

FILE



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Akron, Ohio 44308

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January 18, 2011

Mr. Jim O'Dell
Facilities, Siting & Environmental Analysis Division
Ohio Power Siting Board
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

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2011 JAN 26 PM 4:20
PUCO

Letter of Notification
Bayshore-Ironville 138 kV Transmission
Intermediate Structure Placement Project
Case No. 10- 2885 -EL-BLN

Dear Mr. O'Dell,

This letter contains supplemental information pertaining to the Letter of Notification on the above captioned project filed on November 30, 2010. As stated within the Letter of Notification, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) requested a survey be completed for the Blanding Turtle in the proposed project area. The attached report from a ODNR-approved herpetologist indicates that the project is unlikely to have an impact on the Blanding Turtle. If the project is approved, construction will begin on approximately April 1, 2011 as stated in the Letter of Notification. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (330) 384-5955.

Sincerely,

Jessica Thacker
Associate Engineer
Energy Delivery Transmission and
Substation Design
FirstEnergy Service Company

Attachments

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 SJS Date Processed 1/26/11



GREGORY LIPPS, LLC

1473 County Road 5-2 | Delta, Ohio | 43515 | Phone: 419.376.3441 | Fax: 419.533.1092 | GregLipps@gmail.com

17 January 2011

William R. Beach
Environmental Department
First Energy Corp
76 S Main St.
Akron, OH 44308

PUCO

2011 JAN 26 PM 4: 20

RECEIVED-BOCKETING DIV

Re: Blanding's Turtle Habitat Assessment for the Bayshore-Ironville transmission pole replacement project in Lucas County, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Beach:

This letter is in response to your request for an assessment of an area where Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) may occur. The ODNR, Division of Wildlife has requested that an approved herpetologist be consulted to determine whether a survey for this species needs to be conducted. As indicated by you during our phone conversation on December 17, 2010, the project consists of the installation of a single transmission pole in Oregon, Ohio, Lucas County (Figs. 1-2).

The Blanding's Turtle is a moderately sized (<28 cm) freshwater turtle that is most easily identified by its characteristic bright yellow neck. The species ranges throughout the Great Lakes region and westward into Nebraska. In Ohio, the Blanding's Turtle is known only from the Lake Erie drainage, with records extending as far south as four counties inland from Lake Erie. Habitats utilized by the species include lakes, ponds, marshes, bogs, swamps, creeks, ditches, wet prairies, and sloughs. The use of multiple aquatic habitats throughout the year is well documented, and turtles may make long over-land migrations to reach isolated wetlands or travel through ditches and channels. Activity in Ohio usually commences in late March-April and ends in October-November. Nesting activity peaks in early June and may be preceded by long-distance movements of females to suitable upland nesting sites. Turtles may overwinter in aquatic or terrestrial habitats and may be active during warmer winter days.

Potential Habitat Determination

A determination of potential habitat was accomplished through a landscape review of the site, using GIS to examine the location of the site in relation to areas of known Blanding's Turtle occurrence, the proximity of the site to adjacent wetlands, and the availability of multiple wetland habitats in the area.

The site consists of an area entirely in row crops. The National Wetland Inventory indicates the closest wetland is over 900 ft. from the center of the site (Fig. 2). Soil at the site is Fulton silty clay loam (FuA) and Latty silty clay (Lc).

As the Blanding's Turtle is an aquatic species, use of agricultural fields are limited to nesting and overland migration between wetlands. The site in question is not located immediately adjacent to any wetlands, therefore it is unlikely that this area would be used for nesting, and the proposed project is not likely to impact Blanding's Turtle nesting

habitat. Likewise, the site is not situated where turtles are likely to enter as they move between wetlands. For the reasons stated above, it is my opinion that the proposed project is unlikely to have an impact on Blanding's Turtles. Furthermore, although the species is known to occur in the vicinity of the project, surveys of this site for Blanding's Turtle are not recommended.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer my services to First Energy Corp. Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail (GregLipps@gmail.com) or by phone (419-376-3441) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory Lipps".

