

FILE

**OPSB Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**

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**Case No.:** 11-4896-EL-BNR

**Project:** Poston-Ross 138 kV Section I Reconductor-Rebuild

**Applicant:** American Electric Power

**Report Date:** September 29, 2011

**Automatic Approval Date:** October 8, 2011 (Construction Notice)

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Inspection Date(s):** September 26, 2011

**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, D. Rostofer, J. Whitis

**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):**

1. 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.
2. In order to ensure minimization of vegetation impacts between existing structures, the Applicant shall submit for Staff review a description of the process to be used to install the new conductor via pulling cable from structure to structure.

**Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved):** December 30, 2013

**Investigation Report**

**Project Description:** This project is for the reconductoring of an existing 138 kV single circuit transmission line. The reconductoring will occur from the AEP Poston Station to State Route 56, for approximately six miles. No additional right-of-way easements are required for this project, as all work will occur along an existing AEP 138 kV alignment. The Applicant estimates the total capital cost of the project to be approximately \$3.25 million. The project is being proposed due to increased electrical load growth in the Southern Ohio area. The line will remain at 138 kV, but this project will provide for newer, sturdier 138 kV conductor line. Due to the deterioration and increased structure loading with the heavier conductor, existing structures will be replaced with like structures. The project is expected to begin in October, 2011 and be completed in December, 2011.

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Technician SU Date Processed SEP 29 2011

**Site Description:** This project is located in Athens County, Ohio. Land use along the existing corridor is scattered residential, with heavy woods and some agricultural uses. Several roads will be crossed by the replacement line, and crossing permits will need to be secured prior to construction.

**Discussion/Comments/Concerns:** The Applicant has appropriate existing access to each structure. Staff recommends ensuring minimal environmental impacts in the valley areas between structures when cabling, or reconductoring occurs. The Applicant has stated to Staff that an installation process where new cable will be pulled tied to the existing cable will be used. This process will allow the Applicant's crew to station itself at each pole structure without the need to drive between structures, minimizing impact to vegetation and slopes between structures. With the addition of the precautions conditioned in this report, the construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts.