

**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR THE  
ROUND BOTTOM ROAD IMPROVEMENT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE  
PROJECT – RE-ROUTE**

**PUCO Case Number 20-543-GA-BLN**

**Submitted pursuant to O.A.C. 4906-6**

**Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.**

**March 12, 2020**



**ROUND BOTTOM ROAD IMPROVEMENT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT –  
RE-ROUTE**

**HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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This Letter of Notification (LON) has been prepared by Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., (Duke Energy Ohio) in accordance with the procedures set forth in Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) Chapter 4906-6 Accelerated Certificate Application Requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB or Board). This purpose of this application is to amend a previous application filed as Case Number 20-0048-GA-BLN, which was approved on February 14, 2020.

**4906-6-05 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**4906-06-05(B)(1)(a): Name of the Project**

Duke Energy Ohio is proposing to construct a natural gas pipeline identified as the Round Bottom Road Improvement Natural Gas Pipeline Project (the Project) in the Village of Newtown and Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

**4906-06-05(B)(1)(b): Brief Description of the Project**

Duke Energy Ohio proposes to install 2.28 miles of 16-inch, high-pressure gas distribution pipeline from the intersection of State Route 32 (SR 32) and Round Bottom Road to the Round Bottom Road Station on Broadwell Road. The new pipeline will increase the capacity of the distribution system in the immediate area and areas to the north and east.

The southern terminus of the Project is at Round Bottom Road and SR 32. The Project then runs east along SR 32 for approximately 0.2 miles. From there, the Project then runs north from SR 32 across several tracts of privately owned land for approximately 0.4 miles, including crossing under the Cincinnati Eastern Railroad, until it reaches Round Bottom Road. The Project then parallels Round Bottom Road for approximately 1.7 miles, running northeast. This section of the Project crosses under Dry Run Creek, a tributary to the Little Miami River, and also includes crossing underneath Round Bottom Road at two locations. Some of the easements along this 1.7-mile stretch are adjacent to the road right-of-way, but the remaining easements are set back from the road to provide a safer construction work environment where possible. The project then turns east from Round Bottom Road, crossing private tracts of land for approximately 0.4 miles to its northern terminus near Round Bottom Road Station, on Broadwell Road, approximately 0.1 miles east of Round Bottom Road.

The new pipeline will be designed for a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 500 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) and will have a normal operating pressure of 180 psig. Much of the proposed easement consists of previously developed and maintained lands, including parking lots, road right-of-way, local businesses, public parks, and farmland. The northern portion includes several partially wooded residential lots. Access to the pipeline workspace will be accomplished from existing public roads and driveways, in addition to the easements obtained for the Project.

As previously stated, this application is being filed to amend the previously approved route due to a landowner complication that prevented the granting of an easement near the southern terminus of the Project. Duke Energy Ohio was unable to obtain an easement on the property owned by 7204 Main LLC,

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which resulted in the need for a minor re-route. This location was previously where the pipeline route turned north from SR 32. The new route involves turning north from SR 32 further to the west (approx. 375 feet) than previously proposed. The new route connects with the previously approved route just north of the Cincinnati Eastern railroad crossing. The resultant re-route is depicted on the figures in Attachment 1 and new landowners and easements are described in greater detail in section 4906-06-05(B)(8) of this application.

**4906-06-05(B)(1)(c): Why the Project Meets the Requirements for a Letter of Notification**

The Project qualifies as a Letter of Notification filing because it meets the criteria of O.A.C. Rule 4906-1-01, Appendix B, that provides for (1) new construction, extension, relocation, upgrade, or replacement (except with a like facility) of gas pipelines or pipeline segments (b) greater than one mile in length but not greater than five miles in length. The Project involves new construction of a 16-inch diameter pipe having an approximate length of 2.28 miles.

**4906-06-05(B)(2): Statement of Need for the Proposed Facility**

The Project will install approximately 12,000 feet of 16" high-pressure distribution steel piping. Gas flowing through this segment of pipe will travel as far east as Owensville and as far north as Loveland. During winter conditions, this section of the gas system experiences significant pressure losses, with hydraulic modeling predicting losses as high as 40 psig.

During the 2018 and 2019 winter seasons, these losses were so high that pressure into the Round Bottom Road Regulating Station was below the required outlet pressure of 140 psig. The station was manually operated on bypass by a field crew to avoid customer outages in the area. The following depicts the current conditions.

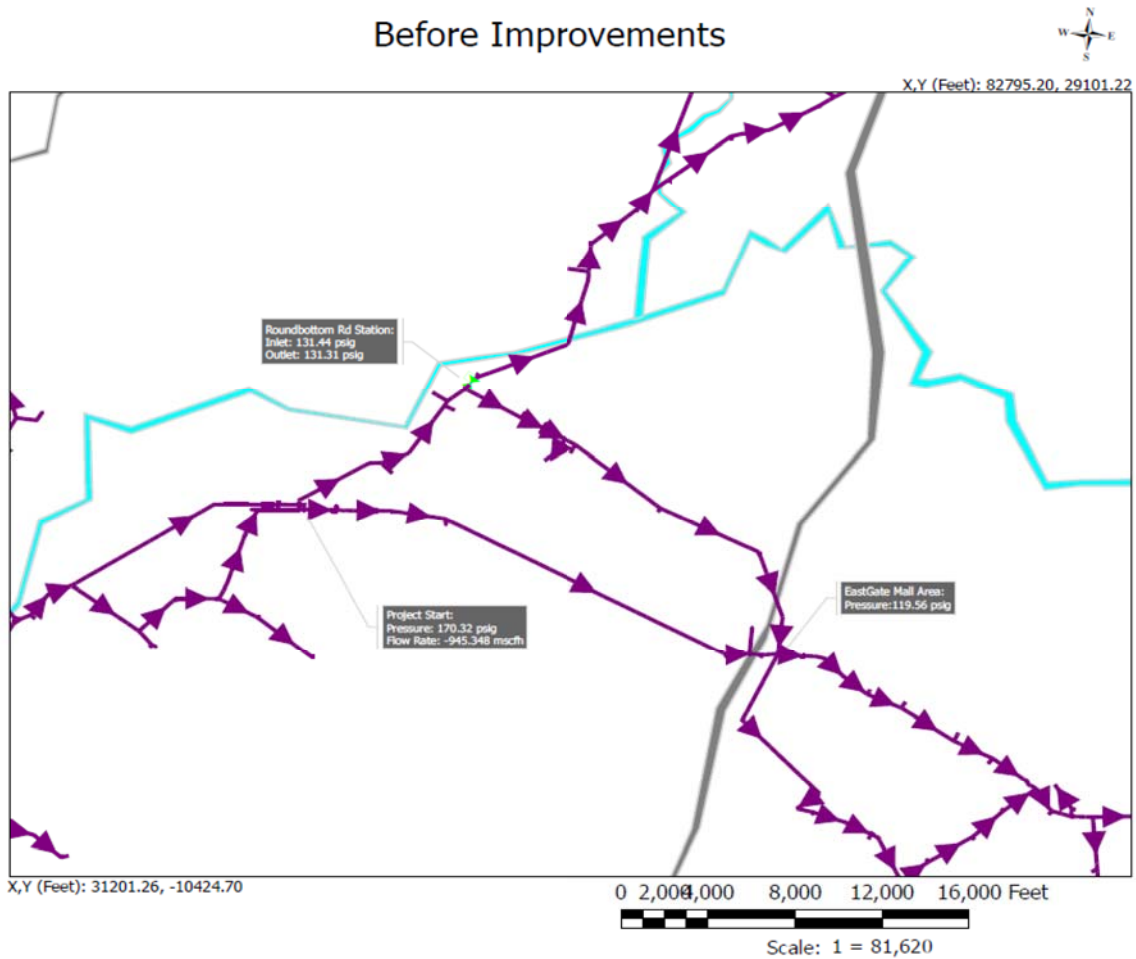
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**Current Pressure Conditions at Round Bottom Road Station**

**Before Improvements**



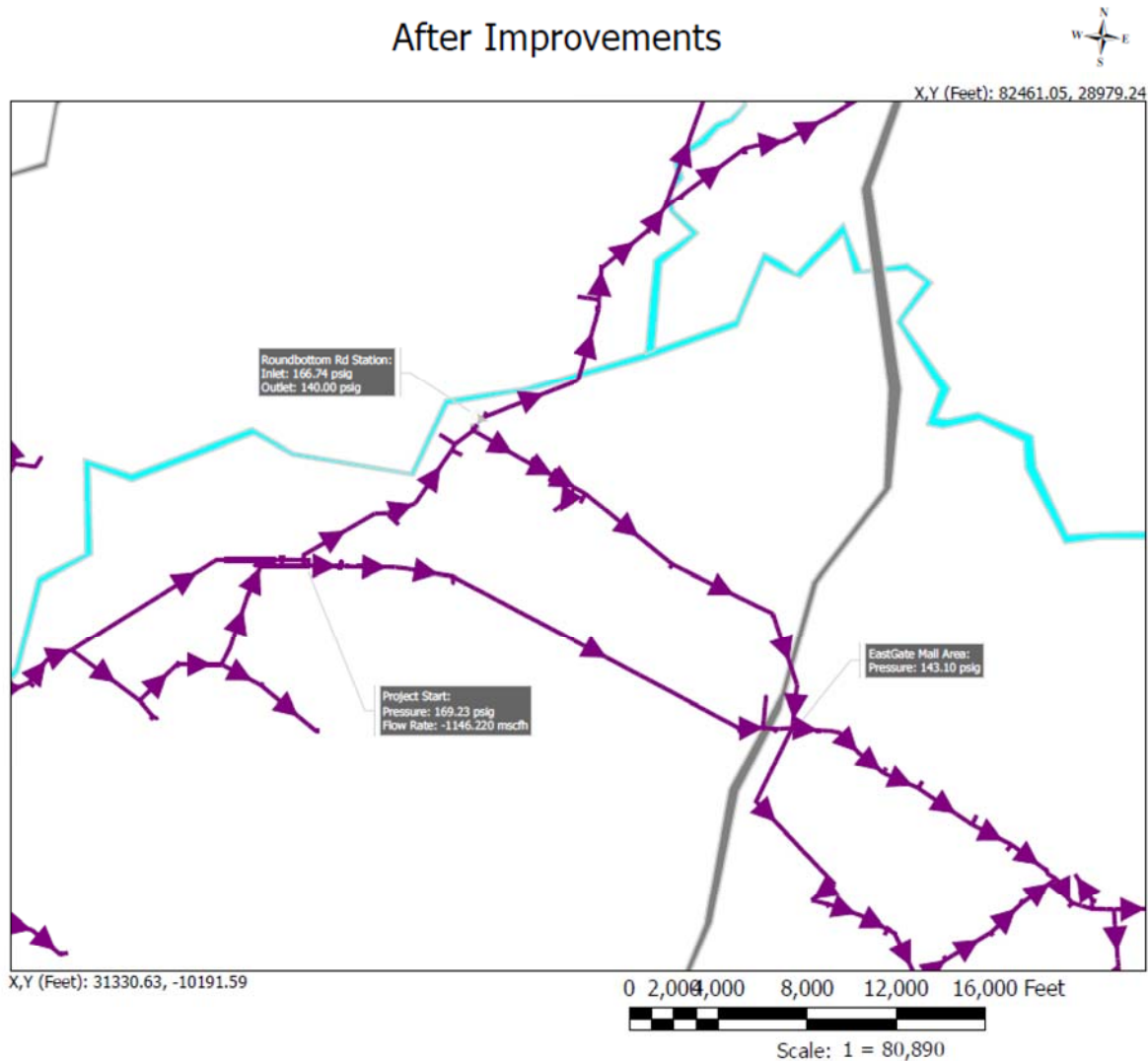
Installing 16-inch diameter pipe will eliminate these losses and prevent inadequate pressure levels at the Round Bottom Road Station, allowing it to support local pressures in the immediate vicinity. The following depicts the proposed conditions, following construction of the Project.

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**Proposed Pressure Conditions at Round Bottom Road Station**

**After Improvements**



**4906-06-05(B)(3): Location of the Project**

The location of this Project is illustrated on the Figures in Attachment 1. Figure 1 shows the general Project vicinity illustrated on a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the proposed 16-inch diameter pipeline, overlaid on an aerial base map.

**4906-06-05(B)(4): Alternatives Considered**

As stated in Section 4906-06-05(B)(1)(b), above, Duke Energy Ohio proposes to construct approximately 2.28 miles of 16-inch diameter steel pipe to mitigate pressure losses observed during winter months.



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Given that the Project's purpose is to enhance system pressure, Duke Energy Ohio's primary siting objective was to locate the proposed pipeline within or adjacent to the existing right-of-way of Round Bottom Road near an existing pipeline, to the extent practical, in order to minimize new impacts to surrounding lands. At the onset of the Project, the proposed route was almost entirely within the right-of-way of Round Bottom Road. However, as the design developed, it became evident that easements and workspaces outside the road right-of-way would be needed to safely and effectively construct the Project due to the limited space within the Round Bottom Road right-of-way and the heavy traffic along Round Bottom Road throughout the day.

Multiple route iterations were considered that involved altering the route at the northern and southern ends to avoid a busy intersection and impacts to traffic patterns during construction. Stakeholders and landowners were considered and engaged with, throughout the design process. The final route selected will have less impact to traffic flow along Round Bottom Road during construction and provides ample workspace to safely execute pipeline construction.

**4906-06-05(B)(5): Description of Public Information Program**

Duke Energy Ohio has had face-to-face meetings with all property owners and tenants listed on Attachment 2, informing them of the nature of the Project, the proposed timeframe of the Project construction, permanent and temporary easement requirements, and restoration activities. The Company also met with a number of the property owners to discuss engineering issues, including multiple meetings with some. Additionally, mailings were sent to landowners to inform them of the Project (see Attachment 3). Duke Energy Ohio has also met the requirements of O.A.C. 4906-6-07 for this accelerated application and will provide proof of compliance within 7 days of this filing, as required.

**4906-06-05(B)(6): Anticipated Construction Schedule and Proposed In-Service Date**

Construction on the previously approved route is anticipated to begin on March 11, 2020. Construction of the re-routed portion will commence upon OPSB approval of this application. The Project is anticipated to be completed and in service by November 1, 2020.

**4906-06-05(B)(7): Project Area Map with Aerial Image**

Project area maps with an aerial image at 1:24,000 scale, showing roads and major watercourses, are included as Figures in Attachment 1.

