

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of	:	
American Transmission Systems	:	Case No. 19-1871-EL-BTX
Incorporated for a Certificate of	:	
Environmental Compatibility and Public	:	
Need for the Lincoln Park-Riverbend 138	:	
kV Transmission Line Project	:	

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF**

James S. O'Dell

**ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO,
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

November 23, 2021

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is James S. O'Dell, and my business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus OH 43215.

4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) as
7 a senior Siting Specialist in the Power Siting Department.

8

9 3. Q. Please summarize your educational background and work experience.

10 A. I hold bachelor's degrees from The Ohio State University in Political Science
11 (1988) and Sociology (1997). Additionally, I received a master's degree in
12 City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University in 1992. I also
13 have significant course work completed towards a master's degree in Public
14 Policy from Central Michigan University.

15

16 I have been employed by the Commission since 1991. I have worked
17 almost exclusively on power siting activities during that time. I have
18 developed analysis for over 500 cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board
19 (Board). My responsibilities typically include application review and the
20 preparation of analysis for major utility facilities and economically
21 significant wind farms in Ohio. Additionally, I process and review Letters
22 of Notification and Construction Notices. In the past, I also have been the

1 primary author for the Board's annual reports. I have been the lead analyst
2 in excess of 60 standard applications, responsible for the preparation of
3 staff reports and coordination of Staff review and field work for major
4 utility facilities and economically significant wind farms.

5
6 4. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

7 A. I served as the overall Staff Project Lead for the investigation that resulted
8 in the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was filed October 19,
9 2021, in this docket. I managed the Staff investigation and preparation of
10 the Staff Report in this case. In addition, as a signatory party, Staff supports
11 the Joint Stipulation that was filed in this docket on November 16, 2021.

12
13 5. Q. What kind of case is this?

14 A. The Applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate the Lincoln Park-
15 Riverbend 138 kV Transmission Line located in the cities of Campbell and
16 Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio. The total length of the project is
17 approximately five to six miles, depending upon the route selected.

18 6. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

19 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site
20 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information
21 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the
22 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing a

1 Staff Report of Investigation that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and
2 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff recommends
3 that the Board approve the Preferred Route as presented in the application,
4 subject to the 27 conditions that are presented in the Stipulation.
5

6 7. Q. What impacts did Staff review for the project in arriving at this conclusion?

7 A. Staff reviewed various types of land use impacts including residential,
8 recreational, institutional, ecological, cultural resources, transportation,
9 agricultural, and overall geological suitability. Staff also reviewed the
10 financial, noise, safety, and aesthetic impacts of the project.
11

12 8. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

13 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony
14 as new information subsequently becomes available or in response to
15 positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell**, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 23rd day of November 2021.

/s/ Thomas G. Lindgren

Thomas G. Lindgren
Assistant Attorney General

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Case No(s). 19-1871-EL-BTX

Summary: Testimony Prefiled Testimony of James S. O'Dell on Behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M. Naeder on behalf of OPSB