

Figure No.

3

# Habitat Assessment Map

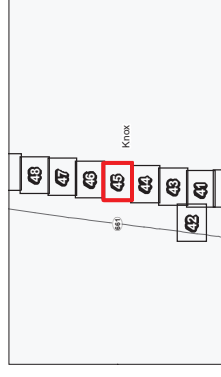
Client/Project  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location  
Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701238  
Prepared by JLT on 2021-04-19  
Technical Review by AJK on 2021-04-22  
Independent Review by DLO on 2021-04-22

0 100 200 Feet  
1:2,400 (A1 original document size of 11x17)

- Legend**
- AEP Substation
  - Existing Structure to be Replaced
  - ◇ Proposed Structure
  - ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
  - ◇ Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
  - ◇ Proposed Access Road
  - ◇ Photo Location
  - ◇ Existing Culvert
  - ◇ Existing Storm Drain
  - ◇ Seep/Spring
  - ◇ Upland Drainage Feature
  - ◇ Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
  - ◇ Field Delineated Waterway
  - ◇ Approximate Waterway
  - ◇ Field Delineated Waterway Area
  - ◇ Field Delineated Open Water
  - ◇ Approximate Open Water
  - ◇ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
  - ◇ Field Delineated Scrub-Shrub Wetland
  - ◇ Approximate Wetland Habitat Area
  - ◇ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest
  - ◇ Early Successional Deciduous Forest
  - ◇ Maintained Lawn
  - ◇ Agricultural Field
  - ◇ Old Field
  - ◇ New Field
  - ◇ Hayfield
  - ◇ Pasture
  - ◇ Industrial
  - ◇ Existing Railroad
  - ◇ Existing Paved Surface
  - ◇ Existing Roadway



**Notes**  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N  
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, CDBG, NADs  
3. Orthophoto imagery: 2017 NAD





Figure No.

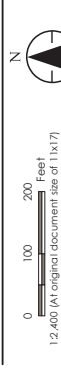
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### Habitat Assessment Map

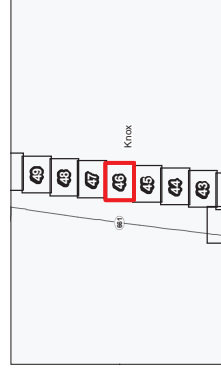
Client/Project  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location  
Ohio

193701248  
Prepared by JLT on 2021-04-19  
Technical Review by AEP on 2021-04-19  
Independent Review by DLO on 2021-04-22



- Legend**
- AEP Substation
  - Existing Structure to be Replaced
  - ◇ Proposed Structure
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  - ⚡ Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
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  - ⚡ Project Area
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  - △ Existing Culvert
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  - ⚡ Approximate Wetland
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  - ⚡ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest
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  - ⚡ Old Field
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  - ⚡ Hayfield
  - ⚡ Pasture
  - ⚡ Industrial
  - ⚡ Existing Railroad
  - ⚡ Existing Paved Surface
  - ⚡ Existing Roadway



**Notes**

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, COWI, NADIS
3. Orthophoto imagery: 2017 NADP