Gregory Lipps, LLC

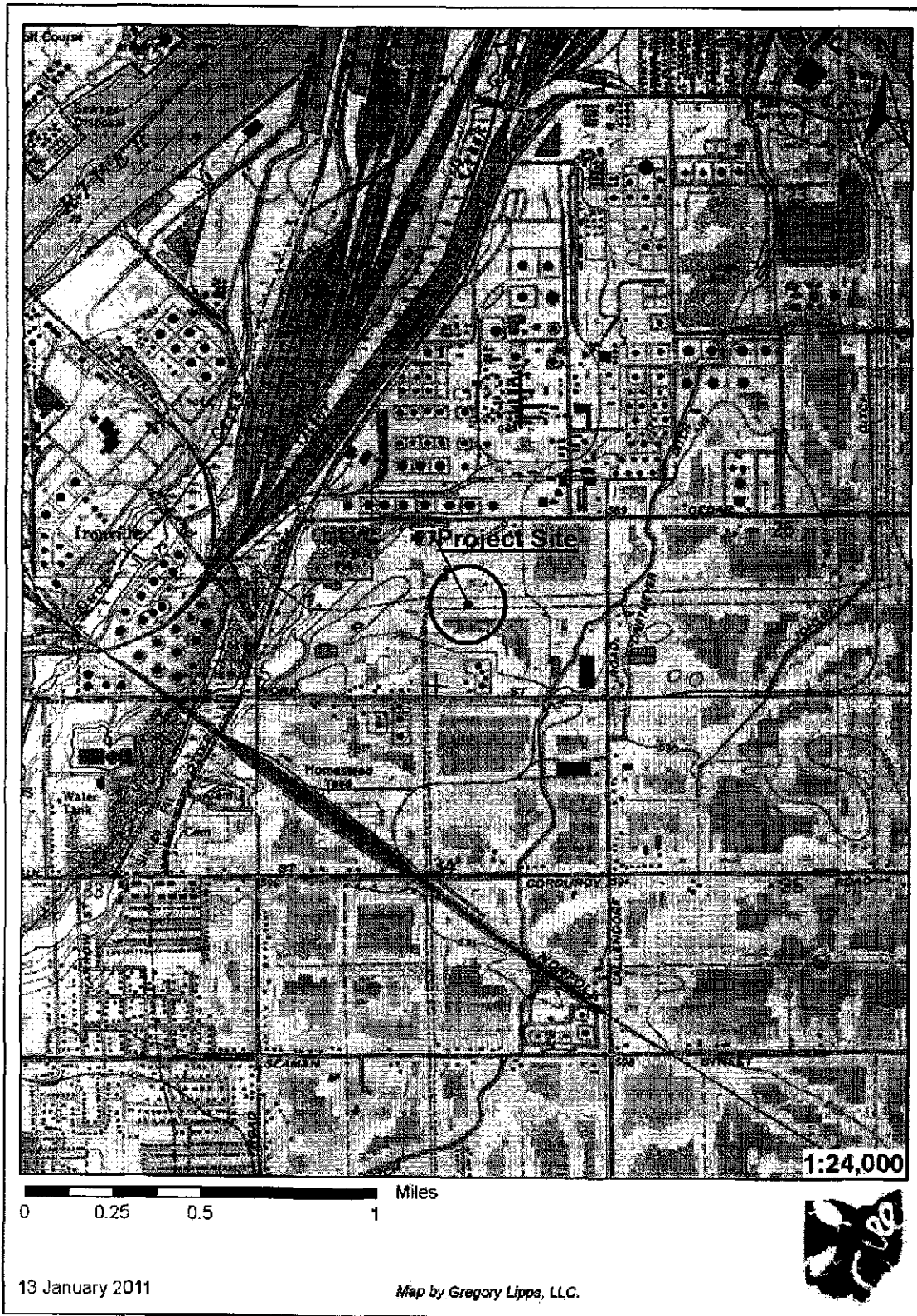


Figure 1. Location of the project site in Oregon, Lucas County, Ohio. (Data: USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Map, Oregon, 41083-F4)