**4906-06-05(B)(8): Property Owner List**

A list of the affected properties for which Duke Energy Ohio has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements, is given in Attachment 2. Agreements have been obtained from all affected property owners except for four, which are described below. New easements that were obtained to construct the pipeline re-route have been obtained from Mojave East and John G. and Michael W. Anderson. Refer to Attachment 2, as needed.

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Line List No. 1013.00 – Newtown Village LLC – Duke Energy is in contract to purchase this property. There is no known reason that the purchase of this property will not close.

Line List No. 1017.00 - Horizon Community Church – Duke Energy has attended several meetings with the church over the last six months. The agreement is currently with their attorney for review. Once the attorney review is complete, the Church Board will vote on the issue. The church’s representative has stated that he will ask the Church Board to approve the project. There is no known reason that voluntary settlement will not be reached.

Line List No. 1047.00 – Martin Marietta –Duke Energy Ohio has been in frequent contact with this property owner to resolve outstanding issues with the easement agreement. Discussions are ongoing and are expected to be resolved in the near future. There is no known reason that voluntary settlement will not be reached.

4906-06-05(B)(9): Technical Features

4906-06-05(B)(9)(a): Operating Characteristics, Required Structures, and Right-of-Way and/or Land Requirements

The following information summarizes the operating characteristics and construction specifications for the proposed replacement 16-inch diameter pipeline:

- **Pipe Material:** 16-inch diameter steel pipeline
- **Normal Operating Pressure:** 180 psig
- **Pipe Wall Thickness and Yield Strength:** 0.375-inch thickness with a yield strength of 65,000 psig
- **Coating Type:** Externally coated with 14-16 Mils of Fusion Bonded Epoxy (FBE). For bored crossings, a powercrete coating will also be applied
- **Cathodic Protection:** Anodes
- **Structures:** No additional structures will be required for the new pipeline.
- **ROW and/or Land Requirement:** The permanent pipeline easement is typically 50 feet to a maximum of 66 feet in width, with up to another 20 to 50 feet of additional temporary workspace where required. Conventional boring methods will be used to install the pipeline underneath the Cincinnati Eastern Railroad at the southern end of the Project, and Dry Run, a perennial stream crossed by the Project. At bored crossings, additional workspaces have been acquired to facilitate boring operations. All additional workspaces were also considered and evaluated for ecological and cultural resources.

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4906-06-05(B)(9)(b): Electric and Magnetic Fields

This Project involves the construction of a natural gas pipeline; therefore, this section is not applicable.

4906-06-05(B)(9)(c): Estimated Capital Cost of the Project

The capital cost of this Project is estimated to be approximately \$6,415,910.

4906-06-05(B)(10): Social and Ecological Impacts of the Project

4906-06-05(B)(10)(a): Land Use

The proposed Project is located in the Village of Newtown and Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. Current land use in the vicinity of the proposed Project includes cemetery grounds, agricultural, forested, residential, public park land, commercial, and light industrial (all property owners are listed in Attachment 2). Agricultural parcels are present near the northern end of the route, along the east side of Round Bottom Road. Several partially forested parcels are crossed where the route deviates from Round Bottom Road at the northern Project terminus. Some of these parcels also contain single family residences. Additional small forested areas are associated with a perennial stream, Dry Run, along Round Bottom Road, and a walking trail along a pond near the railroad crossing at the southern end of the Project. The Project crosses Anderson Township Park and Riverside Park, as well as lands owned by the Hamilton County Park Board. Light industrial/commercial parcels and private businesses make up the majority of the southern half of the route, including Hydro Systems, Evans Landscaping and Supplies, Rack 7 Paving, and others. The Flag Spring Cemetery is located on the west side of Round Bottom Road, about 400 feet west of the project route. No new land uses were encountered as part of the minor Project re-route.

4906-06-05(B)(10)(b): Agricultural Land

The proposed Project easement includes land used for agricultural purposes along the east side of Round Bottom Road, from Riverside Park to Bilby Lane. This property is currently used for agricultural production as defined by Chapter 929 of the Ohio Revised Code and two of the land parcels crossed by the Project are part of the current agricultural use value (CAUV) program, according to Hamilton County Auditor records. These parcels include PID 1053 and 1047 and are currently used as sod farms (see Attachment 2). Impacts to these parcels will be subsurface and temporary, with minimal impacts to agricultural production. There are no Agricultural District Lands, as defined by Chapter 929 of the Ohio Revised Code. No additional agricultural land is crossed as a result of the minor Project re-route.

4906-06-05(B)(10)(c): Archeological and Cultural Resources

A Phase 1 Cultural Resources survey was conducted for the Project by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell), on November 12, 2019 and November 19, 2019. A supplemental survey of the newly re-routed portion of the Project was completed February 24, 2020. Trained

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archeologists surveyed all proposed workspaces, including permanent easements and temporary easements being obtained for construction. Methods included pedestrian surveys for parcels that were bare and actively being disturbed, and shovel testing for parcels with obscuring ground cover. Twenty-two formal shovel test pits, and numerous informal probes were dug during the survey. In general, soils in the Project area showed evidence of previous disturbances. Pedestrian survey and shovel test pits did not yield any cultural resource findings, and the Project is not anticipated to impact any historic properties. The initial report was approved by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Agency on January 16, 2020. An addendum has been filed, and approved on March 10, 2020, summarizing the results of the additional study that was completed. The additional survey was consistent with the initial survey and no historical resources were documented. The concurrence letter that was received for the initial route is included in Attachment 8.

906-06-05(B)(10)(d): Local, State, and Federal Governmental Agencies Which Have Requirements That Must be Met by the Project

The following governmental agencies have requirements that must be met at various times by this Project:

<b>TABLE 1. GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WHICH HAVE PROJECT APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS, AUTHORIZATIONS OR PERMITS</b>	
<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>DOCUMENTATION</b>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Huntington District	Wetland, Waterbody, and Bat Habitat Report
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Consultation Letter Running Buffalo Clover Survey Report Wetland, Waterbody, and Bat Habitat Report
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Review Request
Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Compliance Letter Phase 1 Cultural Resources Report

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	NOI for General Construction Stormwater Permit
Ohio Power Siting Board	Letter of Notification Application
Hamilton County Engineering Department	Driveway Permit Right-of-Way Permit Heavy Haul Permit
Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District	Earthwork/Earth Movement Permit
Hamilton County Planning & Development Department	Floodplain Development Permit
Village of Newtown/Anderson Township	Right-of-way Permit
	MSD Water Withdrawal and Discharge Authorization for Hydrostatic testing
	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
	Environmental Data Request (EDR, not required but recommended)

4906-06-05(B)(10)(e): Federal and State Designated Species

In December 2018 and May 2019, Burns & McDonnell, on behalf of Duke Energy Ohio, conducted a threatened and endangered species habitat assessment of the Project area for federally listed species known to occur within Hamilton County, Ohio. A supplemental survey of the re-routed portion of the Project occurred on February 21, 2020. According to the USFWS’s County Distribution List of Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species for Hamilton County, Ohio, the following species were identified as occurring, or potentially occurring in the Project area: the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, threatened), fanshell mussel (*Cyprogenia stegaria*, endangered), pink mucket pearlymussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*, endangered), rayed bean mussel (*Villosa fabalis*, endangered), sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*, endangered), snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*, endangered), and the running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*, endangered).

In addition to reviewing the USFWS’s County Distribution List, the ODNR Division of Wildlife’s County Distribution List of State Listed Wildlife Species was consulted for Federally listed endangered or

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threatened species as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Hamilton County. The ODNR's County Distribution List identified the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, the running buffalo clover, as well as the five mussel species that were noted by the USFWS. The ODNR also identified the following state endangered species:

- Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*),
- Cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*)
- Shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*)
- Shoal chub (*Macrhybopsis hyostoma*)
- Plains clubtail (*Gomphus externus*)
- Purplish copper (*Lycaena helloides*)
- Elfin skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*)
- Regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)
- Butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolate*)
- Elephant-ear (*Elliptio crassidens crassidens*)
- Purple cat's paw mussel (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*)
- Northern riffleshell mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*)
- Ebonyshell mussel (*Fusconaia ebena*)
- Long-solid mussel (*Fusconaia maculate maculate*)
- Sharp-ridge pocketbook (*Lampsilis ovata*)
- Yellow sandshell mussel (*Lampsilis teres*)
- Washboard mussel (*Megalonaias nervosa*)
- Clubshell mussel (*Pleurobema clava*),
- Ohio pigtoe mussel (*Pleurobema cordatum*)
- Pyramid pigtoe mussel (*Pleurobema rubrum*)
- Monkeyface mussel (*Quadrula metanevra*)
- Wartyback mussel (*Quadrula nodulata*)
- Louisiana broom-rape (*Orobancha riparia*).

Additionally, ODNR identified the following state threatened species:

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- Blue sucker (*Cycoreptus elongatus*)
- Bigeye shiner (*Notropis boops*)
- Mountain madtom (*noturus eleutherus*)
- Channel darter (*Percina copeland*)
- River darter (*Percina shumardi*)
- Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
- Black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*)
- Threehorn wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*)
- Sloan's crayfish (*Orconectes sloanii*)
- Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*)
- Pondhorn (*Uniomerus tetralasmus*)
- Eastern harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys hummulis*)
- Tansy mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*)
- Dwarf bulrush (*Lipocarpa micrantha*)
- Riverbank paspalum (*Paspalum repens*)
- Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- Missouri gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*)
- Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)

The Project area was evaluated by a team of two Burns & McDonnell biologists on December 18 and 19, 2018, May 15 and 16, 2019, and February 21, 2020 to document existing vegetation communities, hydrologic conditions, and other habitat characteristics. Each type of habitat present within the Project area was qualitatively evaluated for its potential to be suitable habitat for the running buffalo clover, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and the aforementioned mussel species. The habitat assessment revealed potentially suitable habitat for the running buffalo clover, Indiana bat, and the northern long-eared bat. A formal running buffalo clover survey was then performed by a qualified, trained biologist and is described in detail below. Impacts to protected bat species will be avoided by clearing during the USFWS-approved tree clearing window (October to March). Potentially suitable freshwater mussel habitat is present based on the presence of streams within the Project area; however, there are no stream impacts proposed by the Project and impacts to protected mussels are not anticipated. UFSWS and ODNR Consultation Letters and are included in Attachment 5.

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**Running Buffalo Clover**

The running buffalo clover (RBC) habitat survey revealed that approximately 0.17 acres, or <1 percent of the total Project area, met the habitat considerations as potential RBC habitat. No additional RBC habitat was identified during the supplemental field survey for the Project re-route. The remaining areas within the Project study corridor do not provide suitable habitat conditions for the RBC based on one or more of the following habitat considerations: lack of sun exposure, high invasive species presence, lack of disturbance regime, and inappropriate light conditions. Burns & McDonnell subsequently conducted an RBC survey on the potential habitat that was identified in the Project area. No RBC individuals or populations were observed during the survey. The survey was conducted following standard methods and guidelines for endangered plant surveys, as approved by the USFWS, which included a species-specific survey within potentially suitable habitat during the flowering period, using a known local population, to allow for positive identification of the species.

**Indiana and Northern Long-Eared Bats**

Living or dead trees with shedding or peeling bark or cavities may serve as roosting trees for the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat. The field review that was completed by Burns & McDonnell identified 4 potential roost trees (PRT) for the Indiana and/or northern long-eared bats within the variable width limit of disturbance for the Project. An additional PRT was identified within the survey area for the re-routed portion, but it will not be impacted by construction of the selected re-route. In order to meet USFWS requirements, Duke Energy Ohio proposes to fell the 4 PRTs between October 1 and March 31. Removal of non-habitat trees in the ROW is proposed to also be cleared outside of the maternity roosting window for these species.

Duke Energy Ohio submitted written requests for findings to the USFWS and the ODNR regarding any adverse effect to any federally listed, threatened, or endangered species in the Project area. The USFWS and ODNR response letters are included as Attachments 6 and 7, respectively. In a letter response, dated July 10, 2019, the USFWS identified the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat as being within the range of the Project. The USFWS recommended that removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches diameter breast height (dbh) only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats.

The ODNR also responded with records and comments in a letter, dated August 1, 2019. The ODNR Natural Heritage Database identified 19 records within a one-mile radius of the Project area. None of these 19 records are anticipated to be adversely affected by the Project. The ODNR reported that if suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees must be cut, the ODNR recommends the cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. The ODNR also reported that the Project is within the range of several other protected species. However, based on the Project location, absence of in-water work in streams, and the types of habitat that are crossed by the Project, the Project is not likely to impact these species.



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4906-06-05(B)(10)(f): Areas of Ecological Concern

There are no national and state forests and parks, designated or proposed wilderness areas, wildlife areas, refuges, management areas, or sanctuaries in the Project area. Portions of the Project area are located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year floodplain associated with the Little Miami River, which is a State and National Scenic River.

In December 2018 and May 2019, Burns & McDonnell conducted a wetland and waterbody delineation and assessment of the entire Project corridor. Six emergent wetlands and one palustrine wetland were identified and delineated within the study area, totaling approximately 1.097 acres. All wetlands were characterized using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for wetlands, and each wetland was classified as Category One. Category One wetlands are generally considered to be low quality wetlands. Three ephemeral streams and one perennial stream, Dry Run, were identified within the Project Area. Streams were assessed using either the Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) or the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) to evaluate their overall quality. The ephemeral streams had HHEI scores between nine and 33 and Dry Run had a QHEI score of 55. Construction of the Project is proposed to temporarily impact 0.090 acres of low-quality (category 1) emergent wetlands. The remaining wetlands and all streams are proposed to be avoided by the Project. A supplemental survey of the Project re-route was performed on February 21, 2020. No new streams or wetlands were identified in the re-routed portion of the Project. The re-routed area was heavily disturbed/developed and would generally be considered low quality habitat. A figure summarizing the site conditions on the re-routed portion is included in Attachment 4.

