

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 19-1453-EL-BNR
Need for the Galion-Roberts South 138 kV Line Switch)
Replacement 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 September 27, 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 September 27, 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: 19-1453-EL-BNR
Project Name: Galion-Roberts South 138 kV Line
Switch Replacement Project
Project Location: Marion County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: August 9, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: August 22, 2019
Report Date: September 20, 2019
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** September 27, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell, F. Butt and M. Mansour

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to add two steel single pole switch structures to the Galion-Roberts South 138 kV Transmission Line. These structures would be installed within the existing transmission line right-of-way. Additionally, the Applicant proposes to convert an existing two-way switch structure to a standard three-way tap structure. The capital costs of this project are estimated at \$1,102,900 and those costs would be borne by the Applicant.

Need

The existing two-way switch is obsolete, not functional, non-repairable, and does not meet current FirstEnergy standards. Installing two switches on each side of the tap would allow for faster restoration of the transmission line in the event of an outage. The installation of the new switches would create a secondary feed into the Hamilton Substation. If there is an outage, one switch could be opened on the side of the fault. This would allow the Hamilton Substation to be energized from the other direction. In the existing single switch transmission line configuration, ATSI is unable to sectionalize the line to the substation without forcing an outage that would affect approximately 2,800 customers. This switch upgrade would improve overall service reliability to Hamilton Substation, reduce outage durations and allow greater operational flexibility during maintenance or storms.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Marion Township, Marion County. Industrial, commercial and agricultural land uses are located adjacent to the project area. The Applicant would not have to obtain any new easements or right-of-way.

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 an existing access road. No streams, wetlands or other waterbodies are present. Vegetation removal would not be required.

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 September 27, 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.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

9/20/2019 9:41:58 AM

in

Case No(s). 19-1453-EL-BNR

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