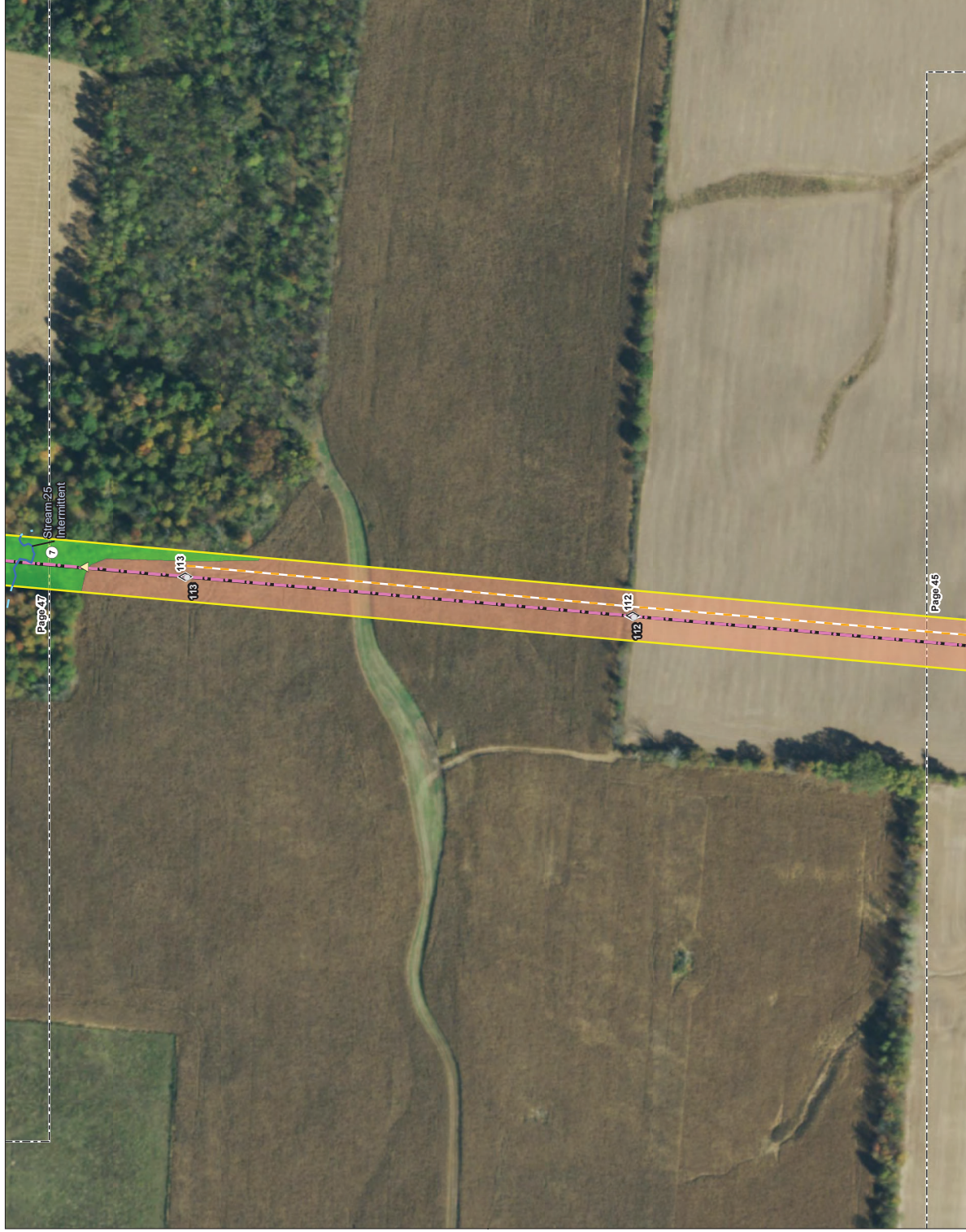




Figure No.

3

### Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location

Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701248

Prepared by JLT on 2021-04-19

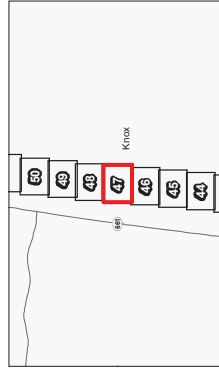
Technical Review by AJK on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by DLO on 2021-04-22



#### Legend

- AEP Substation
- Existing Structure to be Replaced
- ◇ Proposed Structure
- ⚡ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
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#### Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, CDBG, NADIS
3. Orthophoto courtesy: 2017 NADP





Figure No.

3

### Habitat Assessment Map

#### Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

#### Project Location

Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

192701238

Prepared by JLT on 2021-04-19

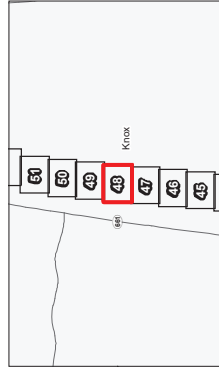
Technical Review by AJK on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by JLT on 2021-04-22



#### Legend

- AEP Substation
- Existing Structure to be Replaced
- ◇ Proposed Structure
- ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
- ◇ Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
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- ◇ Hayfield
- ◇ Pasture
- ◇ Industrial
- ◇ Existing Railroad
- ◇ Existing Paved Surface
- ◇ Existing Roadway



#### Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, COWI, NADIS
3. Orthophoto Imagery: 2017 NADP