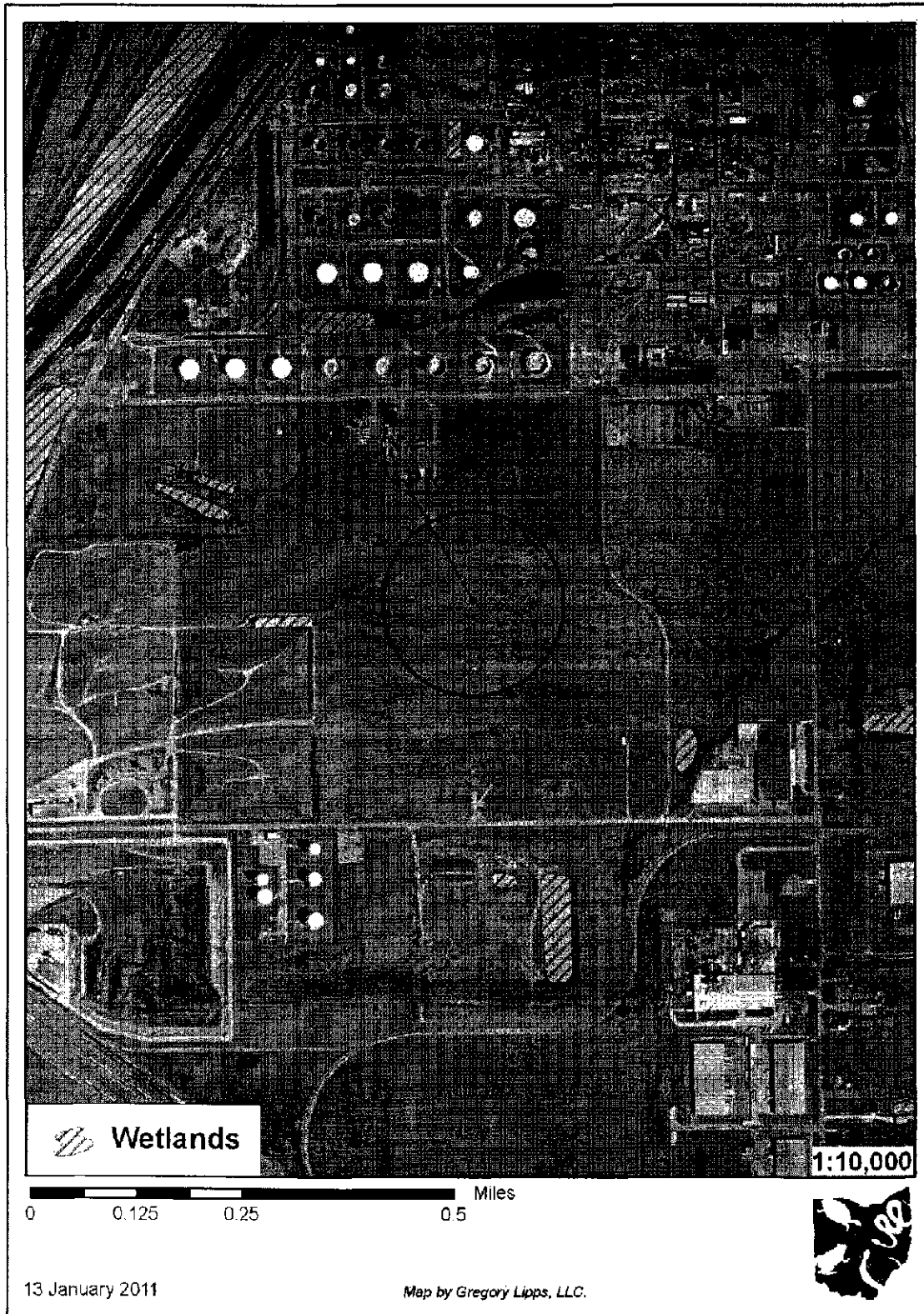


Figure 2. Aerial image of the project site with wetlands superimposed. (Data: Ohio Statewide Imagery Program and National Wetland Inventory)