

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application** )  
**of American Electric Power Ohio Transmission** )  
**Company, Inc. for a Certificate of Environmental** ) **Case No. 20-0531-EL-BLN**  
**Compatibility and Public Need for the Kirk-Jug Street** )  
**138/345 kV Extension 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 (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval June 11, 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 June 11, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Theresa White  
Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 20-0531-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** Kirk-Jug Street 345 kV Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Licking County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
**Application Filing Date:** March 12, 2020  
**Filing Type:** Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Dates:** February 10 and March 6, 2020  
**Report Date:** June 4, 2020  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** June 11, 2020  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley

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

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

### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to construct 0.8 mile of transmission line associated with the Babbitt Station Expansion that was approved by the OPSB in Case No. 19-2119-EL-BLN ("the 2019 case") on March 18, 2020. This project includes two 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line tie-ins and one 138 kV extension totaling 0.7 mile. The Applicant also proposes a 0.1-mile 345 kV line cut-in extension.

The two 138 kV tie lines are identified as Babbitt Bus Tie #1 and Babbitt Bus Tie #2. These tie lines connect the original Babbitt Substation that was approved by the OPSB in Case No. 17-1325-EL-BLN ("the 2017 case") to the 2019 case. The 138 kV extension connects the existing Babbitt-Kirk 138 kV circuit to the 2019 case. Finally, the 345 kV cut-in extension would connect the Kirk-Jug Street 345 kV circuit to the 2019 case

The proposed extension and tie-in project would be located directly adjacent to the 2019 case, southeast of the interchange at Beech Road and State Route 161.

The proposed project would be constructed on property currently owned by the Applicant. The Applicant, AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) states that no additional land rights would be necessary to construct and operate the facility.

The 2017 case is operational, and the 2019 case is presently under construction. The Applicant intends to commence construction of the transmission line extension project in July 2020 and place the entire facility in service by June 2021.

The cost of the transmission line extension project is estimated at \$3 million.

### **Basis of Need**

AEP Ohio Transco proposed that the Babbitt 345/138 kV Station Project would expand the existing Babbitt Station, by constructing a new 345/138 kV station yard that includes the installation of a new 345/138 kV transformer and associated sectionalizing equipment. The project would address PJM's and the AEP Ohio Transco's planning criteria violations associated with a 300 megawatt (MW) load drop scenario when an additional load is put in service at the Applicant's Anguin Station.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the project is to accommodate future load with a facility required and designed to serve a new customer delivery point in the New Albany area. The addition of the customer load, the loss of Jug Street-Babbitt 138 kV line and the Kirk-Babbitt 138 kV line would result in a 300 MW load drop that would result in planning criteria violations. The new transformer and sectionalizing equipment at Babbitt Station will mitigate this violation. The project need and solution were submitted to the PJM Subregional RTEP Committee during an April 2019 and a November 2019 meeting, respectively.<sup>2</sup>

The transmission facilities associated with this project were included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing and the project was submitted to PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) as a supplemental project.<sup>3</sup> The project has recently been issued supplemental PJM upgrade ID s2139, whereby the project status can be tracked on the PJM's website.<sup>4</sup>

The transmission line extensions and cut-ins proposed herein are needed in order to power the Babbitt Station Expansion.

### **Nature of Impacts**

#### *Land Use*

The proposed extensions are located on property comprised of old field and pasture, and adjacent to an active substation and substation work under construction. The Applicant indicates that the site is not registered as agricultural district land with Licking county. The overall 70-acre parcel is located within the village of New Albany and Jersey Township, Licking County. No occupied residences are located within 100 feet of the site, and no churches, schools, parks, preserves, or wildlife management areas are located within 1,000 feet of the project. No residential structures

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1. Names as listed in the 2024 RTEP, Files "AEP\_P1-2\_#9701", "AEP\_P1-2\_#11380."

2. AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., "Need No. (AEP-2018-OH002)," PJM Sub Regional RTEP Committee Western Region, Solution Meeting, November 22, 2019.

3. AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., "2019 Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 19-1501-EL-FOR, April 15, 2019, Table FE-T9 pages 13 and 14 of 102.

4. "Transmission Construction Status," PJM Interconnection website <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

would need to be removed to construct this project. The area surrounding the proposed substation site is presently being developed for commercial uses.

#### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review and Phase I cultural resource management investigation (archaeology and history/architecture) for the station project. The consultant determined that the project would not involve nor impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was necessary. The findings were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO). The OHPO responded to the consultant in concurrence that this extension project would not affect historic properties, and that no additional cultural resources studies are needed for the substation project.

#### *Surface Waters*

No surface water resources are present within the vicinity of the project. The Applicant would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit. Staff does not anticipate issues with the procurement of this permit. The project does not cross a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permit would be required.

#### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Impacts to state and federal listed species would not occur due to no proposed in-stream work, tree clearing, or impacts to habitats of threatened or endangered wildlife within the range of the project.

#### **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 approval of this application subject to the following conditions. 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:**

- (1) The certificate authority provided in this case shall not exempt the facility from any other applicable and lawful local, state, or federal rules or regulations nor be used to affect the exercise of discretion of any other local, state, or federal permitting or licensing authority with regard to areas subject to their supervision or control.
- (2) 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 provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, on the case docket prior to commencement of construction.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**6/4/2020 4:03:34 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0531-EL-BLN**

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