

FILE



6037 Frantz Rd. • Suite 105 • Dublin, Ohio • 43017

Phone: (614) 761-2688 • Fax: (614) 462-1914 • www.bottlawgroup.com

January 11, 2011

*Via Hand Delivery*

Ms. Renee Jenkins, Docketing  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2011 JAN 11 PM 3:44  
PUCO

**RE: City of Hamilton/American Municipal Power, Inc., Meldahl Hydro Project:  
Pre-application Notification Letter Filing for  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need  
Case No. 10-2400-EL-BTX (Transmission Line)  
Case No. 10-2439-EL-BSB (Substation)**

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

The City of Hamilton, Ohio ("Hamilton") and American Municipal Power, Inc. ("AMP") are developing a new hydroelectric power generating facility on the Ohio River at the existing Meldahl Locks and Dam ("Project") in Bracken County, Kentucky. As currently licensed, the Project will have a nameplate capacity of approximately 105 MW. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a license for the development, construction and operation of the Meldahl Project in 2008. The project license is held jointly by Hamilton and AMP and is currently under construction.

**Project Overview:**

Shortly, Hamilton and AMP intend to submit an application to OPSB to construct a 138 kV electric transmission line from the Project, across the Ohio River just upstream of the existing Meldahl Locks and Dam at Ohio River Mile 436.2, to the existing 345 kV Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line in Clermont County, Ohio, inland from the Ohio-side landing of the river crossing. At the same time, Hamilton and AMP intend to submit an application to OPSB to construct a substation to interconnect the new 138 kV transmission line with the existing 345 kV Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line. The transmission line and substation are necessary to deliver and step-up electric power generated by the Project to the transmission grid via the Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line. As currently proposed, the approximately 2.5 mile transmission line will be routed from the Project, across the Ohio River and through Franklin and Washington Townships to an interconnection at a new substation. The preferred transmission route travels primarily through open, non-forested land and directly from the Project North to the interconnection. The transmission line will wooden H-frame structures. The preferred substation is located on open, non-forested land. The transmission line and substation project is needed to transmit electric energy from the Meldahl Plant into Ohio to serve the electric requirements of Hamilton's customers as well as other AMP member municipal electric systems' customers with cost-effective and reliable electric service.

Environment • Natural Resources • Energy

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.  
Technician Atty Date Processed 1/11/11

**Public Informational Meeting:**


Pursuant to O.A.C. 4906-5-08, Hamilton and AMP hereby give notice to OPSB of a public informational meeting on the transmission line and substation on January 26, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Franklin Township Community Building at 2003 Main Street, Felicity, Ohio 45120. Information kiosks will be open to the public from 6-7 PM; a brief presentation and formal question and answer session will begin at 7 PM. The attached public notice, Attachment A, will be printed in the *Clermont Sun* in Clermont County, Ohio and the *Bracken County News* in Bracken County, Kentucky on January 12 and 13, 2011.

**Summary of Anticipated Waivers:**

On January 12, 2011, Hamilton and AMP intend to submit limited waiver requests with OPSB seeking limited waivers of certain portions of O.A.C. 4906-15-06(F) and 4906-15-07 for the alternative transmission line route and alternative substation. Specifically, the applicants seek a waiver of 4906-15-06(F) to avoid additional ground disturbance or shovel testing associated with the cultural resources evaluation. Additionally, the applicants seek a waiver of 4906-15-07 only to the extent that no additional ecological impact analyses for the Indiana Bat are needed.

Two original letters have been executed for inclusion in both case files. Additionally, there are twenty copies of the letter; ten copies per case. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [abott@bottlawgroup.com](mailto:abott@bottlawgroup.com) or at 614-761-2688.