During the design of the Project, efforts were made to route the Project and plan temporary workspaces to minimize unnecessary temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands. The proposed temporary wetland impacts are below the reporting threshold for which a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required and the thresholds for which Ohio EPA wetland permitting is required. The Project will be conducted under a Nationwide Permit 12 for utility line activities, in accordance with the general and specific conditions of that authorization. Wetland impacts are shown on Wetland Impacts Figure in Attachment 4 and described in Table 1 below:

**Table 2: Proposed Temporary Wetland Impacts**

Wetland ID	ORAM Category/Type	Size of Impact (acres)	Temporary Impact Type
WKR01	Category 1/PEM	0.028	Open-cut installation
W-01	Category 1/PEM	0.039	Open-cut installation
WKR03	Category 1/PEM	0.016	Open-cut installation
WKR02	Category 1/PEM	0.007	Laydown yard matting
Total	-	0.090	-

**CASE NO. —20-543-GA-BLN**

**ROUND BOTTOM ROAD IMPROVEMENT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT –  
RE-ROUTE**

**HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

4906-06-05(B)(10)(g): Any Unusual Conditions Resulting in Significant Environmental, Social, Health, or Safety Impacts

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment will be completed for the two parcels that are being purchased to complete the Project. Additionally, a database and records search for the Project corridor was conducted using the Environmental Data Resources LLC Premium Package (EDR). This review package includes a comprehensive review of federal, state, and local data resources to identify potential environmental, social, health, or safety concerns within a 1-mile radius of the Project corridor. These data were reviewed and the potential for subsurface contamination that could have environmental, social, health, or safety impacts was evaluated. The area has historically had some light industrial land use and, as such, the EDR search returned historic records within and along the Project corridor. To limit the potential for adverse impacts if subsurface contaminants are encountered during pipeline construction, Duke Energy and its contractors will closely monitor soil conditions in areas known to have historical industrial use, will stop work immediately upon the discovery of potentially harmful subsurface materials, and will complete the necessary due diligence to properly handle and dispose of potentially impacted materials. If contaminated soil is encountered, clean backfill will be reintroduced to the trench following pipeline installation.

4906-06-07: Letter of Notification Transmittal and Availability for Public Review

Copies of the Letter of Notification have been sent to the appropriate public officials for Hamilton County, Anderson Township, and the Village of Newtown, as well as to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library. Additionally, a newspaper notice will be run in the Cincinnati Enquirer within seven days of filing of this Letter of Notification. Duke Energy Ohio will maintain on its website information as to how to request an electronic or paper copy of the application. Finally, Duke Energy Ohio will file proof of compliance with this rule within seven days of filing this application.


---

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**FIGURES**

---



 New 16" Pipeline

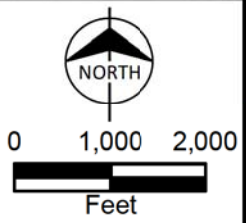


Figure 1  
Vicinity Map  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio

Path: Z:\Clients\TND\DukeEnr\11659\_RoundBottomRD\Studies\Geospatial\DataFiles\ArcDocs\OPSB\RoundbottomRd\_Fig1\_CLRt11.mxd kdboatright 2/26/2020  
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Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society. I-cubed



- Proposed Pipeline
- Project Area

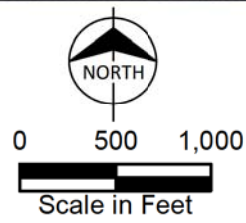
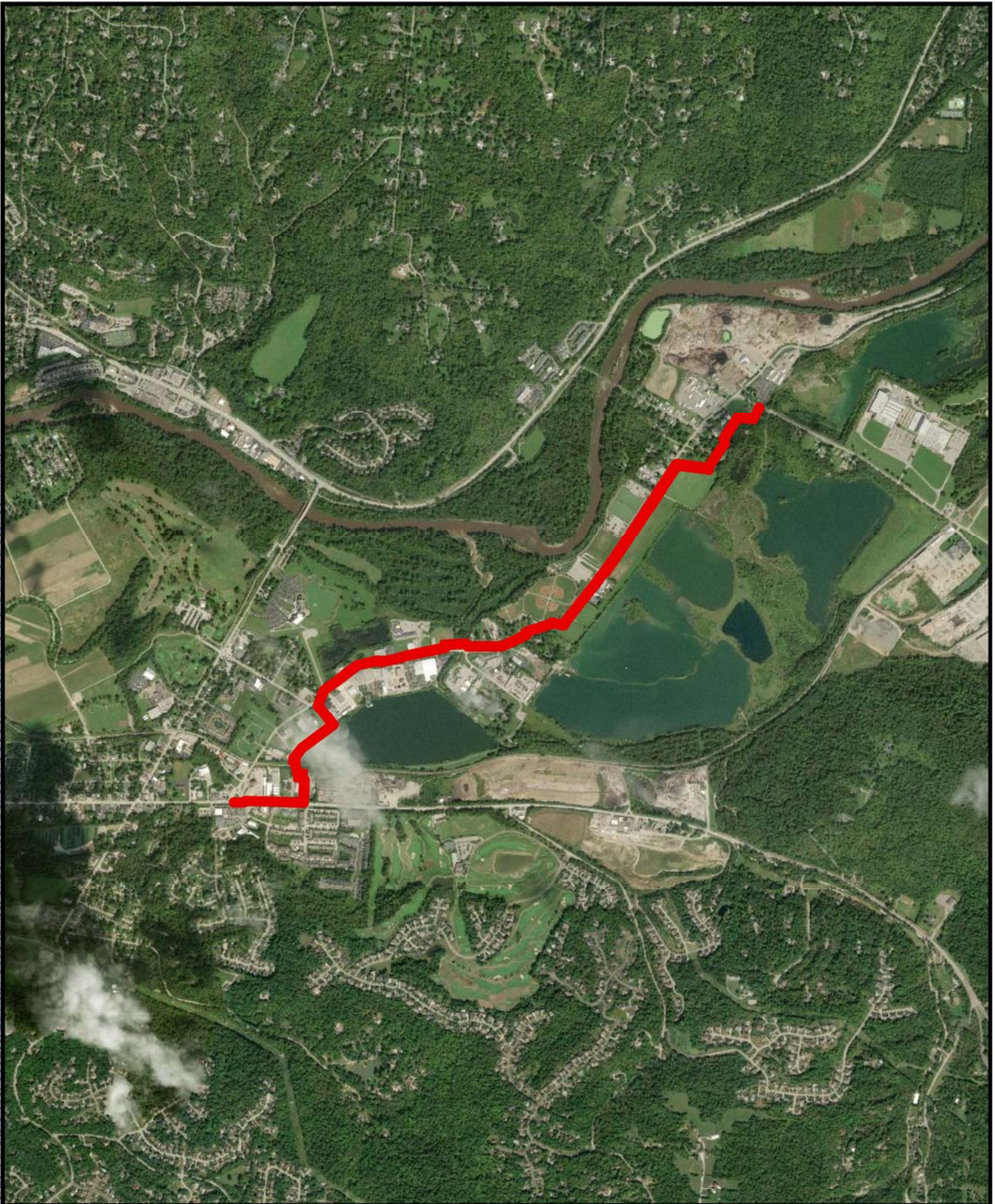


Figure 1  
Vicinity Map  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio

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Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



 New 16" Pipeline

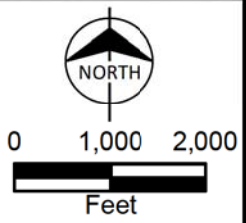


Figure 2  
Aerial Map  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio

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Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



— Proposed Pipeline  
— Project Area

NORTH

0 250 500

Scale in Feet



Figure 2  
Aerial Map  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio

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Existing Pipeline To Be Downgraded

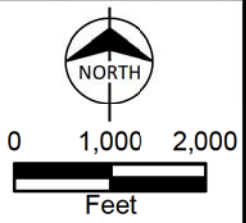


Figure 3  
Aerial Map  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio



---

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**LANDOWNERS OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EASEMENTS**

---

Round Bottom Road Land Owner Line List

Tax ID	Line_List	OWNNM1	SITUS ADDRESS	SITUS CITY, STATE ZIP	Mailing Address	MAILING CITY, STATE ZIP	ACRES
501-0011-0028-00	RB_1004.00	JOHN G. & MICHAEL W. ANDERSON	7188 Main St	Newtown, OH 45244	7188 Main St	Newtown, OH 45244	2.637
501-001-0027-00	RB_1005.00	MOJAVE EAST LLC	7202 Main St.	Newtown, OH 45244	7202 Main St.	Newtown, OH 45244	2.437
501-0011-0035-00	RB_1007.02	MORE SALLY A & SALLY MORE TR	3550 ROUND BOTTOM RD	NEWTOWN, OH 45244	3550 ROUND BOTTOM RD	Newtown, OH 45244	0.041
501-0011-0053-00	RB_1009.00	VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN OHIO	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3536 CHURCH ST	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	73.001
501-0003-0048-00	RB_1009.01	HORIZON COMMUNITY CHURCH	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3950 NEWTOWN RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	1.467
501-0003-0030-00	RB_1009.02	WAHLKE PAUL D & BARBARA S	7019 OAK ST	CINCINNATI OH 45244	7019 OAK ST	CINCINNATI OH 45244	.629
501-0011-0039-00	RB_1013.00	NEWTOWN VILLAGE LLC	Round Bottom RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	513-619-5954		1.971
501-0011-0001-00	RB_1017.00	HORIZON COMMUNITY CHURCH	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3950 NEWTOWN RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	19.775
501-0003-0085-00	RB_1018.00	JAMES A & MARIA K REDROW	3669 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	5421 CHERRY BLOSSOM CT	MILFORD, OH 45150	0.243
501-0003-0051-00	RB_1019.00	JAMES A & MARIA K REDROW	3679 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	5421 CHERRY BLOSSOM CT	MILFORD, OH 45150	0.358
501-0011-0081-00	RB_1020.00	DSI HOLDINGS LLC	3737 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3737 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	4.075
501-0011-0086-00	RB_1021.00	DSI HOLDINGS LLC	3737 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3737 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	1.250
501-0011-0087-00	RB_1022.00	D B HUGHES PROPERTIES LLC	3753 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3914 OAK ST	CINCINNATI, OH 45227	1.348
501-0011-0076-00	RB_1023.00	OSI ENTERPRISES LTD	3765 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3761 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	5.276
501-0011-0075-00	RB_1024.00	HYDRO SYSTEMS COMPANY A DELAWARE CORP	3798 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3798 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3.010
501-0011-0079-00	RB_1025.00	HAMILTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COM	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	10245 WINTON RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45231	0.271
501-0011-0090-00	RB_1026.00	HAMILTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COM	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	10245 WINTON RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45231	9.232
501-0011-0003-00	RB_1027.00	PAUL GRAVOIS	3807 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3807 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	1.360
501-0011-0062-00	RB_1028.00	VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN OHIO	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3819 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.150
501-0011-0063-00	RB_1029.00	VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN OHIO	3536 CHURCH ST	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3819 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.083

Round Bottom Road Land Owner Line List

501-0011-0059-00	RB_1032.00	VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN OHIO	3536 CHURCH ST	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3536 CHURCH ST	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.066
501-0011-0060-00	RB_1034.00	VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN OHIO	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3536 CHURCH	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.174
501-0011-0006-00	RB_1035.00	CAMP DENNISON PROPERTIES LLC	3839 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3839 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.613
501-0011-0007-00	RB_1036.00	CAMP DENNISON PROPERTIES LLC	3839 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3839 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.572
501-0011-0010-00	RB_1041.00	ANDERSON PARK DISTRICT	3863 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	8249 CLOUGH PK	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.275
501-0011-0011-00	RB_1042.00	ANDERSON PARK DISTRICT	3867 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	8249 CLOUGH PK	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.272
501-0011-0012-00	RB_1043.00	ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DIST BD OF PK COMMRS	3877 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	8249 CLOUGH PK	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.877
500-0240-0010-00	RB_1045.00	ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DIST BD OF PK COMMRS	3969 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	8249 CLOUGH PK	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	21.729
500-0240-0016-00	RB_1047.00	MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS INC	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	PO BOX 8040	FORT WAYNE, IN 46898	6.294
500-0240-0021-00	RB_1048.00	SIX KIDS INVESTMENTS LLC	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	0.352
500-0240-0017-00	RB_1049.00	SIX KIDS INVESTMENTS LLC	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	1.881
500-0240-0022-00	RB_1050.00	SIX KIDS INVESTMENTS LLC	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	3950 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	1.433
500-0161-0003-00	RB_1051.00	MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS INC	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	PO BOX 8040	FORT WAYNE, IN 46898	11.727
500-0163-0001-00	RB_1052.00	MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS INC	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	PO BOX 8040	FORT WAYNE, IN 46898	487.865
500-0161-0001-00	RB_1053.00	MARTIN MARIETTA MATERIALS INC	ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244	PO BOX 8040	FORT WAYNE, IN 46898	10.129
500-0171-0132-00	RB_1064.02	BOBY J HOUSLEY	4138 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244			1.120
500-0171-0133-00	RB_1064.03	BOBY J HOUSLEY	4138 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244			0.144
500-0171-0135-00	RB_1064.04	BOBY J HOUSLEY	4138 ROUND BOTTOM RD	CINCINNATI, OH 45244			1.872
501-0004-0062-00	RB_1006.01	FREDES ENTERPRISES LLC	7140 RAGLAND RD	CINCINNATI OH 45244	3550 BEHYMER RD	CINCINNATI OH 45245	0.488

---

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION LETTER**

---

# Duke Energy Natural Gas **SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

As part of our commitment to providing safe, reliable natural gas service, Duke Energy will be working in your area soon. Duke Energy routinely performs projects like this as part of the ongoing investments we make in our natural gas delivery system.



*BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE<sup>SM</sup>*



Duke Energy  
139 E. 4th Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202



**Duke Energy is committed to providing safe, clean and reliable natural gas service.** We will be working on a project on Round Bottom Road and Valley Avenue between Broadwell Road and State Route 32 as part of our continued efforts to improve pipeline operations throughout our service territory. The Round Bottom Road project will involve installing a 2.8-mile section of natural gas pipeline in 2019.

Duke Energy and/or its contractors will be in your area within the next few weeks to perform survey and engineering work to help determine a route for this pipeline. Much of this work will be done in the roadway; however, the workers may need to enter your property to perform their work. The survey process is typically routine and minimally disruptive to private property. Utility locates will be performed at least 48 hours prior to the survey.

