

**Duke Energy Ohio
PUCO Case No. 20-1487-EL-BNR
STAFF Third Set of Data Requests
Date Received: October 6, 2020**

STAFF-DR-03-001

REQUEST:

Will suitable habitat for either the Black-Crowned Night-Heron or the Northern Harrier be impacted by this project? If so, please explain how you will avoid impacting the species.

RESPONSE: There is no potential suitable habitat for either the Black-Crowned Night-Heron or Northern Harrier” within the project area.

The only wetlands in the vicinity of the project area are located to the east of the project area, adjacent to an active substation, are low quality, and are located within an existing Electric Transmission Line Corridor. These wetlands would not provide sufficient foraging grounds for the Black-Crowned Night-Heron and no nests were observed within the upland area to be cleared.

There are no large marshes and grasslands within the project area or in the adjacent areas that would be suitable habitat for the Northern Harrier. No nests were observed within the project area and it is unlikely this species would nest or forage in a maintained substation or in areas adjacent to the existing active substation.

In addition, the project clearing activities/ground disturbance is anticipated to begin this winter and would occur outside of the nesting timeframe for either of these species.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Dane Vandewater