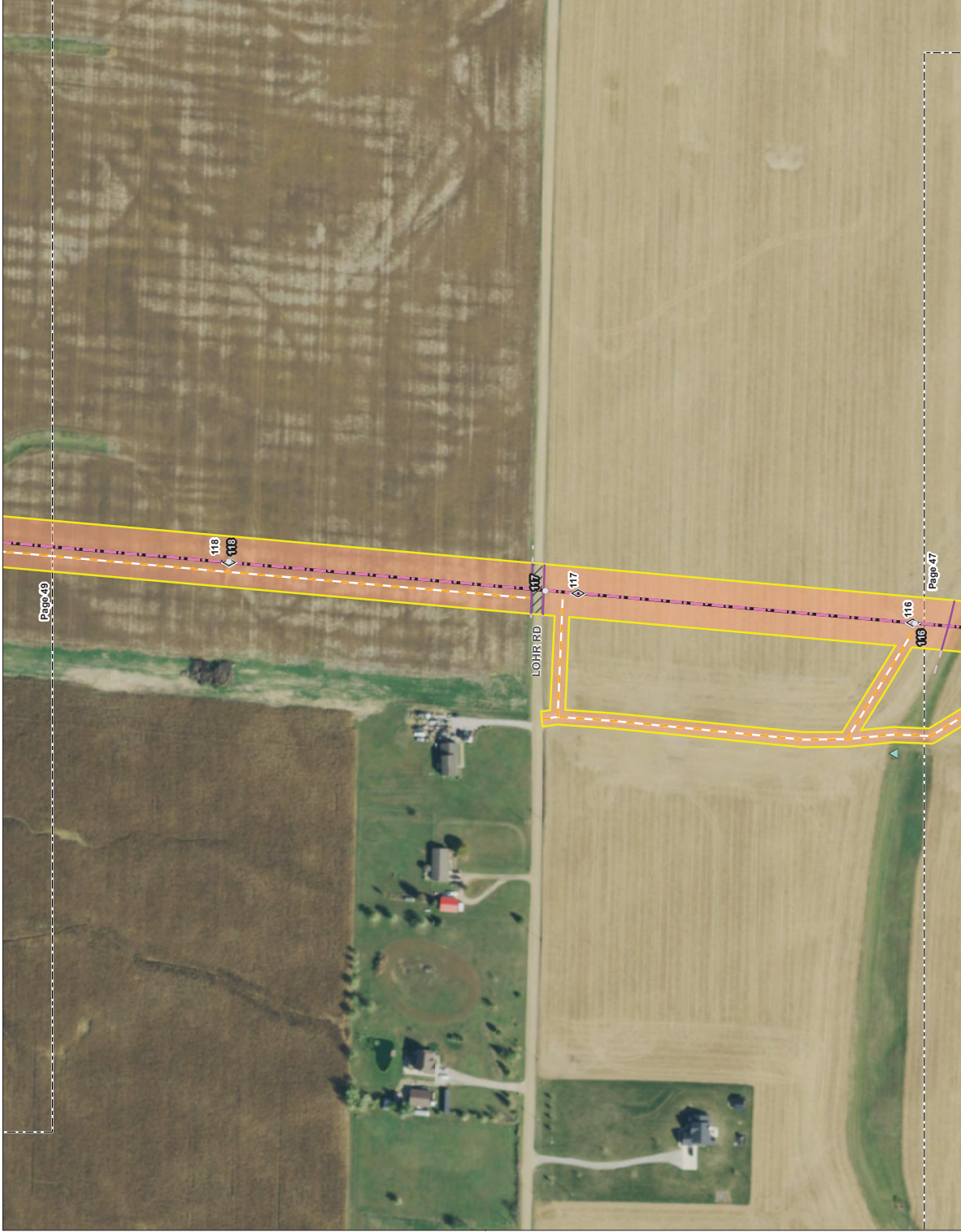




Figure No.

3

# Habitat Assessment Map

## Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

## Project Location

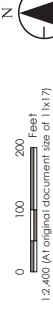
Cross and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701238

Prepared by: JLT on 2021-04-19

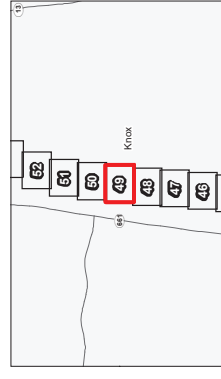
Technical Review by: AJG on 2021-04-23

Independent Review by: JLG on 2021-04-22



## Legend

- AEP Substation
- Existing Structure to be Replaced
- ◇ Proposed Structure
- ⚡ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
- ⚡ Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
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- ⚡ Project Area
- Photo Location
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## Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, COWI, NADIS
3. Orthophoto Imagery: 2017 NADP



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Figure No.

3

# Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location

Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701240

Prepared by J.H. on 2021-04-19

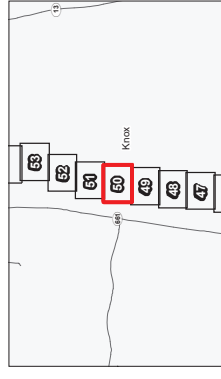
Technical Review by A.K. on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by D.L. on 2021-04-22



## Legend

- AEP Substation
- Existing Structure to be Replaced
- ◇ Proposed Structure
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
- Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Access Road
- Project Area
- Photo Location
- Existing Culvert
- Existing Storm Drain
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## Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, COWI, NAD83
3. Orthorectified imagery, 2017 NAD

