

OPSB Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**Case No.:** 12-0706-EL-BNR**Project:** Poston-Ross 138 kV Section III Reconductor-Rebuild**Applicant:** American Electric Power**Report Date:** March 27, 2012**Automatic Approval Date:** April 4, 2012

(Construction Notice)

Waiver Requests: None**Inspection Date(s):** March 23, 2012**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, D. Rostofer, J. Whitis**Summary of Staff Recommendations (see report text for discussion):**Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with ConditionsWaiver: ☐ 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): May 20, 2014**Investigation Report**

Project Description: This project is for the reconductoring of an existing 138 kV single circuit transmission line. The reconductoring will occur from Boring Road in Vinton County to Goosecreek Road, or approximately four miles to the west. No additional right-of-way or easements are required for this reconductoring 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 \$1.83 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 increased structure loading with the heavier conductor, existing wood H-frame structures will be replaced with similar steel H-frame structures at the same locations. The project is expected to begin in April, 2012.

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Site Description: 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 for maintenance of 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 tied to the existing cable then pulled will be used for installation. 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.