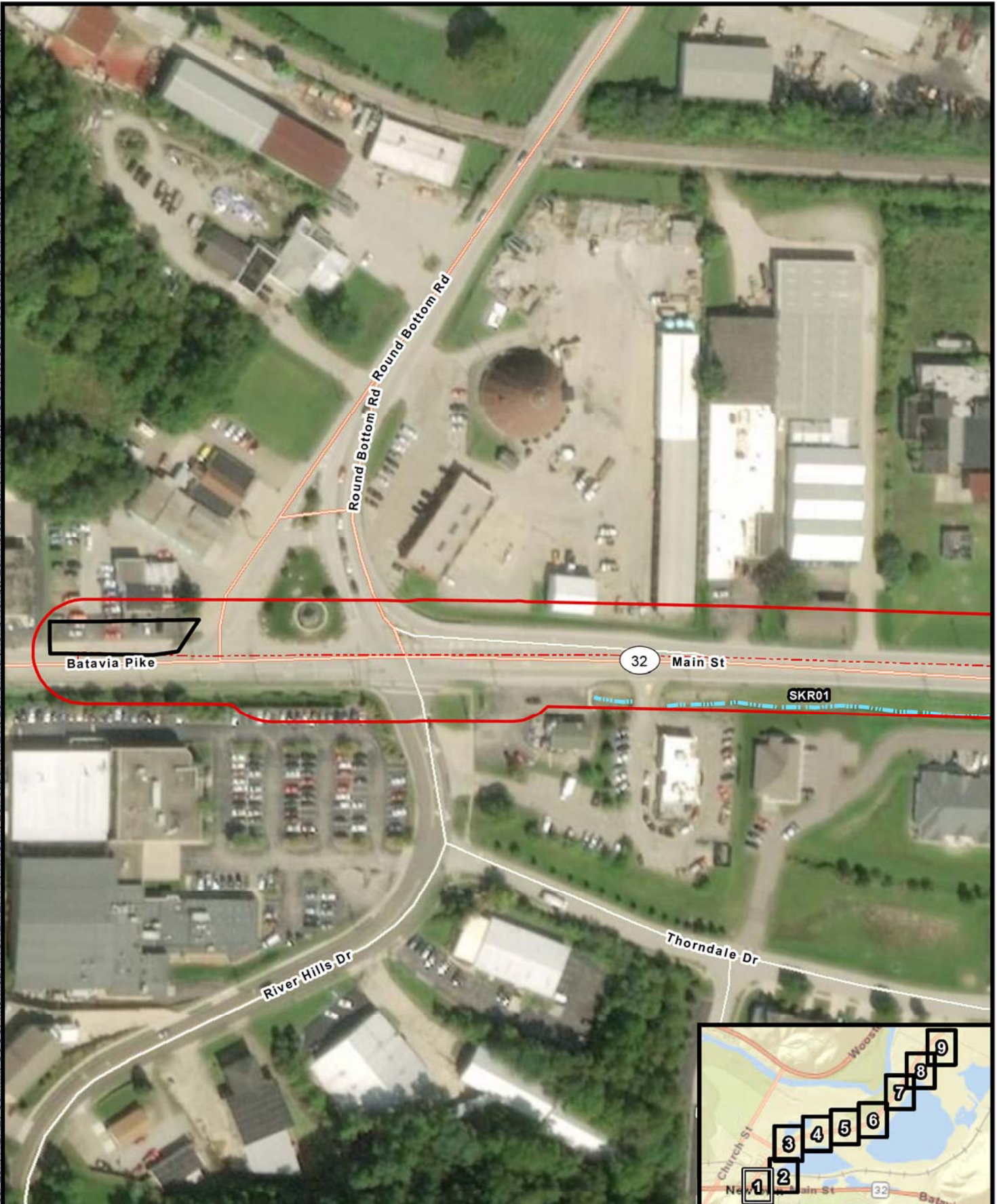
For any questions about the project, please contact Kurtis Catlett of Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co. Inc. by phone at **936.525.8275** or by email at **[kurtis.catlett@burnsmcd.com](mailto:kurtis.catlett@burnsmcd.com)**.

---

**ATTACHMENT 4**

**WETLAND AND WATERBODY IMPACTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL RE-  
ROUTE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS FIGURES**

---



	Proposed Route	<b>Wetland (W)</b>	
	Workspace		PEM
	Survey Area		PUB
	Impact	<b>Stream (S)</b>	
			Ephemeral
			Intermittent
			Perennial

NORTH

0      75      150

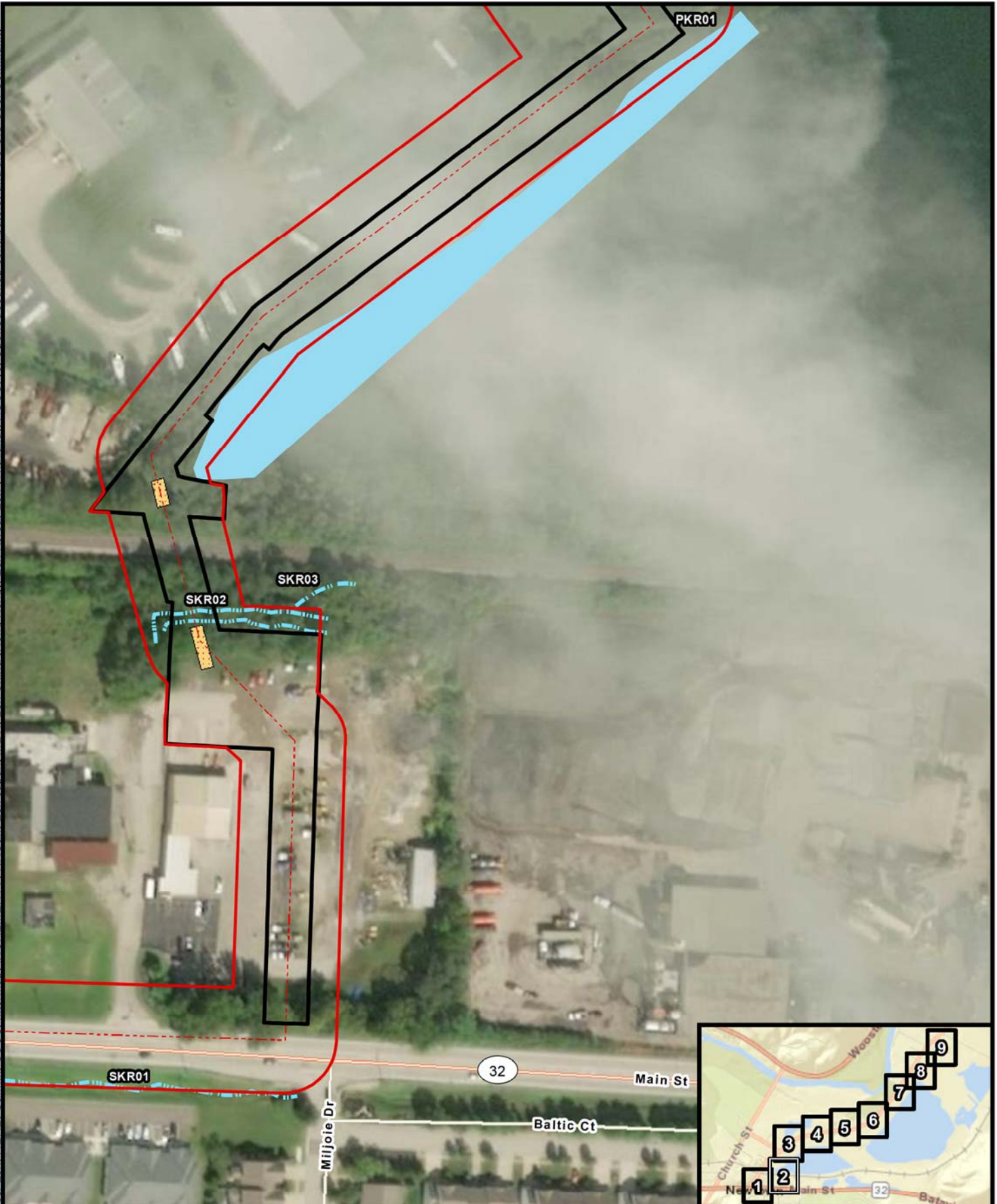
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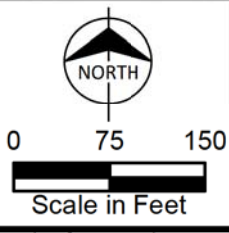
Wetland Impacts Figure  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
Page 1 of 9



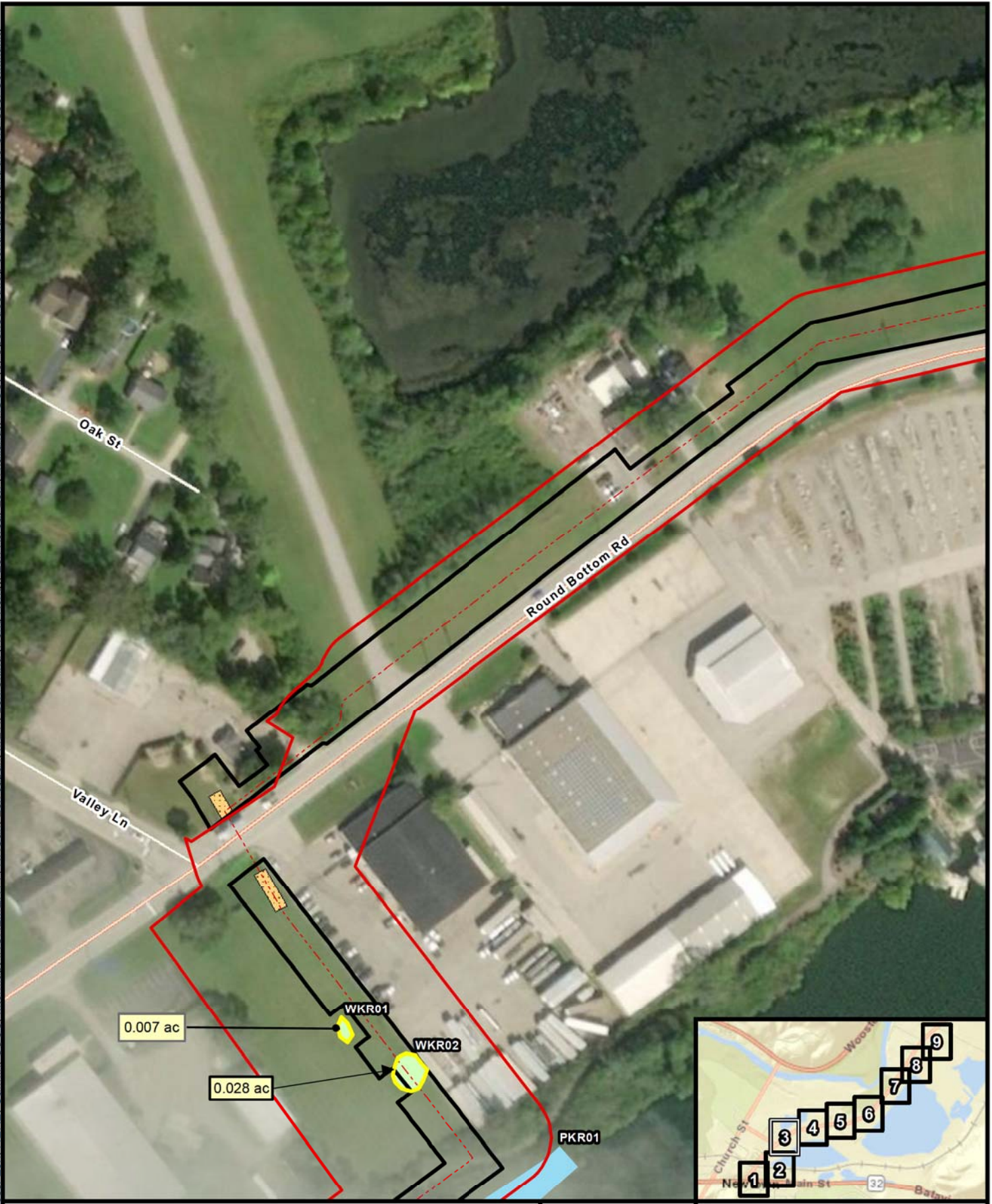
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- - - Proposed Route
- Bore Pit
- Workspace
- Survey Area
- Impact
- Wetland (W)**
- PEM
- PUB
- Stream (S)**
- Ephemeral
- Intermittent
- Perennial



Wetland Impacts Figure  
 Roundbottom Road  
 Hamilton County, Ohio  
 Page 2 of 9



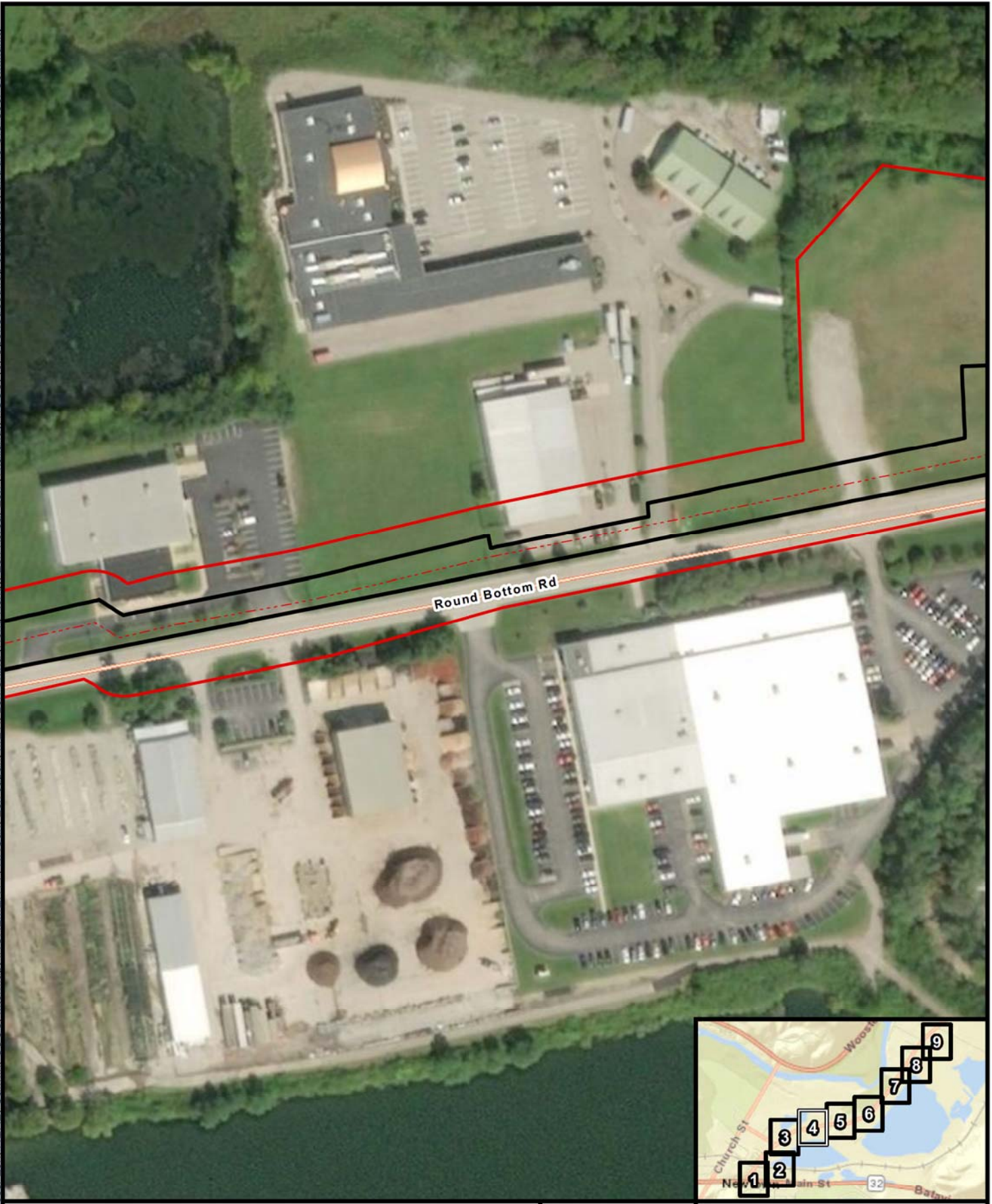
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Bore Pit	PEM
Workspace	PUB
Survey Area	<b>Stream (S)</b>
Impact	Ephemeral
	Intermittent
	Perennial

