

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
 Application of AEP Ohio :
 Transmission Company for a :
 Certificate of : Case No. 17-638-EL-BTX
 Environmental :
 Compatibility and Public :
 Need for the Ginger :
 Switch-Vigo 138 kV :
 Transmission Line Project. :

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PROCEEDINGS

Before Stacie E. Cathcart, Administrative Law Judge,
 at the Chillicothe & Ross County Library, Main
 Library Annex, Room D, 140 South Paint Street,
 Chillicothe, Ohio, called at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday,
 August 30th, 2018.

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APPEARANCES:

American Electric Power
By Christen M. Blend, Senior Counsel
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Cmblend@aep.com

On behalf of AEP Transmission
Company, Inc.

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WITNESSES:

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Juanita Meeker

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1 Thursday Evening Session,
2 August 30, 2018.

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4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:

5 We're going to go ahead and get started
6 here tonight. The Ohio Power Siting Board has
7 assigned for public hearing at this time and place
8 Case No. 17-638-EL-BTX, which is captioned In the
9 Matter of the Application of AEP Ohio Transmission
10 Company for a Certificate of Environmental
11 Compatibility and Public Need for the Ginger
12 Switch-Vigo 138kV Transmission Line Project.

13 My name is Stacie Cathcart, and with me
14 is Lauren Augostini, and I'm the Administrative Law
15 Judge assigned by the Ohio Power Siting Board to
16 preside over this local hearing.

17 Also with me is Jon Pawley from the Ohio
18 Power Siting Board staff. We will be available if
19 you have any questions concerning the application or
20 any other general questions you may have. Please
21 feel free to approach us at the completion of this
22 evening's hearing.

23 At this time I would like to take formal
24 appearances on behalf of the parties in this
25 particular case. On behalf of the Applicant?

1 MS. BLEND: Thank you, your Honor. On
2 behalf of American Electric Power Trans- -- I'm
3 sorry, AEP Transmission Company, Inc., Christen M.
4 Blend, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1
5 Riverside Plaza, 29th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

6 And with me this evening are Alicia
7 Cross, Steven Scott and Joshua Hively from Power
8 Siting and Right-of-Way Groups.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:

10 Thank you. The subject matter of this
11 evening's public hearing is the application filed on
12 March 15th, 2018 to construct a new 138 kilovolt
13 transmission line in Ross County, Ohio.

14 This public hearing is only one aspect
15 of the process for this case. I would note that the
16 adjudicatory hearing for this proceeding is scheduled
17 to take place later in September at the offices of
18 the Ohio Power Siting Board, which is in Columbus,
19 Ohio.

20 In this case, the Applicant submits that
21 the Ginger Switch-Vigo 138kV Transmission Line
22 project is one component of the overall Ross-Jackson
23 Area Improvement Program, which will improve local
24 service for customers, support economic development,
25 and speed recovery of local service when outages

1 occur.

2 AEP states that the purpose of the
3 proposed project is to provide additional
4 transmission service to Ross and Jackson County and
5 to improve electric reliability in the area.

6 AEP adds that the infrastructure in this
7 area has reached an age that demands rebuilding and
8 redesign in order to meet the needs of customers in
9 the region.

10 The Applicant notes that much of the
11 load in this area is currently served by an extensive
12 69 kilovolt distribution system, which will be
13 retired and replaced with a new 138 kilovolt
14 transmission system.

15 The Applicant states that by
16 establishing a new, higher voltage source, the
17 Company will be able to provide more reliability to
18 the region.

19 The Applicant states the transition line
20 will be initially energized at 69 kilovolts and
21 energized at 138 kilovolts in an expedited fashion
22 when necessary and once the proper funding has been
23 secured from the distribution customers.

24 According to the application, the
25 project is located in a rural setting consisting of

1 primarily wood lots, utility rights-of-way,
2 residential areas, and agricultural properties.

3 116 residences have been identified as
4 being within a thousand feet of the preferred route,
5 and 132 residences have been identified as being
6 within a thousand feet of the alternate route.

7 The Applicant plans to begin
8 construction in January 2019 and place the
9 transmission line in service in the summer of 2021.