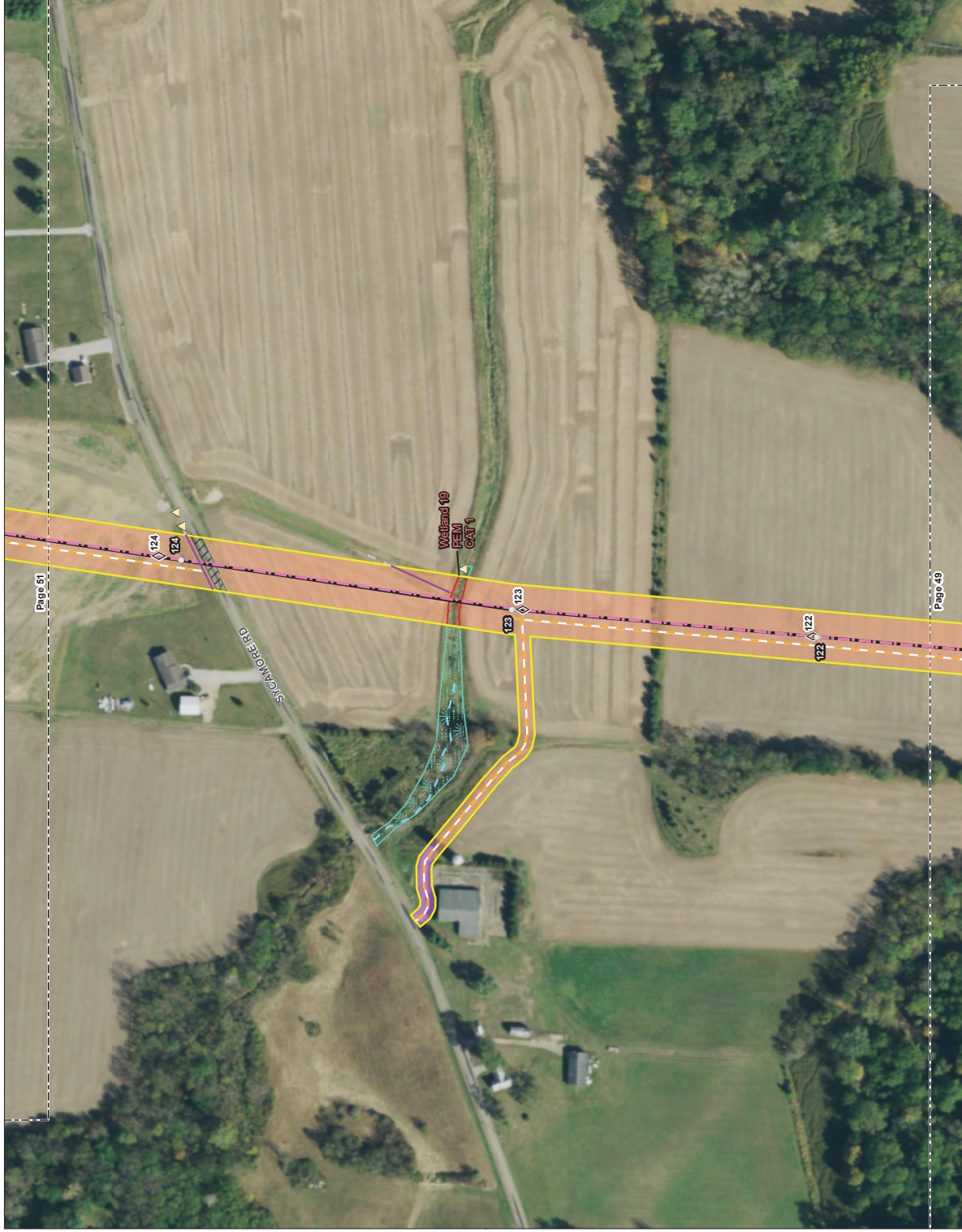




Figure No.

3

### Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location

Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701240

Prepared by J.H. on 2021-04-19

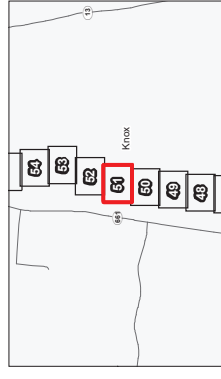
Technical Review by A.E. on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by D.G. on 2021-04-22



#### Legend

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| ■ AEP Substation  | ○ AEP Substation  | ○ AEP Substation  | ○ AEP Substation  |
| ○ Existing Structure to be Replaced                       | ○ Existing Structure to be Replaced                       | ○ Existing Structure to be Replaced                       | ○ Existing Structure to be Replaced                       |
| ◇ Proposed Structure                                      | ◇ Proposed Structure                                      | ◇ Proposed Structure                                      | ◇ Proposed Structure                                      |
| ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt         | ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt         | ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt         | ◇ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt         |
| — Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line                       | — Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line                       | — Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line                       | — Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line                       |
| — Proposed Access Road                                    | — Proposed Access Road                                    | — Proposed Access Road                                    | — Proposed Access Road                                    |
| □ Project Area  | □ Project Area  | □ Project Area  | □ Project Area  |
| ○ Photo Location  | ○ Photo Location  | ○ Photo Location  | ○ Photo Location  |
| △ Existing Culvert  | △ Existing Culvert  | △ Existing Culvert  | △ Existing Culvert  |
| △ Existing Storm Drain                                    | △ Existing Storm Drain                                    | △ Existing Storm Drain                                    | △ Existing Storm Drain                                    |
| ● Seep/Spring   | ● Seep/Spring   | ● Seep/Spring   | ● Seep/Spring   |
| — Upland Drainage Feature                                 | — Upland Drainage Feature                                 | — Upland Drainage Feature                                 | — Upland Drainage Feature                                 |
| — Approximate Upland Drainage Feature                     | — Approximate Upland Drainage Feature                     | — Approximate Upland Drainage Feature                     | — Approximate Upland Drainage Feature                     |
| — Field Delineated Waterway                               | — Field Delineated Waterway                               | — Field Delineated Waterway                               | — Field Delineated Waterway                               |
| — Approximate Waterway                                    | — Approximate Waterway                                    | — Approximate Waterway                                    | — Approximate Waterway                                    |
| — Field Delineated Waterway Area                          | — Field Delineated Waterway Area                          | — Field Delineated Waterway Area                          | — Field Delineated Waterway Area                          |
| — Field Delineated Open Water                             | — Field Delineated Open Water                             | — Field Delineated Open Water                             | — Field Delineated Open Water                             |
| ○ Approximate Open Water                                  | ○ Approximate Open Water                                  | ○ Approximate Open Water                                  | ○ Approximate Open Water                                  |
| ○ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland                       | ○ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland                       | ○ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland                       | ○ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland                       |
| ○ Field Delineated Scrub Wetland                          | ○ Field Delineated Scrub Wetland                          | ○ Field Delineated Scrub Wetland                          | ○ Field Delineated Scrub Wetland                          |
| ○ Approximate Wetland                                     | ○ Approximate Wetland                                     | ○ Approximate Wetland                                     | ○ Approximate Wetland                                     |
| ○ Habitat Area  | ○ Habitat Area  | ○ Habitat Area  | ○ Habitat Area  |
| ○ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest | ○ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest | ○ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest | ○ Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest |
| ○ Early Successional Deciduous Forest                     | ○ Early Successional Deciduous Forest                     | ○ Early Successional Deciduous Forest                     | ○ Early Successional Deciduous Forest                     |
| ○ Maintained Lawn   | ○ Maintained Lawn   | ○ Maintained Lawn   | ○ Maintained Lawn   |
| ○ Agricultural Field                                      | ○ Agricultural Field                                      | ○ Agricultural Field                                      | ○ Agricultural Field                                      |
| ○ Old Field   | ○ Old Field   | ○ Old Field   | ○ Old Field   |
| ○ New Field   | ○ New Field   | ○ New Field   | ○ New Field   |
| ○ Hayfield  | ○ Hayfield  | ○ Hayfield  | ○ Hayfield  |
| ○ Pasture   | ○ Pasture   | ○ Pasture   | ○ Pasture   |
| ○ Industrial  | ○ Industrial  | ○ Industrial  | ○ Industrial  |
| ○ Existing Railroad                                       | ○ Existing Railroad                                       | ○ Existing Railroad                                       | ○ Existing Railroad                                       |
| ○ Existing Paved Surface                                  | ○ Existing Paved Surface                                  | ○ Existing Paved Surface                                  | ○ Existing Paved Surface                                  |
| ○ Existing Roadway  | ○ Existing Roadway  | ○ Existing Roadway  | ○ Existing Roadway  |



#### Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, OGRIP, NAD83
3. Orthophoto imagery: 2017 NAD

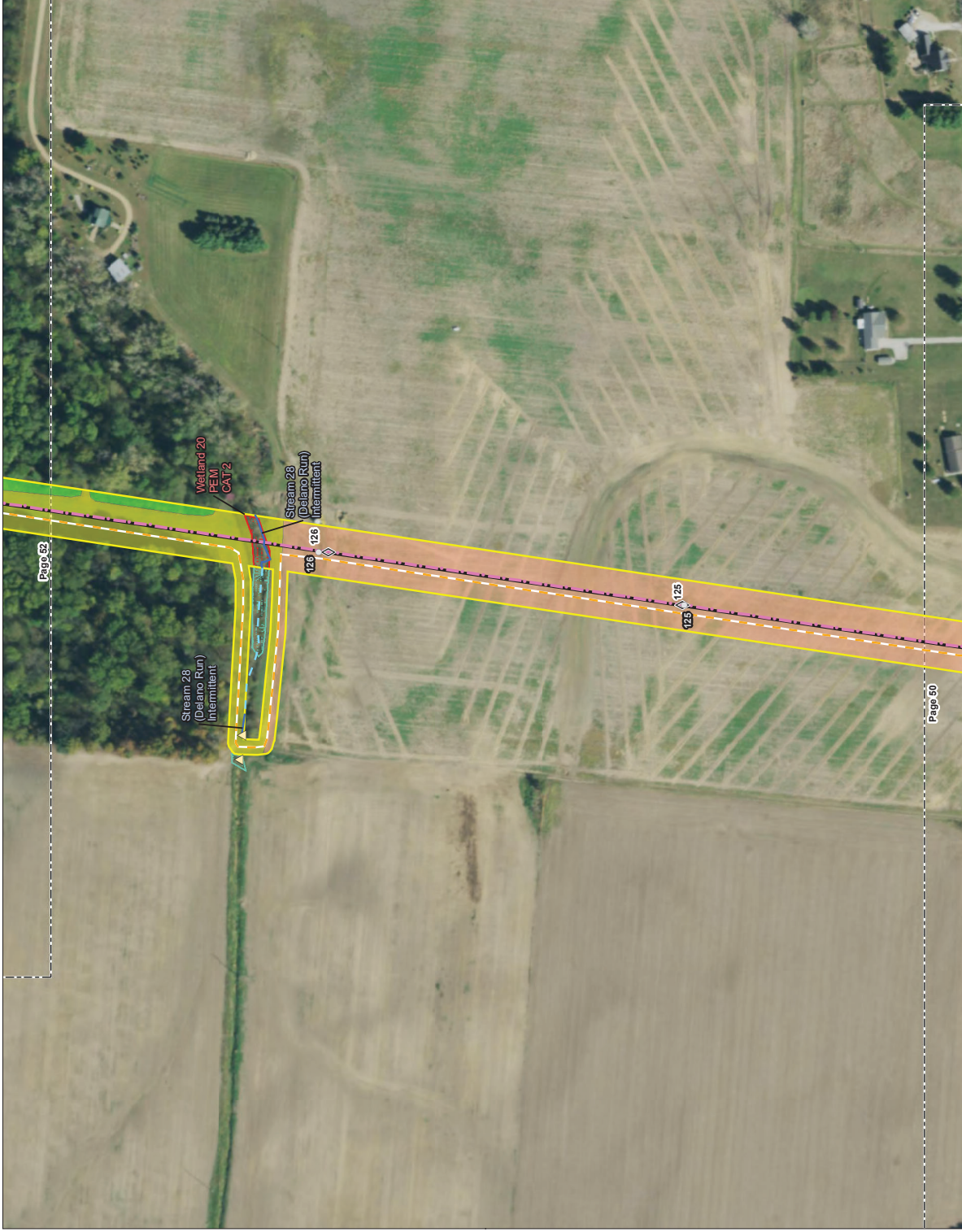




Figure No.

