

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice)
Application of Duke Energy Ohio for the Zimmer) **Case No. 19-1469-EL-BNR**
Substation Separation Project)

Members of the Board:

Chair, 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 August 26, 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 26, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case No.: 19-1469-EL-BNR
Project Name: Zimmer Substation Separation Project
Project Location: Clermont County
Applicant: Duke Energy Ohio
Application Filing Date: August 2, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: August 13, 2019
Report Date: August 19, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: August 26, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum, F. Butt

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Duke Energy Ohio (Applicant) proposes to construct one steel monopole structure within the fenceline of the existing William H. Zimmer Generating Station. The proposed structure would be 145 feet tall and would establish a new 345 kilovolt (kV) substation bus tie, using 500 feet of new conductor, to the existing generation station equipment and the Applicant's Zimmer Substation. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in September 2019 and place the line in service by December 2019. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$500,000. The Applicant will bear the cost of the project.

Site Description

The proposed project site is located in Washington Township near the village of Moscow in Clermont County. The site is located between the Ohio River to the west, State Route 52 on the east, Moscow Cemetery Road to the south, and Laurel-Moscow Road to the north. The surrounding land use is a mix of commercial property, agricultural fields, and wood lots. The project is located within the existing generation station site now owned by Dynegy Zimmer LLC. The Applicant states that it has an existing agreement in place with Dynegy Zimmer to install the proposed facility.

Basis of Need

The Applicant proposes to install a new steel monopole on a concrete foundation within the Zimmer Generation Station. The steel monopole structure would be used to establish a new

substation bus tie to the existing generation station equipment and the substation. The new 345 kV tie is needed to reconnect the generation station to the substation and to provide increased security and operational separation for Duke Energy Ohio. This bus tie is required due to the sale of the generation station assets to Dynegy Zimmer LLC.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The proposed project is located on an existing generation station site that has been previously disturbed. The proposed site is adjacent to and within asphalt parking areas and manicured commercial lawns. No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the proposed project. No agricultural district lands would be impacted by this project.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. No cultural or historic resources were identified within 1,000 feet of the project.

Surface Waters

No wetland, streams, or ponds are located within the project area. No impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Threatened and Endangered Species

No suitable habitat for federal or state listed species exists within the project area.

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 August 26, 2019. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery in any ratemaking proceeding.

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in

Case No(s). 19-1469-EL-BNR

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