

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 20-1654-EL-BNR
Need for the Angola-Midway 138 kV Transmission Line)
Relocation 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 January 21, 2021, 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 January 21, 2021, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 20-1654-EL-BNR
Project Name: Angola-Midway 138 kV Transmission
Line Relocation Project
Project Location: Lucas County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: November 13, 2020
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: December 7, 2020
Report Date: January 14, 2021
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** January 21, 2021
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell and J. Cross

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) proposes relocate and replace five wood poles and two steel poles currently located along the Angola-Midway 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line by installing nine new steel poles. This relocation is being requested by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The new structures would be located immediately east of the existing transmission line.

This relocation would allow for the construction of a proposed I-475 and US 20A Interchange. The Applicant states the project does not change the topology or ratings of the system; therefore, it was not included in the PJM Interconnection, LLC's (PJM) Regional Transmission Expansion Planning (RTEP) process.¹ In addition, the Applicant states the project was not included in the most recent Long-Term Forecast Report (LTFR) to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

1. PJM is the regional transmission organization charged with planning for upgrades to the regional transmission system in Ohio. Significant alterations to the transmission system located in the PJM control area are required to submit planned projects for review of system impacts.

PJM's RTEP identifies transmission system additions and improvements needed to keep electricity flowing to the millions of people throughout PJM's region. See PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Plan, <https://www.pjm.com/library/reports-notice/rtep-documents.aspx> (accessed December 16, 2020).

because the Applicant does not include relocation requests in LTRFs.² The capital cost of this proposed transmission line relocation project is estimated to be \$1,455,350.³

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project is in the City of Maumee and the Township of Monclova, Lucas County, Ohio. All new easements would be acquired by ODOT. The surrounding land use is industrial.

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 has examined and concurs with the survey results.

Ecological Impacts

The project would require a small amount of tree clearing. To avoid negative effects to listed bat species, ATSI intends to remove trees in accordance with seasonal regulatory restrictions. No in-water work is required, and no wetland impacts are anticipated. The project is not anticipated to adversely impact any listed species. In Staff's opinion, ecological impacts would be minimal.

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 January 21, 2021. 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.

Conditions

- (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.

2. Staff notes Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4935.04 requires an LTRF to include a: "description of proposed changes in the transmission system planned for the next five years." This project being a "change" to the transmission system, Staff recommends the Applicant include future changes to the transmission system, even ones that "does not involve a relocation request" within its LTRF.

3. The Applicant indicates that all the cost of this transmission line relocation project would be fully reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Applicant indicates that this project has no impact on its customer billing.

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Case No(s). 20-1654-EL-BNR

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