3

### Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

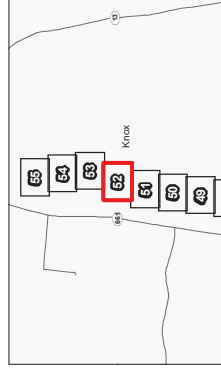
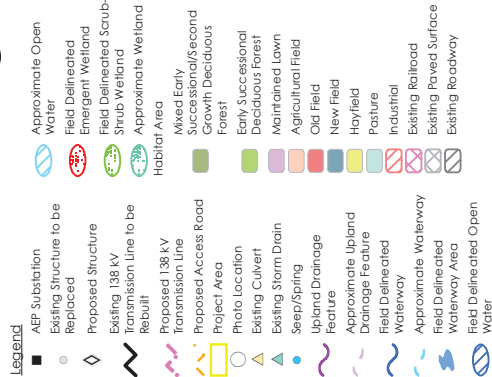
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location

Knox and Licking Counties,  
Ohio

193701249

Prepared by J.L.H. on 2021-04-19  
Technical Review by A.E.K. on 2021-04-22  
Independent Review by D.L.G. on 2021-04-22



**Notes**

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, CORP, NADIS
3. Orthophoto imagery: 2017 NADP





Figure No.

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# Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location

Ohio and Licking Counties

193701240

Prepared by JLI on 2021-04-19

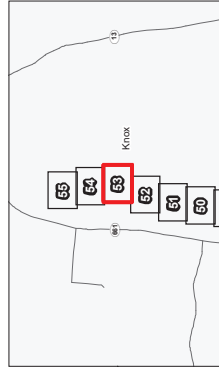
Technical Review by AEP on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by DLO on 2021-04-22



## Legend

- AEP Substation
- Existing Structure to be Replaced
- ◇ Proposed Structure
- ⚡ Existing 138 kV Transmission Line to be Rebuilt
- ⚡ Proposed 138 kV Transmission Line
- ⚡ Proposed Access Road
- Project Area
- Photo Location
- ▲ Existing Culvert
- ▲ Existing Storm Drain
- Seep/Spring
- ~ Upland Drainage Feature
- ~ Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
- ~ Field Delineated Waterway
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## Notes

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3. Orthophoto imagery: 2017 NADP





Figure No.

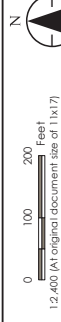
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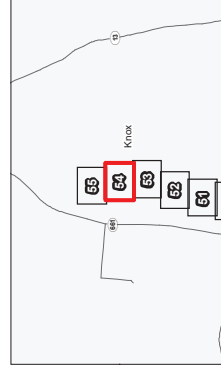
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AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Location  
Ohio

19/07/2020  
Prepared by: JLT on 2021-04-19  
Technical Review by: AAK on 2021-04-22  
Independent Review by: DLO on 2021-04-22



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- AEP Substation
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## Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, COWI, NADIS
3. Orthophoto Imagery: 2017 NADP

