

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of AEP Ohio)
Transmission Company for an Amendment to the) **Case No. 19-1741-EL-BTA**
Glencoe-Speidel 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild)
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 rules. The application in this case is subject to an approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Respectfully submitted,



Tamara S. Turkenton
Director, Rates and Analysis
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Project Name: Amendment to the Glencoe-Speidel 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 19-1741-EL-BTA
Project Location: Belmont County
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: September 20, 2019
Inspection Date: December 5, 2019
Report Date: December 19, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Condition

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Application Description and Need

AEP Ohio Transmission Company (Applicant or AEP Transco) is proposing an amendment to the Glencoe-Speidel 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Rebuild Project, which was approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board on February 21, 2019, in Case No. 18-0279-EL-BTX. Proposed adjustments are proffered following final detailed engineering, land surveying, and property owner discussions regarding the approved route. The type of transmission equipment would not change. The Applicant states that the economic impact would not change as a result of these adjustments. The need for the facility and grid impacts associated with the facility remain the same as was approved in Case No. 18-0279-EL-BTX.

Revisions requested in this amendment were placed by the Applicant into the category of engineering adjustments within the existing right-of-way. Construction has not yet begun on areas affected by the proposed engineering adjustments in this Amendment and no new right-of-way is required.

Engineering Adjustments

There are seven proposed engineering adjustments for this amendment request. The Applicant states that these adjustments are the result of actual field conditions and final engineering of structure locations and necessary conductor clearances. The structure location shifts range from 5 to 51 feet from the previously approved preferred centerline as follows:

- Adjustment 1 involves a shift of the locations of structures 2 and 3 by approximately 5 feet. The purpose of this shift is to improve the line angle for approximately 0.2 miles for the purpose of pulling wire in a straight line with structures already constructed at the Glencoe

Station (17-1211-EL-BNR) and West Bellaire-Glencoe line (16-1557-EL-BTX). The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts and no new properties affected by this shift.

- Adjustment 2 involves a shift of the location of structure 29 by approximately 8 feet. The purpose of this shift is to improve temporary construction clearance for approximately 0.2 miles to the line being replaced. The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts and no new properties affected by this shift.
- Adjustment 3 involves a shift of the location of structure 53 by approximately 20 feet to the north for entrance on a tangent to an adjacent electric distribution station. This shift would impact approximately 0.2 miles and would move the location of the new structure further from a residence. The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts and no new properties affected by this shift.
- Adjustment 4 involves a shift of the location of structure 79 by approximately 8 feet. The purpose of this shift is to improve the line angle for approximately 0.1 mile and thus eliminate potential impacts with an adjacent pipeline. The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts nor new properties affected by this shift.
- Adjustment 5 involves a shift of structure locations 99 through 101, and range between 25 to 32 feet. The primary purpose for this shift of approximately 0.1 mile is to move the transmission line alignment back to the centerline of the existing line. By shifting back to the centerline, the line can be installed onto existing structures at a distribution station. The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts nor new properties affected by this alignment shift back to the previously existing centerline.
- Adjustment 6 involves a shift of structure locations 119 through 125 and range between 11 and 51 feet. The impetus behind this shift of approximately 0.3 miles is to move structure 124 out of the bottom of a valley to better accommodate construction access. Additionally, by shifting structure 121 to the north, the adjusted centerline would move further away from existing residences. The Applicant states approximately 0.2 acres of additional tree clearing would be required. No additional properties would be affected by this shift in alignment.
- Adjustment 7 involves a shift of structure location 137 by approximately 8 feet. The purpose of this shift is to improve the line angle for approximately 0.1 mile between structures 136 and 138. The Applicant states that there are no additional environmental impacts nor new properties affected by this shift.

Application Review

Social Impacts

Staff finds that the proposed adjustments are not expected to significantly alter existing land uses, including agricultural land, or increase the estimated capital costs for the project. Staff finds that the adjustments are proposed as a result of final engineering of the approved line, particularly where the line enters and exits existing substations, and are reasonable engineering adjustments to the approved route. No new right-of-way is required for these adjustments. With these adjustments,

the number of residential structures identified within 100 feet of the right-of-way would drop from 24 to 23, and the number of parcels crossed would drop from 128 to 121.

These revised alignment sections have been studied for the presence of archaeological resources and historic impacts and no significant impacts on cultural resources are expected. The State Historic Preservation Office concurs that the amended alignments would not be expected to impact cultural resources.

Surface Waters

The route adjustments would not cross additional streams or wetlands and would not result in increased impacts to surface water resources. Adherence to the conditions of the original certificate including implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan would minimize impacts to surface water resources that could occur as a result of the proposed adjustments.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The proposed adjustments would not result in increased impacts to listed wildlife species. Adherence to the conditions of the original certificate would minimize impacts to listed species.

Recommended Findings

Staff recommends approval of this amendment provided that the following condition is satisfied. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this amendment should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery in any ratemaking proceeding.

Condition:

- (1) The Applicant shall continue to adhere to all conditions of the Opinion, Order, and Certificate for the Glencoe-Speidel 138 kilovolt rebuild project in Case No. 18-0279-EL-BTX, following the route as amended through this application.

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Case No(s). 19-1741-EL-BTA

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