0 75 150

Scale in Feet



Wetland Impacts Figure  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
Page 3 of 9



	Proposed Route	<b>Wetland (W)</b>	
	Workspace		PEM
	Survey Area		PUB
	Impact	<b>Stream (S)</b>	
			Ephemeral
			Intermittent
			Perennial

NORTH

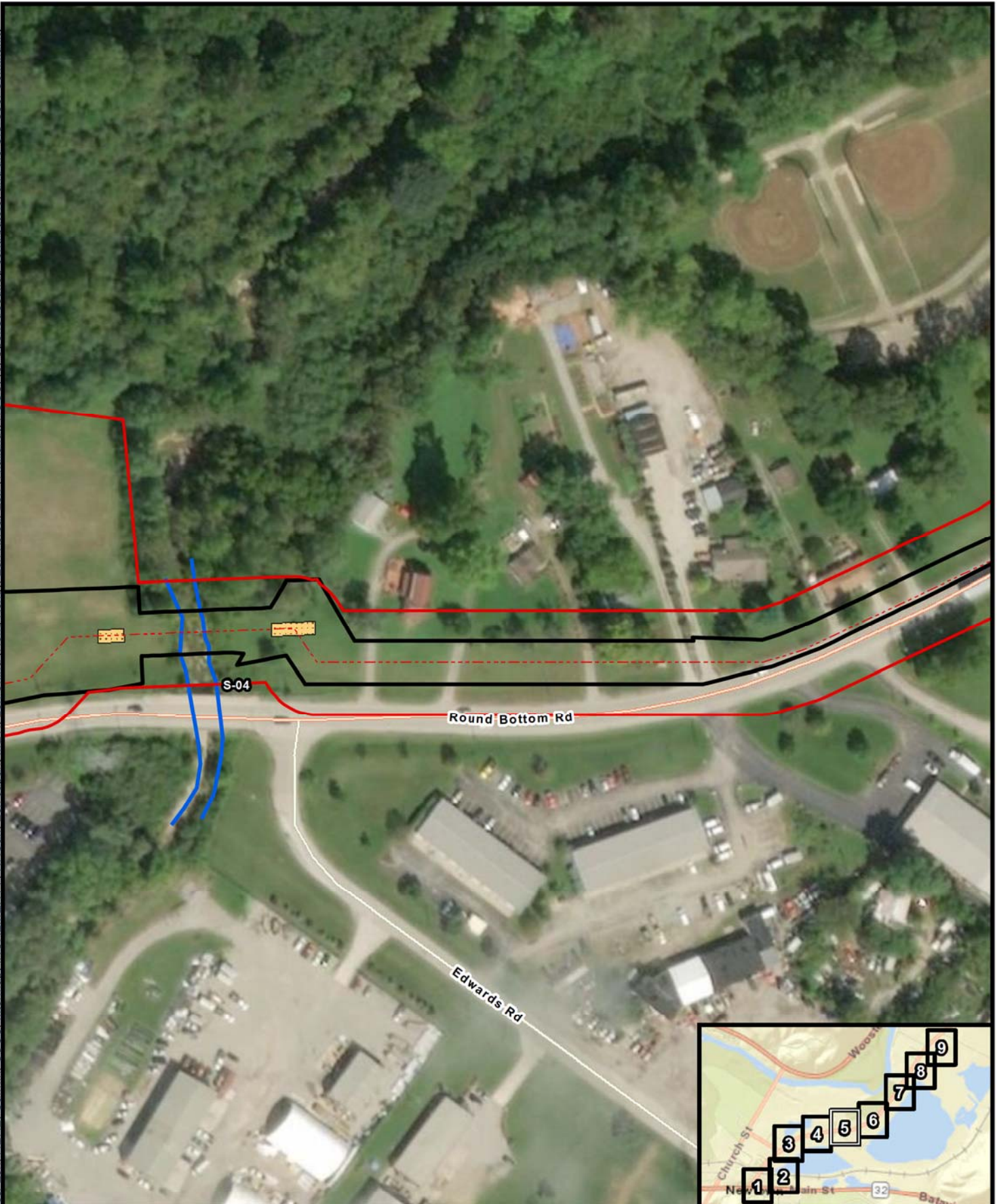
0      75      150

Scale in Feet



Wetland Impacts Figure  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
Page 4 of 9

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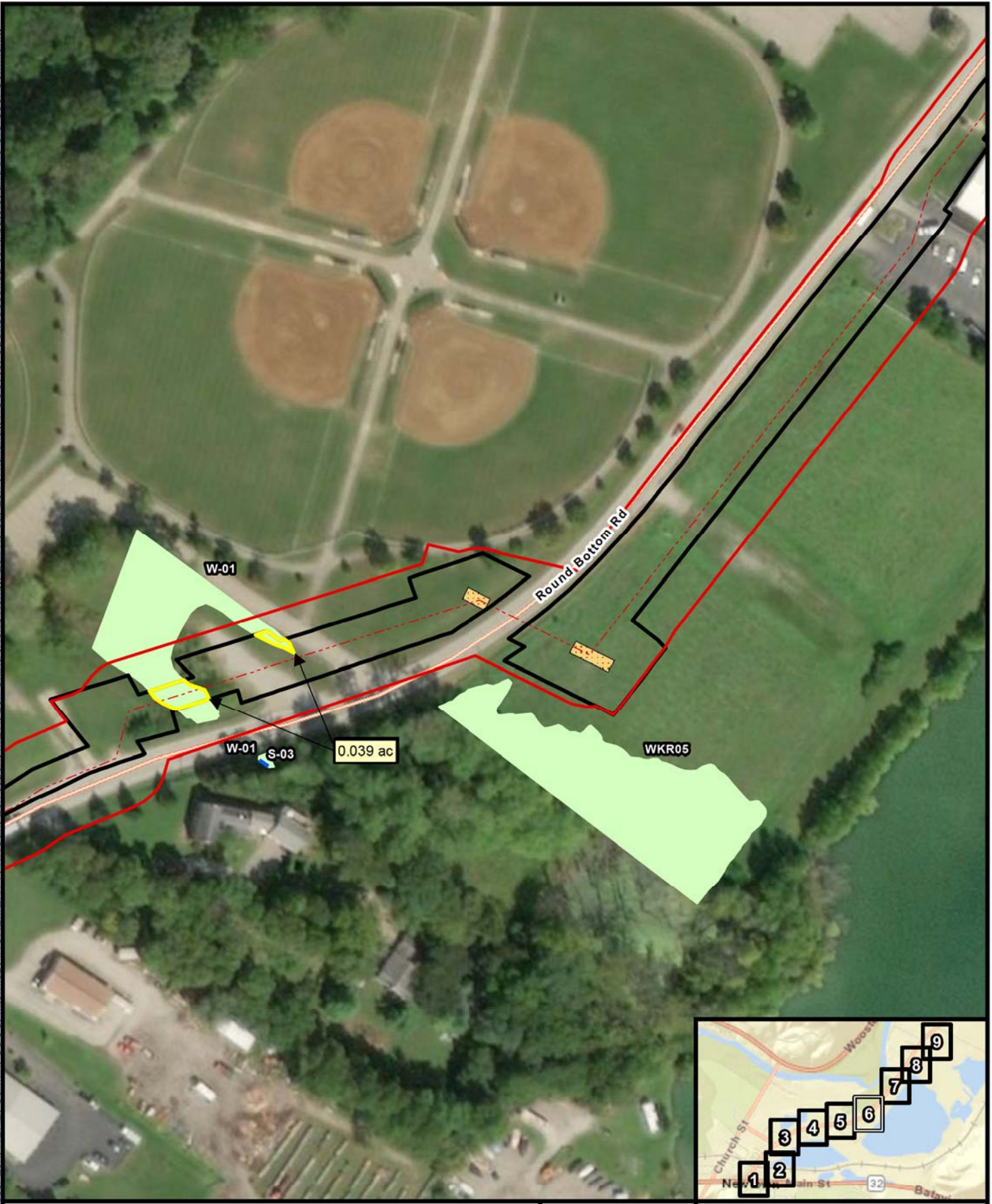


	Proposed Route	<b>Wetland (W)</b>	
	Bore Pit		PEM
	Workspace		PUB
	Survey Area	<b>Stream (S)</b>	
	Impact		Ephemeral
			Intermittent
			Perennial

NORTH  
  
 0 75 150  
 Scale in Feet



**Wetland Impacts Figure**  
**Roundbottom Road**  
**Hamilton County, Ohio**  
 Page 5 of 9



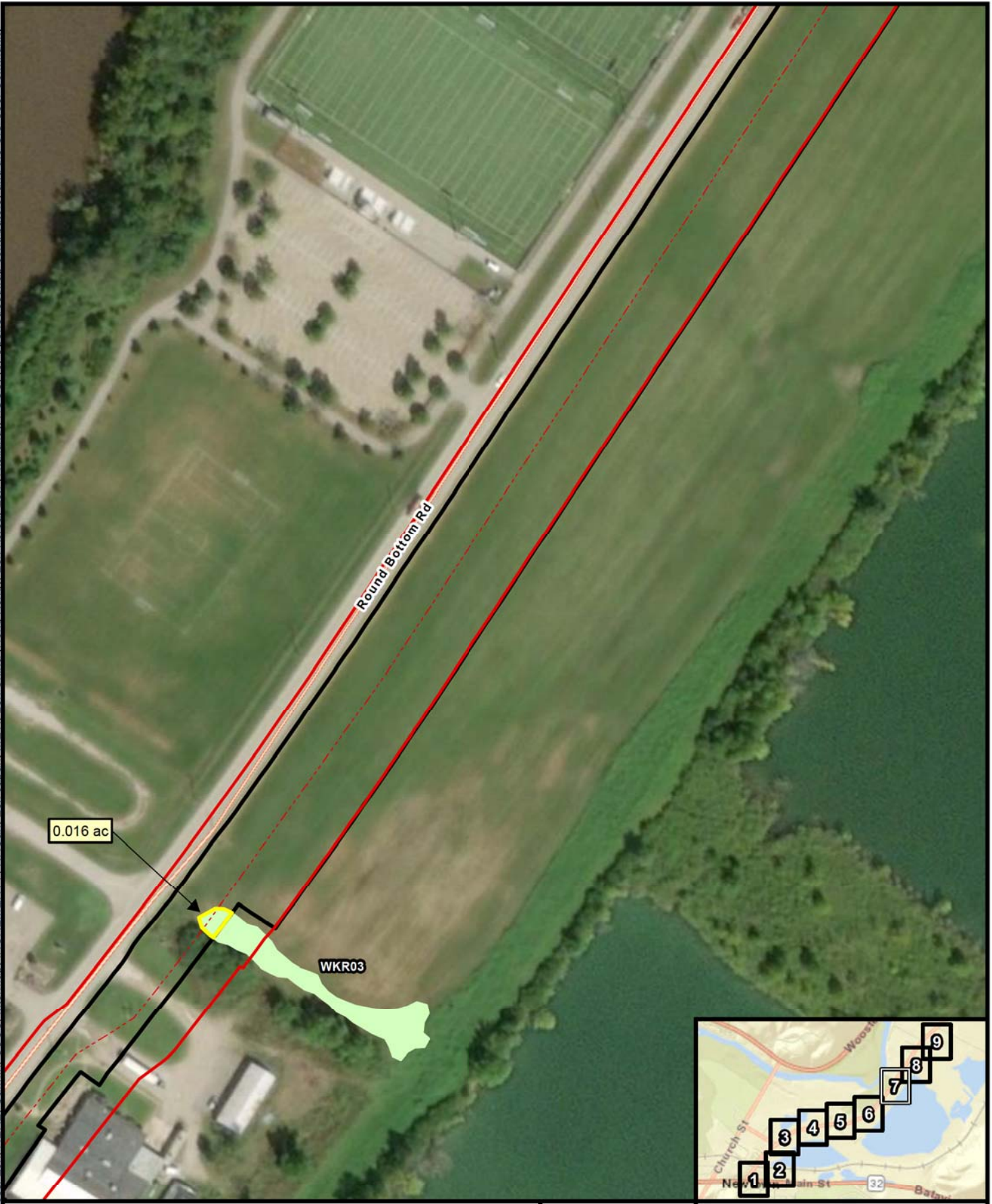
Proposed Route	<b>Wetland (W)</b>
Bore Pit	PEM
Workspace	PUB
Survey Area	<b>Stream (S)</b>
Impact	Ephemeral
	Intermittent
	Perennial

0 75 150

Scale in Feet



Wetland Impacts Figure  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
Page 6 of 9