Respectfully,

 *by John Bentine per  
att. authorization*  
On Behalf of the Applicants  
City of Hamilton and American Municipal Power, Inc.  
April R. Bott (0066463)  
Bott Law Group, LLC  
6037 Frantz Road, Suite 105  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
Email: [abott@bottlawgroup.com](mailto:abott@bottlawgroup.com)  
Phone: 614-761-2688  
Fax: 614-462-1914

cc: Kim Wissman, OPSB  
Klaus Lambeck, OPSB

Enclosure

# Notice of Public Information Meeting to Outline the Hamilton/AMP Proposed Major Utility Facility (transmission and substation)

Attachment A

The City of Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton) and American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) jointly notify resource agencies, Indian Tribes, residents of Clermont County, Ohio, and other interested members of the public, to attend a joint agency and public information meeting and provide comments regarding plans to construct the Meldahl Hydroelectric Transmission Line and Substation Project (Project) in the Franklin Township and Washington Township areas of Clermont County.

The public informational meeting will be held from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on January 26, 2011 at the Franklin Township Community Building at 2003 Main Street, Felicity, Ohio 45120. Information kiosks will be open to the public from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. A brief presentation and formal question and answer session will begin at 7:00 PM. Attendees are invited to ask questions and provide comment on the proposed transmission line and the proposed substation.

Hamilton is a municipality located in Butler County, Ohio that owns and operates a not for profit municipal power electric utility. Hamilton owns and operates several electric generation assets, including the Greenup Hydroelectric Plant on the Ohio River and the Hamilton Hydroelectric Plant located on the Ford Hydraulic Canal. AMP is a not for profit wholesale power supplier that also owns and operates several generation assets, including the Belleville Hydroelectric Project on the Ohio River, and is developing additional hydroelectric facilities on the Ohio River.

The Project consists of the installation of a new 138 kV overhead transmission line and the construction of a substation to support the transmission of electricity generated at a 105 MW hydroelectric power plant at the Meldahl Locks and Dam (Meldahl Plant) located at Ohio River Mile 436.2. The powerhouse for the Meldahl Plant will be located in Bracken County, Kentucky.

The Project is needed to transmit electric energy from the Meldahl Plant into Ohio to serve the electric requirements of Hamilton's customers as well as other AMP member municipal electric systems' customers with cost-effective and reliable electric service.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a license for the development, construction and operation of the Meldahl Project in 2008. The project license is held jointly by Hamilton and AMP and the plant is currently under construction in Bracken County, Kentucky. Hamilton and AMP will be seeking FERC approval to amend the licensed transmission route and is consulting with affected resource agencies and the public on the proposed modifications.

Additionally, the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") is responsible for reviewing information related to projects - including input from the public - and determining whether the proposed transmission line and substation meet the requirements of the siting process. Before construction can begin on the transmission line or substation, OPSB must issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility.

The proposal includes constructing an electric transmission line from the Meldahl Plant, across the Ohio River just upstream of the existing Meldahl Locks and Dam at Ohio River Mile 436.2, to an existing 345 kV Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line in Clermont County, Ohio, inland from the Ohio-side landing of the river crossing. The proposal also consists of constructing a substation to interconnect the new 138 kV transmission line with the existing 345 kV Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line. The transmission line and substation are necessary to deliver and step-up electric power generated by the Meldahl Plant to the transmission grid via the Zimmer-Spurlock transmission line. As currently proposed, the approximately 2.5 mile transmission line will be routed across the Ohio River and through Franklin and Washington Townships with an interconnection at the new substation. The preferred transmission route travels primarily through non-forested land and directly from the Meldahl Plant North to the interconnection.

At the meeting, Hamilton and AMP will explain the proposal, the potential environmental impact, and discuss any data or studies already obtained or to be obtained as part of the consultation process.

Hamilton and AMP plan to file OPSB applications for the proposed transmission line and substation in February 2011, for the Board's review and approval. Hamilton and AMP will also file the proposed route with the FERC. If the applications are approved, construction of the transmission line and substation is scheduled to begin in 2012.

To ensure sufficient space to accommodate all interested parties and to accommodate any special needs, Hamilton and AMP request that potential attendees of the meeting pre-register with the contact below by January 21, 2011. However, the public is welcome to attend without pre-registering. Interested parties may also request information or comment on the Project by contacting:

Mark Brandenburger, Director of Special Utilities Projects  
City of Hamilton, Ohio  
One Renaissance Center  
345 High Street, 5th Floor  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
Tel: (513) 785-7006  
E-mail: brandenb@ci.hamilton.oh.us

CS 1-1311