10 The purpose of this evening's public
11 hearing is to receive comments from the public
12 regarding AEP Ohio Transition Company's application
13 in this case. It is not intended to be a question
14 and answer session, but instead it's your opportunity
15 to let the Ohio Power Siting Board know what you
16 think about the proposals set forth in the
17 application.

18 I would also note that the Board's staff
19 filed its Report of Investigation on August 15th,
20 2018. This is simply a recommendation of the Board's
21 staff and does not necessarily reflect what the
22 Board's final determination will be in this case.

23 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed
24 by a Court Reporter. If you plan to testify, please
25 speak clearly so that the Court Reporter can

1 accurately reflect your comments on the record.
2 Also, if you have prepared a written statement, it
3 would be helpful to provide a copy of that to the
4 Court Reporter as well.

5 When you arrived, you were offered the
6 opportunity to sign up to testify. After I finish
7 with my introduction I will begin calling witnesses
8 forward that have signed the sign-up sheet and ask
9 you to come up to the table and face the Court
10 Reporter.

11 Before you present your testimony I will
12 also ask you to make an oath or affirmation that what
13 you're about to say is the truth. I will also ask
14 you to state your name and address for the Court
15 Reporter.

16 Your testimony will be considered part
17 of the official record in this case, and it will be
18 reviewed by the Board before they make their final
19 decision on the application.

20 Should you decide that you do not wish
21 to testify when we call your name, you can merely
22 pass to the next witness.

23 Also, once you finish testifying, or
24 you're just here to observe, you may leave at any
25 time you wish, or stay until the conclusion of the

1 hearing.

2 The Board appreciates your participation
 3 in tonight's hearing, and we want everyone who wishes
 4 to make a public statement to have the opportunity to
 5 do so, so please be considerate of others waiting to
 6 give their testimony and keep your statements to a
 7 reasonable period of time.

8 At this time I will begin calling
 9 witnesses forward, and the first witness I have on
 10 the list Juanita Meeker.

11 MS. MEEKER: Yes, ma'am.

12 ALJ CATHCART: Please raise your right
 13 hand. Do you swear the testimony you're about to
 14 give is the truth?

15 MS. MEEKER: I do.

16 - - -

17 Juanita Meeker,
 18 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
 19 examined and testified as follows:

20 TESTIMONY

21 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART: And
 22 if you could please state your name and your address
 23 for the Court Reporter.

24 MS. MEEKER: Juanita and John Meeker,
 25 John and Juanita Meeker Trustees, and Meeker

1 Development Company, Incorporated.

2 Taking farm ground for utilities has
3 been an issue with all farms, and we are no
4 different. We can see other ways to construct the
5 lines.

6 We question some issues that would
7 impact our farm, mainly a 30-foot sod waterway in the
8 area of the line, with tile buried in the middle of
9 it that's five foot deep.

10 Our sprayers go around the poles in the
11 farm. The drop between the poles with summer heat is
12 of concern. Losing valuable road frontage and
13 farmland is of a concern.

14 We have been told there are some ways of
15 getting over that, possibly bridging the waterways.
16 We'd like to make sure that if this is an approved
17 route, that some of those things will be taken into
18 consideration. Thank you.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:
20 Thank you. James Bell?

21 MR. BELL: Pass.

22 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:
23 Thank you. David Clary?

24 MR. CLARY: I'll pass.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:

1 Cindy Scott?

2 MS. SCOTT: Pass.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:
4 Robert Drake?

5 MR. DRAKE: Pass.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:

7 That concludes the witnesses who signed up to
8 testify. Is there anyone in the audience now that
9 didn't sign up that would like to testify?

10 (No response.)

11 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CATHCART:

12 Seeing no one, I would like to thank everyone for
13 coming here this evening. This will conclude this
14 evening's public hearing and it will be submitted on
15 the record for the Board's consideration in this
16 case.

17 Staff and I will be here for a while in
18 case you have any questions about the Ohio Power
19 Siting Board's progress or how to file additional
20 comments in this case.

21 As I mentioned before, if you have any
22 questions for the Board's staff or AEP, we'll stay as
23 long as we need to in order to answer those
24 questions. Thank you again, and have a nice evening.

25 (Thereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Thursday, August 30th, 2018, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Valerie Grubaugh
Valerie Grubaugh,
Registered Merit
Reporter and Notary Public
in and for the State of
Ohio.

My commission expires August 11, 2021.