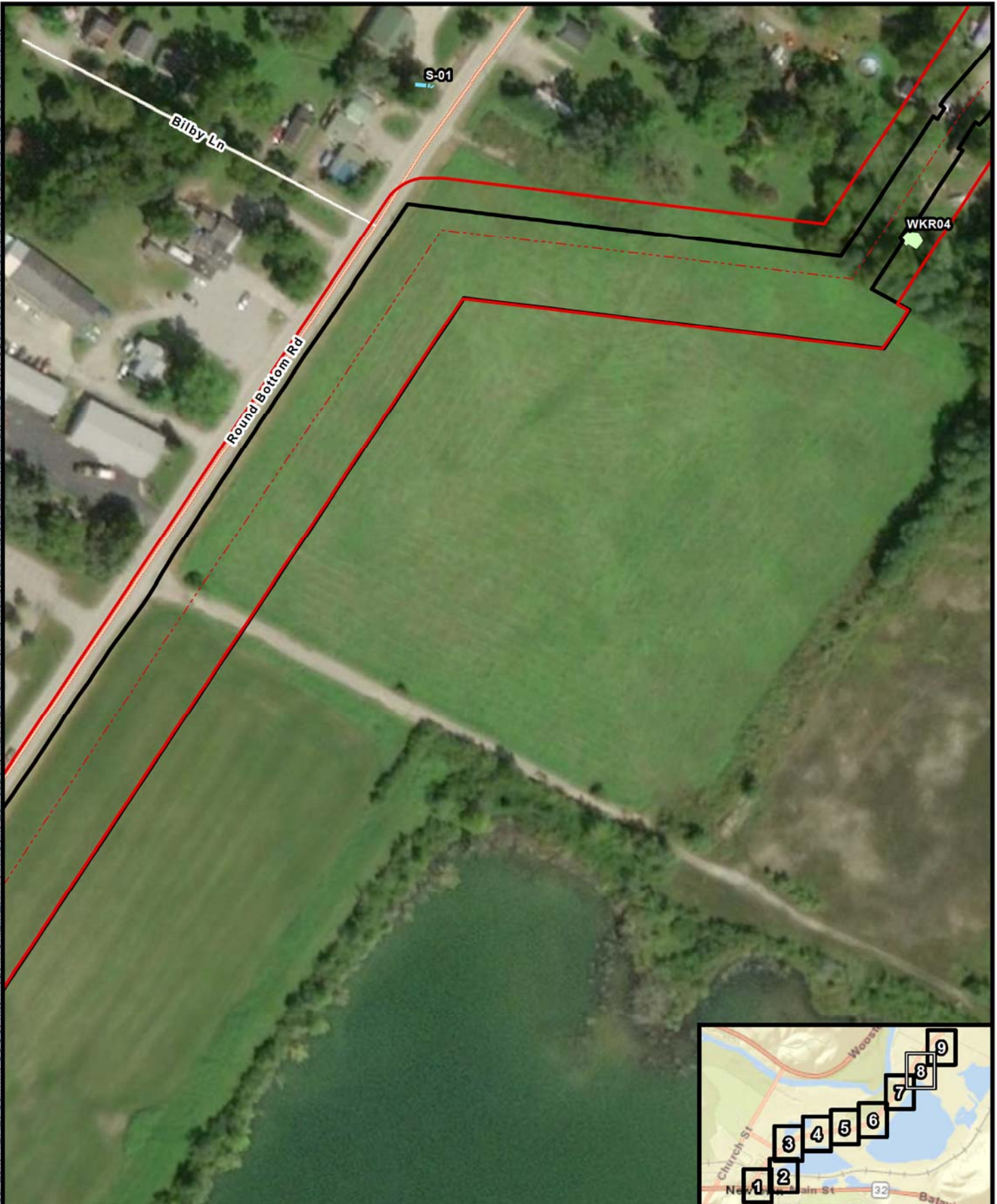
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed Route</li> <li> Bore Pit</li> <li> Workspace</li> <li> Survey Area</li> <li> Impact</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wetland (W)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> PEM</li> <li> PUB</li> </ul> <p><b>Stream (S)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Ephemeral</li> <li> Intermittent</li> <li> Perennial</li> </ul>	 <p>0 75 150</p> <p>Scale in Feet</p>
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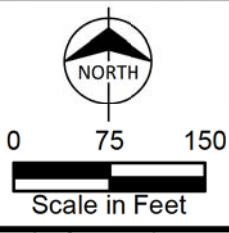
**Wetland Impacts Figure**  
**Roundbottom Road**  
**Hamilton County, Ohio**  
 Page 7 of 9

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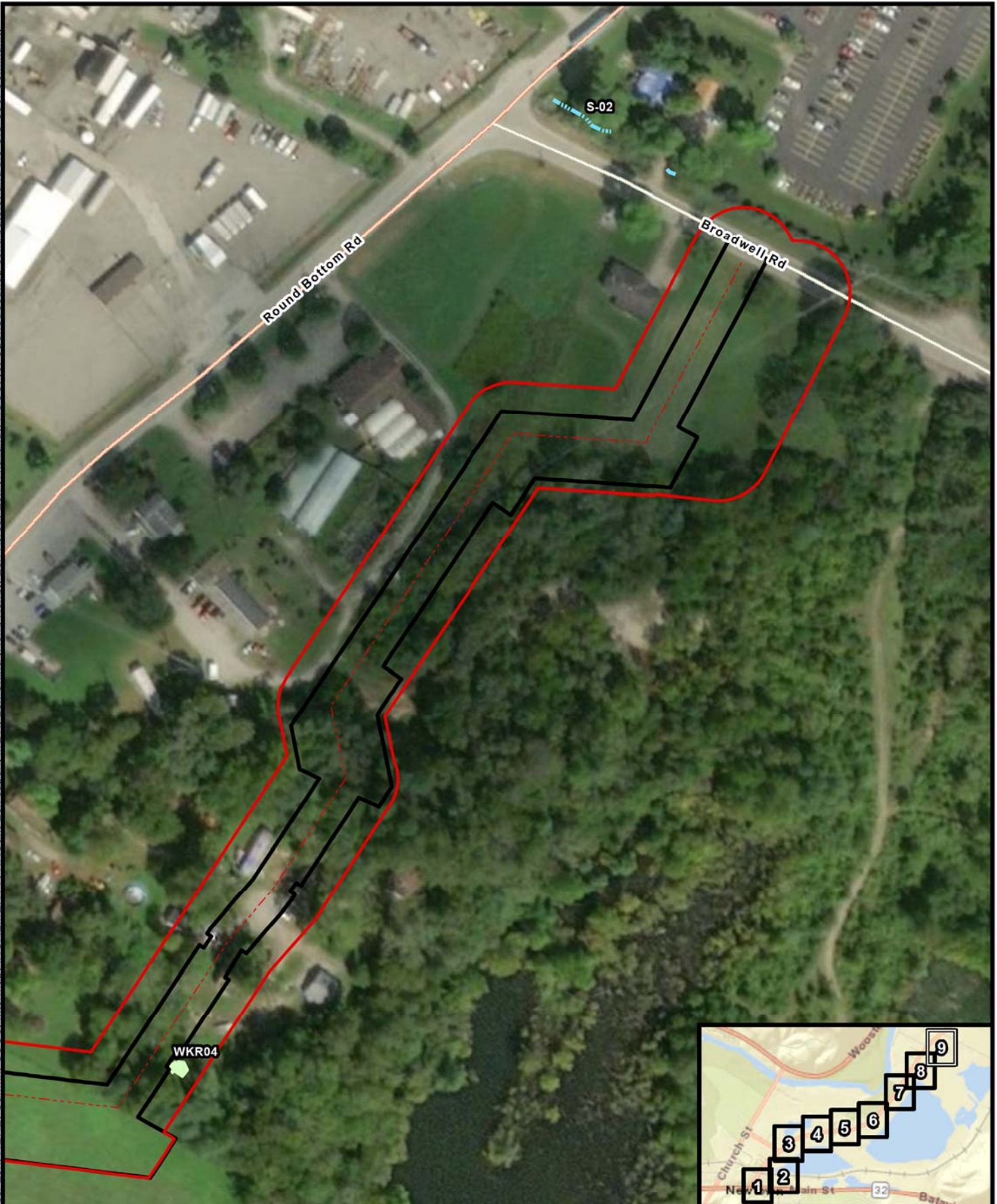


- |  |                |                    |              |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
|  | Proposed Route | <b>Wetland (W)</b> |              |
|  | Bore Pit       |                    | PEM          |
|  | Workspace      |                    | PUB          |
|  | Survey Area    | <b>Stream (S)</b>  |              |
|  | Impact         |                    | Ephemeral    |
|  |                |                    | Intermittent |
|  |                |                    | Perennial    |

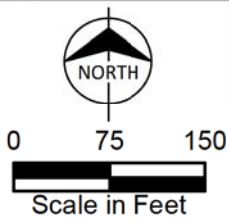


Wetland Impacts Figure  
Roundbottom Road  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
Page 8 of 9

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- - - Proposed Route
- Bore Pit
- Workspace
- Survey Area
- Impact
- Wetland (W)**
- PEM
- PUB
- Stream (S)**
- Ephemeral
- Intermittent
- Perennial



Wetland Impacts Figure  
 Roundbottom Road  
 Hamilton County, Ohio  
 Page 9 of 9



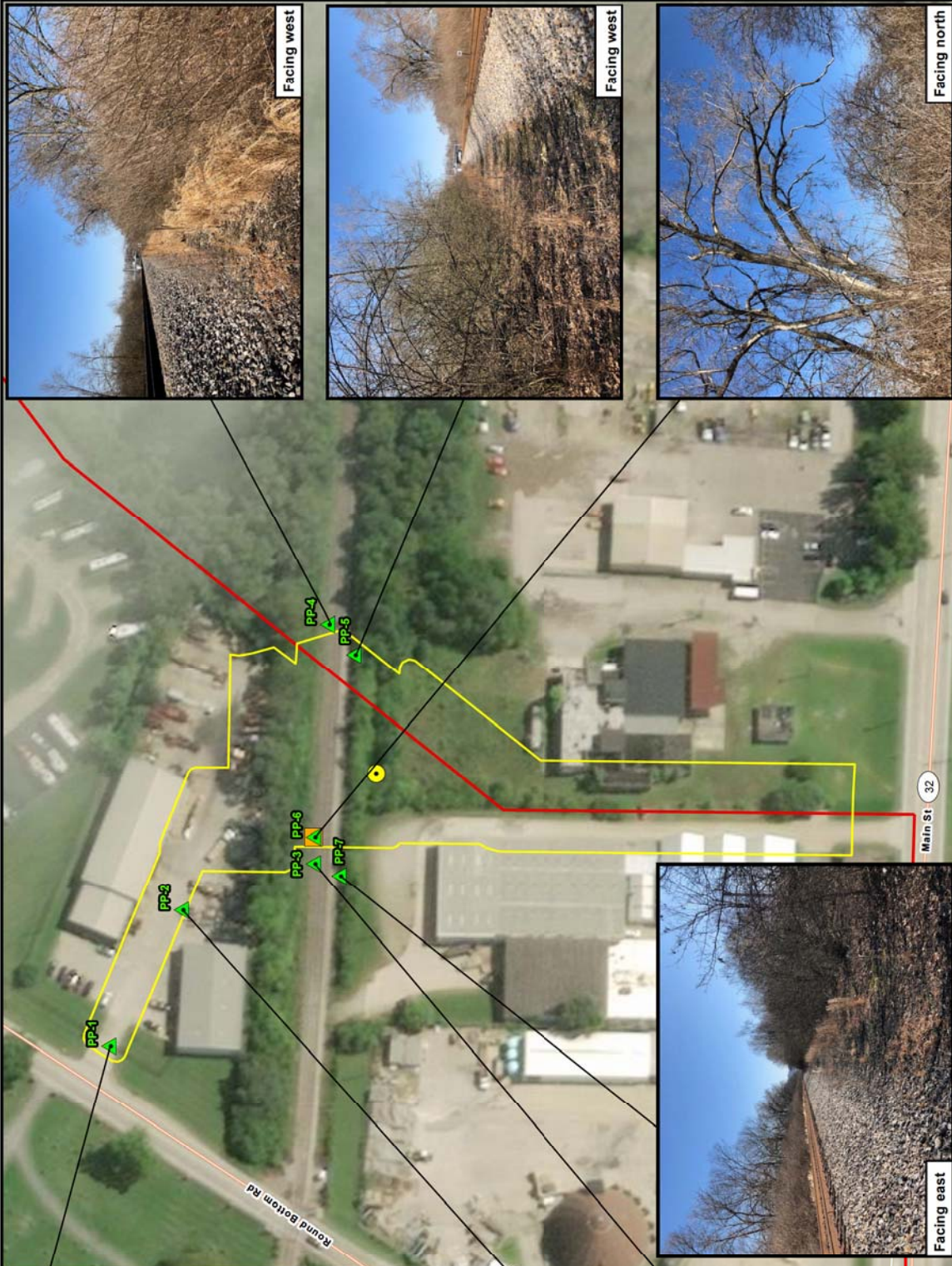
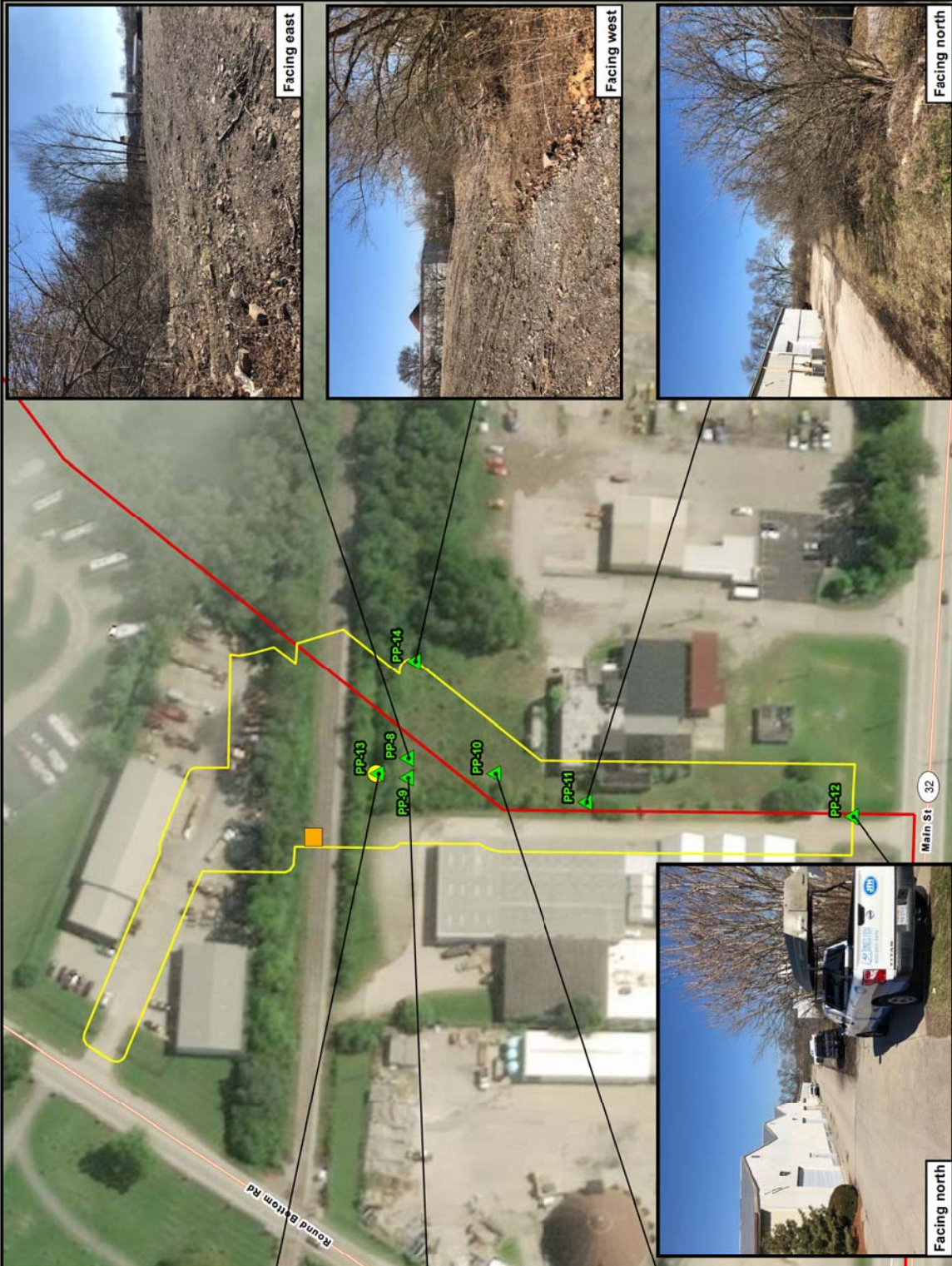


