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May 22, 2012

Chairman Todd A. Snitchler  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

**Erin C. Miller**  
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RE: **Pre-Application Notification Letter  
In the matter of the application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company for  
a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the  
345/138/69 kV Biers Run Substation Project. Case No. 12-1361-EL-BSB**

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Transco) files this pre-application notification letter in accordance with O.A.C. 4906-5-08. According to the rule a prospective applicant must hold a public informational meeting and provide this notice to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). Specifically, O.A.C. 4906-5-08 requires:

- (1) A basic description of the project that shall include information about the anticipated function, equipment size, approximate aerial extent, general location, and purpose of the project.**

AEP has a critical need to reinforce its transmission system in the southern Ohio area of Columbus Southern Power Company (now known as AEP-Ohio), in the regions of Chillicothe and Circleville due to continued development and the need for an upgraded transmission system. To accomplish this, the company proposes to build a new 345/138/69 kV transmission substation (Biers Run Substation) in the rural Chillicothe, Ohio area, make improvements at several existing substations, upgrade transmission lines and construct two new 138 kV transmission lines in the area.

The Biers Run Project is a major transmission reinforcement effort designed to help AEP maintain an adequate level of transmission reliability in southern Ohio. The Biers Run Substation will allow the company to address reliability concerns about potential low voltages and thermal overloads under certain conditions. Without this substation, in a worst case scenario, uncontrolled widespread power outages

affecting major portions of southern Ohio may materialize. AEP studies indicate that without this reinforcement plan, the performance of the company's transmission system will be inadequate to provide the level of service that its customers expect.

The transmission area encompassing Chillicothe and Circleville is served primarily by three major 138 kV transmission lines: Harrison-Circleville, Poston-Ross and Waverly-Ross. An outage of any two of these circuits could result in severely depressed voltage throughout the area, well below what is permitted by AEP's planning criteria.

To resolve this criteria violation, AEP has proposed and PJM has approved a baseline project to construct a new 345/138/69 kV station (Biers Run Substation) to inject two new 138 kV circuits (one to Circleville Station and other to Delano Station) and two new 69 kV circuits to reinforce the 138 kV and 69 kV transmission line systems in the area. This will provide much needed voltage and thermal capacity support, as well as transmission reliability improvements on an immediate and long-term basis for the area.

AEP Transco is proposing to locate the Biers Run 345/138/69 kV Substation on a 103 acre property located about nine miles west of Chillicothe, between Biers Run Road and State Route 35. The size of the station will be approximately 8.5 acres, with about 3.5 acres for an access drive, totaling approximately 12 acres for the entire project. AEP will propose "Blue" and "Red" station layouts on this property with relatively no overlap of layouts, due to the size of the overall property.

The new 345/138/69 kV Biers Run Substation will have the following major equipment: 1- 450 MVA, 345/138 kV three phase transformer, 345 kV ring bus, 3- 345 kV breakers, 1- 130 MVA, 138/69 kV three phase transformer, 7- 138 kV breakers, 1- 43.2 or 51.8 MVAR, 138 kV capacitor bank, 3- 69 kV breakers and 2- 16' by 54' drop-in control house modules. This is an initial list of major equipment quantities; however, the final configuration of the substation is still under engineering review.

The proposed substation will enhance service reliability and provide capacity for economic growth in the area. This substation will also allow AEP to address reliability concerns about the potential for low voltages and thermal overloads under single and double contingency outage conditions. Without this substation, in a worst case scenario, uncontrolled widespread power outages affecting major portions of Southern Ohio may materialize. This substation will allow AEP to address reliability concerns about the potential for low voltages and thermal overloads under these conditions.

**(2) The date, time, and location of the public informational meeting to be held pursuant to paragraph (B) of this rule.**

AEP Transco is finalizing the public informational meeting now, but expects the meeting to take place on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at the Pioneer School of Developmental Disabilities, 11268 Co. Rd. 550, Courtyard Area (left of the

entrance), in the evening from 6:00-8:00 P.M. If there is any change OPSB staff will be notified.

**(3) A list of any anticipated waivers of the board's rules that the applicant will be requesting for the project.**

AEP Transco anticipates filing a waiver request from the one year notice provision of Section 4906.06(A)(6), Revised Code.

Cordially,

//ss// Erin C. Miller  
Erin C. Miller  
Legal Counsel

cc: Jon Pawley, OPSB Staff

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/22/2012 5:04:18 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 12-1361-EL-BSB**

Summary: Letter of Notification Pre-Application electronically filed by Erin C Miller on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.