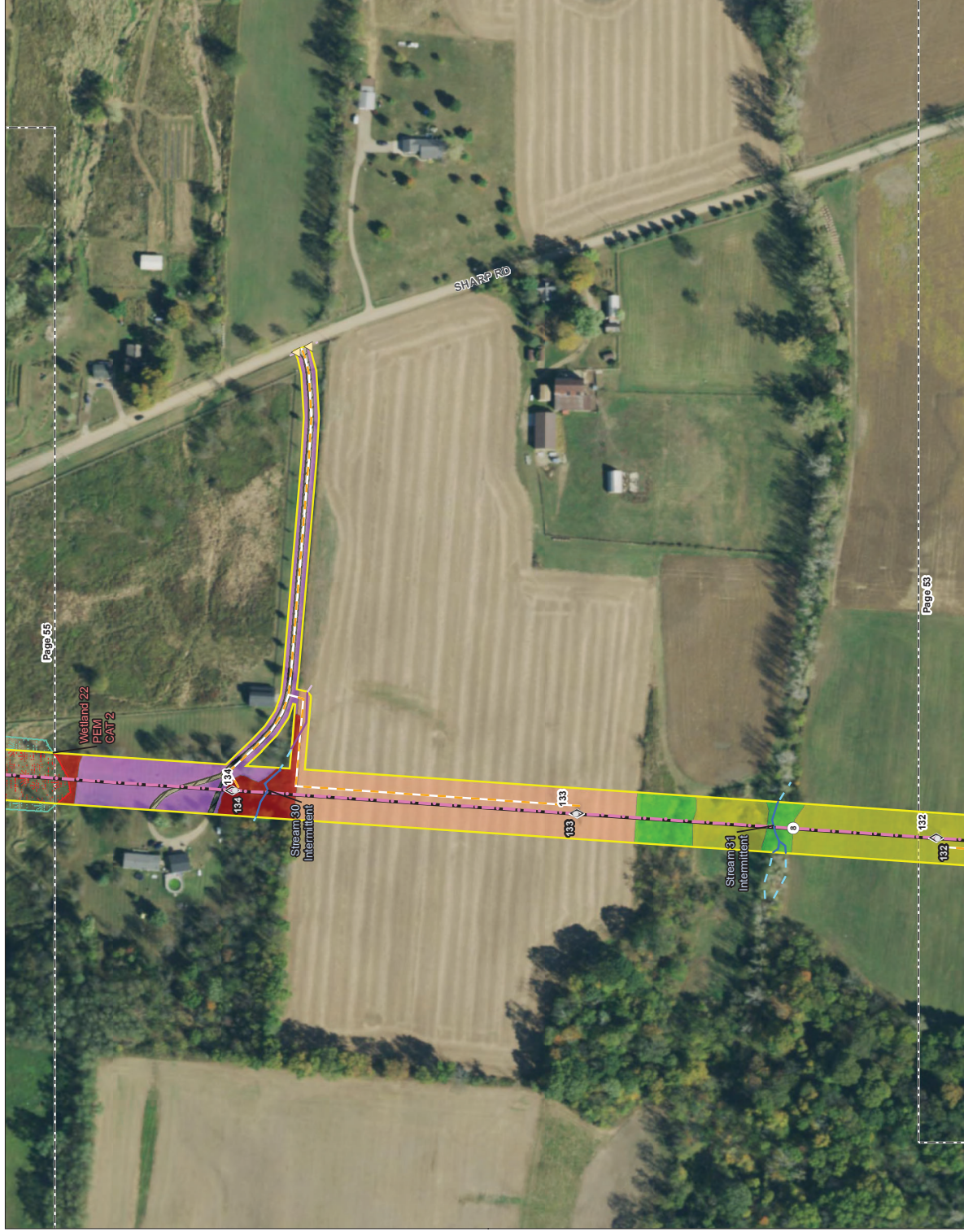




Figure No.

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# Habitat Assessment Map

## Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV  
Transmission Line Rebuild Project

## Project Location

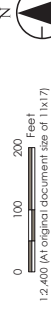
Ohio

193701238

Prepared by AEP on 2021-04-19

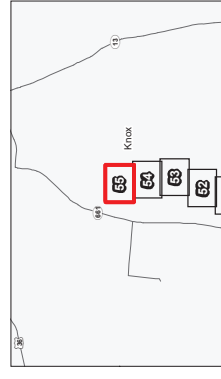
Technical Review by AEP on 2021-04-22

Independent Review by DLO on 2021-04-22



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## Notes

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2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, USGS, OGRIP, NAD83
3. Orthophotography: 2017 NAD





**NORTH NEWARK–SHARP ROAD 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT ECOLOGICAL  
RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT**

April 23, 2021

## **Appendix B   AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**





# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

## Office of Real Estate

*John Kessler, Chief*

2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2

Columbus, OH 43229

Phone: (614) 265-6621

Fax: (614) 267-4764

March 6, 2020

Dan Godec  
Stantec  
1500 Lake Shore Drive Suite 100  
Columbus OH 43204-3800

**Re:** 20-049; North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

**Project:** The project involves the rebuilding of approximately 19.4 miles of existing 138 kV electric transmission line between North Newark Station and the Sharp Road Station.

**Location:** The proposed project is located between the Cities of Mt. Vernon and Newark, Knox and Licking Counties, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

**Natural Heritage Database:** The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no other records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

**Fish and Wildlife:** The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), a state endangered, and federally endangered mussel, the rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*), a state endangered, and federally threatened mussel, the long solid (*Fusconaia maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel, the fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), a state threatened mussel, and the black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), a state threatened mussel. This project must not have an impact on freshwater native mussels at the project site. This applies to both listed and non-listed species. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2018), all Group 2, 3, and 4 streams (Appendix A) require a mussel survey. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Group 1 streams (Appendix A) and unlisted streams with a watershed of 10 square miles or larger above the point of impact should be assessed using the Reconnaissance Survey for Unionid Mussels (Appendix B) to determine if mussels are present. Mussel surveys may be recommended for these streams as well. This is further explained within the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol. Therefore, if in-water work is planned in any stream that meets any of the above criteria, the DOW recommends the applicant provide information to indicate no mussel impacts will occur. If this is not possible, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist conduct a mussel survey in the project area. If mussels that cannot be avoided are found in the project area, as a last resort, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist collect and relocate the mussels to suitable and similar habitat upstream of the project site. Mussel surveys and any subsequent mussel relocation should be done in accordance with the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol. The Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2018) can be found at:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/licenses%20&%20permits/OH%20Mussel%20Survey%20Protocol.pdf>

The project is within the range of the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) a state threatened fish, the spotted darter (*Etheostoma maculatum*), a state endangered fish, the mountain brook lamprey



(*Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*), a state endangered fish, the speckled chub (*Macrhybopsis aestivalis*), a state endangered fish, and the Tippecanoe darter (*Etheostoma tippecanoe*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. Due to the location, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Water Resources:** The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

[http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List\\_8\\_16.pdf](http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf)

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Sarah Tebbe, Environmental Specialist, at (614) 265-6397 or [Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us) if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Mike Pettegrew  
Environmental Services Administrator (Acting)

## Godec, Daniel

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**From:** susan\_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** Godec, Daniel  
**Cc:** nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; kate.parsons@dnr.state.oh.us  
**Subject:** AEP OHIO North Newark to Sharp Road 138 kV Line Rebuild, Licking & Knox Co.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Office  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230  
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2019-TA-0577

Dear Mr. Godec,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. The following comments and recommendations will assist you in fulfilling the requirements for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that proposed developments avoid and minimize water quality impacts and impacts to high quality fish and wildlife habitat (e.g., forests, streams, wetlands). Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. All disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

**FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES COMMENTS:** All projects in the State of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*). In Ohio, presence of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, we recommend that trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because the project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are



warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, we recommend that removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer survey may be conducted to document the presence or probable absence of Indiana bats within the project area during the summer because the proposed project is  $\geq 2.5$  miles from the Indiana capture location(s). If a summer survey documents probable absence of Indiana bats at the project location, tree clearing on the project site at any time of the year is unlikely to result in adverse impacts to Indiana bats. Negative Indiana bat summer surveys are valid for five years. Summer surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor (list attached) and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Endangered Species Coordinator for this office. In Ohio, summer mist net surveys must be conducted between June 1 and August 15. We recommend that any Indiana bats captured, especially reproductively active females, be monitored through radio-tracking to determine roost locations.

