

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application        )**  
**of Long Ridge Energy Generation, LLC for the Long        ) Case No. 19-1742-GA-BLN**  
**Ridge Main Line 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 February 18, 2020, 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 February 18, 2020, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom  
Power Siting Department  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-7707  
[ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us)

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case No.:** 19-1742-GA-BLN  
**Project Name:** Long Ridge Main Line Project  
**Project Location:** Monroe County  
**Applicant:** Long Ridge Energy Generation, LLC  
**Application Filing Date:** November 19, 2019  
**Filing Type:** Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Date:** January 3, 2020  
**Report Date:** February 11, 2020  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** February 18, 2020  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** A. Holderbaum, E. Morrison

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

### Project Description

Long Ridge Energy Generation, LLC (Applicant) proposes to construct 1.89 miles of new 12-inch diameter pipeline in Hannibal, Monroe County, in order to bring natural gas to the Long Ridge Energy Generation Project that is currently under construction. The pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,404 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.375 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would primarily utilize open cut trench construction methods but would utilize conventional boring methods at select locations. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in late winter or early spring 2020 and place the line in service by spring 2021. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$8.9 million.

### Site Description

The new pipeline would begin along the east side of Long Ridge Road (County Road 43) at the existing Ormet extension dry launcher site. The Ormet extension dry launcher site is located approximately 0.5 miles east of the intersection of Long Ridge Road and township Road 726 in the town of Hannibal. The line would extend southeast toward the Long Ridge Energy Generation Project on the south side of the Ohio River Scenic Byway for approximately 1.89 miles. Two roads would be crossed by the pipeline. Long Ridge Road would be crossed via open-cut and the Ohio River Scenic Byway would be crossed via conventional bore.

On January 13, 2020 the Applicant submitted the plans to the Monroe County Engineer's office for review of the planned boring underneath the Ohio River Scenic Byway, and to the Ohio Department of Transportation for review of the planned open-cutting of Long Ridge Road. The Applicant states, in compliance with Monroe County requirements, Long Ridge Road would be closed to non-emergency traffic, bus traffic, and residential traffic in the immediate area for approximately three days to complete construction of the road crossing. Construction of the road crossing must be completed between May 1, 2020 and October 2020. Steel plates would be onsite for construction crews to cover the road and allow emergency vehicles, bus traffic, and residential traffic to cross during construction if needed.

The surrounding land use is predominantly forest, agricultural land, and residential land. The entire length of the pipeline would be located within existing easements owned by the Applicant. Construction would occur within a 60-foot wide easement. Two locations, including one road crossing and one railroad crossing, would require the Applicant to utilize conventional boring methods. At these crossings, additional workspaces have been acquired by the Applicant to facilitate boring operations.

### **Basis of Need**

The Applicant has designed this project to supply natural gas to the Long Ridge Energy Generation Project (Case No. 17-1091-EL-BLN). No viable natural gas delivery system is currently available at the proposed site of the power plant. Given the distance from the supply source, the contracted delivery pressure, the hourly quantity of natural gas demanded, and the minimum operating pressure of the turbine, a 12-inch standard wall welded steel pipe is best suited to supply the necessary amount of fuel.

### **Nature of Impacts**

#### *Agricultural Land*

No agricultural district lands would be impacted by the proposed project. A total of 21.3 acres of land classified as agricultural would be impacted temporarily by the project. Construction of the natural gas pipeline would not present long-term impacts to agricultural production. The Applicant has committed to taking the appropriate steps to avoid damage to drain tiles when possible and has committed to repairing all damaged tile if damage occurs. The Applicant has committed to segregate soils during trenching activities and to backfill around the installed pipeline to the original condition.

#### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. The review identified three Ohio Genealogical Society cemeteries and two architectural structures within the one-mile radius of the project. Both architectural structures and two of the cemeteries are located outside of the construction area and would not be impacted. One cemetery, the Mount Vernon Cemetery, is located approximately 50 feet west of the proposed project and is mapped with high location confidence. The Applicant has committed to avoiding the cemetery and installing highly visible temporary fencing between the project and the cemetery property in order to prevent construction vehicles from inadvertently entering the cemetery property. Additionally, the Applicant stated that, should any human burials be found during construction of the project, construction would cease, and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and local authorities would be consulted immediately to determine the next course of action.

### *Surface Waters*

The project area contains 12 streams, including six ephemeral streams, five intermittent streams, and one perennial stream, Stetson Run. Nine streams would be crossed via open-cut trenching for a total of 508 linear feet of temporary impacts. Three streams would be crossed via conventional boring methods in order to avoid impacts to the streams.

The project area contains three Category 1 wetlands. All three wetlands are outside of the construction area and would not be crossed during construction. No ponds or Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplains occur within the project area. No impacts to these resources are anticipated.

The Applicant filed a Notice of Intent with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) for coverage under the General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for stormwater discharges as the project would impact greater than one acre of land. The Ohio EPA granted the permit on December 18, 2019. Stream impacts would be covered under the Nationwide Permit 12 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Applicant submitted a pre-construction notification on January 22, 2020 to the USACE and anticipates receiving approval on March 13, 2020.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The Applicant coordinated with 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 states 3.53 acres of tree clearing would be required. 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 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.

The project lies within the range of the federal and state endangered eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*). Due to the location, the type of habitat at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, no impacts to this 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 February 18, 2020. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery.

**Conditions:**

- (1) The Applicant shall install highly visible temporary fencing between the project and the adjacent Mount Vernon Cemetery property in order to prevent construction vehicles from inadvertently entering the cemetery property. Additionally, should any human burial be found during construction of the project, construction shall cease, and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, local authorities, and Staff shall be consulted immediately to determine the next course of action.
- (2) The Applicant shall obtain a Nationwide Permit 12 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to commencement of construction in and adjacent to streams. The Applicant shall file proof of obtaining the permit in the docket for this case.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**2/11/2020 1:49:10 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-1742-GA-BLN**

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