



In reply refer to:
2021-MAH-51118

May 7, 2021

Christopher G. Leary
AECOM
525 Vine Street, Suite 1800
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

RE: Section 106 Review- Preferred and Alternate Routes-Lincoln Park-Riverbend 138 kV Transmission Line Project, City of Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Leary:

This letter is in response to correspondences received on April 9, 2021 regarding both the *Preferred Route* and the *Alternate Route* for the above referenced project in the City of Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-5). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the lead federal agency.

Preferred Route

The proposed undertaking involves the installation of a new 138 kV transmission line along a 5.21-mile long by 65-ft wide corridor, including all temporary workspaces and access roads, which combined, make up a 58.13-acre direct Area of Potential Effect (APE). The following review and comments pertain only to the *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Lincoln Park-Riverbend 138kV Transmission Line Project, Mahoning County, Ohio* by AECOM (2021). The architectural component has been submitted in a stand-alone report, and therefore the review will be under a separate cover.

The archaeological survey involved a literature review, shovel test unit excavations, and visual inspection of the entire APE, as defined above. A total of 113 shovel test units were excavated within the APE. According to the literature review, no previously identified archaeological sites are located within the APE. The current survey did not identify any previously undocumented archaeological sites within the APE. Therefore, after careful review of the archaeological report, our office concurs with AECOM that no further archaeological investigations are warranted for the APE, as proposed. Therefore the project will have no effect on significant archaeological resources or historic archaeological properties. No further coordination in regards to archaeology are required for the *Preferred Route* unless the scope of work changes or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted as required by O.R.C. Section 149.53 and by 36 CFR § 800.13.

Alternate Route

A literature review report, *Phase I Cultural Resources Desktop Review for the Lincoln Park-Riverbend 138kV Transmission Line Project-Alternate Route, Mahoning, Ohio* by AECOM (2021) was completed for the entire APE, as defined in the aforementioned report. However, as stated in the report, currently the APE does not include any temporary workspaces or access roads, as those work area locations have not been finalized. Based on the results of the literature review and the results of the recent Phase I archaeological survey for the *Preferred Route*, which

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does partially overlap this *Alternate Route*, the SHPO does concur that the *Alternate Route* does have a low potential to contain undocumented archaeological sites. However, due to the unknown locations of the temporary workspaces and access roads, the SHPO does recommend further coordination for the *Alternate Route* with our office if it is chosen. Once our office has received the final design plans, including the temporary workspaces/access roads, we will be able to offer comments on the potential for the *Alternate Route* to affect potentially undocumented archaeological resources. If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact me via email at sbiehl@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen M. Biehl". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephen M. Biehl, Project Reviews Coordinator (archaeology)
Resource Protection and Review
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No. 1088143

"Please be advised that this is a Section 106 decision. This review decision may not extend to other SHPO programs."