Figure 1  
 Ecological Impacts Figure  
 Roundbottom Road  
 Hamilton County, Ohio  
 Page 1

**BURNS MCDONNELL**

Scale in Feet  
 100 50 0 100

Legend:  
 Project (Yellow outline)  
 Proposed Pipeline (Red line)  
 Photograph Point (PP) (Green triangle)  
 Potential Bat Tree (Yellow square)  
 Sample Plot (Yellow circle)



**Legend**

- Project
- Proposed Pipeline
- ▲ Photograph Point (PP)
- Potential Bat Tree
- Sample Plot

**Scale in Feet**

100 50 0 100

**Figure 1**  
 Ecological Impacts Figure  
 Roundbottom Road  
 Hamilton County, Ohio  
 Page 2

**BURNS MCDONNELL**

Issued: 3/6/2020

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**ATTACHMENT 5**

**THREATENED/ENDANGERED SPECIES AGENCY COORDINATION  
LETTERS**

---



6/14/2019

Field Office Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230

Re: Round Bottom Road Improvement Project

Dear Sir or Madame,

On behalf of Duke Energy Ohio Inc., Burns & McDonnell is requesting concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that the proposed Round Bottom Road Improvement Project (Project) is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitats. The Project requires a concurrence from the USFWS as part of the Ohio Power and Siting Board Letter of Notification process that is required for the Project. The Project received concurrence from USFWS documenting no anticipated adverse impacts on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (TAILS# 03E15000-2019-TA-0618). This concurrence is provided as Attachment 1 to this correspondence. However, the Project scope and workspaces have changed as Project design has developed. Therefore, Burns & McDonnell is requesting additional concurrence from USFWS that the Project, including changes to scope and workspace, is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Details regarding the Project are included below:

Project Location: Along Round Bottom Road in the Village of Newtown and Anderson Township of Hamilton County between US-32 and Broadwell Road. See the attached figures for more details.

Proposed Work: The Project will consist of the installation of approximately 2.8 miles of 16" high pressure distribution natural gas pipeline beginning at State Road 32 and Round Bottom Road and ending at Round Bottom Road Station on Broadwell Road. The existing 8" and 12" pipeline will remain in place, and a new 8" pipeline will be tied into the existing line and continue approximately 1500' to tie into the existing system at Church Street. Much of the work will be conducted within or adjacent to existing road right-of-way, although portions at the northern and southern ends of the route traverse privately held lands.

Potential Species: The USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) was used to identify federally protected species that may occur within the Project area. According to the IPaC results no designated critical habitat is located within the Project area, and 7 federally endangered species and 1 federally threatened species have the potential to be present. These species, their designations, and their preferred habitats, are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Threatened and Endangered Species with Potential to be within the Project Area**

Species	Federal Status	Preferred Habitat	Designated Habitat within the Project Area
Fanshell ( <i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i> )	Endangered	Medium to large rivers. Typically buried in sand or gravel in deep water of moderate current with only the edge of its shell and its feeding siphons exposed.	No
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered	Winter hibernacula includes caves or abandoned mines. Summer roosting habitat includes wooded areas containing dead or dying trees or living trees that have cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark and a diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) of 5 inches or greater. Tend to forage within forest or along forest edges.	Yes
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Threatened	Winter hibernacula includes caves or abandoned mines. Summer roosting habitat includes wooded areas containing dead or dying trees or living trees that have cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark and a dbh of 3 inches or greater. Tend to forage in forests or along forest edges.	Yes
Pink Mucket ( <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> )	Endangered	Mud and sand and in shallow riffles and shoals swept free of silt in major rivers and tributaries.	No
Rayed Bean ( <i>Villosa fabalis</i> )	Endangered	Smaller, headwater creeks, but sometimes found in large rivers and wave-washed areas of glacial lakes. Prefers gravel or sand substrates, and often found in and around roots of aquatic vegetation.	No
Running Buffalo Clover ( <i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i> )	Endangered	Requires periodic disturbance and a somewhat open habitat. Cannot tolerate full sun, full shade, or severe disturbance. Historically found in rich soils between open forest and prairie. Currently found in partially shaded woodlots, mowed areas including lawns, parks, and cemeteries, and along streams and trails.	Yes
Sheepnose ( <i>Plethobasus cyphus</i> )	Endangered	Large rivers and streams in shallow areas with moderate to swift currents that flow over coarse sand and gravel. Also found in areas of mud, cobble and boulders. In large rivers they may be in deep runs.	No
Snuffbox Mussel ( <i>Epiolasma torulosa</i> )	Endangered	Small- to medium-sized creeks, in areas with a swift current, although it is also found in Lake Erie and some larger rivers. Most of the time, adults are burrowed deep in sand, gravel or cobble substrates, except when they are spawning, or the females are attempting to attract host fish.	No

Source: USFWS ECOS Species by County Report for Hamilton, Ohio, accessed November 8, 2018.

Onsite Habitats and Field Investigations: The proposed Project area is within or adjacent to road right-of way, with approximately 2/3 of the surrounding properties being developed commercial/residential properties and the remainder being undeveloped agricultural/public

recreational properties. Portions at the northern and southern end of the route diverge from Round Bottom Road and cross privately-owned parcels.

Burns & McDonnell completed an environmental survey the Project route on December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 and surveyed re-routed or expanded areas on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Trained wetland delineators and biologists conducted wetland and stream delineations using guidelines published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, including the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for wetland delineation and the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) and Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) for stream assessment. Additionally, field staff qualitatively documented habitat conditions along the Project route, including a species-specific running buffalo clover (RBC) survey.

Dry Run and 3 unnamed, ephemeral streams pass through the Project area. Dry Run had a QHEI score of 55 while the three unnamed ephemeral tributaries had HHEI scores ranging from 9 to 33. Six emergent wetlands and one pond are present onsite. Additionally, 4 trees were identified as potential suitable habitat for endangered bat species. These trees had characteristics suitable for roosting, such as cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark, during the summer season. All four of the trees were dead or dying. Although a species-specific survey was not conducted, no bats or evidence of bats (guano staining) were observed while on-site. A presence/absence survey was conducted for RBC due to the potential for suitable habitat to occur in expanded or re-routed workspaces. A total of 0.17 acres of potentially suitable habitat was surveyed during the flowering period for RBC, as documented by a nearby reference population, and the species was not observed during the environmental survey or the presence/absence survey. Two reports are attached to this correspondence. Attachment 1 is a Wetland Delineation Report which includes information about the delineated waters onsite and the presence of suitable roost trees. Attachment 2 is a Running Buffalo Clover Survey Report, which details the habitat assessment and presence/absence survey that was conducted. These reports include figures and photologs documenting the environmental conditions of the site as they relate to wetlands, waterbodies, bat habitat, and RBC habitat and presence/absence.

Proposed Impacts and Determinations: The pipeline installation will include a combination of open trench and boring methods. The Project will be conducted mostly within or adjacent to existing road right-of-way that has been previously disturbed, although portions at the northern and southern ends of the route do traverse privately held parcels. Additional planned easements for equipment access, staging, laydown, and boring operations will also be obtained, and were included in the survey area. When complete, the pipeline will be completely underground. All impacts at the surface will be temporary, and the Project area will be restored to pre-existing conditions following construction.

Minor tree removal may be required to complete this project. If removal of a suitable bat habitat becomes necessary, the proper authorizations will be sought, and the tree will be removed during the designated tree clearing window for protected bats, between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, if possible. If removal is required outside the aforementioned window, the required studies, per coordination with USFWS, will be conducted. Dry run will be crossed via conventional boring methods and therefore not impacted. Ephemeral streams and emergent wetlands may be temporarily impacted by the Project. Given the low-quality of these streams and wetlands, impacts

to aquatic species are not anticipated. Work within ephemeral streams and wetlands will be conducted in accordance with Nationwide Permit conditions administered by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and a pre-construction notification will be provided, if required. Impacts to RBC are unlikely due to the small amount of habitat present onsite and the absence observed during the presence/absence survey. Impacts to other species are not anticipated on the basis that the Project area is a highly disturbed road right-of-way with unsuitable habitat for most protected species. Based on the above factors, the protected species in Table 1 are not likely to be adversely affected by the Project. We request your concurrence with our determinations.

The following attachments have been included in this submittal:

- Attachment 1 - Initial USFWS Concurrence
- Attachment 2 - Wetland Delineation Report
- Attachment 3 - Running Buffalo Clover Survey Report

Please direct correspondence regarding this matter to my attention using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Hogan".

Michael L. Hogan  
Environmental Scientist  
[mlhogan@burnsmcd.com](mailto:mlhogan@burnsmcd.com)  
(630) 724-3340

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.  
Attn. Michael Hogan  
425 S. Woods Mill Rd. Suite 300  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Cc: Steve Lane, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
Jamie Olberding, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
Gabe Smith, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.



6/14/19  
 ODNR Office of Real Estate & Land Management  
 2045 Morse Road, Building E-2  
 Columbus, Ohio 43229

Re: Round Bottom Road Improvement Project

Dear Sir or Madame,

On behalf of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke Energy), Burns & McDonnell is submitting the proposed Round Bottom Road Improvement Project (Project) for an Environmental Review by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The Project was reviewed previously and ODNR provided a response dated February 22, 2019. Initial correspondence is attached to this submittal. However, due to expansion and changes to the proposed Project workspaces, Burns and McDonnell is requesting the Project be reviewed again. Project details are included below:

Project Location: Along Round Bottom Road in the Village of Newtown and Anderson Township of Hamilton County between US-32 and Broadwell Road. See the attached figures for more details.

Proposed Work: The Project will consist of the installation of approximately 2.8 miles of 16” high pressure distribution natural gas pipeline beginning at US 32 and Round Bottom Road and ending at Round Bottom Road Station on Broadwell Road. The existing 8” and 12” pipeline will remain in place, and a new 8” pipeline will be tied into the existing line and continue approximately 1500’ to tie into the existing system at Church Street. Much of the work will be conducted within existing road right-of-way.

Onsite Habitats: The proposed Project area is within or adjacent to road right-of way, with approximately 2/3 of the surrounding properties being developed commercial/residential properties and the remainder being undeveloped agricultural/public recreational properties. Portions at the northern and southern end of the route diverge from Round Bottom Road and cross privately-owned parcels. Burns and McDonnell conducted a desktop survey of the Project area using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Information for Planning and Conservation System (IPaC) and the ODNR State Listed Species Report for Hamilton County. Species identified as threatened or endangered are listed in Table 1 below along with their designation and preferred habitat (if available).

**Table 1: Threatened and Endangered Species with Potential to be within the EIA**

Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
<b>Amphibian</b>		
Eastern Hellbender ( <i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i> )	SE	Clear, fast-flowing, well-oxygenated streams and rivers with large flat boulders, logs, and debris.
Cave Salamander ( <i>Eurycea lucifuga</i> )	SE	Caves, rocky streams and springs, and wooded areas and fields, usually near caves or limestone outcrops.



Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
<b>Fish</b>		
Shortnose Gar <i>(Lepisosteus platostomus)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Shoal Chub <i>(Macrhybopsis hyostoma)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Northern Madtom <i>(Noturus stigmosus)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Blue Sucker <i>(Cycleptus elongatus)</i>	ST	Largest rivers and lower parts of major tributaries. Usually occurring in channels and flowing pools with moderate current. Also occurs in some impoundments.
Bigeye Shiner <i>(Notropis boops)</i>	ST	Inhabits flowing, usually clear and rocky, pools of creeks and small to medium rivers. Often found near emergent vegetation along the stream margin.
Mountain Madtom <i>(Noturus eleutherus)</i>	ST	Requires clean, moderate- to swift-flowing large streams or rivers with a bottom of large stones, rubble, gravel and sand. Usually found in deep, fast riffles, sometimes in dense vegetation attached to the bottom material.
Channel Darter <i>(Percina copeland)</i>	ST	Rivers and large creeks in areas of moderate current over sand and gravel. Also reported to have been in coarse-sand, fine-gravel beach and sandbar habitats.
River Darter <i>(Percina shumardi)</i>	ST	Habitat not listed.
Paddlefish <i>(Polyodon spathula)</i>	ST	Habitat not listed.
<b>Insect</b>		
Plains Clubtail <i>(Gomphus externus)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Purplish Copper <i>(Lycaena helloides)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Elfin Skimmer <i>(Nannothemis bella)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
Regal Fritillary <i>(Speyeria idalia)</i>	SE	Habitat not listed.
<b>Invertebrate</b>		
Fanshell <i>(Cyprogenia stegaria)</i>	FE, SE	Medium to large rivers. Typically buried in sand or gravel in deep water of moderate current with only the edge of its shell and its feeding siphons exposed.

Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
Butterfly ( <i>Ellipsaria lineolate</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Elephant-ear ( <i>Elliptio crassidens crassidens</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Purple Cat's Paw ( <i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Northern Riffleshell ( <i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Snuffbox Mussel ( <i>Epioblasma triquetra</i> )	FE, SE	Small- to medium-sized creeks, in areas with a swift current, although it is also found in Lake Erie and some larger rivers. Most of the time, adults are burrowed deep in sand, gravel or cobble substrates, except when they are spawning, or the females are attempting to attract host fish.
Ebonysell ( <i>Fusconaia ebena</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Long-solid ( <i>Fusconaia maculate maculate</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Pink Mucket (pearlymussel) ( <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> )	FE, SE	Mud and sand and in shallow riffles and shoals swept free of silt in major rivers and tributaries.
Sharp-ridge Pocketbook ( <i>Lampsilis ovata</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Yellow Sandshell ( <i>Lampsilis teres</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Black Sandshell ( <i>Ligumia recta</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Washboard ( <i>Megaloniaias nervosa</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Sheepnose ( <i>Plethobasus cyphus</i> )	FE, SE	Large rivers and streams in shallow areas with moderate to swift currents that flow over coarse sand and gravel. Also found in areas of mud, cobble and boulders. In large rivers they may be in deep runs.
Clubshell ( <i>Pleurobema clava</i> )	SE	Clean, loose sand and gravel in medium to small rivers and streams.
Ohio Pigtoe ( <i>Pleurobema cordatum</i> )	SE	Large rivers with strong currents on substrates of sand and gravel.

Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
Pyramid Pigtoe ( <i>Pleurobema rubrum</i> )	SE	Large rivers but may occur in medium-sized lotic environments. Tends to occupy riffles or shoals in relatively shallow water and coarse-particle substrates, along sand bars, or in deep water with mud and sand bottoms.
Rabbitsfoot ( <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Monkeyface ( <i>Quadrula metanevra</i> )	SE	Medium to large rivers in gravel or mixed sand and gravel.
Wartyback ( <i>Quadrula nodulata</i> )	SE	Large rivers and in sand or fine gravel.
Rayed Bean ( <i>Villosa fabalis</i> )	FE, SE	Smaller, headwater creeks, but sometimes found in large rivers and wave-washed areas of glacial lakes. Prefers gravel or sand substrates, and often found in and around roots of aquatic vegetation.
Threehorn Wartyback ( <i>Obliquaria reflexa</i> )	ST	Large rivers where there is moderately strong current, and a stable substrate composed of gravel, sand, and mud. Also occurs in many reservoirs and in shallow, sand- and mud-bottom river embayments with little or no current.
Sloan's Crayfish ( <i>Orconectes</i> (Rhoadesius) <i>sloanii</i> )	ST	Clear tributaries of streams and prefers clean, rocky-bottomed streams, preferring small to medium sized streams.
Fawnsfoot ( <i>Truncilla donaciformis</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Pondhorn ( <i>Uniomereus tetralasmus</i> )	ST	Muddy or sandy, slow-moving creeks or lakes.
<b>Mammal</b>		
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	FE, SE	Winter hibernacula includes caves or abandoned mines. Summer roosting habitat includes wooded areas containing dead or dying trees or living trees that have cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark and a diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) of 5 inches or greater. Tend to forage within forest or along forest edges.

Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	FT	Winter hibernacula includes caves or abandoned mines. Summer roosting habitat includes wooded areas containing dead or dying trees or living trees that have cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark and a dbh of 3 inches or greater. Tend to forage in forests or along forest edges.
Eastern Harvest Mouse ( <i>Reithrodontomys humulis</i> )	ST	Open grassy areas, especially abandoned agricultural fields, prairie, brier patches, wet meadows, and marshlands. Require substantial ground cover and are seldom found in forested situations.
<b>Plant</b>		
Louisiana Broom-rape ( <i>Orobanche riparia</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Buffalo Clover ( <i>Trifolium reflexum</i> )	SE	Habitat not listed.
Running Buffalo Clover ( <i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i> )	FE	Requires periodic disturbance and a somewhat open habitat. Cannot tolerate full sun, full shade, or severe disturbance. Historically found in rich soils between open forest and prairie. Currently found in partially shaded woodlots, mowed areas including lawns, parks, and cemeteries, and along streams and trails.
Tansy Mustard ( <i>Descurainia pinnata</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Dwarf Bulrush ( <i>Lipocarpa micrantha</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Riverbank Paspalum ( <i>Paspalum repens</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
Maypop ( <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> )	ST	Requires direct sunlight for at least half of the day and prefers fertile, well-drained soil although it will grow in heavier clay soils.
Missouri Gooseberry ( <i>Ribes missouriense</i> )	ST	Habitat not listed.
<b>Reptile</b>		

Species	Status <sup>a</sup>	Preferred Habitat
Kirtland's Snake ( <i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i> )	ST	Requires moist-soil environments to survive and is always found near a permanent or seasonal water source, including bays, streams, reservoirs, lakes, or ponds. Often found in or near crayfish burrows. When above ground, almost always found under natural or artificial cover objects.

(a) FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, SE = State Endangered, ST = State Threatened.  
 Source: Ohio DNR State Listed Species by County Report for Hamilton County, accessed November 8, 2018; USFWS ECOS Species by County Report for Hamilton, Ohio, accessed November 8, 2018.

Burns & McDonnell completed an environmental survey the Project route on December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 and surveyed re-routed or expanded areas on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Trained wetland delineators and biologists conducted wetland and stream delineations using guidelines published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, including the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for wetland delineation and the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) and Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) for stream assessment. Additionally, field staff qualitatively documented habitat conditions along the Project route. Dry Run and 3 unnamed, ephemeral streams pass through the Project area. Dry Run had a QHEI score of 55 while the three unnamed ephemeral tributaries had HHEI scores ranging from 9 to 33. Six emergent wetlands and one pond are present onsite. Additionally, 4 trees were identified as potential suitable habitat for endangered bat species. These trees had characteristics suitable for roosting, such as cracks, crevices, and/or exfoliating bark, during the summer season. All four of the trees were dead or dying. Although a species-specific survey was not conducted, no bats or evidence of bats (guano staining) were observed while on-site. A presence/absence survey was conducted for Running Buffalo Clover due to the potential for suitable habitat to occur in expanded or re-routed workspaces. A total of 0.17 acres of potentially suitable habitat was surveyed during the flowering period for Running Buffalo Clover, as documented by a nearby reference population, and the species was not observed during the environmental survey or the presence/absence survey.

Proposed Impacts: The pipeline installation will include a combination of open trench and boring methods. The Project will be conducted mostly within or adjacent to existing road right-of-way that has been previously disturbed, although portions at the northern and southern ends of the route do traverse privately held parcels. Additional planned easements for equipment access, staging, laydown, and boring operations will also be obtained, and were included in the survey area. When complete, the pipeline will be completely underground. All impacts at the surface will be temporary, and the Project area will be restored to pre-existing conditions following construction.

Minor tree removal may be required to complete this project. If removal of a suitable bat habitat becomes necessary, the proper authorizations will be sought, and the tree will be removed during the designated tree clearing window for protected bats, between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, if possible. If removal is required outside the aforementioned window, the required studies per coordination with USFWS will be conducted. Dry run will be crossed via conventional boring methods and therefore not impacted. Ephemeral streams and emergent wetlands may be

temporarily impacted by the Project. Given the low-quality of these streams and wetlands, impacts to aquatic species are not anticipated. Work within ephemeral streams and wetlands will be conducted in accordance with Nationwide Permit conditions administered by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and a pre-construction notification will be provided, if required. Impacts to other species are not anticipated on the basis that the Project area is a highly disturbed road right-of-way with unsuitable habitat for most protected species. Based on the above factors, the protected species in Table 1 are not likely to be adversely affected by the Project. We request your concurrence with our determinations.

Proposed Best Management Practices: All impacts related to installation of the pipeline will be temporary with all impacted areas returned to their pre-construction condition. The standards and specifications outlined in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Rainwater and Land Development Manual will be utilized to limit the effects of stormwater runoff from the active construction site and control erosion and sedimentation to receiving waters. BMP's will include but not limited too; Temporary runoff control, erosion & sediment control devices, limiting the construction footprint, phasing, access matting, and soil stabilization.

The following attachments have been included in this submittal:

- Initial ODNR Correspondence
- Environmental Impact Area Map (Topographic)
- Environmental Survey Map (Aerial)

Please direct correspondence regarding this matter to my attention using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Hogan".

Michael L. Hogan  
Environmental Scientist  
[mlhogan@burnsmcd.com](mailto:mlhogan@burnsmcd.com)  
(630) 724-3340

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.  
Attn. Michael Hogan  
425 S. Woods Mill Rd., Suite 300  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Cc: Steve Lane, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
Jamie Olberding, Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.  
Gabe Smith, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.

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**ATTACHMENT 6**

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)  
AGENCY COORDINATION RESPONSE LETTER**

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**From:** susan\_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 10, 2019 8:08 AM  
**To:** Hogan, Michael L (Mike)  
**Subject:** Round Bottom Rd. Improvement Gas Pipeline Project, Hamilton Co. (No. 111659)



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-0618

Dear Mr. Hogan,

This is in response to your June 14, 2019 correspondence regarding the above-referenced project site. You previously requested technical assistance for this same project in February 2019 under a different scope of work. We offer the following comments and recommendations, based on the project's updated scope of work, to assist you in minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. We recommend that proposed activities minimize water quality impacts, including fill in streams and wetlands. Best management practices should be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

**FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES COMMENTS:** Due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to the federally listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), we do not anticipate adverse effects to any 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

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 Endangered Species Act (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 and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence.

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.), 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrice M. Ashfield". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a prominent initial "P".

Patrice M. Ashfield  
Field Office Supervisor

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**ATTACHMENT 7**

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)  
AGENCY COORDINATION RESPONSE LETTER**

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# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

**Office of Real Estate**  
Paul R. Baldrige, Chief  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, OH 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6649  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

August 1, 2019

Michael Hogan  
Burns & McDonnell  
425 S. Woods Mill Rd., Suite 300  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

**Re:** 19-541; Round Bottom Improvement

**Project:** The proposed project involves the installation of approximately 2.8 miles of 16" high pressure distribution natural gas pipeline beginning at US 32 and Round Bottom Road and ending at Round Bottom Road Station on Broadwell Road.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Anderson Township, Hamilton County, 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 the following records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area:

Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*), T  
Missouri gooseberry (*Ribes missouriense*), T  
Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*), P  
Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), E, FE  
Beech sugar maple forest plant community  
Oak maple forest plant community  
Elktoe (*Alasmodonta marginata*), SC, FSC  
Threhorn wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*), T  
Wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), E  
Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), T  
Deertoe (*Truncilla truncata*), SC  
Mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*), T  
Northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*), E  
Cave or cavern  
Little Miami State Scenic River

Kroger Hill Scenic River Land – ODNR Scenic Rivers Program  
Kersting Easement – ODNR Scenic Rivers Program  
Little Miami Scenic State Park – ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft  
Avoca Park – Hamilton Co. Park District

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. This information is provided to inform you of features present within your project area and vicinity.

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.

Statuses are defined as: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; A = species recently added to state inventory, status not yet determined; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federal endangered, FT = federal threatened, FSC = federal species of concern, FC = federal candidate species.

**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 sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the pink mucket (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the ebonyshell (*Fusconaia ebena*), a state endangered mussel, the long-solid (*Fusconaia*

*maculata maculata*), a state endangered mussel, the butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*), a state endangered mussel, the washboard (*Megalonaias nervosa*), a state endangered mussel, the elephant-ear (*Elliptio crassidens crassidens*), a state endangered mussel, the Ohio pigtoe (*Pleurobema cordatum*), a state endangered mussel, the monkeyface (*Quadrula metanevra*), a state endangered mussel, the wartyback (*Quadrula nodulata*), a state endangered mussel, the black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), a state threatened mussel, the fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), a state threatened mussel, and the threehorn wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*), a state threatened mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*), a state endangered fish, the shoal chub (*Macrhybopsis hyostoma*), a state endangered fish, the shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*), a state endangered fish, the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), a state endangered fish, the northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*), a state endangered fish, the bigeye shiner (*Notropis boops*) a state threatened fish, the mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*), a state threatened fish, the river darter (*Percina shumardi*) a state threatened fish, the channel darter (*Percina copelandi*), a state threatened fish, the blue sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*), a state threatened fish, and the paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) a state threatened fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet meadows and other wetlands. Due to the location, and the type of habitat present at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*), a state endangered species. Due to the location, and the type of habitat present at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird. Nesting bitterns prefer large undisturbed wetlands that have scattered small pools amongst dense vegetation. They occasionally occupy bogs, large wet meadows, and dense shrubby swamps. Due to the location, and the type of habitat present at the project site, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), a state endangered bird. This sparrow nests in grassland habitats with scattered shrub layers, disturbed open areas, as well as patches of bare soil. In the Oak Openings area west of Toledo, lark sparrows occupy open grass and shrubby fields along sandy beach ridges. These summer residents normally migrate out of Ohio shortly after their young fledge or leave the nest. Due to the location, and the type of habitat present at the project site, 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.

**Scenic Rivers:** The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program has the following comments.

The Scenic Rivers Program appreciates the previous coordination for the Round Bottom Road improvement project along the Little Miami State and National Scenic River. Please continue to work with Bob Gable, Ohio Scenic River Program Manager, at 614-265-6814 or [Robert.Gable@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Robert.Gable@dnr.state.oh.us)

and Aaron Rourke, Southwest Regional Scenic River Manager, 937-382-1096 or [Aaron.Rourke@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Aaron.Rourke@dnr.state.oh.us) to seek final approval authority for the project before work commences.

**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.

John Kessler  
Environmental Services Administrator

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**ATTACHMENT 8**

**OHIO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)  
AGENCY COORDINATION RESPONSE LETTER**

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In reply refer to:  
2020-HAM-47165

March 10, 2020

Emailed by SHPO

Mark Latham  
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.  
9400 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64114

RE: Section 106 Review- Addendum Round Bottom Road Gas Pipeline Project  
Hamilton County, Ohio  
USACE NWP 12

Dear Mr. Latham:

This letter is in response to your correspondence, received March 10, 2020, regarding the proposed expansion of the Round Bottom Road gas pipeline project in the Village of Newark, Hamilton County, Ohio. The comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

An additional 2.13 acres is required for the proposed high pressure gas pipeline project originally coordinated with our office on January 16, 2020. The addendum provided demonstrates that the additional 2.13 acres is disturbed by modern construction activities. Therefore, SHPO agrees that this undertaking will not affect historic properties. Should the United States Army Corps of Engineers agree with our finding then no further coordination is required unless the scope of work changes or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [tgrooms@ohiohistory.org](mailto:tgrooms@ohiohistory.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Grooms".

Thomas Grooms, Archaeology Transportation Reviews Manager  
State Historic Preservation Office

Serial No. 1082238