

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
The Dayton Power and Light Company for the West) **Case No. 19-1346-EL-BNR**
Milton Substation Expansion 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 December 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 December 10, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case No.: 19-1346-EL-BNR
Project Name: West Milton Substation Expansion Project
Project Location: Miami County
Applicant: The Dayton Power and Light Company
Application Filing Date: September 10, 2019
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: October 3, 2019
Report Date: December 3, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: December 10, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum, M. Christopher

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

The Dayton Power and Light Company (DP&L or Applicant) proposes to expand the fence line and install two new transformers at the existing West Milton Substation. The substation would be expanded by approximately 1.36 acres, or 16.35 percent. 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 entire project would be on existing property owned by the Applicant. The Applicant proposes to begin construction on June 1, 2020 and be completed by June 1, 2021. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$14.3 million.

Site Description

The proposed project would be constructed along the north and southwest sides of the existing West Milton Substation, which is located north of the Frederick Garland Road and Mote Road intersection in Union Township, Miami County. The surrounding land use is a mix of maintained lawns, grassland, and shrubs and trees. The entire construction area would be located within existing easements owned by the Applicant. No temporary easements would be required from adjacent property owners as no impacts would occur to adjacent properties.

Basis of Need

The Applicant proposes to install a new single-circuit 138/69 kilovolt (kV) transformer, a new 345/138kV transformer and other ancillary facilities at the West Milton substation to help facilitate

the West Milton-Eldean 138kV transmission line, that is the subject of a current proceeding before the Ohio Power Siting Board, in Case No.18-1259-EL-BTX. The new transmission line is the Applicant's proposal to help mitigate potential violation of NERC reliability criteria that were identified during the 2010 PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Planning (RTEP) process.

The Applicant and PJM identified potential reliability problems associated with then current grid topology and established a need for the West Milton-Eldean 138kV transmission line project during the RTEP process. The Applicant proposed the West Milton-Eldean 138kV transmission line to effectively mitigate the reliability issues by maintaining transmission system voltages at an acceptable level and by complying with mandatory NERC reliability standards.

The project would resolve thermal loading issues on the existing West Milton 345/138kV transformer, as well as the West-Milton Greenville 138kV transmission line resulting from the loss of transmission facilities during construction of the West Milton-Eldean 138kV transmission line project. This substation expansion project, in conjunction with the transmission line project, would help bolster the operating capacity, operational flexibility and reliability of DP&L's transmission system in the northern Dayton metropolitan area.

The proposed addition of new transformers at DP&L's West Milton substation was included in the Electric Transmission Forecast Form FE-T10 of the Dayton Power and Light Company's 2019 Long-Term Electric Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.¹ The project has been approved by PJM as a mandated RTEP Project with assigned baseline numbers b1275 and b1276. Staff concludes that potential violation of NERC reliability standards in contingency scenarios show the need for the proposed facility. Additionally, Staff concurs that overall the proposed facility should bolster DP&L's 138kV transmission system.

Nature of Impacts

Agricultural Land

Agricultural land does not exist within the project area. No impacts to agricultural land would occur.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project on June 25, 2019. The review identified one previously recorded archaeological site and one previously conducted cultural resource survey adjacent to the project area. However, the Applicant concluded that Phase I investigatory work is not necessary, because the project is located within already disturbed contexts and would not impact any significant cultural resources. Staff agrees with the Applicant's conclusion. No impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Surface Waters

The project area does not contain any streams or ponds. The project would not be within a 100-year floodplain. No impacts to these resources are anticipated.

1. The Dayton Power and Light Company, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 19-0871-EL-FOR, April 12, 2019, pages 83 and 84.

The Applicant delineated one Category 2 wetland within the project area. The Applicant states the wetland would be avoided. No impacts to the wetland are anticipated. The Applicant informed Staff that ground disturbance for the project is expected to exceed one acre, therefore an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (OHC000005) would be necessary. The Applicant informed Staff that they will have all necessary permits in place and docket any necessary permits in the case docket prior to construction.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Applicant coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to minimize and eliminate potential impacts to state and federal listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area.

The project area is within the range of the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species may be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, the ODNR, the USFWS, and Staff recommend the Applicant adhere to seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter. The Applicant has agreed to abide by the seasonal tree cutting dates. No impacts to these species are anticipated.

The project lies within the range of several federal and state listed mussel and fish species. Due to no in-water work proposed in perennial streams, the type of habitat present at the project site, and within the vicinity of the project area, no impacts to these 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 December 10, 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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Case No(s). 19-1346-EL-BNR

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