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Ohio Power Siting Board

Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation

Case No.: 12-2208-EL-BNR

Project: Hanna-West Ravenna #1 & #2
Double Circuit 138 kV Reconductor

Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Inc.

Report Date: 4 September 2012

Automatic Approval Date: 12 September 2012 (Construction Notice process)

Waiver Request: None

Inspection Date(s): 31 August 2012

Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell & D. Rostofer

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 a public information program be instituted that informs affected property owners of the nature of the project, specific contact information for Applicant personnel who are familiar with the project, the proposed timeframe for project construction, and a schedule for restoration activities. Notification to property owners shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to work on the affected property;
- 2) That prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by Federal and State entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required. Copies of such permits shall be provided to Staff;
- 3) 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;

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- 4) That prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit to the Staff, for review and approval, a project access plan. This plan shall include all laydown areas, residential and environmental sensitive area access points (walk-in-only locations) and any locations where vegetation clearing is required. The plan shall consider the location of residential fencing, private structures, streams, wetlands, and wooded areas;
- 5) If the Applicant elects to utilize a helicopter stringing methodology for the project, then the Applicant shall consult with Staff regarding the applicability of the preceding conditions.

Projected Docket Closure Date (if automatically approved): 1 June 2015

Investigation Report

Project Description: This project involves reconductoring two 138 kV transmission line circuits that are supported on steel lattice tower structures. The existing 4.75 and 4.80-mile circuits would be removed and replaced with higher capacity lines. The project is needed to alleviate line loading and improve system reliability. Currently, the lines could exceed their Summer Emergency Ratings.

Site Description: The existing lines are located in a combination of suburban, rural residential and agricultural land uses. In the suburban portion of the project, part of the Applicant's r-o-w access is restricted by residential fencing. Additionally, wetlands are present along other segments of the line. These factors necessitate the need for the Applicant to develop an access plan to avoid potential residential property and wetland impacts. Construction would be limited to existing easements; therefore, no new r-o-w is required. The project is located in Ravenna, Rootstown and Franklin Townships, Portage County.

Discussion/Comments/Concerns: Adequate access is available for construction. No significant vegetative clearing is expected. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.