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**OPSB Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**

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**Case No.:** 12-0833-EL-BNR  
**Project:** Hanging Rock Station Expansion  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power

2012 APR -5 PM 1:43

PUCO

**Report Date:** April 5, 2012  
**Automatic Approval Date:** April 14, 2012 (Construction Notice)

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Inspection Date(s):** March 29, 2012

**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley

**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 30, 2014

**Investigation Report**

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to expand the fence-line for AEP's existing Hanging Rock 765 kV substation by 1.46 acres. The footprint of the existing substation covers over 30 acres, equating to a proposed 4.8% increase in size. The Applicant owns all of the property needed for the expanded fence-line. The Applicant is replacing existing 765 kV reactors in the substation due to age and reliability concerns. The new reactors will be located within the expanded fence-line to ensure adequate room to work. Construction is expected to commence in late April 2012, and be completed in May 2012.

**Site Description:** The project is located in Lawrence County, Ohio. The impacted area is currently a combination of spoil from the original substation construction completed decades ago, grass/gravel roadways, and a rail spur. The area has 765 kV towers and lines around the substation, as the Duke Hanging Rock generating facility is located nearby. No trees will need to be removed for this expanded fence-line, and no agricultural use, streams nor wetlands will be disturbed by this project. The applicant had an Eastern Spadefoot habitat assessment completed for the expanded area. Based on this assessment, Staff concurs that a presence/absence survey is not required for the Eastern Spadefoot for this project.

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

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Technician AN Date Processed APR 05 2012