

FILE

OPSB Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation

Case No.: 12-2216-EL-BLN
Project: Marysville Station Expansion
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
Report Date: August 31, 2012

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Automatic Approval Date: September 11, 2012 (Expedited Letter of Notification process)
Waiver Requests: None
Inspection Date(s): August 22, 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):

1. That prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorization as required by federal or state laws and regulations, including but not limited to the applicable NPDES Construction General Permit and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit (12), for any stream and/or wetland impacts.
2. The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of September 30 to April 1 for the clearing of any suitable Indiana bat habitat, if avoidance measures cannot be achieved.

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

Investigation Report

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to expand the fence-line for AEP's existing Marysville 765 kV substation by 14.4 acres, or by roughly 51%. The Applicant owns all of the property needed for the expanded fence-line. The Applicant is increasing the enclosed area of the existing substation in order to replace four (4) existing 765 kV transformers and eleven (11) existing reactors, in a manner so that placement of the new equipment will involve minimal outage time. Construction is expected to commence on October 1, 2012, and be completed by December 1, 2012.

Site Description: The Applicant owns the land the substation sits on, including the additional 14.4 acre area proposed with this project. The expanded area consists of agricultural use, open field, upland forest and mowed lawn.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: One ephemeral stream (approximately 450 linear feet) and one wetland (0.09 acres) will be impacted by this expansion. The applicant has applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit (Nationwide 12) for these impacts, which is pending and will be required prior to construction. One existing stormwater retention pond (0.10 acres) will also be impacted. This expansion project is separate from the expansion previously completed under Case No. 12-0472-EL-BNR. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts.

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