

OPSB Staff Report of Investigation

Case No.: 11-2699-GA-BNR

Project: I-90 and Nagle Road Interchange Mandatory Relocation Project

Applicant: Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.

Report Date: May 31, 2011

Automatic Approval Date: June 9, 2011

Waiver Requests: None

Inspection Date(s): January 5, 2011

Staff Assigned: E. Steele, J. Pawley, D. Rostofer

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

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

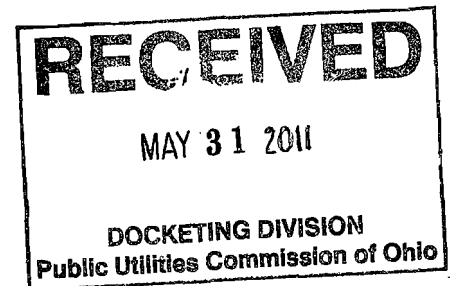
Summary of Staff Recommended Conditions (see report text for discussion):

- That the Applicant shall conduct a pre-construction conference prior to the start of any project work (including vegetation clearing/trimming), which the Staff shall attend, to discuss how environmental concerns will be satisfactorily addressed. That at the time of the pre-construction conference, the Applicant shall have marked any r-o-w clearing limits as well as any trees that would exhibit suitable Indiana bat habitat.
- That prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain all applicable permits and authorizations as required by Federal and State entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required.
- That prior to the cutting or trimming of suitable Indiana bat summer roosting/rearing habitat, the Applicant shall provide OPSB staff with a response letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ohio Field Office. If the Service determines that summer cutting restrictions shall apply then cutting or trimming of habitat trees shall only occur from October 1 to March 30. Furthermore, if the Applicant must cut suitable habitat trees during the months of April 1 to September 30, then the Applicant must first conduct appropriate surveys (emergent/mist net) during May or June to establish whether Indiana bat are present within the survey area and provide the results to Staff and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the USFWS for review and approval prior to cutting.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): June 30, 2014

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Investigation Report

Project Description: Columbia Gas of Ohio will be relocating approximately 9,473' of 10", 12", 16", and 20" pipeline to accommodate a road improvement project. The existing gas facilities are in conflict with the proposed drainage and grading for the road project.

Site Description: The relocated pipeline will be installed in utility easements provided by the project for Columbia Gas of Ohio use. The project utility easements replace existing private easements held by Columbia Gas of Ohio. The utility easements generally run adjacent to the proposed limited access and road right of way limits. These utility easements have been secured or purchased by the City of Avon. Columbia Gas of Ohio will be directionally boring approximately 1260' of the 16" main underneath I-90 and some wetland areas north of I-90 to minimize disturbance of wetland areas.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: This project lies within the known range of the state and federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). There are no positive capture records within 5 miles of the boundaries of the project, and no known or suspected hibernacula located within 10 miles of the project. The Applicant has indicated that some suitable summer roosting habitat would be removed through cutting of trees along the project corridor. Columbia Gas of Ohio has exchanged information with USFWS regarding their tree clearing plan for the project and will wait for approval from USFWS before cutting suitable habitat trees.