

**FILE**

**Ohio Power Siting Board**

**Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**

**Case No.:** 11-0888-EL-BNR

**Project:** East Lima-Sorenson 345kV Maddox Creek Station Tap

**Applicant:** American Electric Power

**Report Date:** March 11, 2011

**Inspection Date:** March 8, 2011

**Automatic Approval Date:** March 18, 2011 (Expedited Construction Notice process)

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Staff Assigned:** Chris Cunningham and Jon Pawley

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**Summary of Staff Recommendations (see report text for discussion):**

Application:  Approval  Disapproval  Approval with Conditions

Waiver:  Approval  Disapproval  Not Applicable

**Summary of Staff Recommended Conditions (see report text for discussion):**

None

**Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved):**

May 31, 2013

**Investigation Report**

**Project Description:** This project would add two (2) steel tap structures and remove one steel transmission structure on the East Lima-Sorenson 345 kV line in order to allow the Heartland Wind Energy's new Blue Creek Wind Farm to connect to the electric transmission system. The Blue Creek Wind Farm received approval by the OPSB in November 2010 (Case No. 09-1066-EL-BGN). The interconnection substation for the Blue Creek Wind Farm is under construction. Construction of the AEP tap structures is expected to begin in early-April 2011. Less than 500 feet of new 345 kV line will be needed for the interconnection.

**Site Description:** No additional right-of-way easements or right-of-way clearing will be required for this project. The new tap structures will be located in existing AEP easement width and property owned by Heartland Wind Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc. This project is located in Van Wert County, Ohio.

**Discussion/Comments/Concerns:** The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts.

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