

FILE

Ohio Power Siting BoardStaff Investigation Report and Recommendation**Case No.:** 11-5871-EL-BNR**Project:** Sammis-Wylie Ridge 345 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Inc.**Report Date:** 11 January 2012**Automatic Approval Date:** 19 January 2012 (Construction Notice process)**Waiver Request:** None**Inspection Date(s):** 21 December 2011**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell & D. Rostofer

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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):

- 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) That the Applicant shall utilize Best Management Practices when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the installation of silt fencing (or similarly effective tool) prior to initiating construction near streams and wetlands. The installation shall be done in accordance with generally accepted construction methods and shall be inspected regularly;
- 3) The Applicant will coordinate all traffic related issues with the appropriate entities to ensure that traffic will be maintained along public roadways and private drives during construction;
- 4) If the Applicant does not elect to utilize a helicopter stringing methodology for the project, then the Applicant shall provide a construction access plan to Staff 30 days prior to construction, for review and approval.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): 1 June 2014

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Investigation Report

Project Description: This project involves the installation of approximately 4.46 miles of new 345 kV transmission line onto the open arms (eastern side) of existing structures, with no new r-o-w required. The circuit on the western side of the same structures will be de-energized and left in place, with one segment that exits the Sammis Station removed.

Site Description: The Applicant will utilize existing easements for the facility. The existing structures are situated on hilltops and the surrounding terrain is steep. Land use in proximity to the project consists of industrial, highway and limited animal grazing activities. This project is located in Stratton Village, Saline Township and Knox Township, Jefferson County.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: If the Applicant elects to install the new conductors with conventional equipment, then the Applicant would utilize existing access routes. This would require the submission of an access plan to Staff for review and approval. Due to the construction difficulties associated with steep terrain, the Applicant is considering the use of helicopters to install the new conductors. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.