation Expansion Project
Project Location: Wood County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: June 11, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: June 21, 2019
Report Date: July 1, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: July 10, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell and S. Islam

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) proposes to expand the 0.58-acre Brim Substation by approximately 1.57 acres. The substation would then encompass approximately 2.15 acres. Additionally, a new 138 kilovolt (kV) transformer would be added and the existing single bus system would be converted to a 4-breaker ring bus. The capital costs of this proposed transmission project total approximately \$6,832,300, and those costs would be borne by the Applicant.

Need

The Applicant has identified a need to improve the transmission and sub-transmission systems in Wood County. The Applicant has identified low voltage scenarios that could result in the loss of service to 16,000 customers. This project is specifically designed to eliminate three known points of potential failure that are associated with the current substation. To accomplish this, ATSI would expand the Brim Substation, install a second 138-69 kV transformer and convert the existing single bus system to a more reliable 4-breaker ring bus configuration. These improvements are needed to improve the overall operation and reliability of the transmission system.

The need for the Brim Substation Expansion Project is a complementary project associated with the Wood County 138 kV Reinforcement Project (Ref: Case No. 18-1335-EL-BTX), which is also currently under investigation by the Board. The Applicant has proposed the Wood County project as an additional solution to address transmission reliability. However, the Wood County project by itself would not mitigate the previously identified single points of failure that could result because of engineering limitations and aging equipment. Thus, the need for both projects is being addressed independently. The Applicant has presented the Brim Substation expansion project to PJM Interconnection, LLC as a Regional Transmission Expansion Project, under supplemental project number s1703.

The proposed project is not expected to adversely impact the existing transmission grid. The Applicant has identified reliability problems associated with the existing substation configuration. Staff concludes that the Applicant has demonstrated the basis of need due to the reliability issues caused by low voltage on the existing transmission grid.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located within Plain Township, Wood County. The adjacent area is comprised of medium density suburban and agricultural land uses. The Applicant would have to acquire an easement from the Toledo Edison Company (an affiliated business entity).

Cultural Resources

ATSI conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that adverse impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant's investigation concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. Adequate ingress and egress for construction is available from existing access roads. Significant vegetation removal would not be required. A few small ornamental trees are present. However, these trees are not suitable habitat for any endangered or threatened species. No wetlands or streams were identified within the proposed substation expansion area. The project is not located within the limits of a regulated floodplain. Best management practices would be employed to prevent soil erosion.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on July 10, 2019.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/1/2019 2:23:27 PM

in

Case No(s). 19-1177-EL-BLN

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