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the ESA, between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend that the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and running buffalo clover, for our review and concurrence.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the ESA, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Service's Mitigation Policy. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact John Kessler, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6621 or at [john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us).

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or [ohio@fws.gov](mailto:ohio@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Patrice M. Ashfield  
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW  
Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW

April 23, 2021

## **Appendix C REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS**

### **C.1 WETLAND AND WATERBODY PHOTOGRAPHS**





Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1 at wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1 at wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1 at wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1 at wetland determination sample point SP 1. Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 2 at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph facing north.



Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 2 at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph facing east.





Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 2 at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph facing south.



Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 2 at wetland determination sample point SP 3. Photograph facing west.





Photo Location 3. View of Open Water 1. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing upstream/east.





Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing downstream/west.



Photo Location 4. View of substrates of Stream 1.





Photo Location 5. View of Stream 2 (Log Pond Run). Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



Photo Location 5. View of Stream 2 (Log Pond Run). Photograph taken facing downstream/east.





Photo Location 5. View of substrates of Stream 2 (Log Pond Run).



Photo Location 6. View of upland (old field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP 5. Photograph taken facing north.





Photo Location 7. View of palustrine emergent (PEM) wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 6. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 7. View of PEM wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 6. Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 7. View of PEM wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 6. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 7. View of PEM wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 6. Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 8. View of palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS) wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 7. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 8. View of PSS wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 7. Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 8. View of PSS wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 7. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 8. View of PSS wetland portion of Wetland 3 at wetland determination sample point SP 7. Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 9. View of Stream 3 (Dry Creek). Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



Photo Location 9. View of Stream 3 (Dry Creek). Photograph taken facing downstream/east.





Photo Location 9. View of substrates of Stream 3 (Dry Creek).



Photo Location 10. View of upland (old field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP 9. Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 11. View of Wetland 4 at wetland determination sample point SP 10.  
Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 11. View of Wetland 4 at wetland determination sample point SP 10.  
Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 11. View of Wetland 4 at wetland determination sample point SP 10.  
Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 11. View of Wetland 4 at wetland determination sample point SP 10.  
Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 12. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



Photo Location 12. View of Stream 4. Photograph taken facing downstream/east.





Photo Location 12. View of substrates of Stream 4.



Photo Location 13. View of Open Water 2. Photograph taken facing south.





Photo Location 14. View of Stream 5. Photograph taken facing upstream/south.



Photo Location 14. View of Stream 5. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.





Photo Location 14. View of substrates of Stream 5.



Photo Location 15. View of Stream 6. Photograph taken facing upstream/southwest.





Photo Location 15. View of Stream 6. Photograph taken facing downstream/northeast.



Photo Location 15. View of substrates of Stream 6.





Photo Location 16. View of Stream 7 (Clear Fork Licking River). Photograph taken facing upstream/west.



Photo Location 16. View of Stream 7 (Clear Fork Licking River). Photograph taken facing downstream/east.





Photo Location 16. View of substrates of Stream 7 (Clear Fork Licking River).



Photo Location 17. View of Stream 8. Photograph taken facing upstream/southeast.





Photo Location 17. View of Stream 8. Photograph taken facing downstream/northwest.



Photo Location 17. View of substrates of Stream 8.





Photo Location 18. View of Wetland 5 at wetland determination sample point SP 12.  
Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 18. View of Wetland 5 at wetland determination sample point SP 12.  
Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 18. View of Wetland 5 at wetland determination sample point SP 12.  
Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 18. View of Wetland 5 at wetland determination sample point SP 12.  
Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 19. View of Stream 9. Photograph taken facing upstream/south.



Photo Location 19. View of Stream 9. Photograph taken facing downstream/north.





Photo Location 19. View of substrates of Stream 9.



Photo Location 20. View of Stream 10. Photograph taken facing upstream/east.





Photo Location 20. View of Stream 10. Photograph taken facing downstream/west.



Photo Location 20. View of substrates of Stream 10.





Photo Location 21. View of Stream 11. Photograph taken facing upstream/northeast.



Photo Location 21. View of Stream 11. Photograph taken facing downstream/southwest.





Photo Location 21. View of substrates of Stream 11.



Photo Location 22. View of Wetland 6 at wetland determination sample point SP 14.  
Photograph taken facing north.





Photo Location 22. View of Wetland 6 at wetland determination sample point SP 14.  
Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 22. View of Wetland 6 at wetland determination sample point SP 14.  
Photograph taken facing south.



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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/14/2021 3:46:13 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0525-EL-BLN**

Summary: Notice Letter of Notification Application for the North Newark-Sharp Road 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project 201-250 electronically filed by Tanner Wolfram on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.