

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 20-0013-EL-BLN
Need for the NSG Glass North America Tap 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 February 28, 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 28, 2020, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
Chief of Facility Review and Compliance Division
Power Siting Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 20-0013-EL-BLN
Project Name: NSG Glass North America Tap Project
Project Location: Wood County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: January 23, 2020
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: February 10, 2020
Report Date: February 21, 2020
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: February 28, 2020
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to construct 0.83 miles of new 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. This new line would tap into the existing Fostoria West End (AEP)-Lemoyne-West Fremont 138 kV Transmission Line. The purpose of this new transmission line is to provide electric service to the planned NSG Garling Substation. According to the Applicant, NSG Glass North America Incorporated has contracted for service from FirstEnergy and would own the planned substation.

A total of 15 single wood pole structures and one corner dead-end steel structure would be installed. The capital cost of this transmission line project is estimated at \$2,021,000, and that cost would be borne by the Applicant, with the exception of the customer-owned transmission line switch. The project was included in the *2019 Long Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities of Ohio*, filed in Case No. 19-0806-EL-FOR.¹

1. Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company and American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 19-0806-EL-FOR, April 15, 2019.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project is located near the town of Pemberville in Troy Township, Wood County. The project area consists of agricultural and rural residential land uses. The Applicant's customer currently owns approximately 55 percent of the proposed transmission line route right-of-way. Two project easements remain to be acquired.

Cultural Resources

ATSI conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historic properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that adverse impacts to historic properties and archaeological sites are not expected. Staff concurs with the survey results.

Surface Waters

The survey corridor contains one intermittent stream and one perennial stream. No poles would be located in either stream, and neither stream would be crossed by construction equipment. No in-water work is planned, and direct stream impacts are not anticipated.

ATSI's consultant identified and surveyed two wetlands that are located within the survey corridor. However, no fill would be placed within either wetland, and these wetlands would not be crossed by construction equipment. Any surface water impacts would be covered under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide 12 Permit program. The project area lies within the vicinity of a 100-year floodplain area located near Pemberville Road, therefore consultation with Wood County is required to obtain a permit.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Some tree clearing would be required for this project, including priority trees outside of the acquired easements. The project area is within the range of 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 would be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommend seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for all trees three inches or greater in diameter. The Applicant has committed to following these seasonal tree clearing guidelines. The proposed project is not expected to impact any bat hibernacula. Impacts to other state and federal listed species are not anticipated, due to no proposed in-water work and a lack of suitable habitats.

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 February 28, 2020, subject to the following condition. 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.

Condition:

Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations. The Applicant shall docket copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, within seven days of receipt.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

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in

Case No(s). 20-0013-EL-BLN

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