

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of )  
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company )  
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and ) Case No. 19-0960-EL-BNR  
Public Need for the Hyatt 345 kV 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 August 19, 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 August 19, 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  
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## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 19-0960-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Hyatt 345 kV Station Expansion Project  
**Project Location:** Delaware County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** May 20, 2019  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** June 19, 2019  
**Report Date:** August 12, 2019  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** August 19, 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 Hyatt 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission station fence line 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 existing station would expand by approximately 2 acres, or by 9 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. 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 third quarter of 2019, and that the facility would be placed in service by March 2020. The total cost of the substation equipment upgrade and the fence expansion is estimated at \$1.9 million.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Land Use*

The expanded Hyatt substation would remain on property where the existing station is located. The existing substation is surrounded by open space, agricultural and residential uses adjacent to Sawmill Parkway. 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.

### *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. Although seven new archaeological sites were identified during survey work, the consultant determined that these sites were not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). One newly identified property (DEL0111815) was recorded in the Ohio Historic Inventory and recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Although recommended for inclusion in the NRHP, the consultant determined that this fence expansion project would not diminish the historic characteristics of DEL0111815 that contribute to the property's NRHP eligibility. The consultant recommended that the project would not involve or impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was necessary.

These 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 and that the seven newly discovered archaeological sites were not eligible for NRHP listing. Additionally, the OHPO concurred with the consultant's findings regarding property DEL0111815 and agreed that the project would have no adverse effect on 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 survey area contains three category 1 wetlands totaling 0.8 acres, and one category 2 wetland, totaling 0.2 acres. No wetland impacts are proposed. Further details about how the wetlands 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*

A small amount of tree clearing may be required for this project. The project area is within the range of state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the state and federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species might be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, Staff recommends that the Applicant adhere to seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for all trees three inches or greater in diameter, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action. The proposed project is expected not to impact any bat hibernacula.

Due to the project's location, the type of habitat at the project site, and the mobility of the species, no impacts to other 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. Subject to the following conditions, Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on August 19, 2019. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery.

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

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/12/2019 2:15:37 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-0960-EL-BNR**

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