

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application)
of American Electric Power Ohio Transmission)
Company for a Certificate of Environmental) **Case No. 19-0842-EL-BLN**
Compatibility and Public Need for the Corridor Station)
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 (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval July 30, 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 30, 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: 19-0842-EL-BLN
Project Name: Corridor Station Expansion Project
Project Location: Franklin County
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: April 30, 2019
Filing Type: Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: July 5, 2019
Report Date: July 23, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: July 30, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description and Need

The purpose of this project is to expand the existing Corridor transmission station fenceline to add and upgrade equipment and infrastructure within the station. The Applicant states that these upgrades would bring the station up to current standards to satisfy resiliency, safety, and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards. The area within the fenceline of the substation would increase by approximately two acres, or roughly 12 percent.

The Applicant states that because this proposed project would not result in operational, modeling or topology changes, the project will not be included in the PJM Regional Expansion Plan. The Applicant states that PJM is aware of the station upgrade project and has been consulted regarding the project in order to comply with NERC standards for reliability and safety. The proposed project is not expected to adversely impact the existing transmission grid.

All work to be performed for this project including the expanded fence line is located on AEP Ohio property. No additional property easements or approvals from land owners are needed for the proposed project.

The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin in the first quarter of 2020, and that the facility would be placed in service by June 2020. The total cost of the substation equipment upgrade and the fence expansion is estimated at \$6.3 million.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The expanded Corridor substation would remain on property where the existing station is located. The existing substation is surrounded by maintained lawn open space and gravel access roads and is located on the west side of Harlem Road, north of Walnut Street, in northeast Franklin County. There are numerous utility lines located in the area. The project is not located within any agricultural district lands. No residential structures are located within 100 feet of the substation, and no structures would need to be removed to construct this project. There are residential structures along the east side of Harlem Road, approximately 500 feet east of the substation.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review and Phase I cultural resource management investigation (archaeology and history/architecture) for the project. The consultant determined that the project would not involve or impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was considered to be necessary. The findings were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO). The OHPO responded to the consultant in concurrence that this project would not affect historic properties.

Surface Waters

The project site does not contain any streams and no impacts to streams would occur as a result of the project. The proposed project would not be located within a 100-year floodplain.

There are no wetlands at the project location. No wetlands disturbance is proposed for this project. Further details about how the surface water resources would be protected from indirect construction stormwater impacts using erosion and sedimentation controls would be outlined in the Applicant's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to be submitted as part of the required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The state and federal listed species and/or their suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). However, the Applicant states that no tree clearing is required for this project. Additionally, the project would not disturb any hibernacula, including caves or abandoned mines.

Due to the lack of habitat at the project site, and the fact that no tree clearing nor in-water work is proposed, no impacts to state and federal listed species are anticipated.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 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 30, 2019. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/23/2019 9:58:22 AM

in

Case No(s). 19-0842-EL-BLN

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