



Photo 52: Wetland W03, view west.



Photo 53: Wetland W03, view east.



Photo 54: Wetland W06, view south.



Photo 55: Wetland W06, view west.



Photo 56: Wetland W07, view northwest.



Photo 57: Wetland W08, view northwest.



Photo 58: Wetland W08, view northeast.



Photo 59: Wetland W09, view northwest.



Photo 60: Wetland W010, view north. In foreground is UNT to East Branch Nimishillen Creek.



Photo 61: Wetland W011, view southwest.



Photo 62: Wetland W012, view east.



Photo 63: Wetland W012, view west.



Photo 64: Wetland W013, view south. W013 abuts S013, an UNT to the East Branch of Nimishillen Creek.



Photo 65: Wetland W013, view north.



Photo 66: Wetland W014, view east.



Photo 67: Wetland W014, view north.



Photo 68: Wetland W014, view east.



Photo 69: Wetland W014, view west.



Photo 70: Southern portion of wetland W014, view west.



Photo 71: Wetland W015, view west.



Photo 72: Wetland W015, view north.



Photo 73: Wetland W016, view north.



Photo 74: Wetland W016, view east.



Photo 75: Wetland W017, view east.



Photo 76: Wetland W017, view north.



Photo 77: Wetland W018, view north.



Photo 78: Wetland W018, view south.



Photo 79: Wetland W019, view northeast.



Photo 80: Wetland W019, view southeast.



Photo 81: Wetland W020, view north.



Photo 82: Wetland W020, view west.



Photo 83: Wetland W020, view south.



Photo 84: Wetland W021, view south.



Photo 85: Wetland W021, view west.



Photo 86: Western extension of Wetland W021, view west.



Photo 87: Wetland W022, view south.



Photo 88: Wetland W022, view north.



Photo 89: Wetland W004, view west.

Threatened and Endangered Species Letter Report



CH2M HILL
10123 Alliance Road
Suite 300
Cincinnati, OH 45242
Tel 513.530.5520
Fax 513.530.5541

January 25, 2013

Rebekah Hovermale
American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 45230

Subject: Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Line Project, Stark County, Ohio
Threatened and Endangered Species Records Review Report

Dear Ms. Hovermale:

This Threatened and Endangered Species Records Review (Report) summarizes the information obtained from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Ohio Biodiversity Database Program, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the January 14-17, 2013 site reconnaissance visit conducted by CH2M HILL at the Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Line Project (Project) site located in Stark County, Ohio. For this Project, American Electric Power (AEP) proposes to install a second conductor circuit on an existing tower line that has a vacant position for approximately 10 miles, replacing eight (8) lattice towers with single pole davit arm structures. The right of way for this project is 100 ft. wide. Because the new conductor will be installed on the vacant side, the Project will be located on the existing right-of-way (ROW) of the Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Line Project. This ROW extends northeast from the West Canton Substation approximately following the Canton/North Canton boundary. The ROW then turns south east until it reaches the Canton/Osnaburg Township line, at which point it turns and runs due south. The ROW then turns southwest until it intersects the Wagenhals Substation.

Ohio Power Siting Board regulations (OAC 4906-11-01(E)(1)) require the applicant to investigate for "... the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the area likely to be disturbed by the project ..." This letter report fulfills that requirement.

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CH2M HILL was retained by AEP to review available information and document vegetation communities within the Project area during a site reconnaissance visit. Prior to conducting the site visit, CH2M HILL reviewed the USFWS Federally Listed Species by Ohio Counties report (USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office, 2013) for information concerning which federally listed, proposed endangered, proposed threatened, and candidate species are known to occur, or potentially occur, in Stark County, Ohio. CH2M HILL also reviewed the relevant United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map, Canton West and Canton East quadrangles (available in the Letter of Notification [LON] Exhibit 1). Additionally, CH2M HILL submitted an ODNR Ohio Biodiversity Database Program Data Request Form to the ODNR Division of Wildlife via email on January 15, 2013, to solicit information on known occurrences of

federally-listed and state-listed species within a one-mile radius of the Project area. A response from the ODNR Division of Wildlife was received on January 22, 2013, via email (Attachment A). The results of the Ohio Biodiversity Database Program search are discussed below.

2.0 RESULTS OF DOCUMENT REVIEW

The ODNR Division of Wildlife's January 22, 2013, letter identified no records of rare or endangered species in the Project area or within a one-mile radius, in the City of Canton, Stark County, Ohio. In addition, the letter stated that the ODNR is unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, Scenic Rivers, State Wildlife Areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, National Wildlife Refuges, or other protected natural areas within a one-mile radius of the Project area (Attachment A).

The USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office (2013) identified one federally-listed endangered species or candidate species as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Stark County, Ohio: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered). Additionally, the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office (2013) lists the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) as a species of concern. The bald eagle was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species by the USFWS on July 9, 2007, because their populations made sufficient recovery. The species is still protected, however, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Act (USFWS 2013).

3.0 FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES HABITAT ASSESSMENT

A habitat assessment and pedestrian survey of potentially suitable threatened and endangered species habitats within the Project area was completed January 3-6, 2013.

The majority of the Project area comprises active agricultural fields, mowed lawn, and old field habitats. The remainder of the Project area consists of upland early successional/second growth forest and PSS/PEM wetland.

Summer roosting habitat consists of trees with crevices, cavities, or exfoliating bark (USFWS 2007). Indiana bat winter habitat consists of caves, mines, and other cave-like locations (USFWS 2007). No potentially suitable Indiana bat summer or winter habitat was identified during the field investigation. Since the Project area is located in an existing, maintained ROW, and no tree clearing will occur during the construction and operation of the Project, the Project will not adversely affect the Indiana bat.

Likewise, since the project will not require tree clearing, the Project will not adversely affect bald eagles or bald eagle nests.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This letter report summarizes the results of the threatened and endangered species habitat assessment, conducted by CH2M HILL, within the AEP Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Line Project area in Stark County, Ohio. No forested habitat will be impacted by the construction or operation of the Project. In addition, no trees will be cleared during construction; therefore, the Project will not adversely affect Indiana bat or bald eagle.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist AEP with this Project. If you have questions, please feel free to call John Hurd at (513) 587-7158.

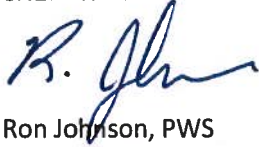
Rebekah Hovermale

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January 25, 2013

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Johnson".

Ron Johnson, PWS
Environmental Scientist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hurd".

John Hurd
Project Manager

Attachments: Attachment A – ODNR Division of Wildlife's January 22, 2013 Letter

REFERENCES

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013. Bald and golden eagles. Available online at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm> and accessed January 2013.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ohio Ecological Services Field Office. 2013. Federally listed species by Ohio counties, January 2013. Available online at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/ohio/>.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2007. Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) Draft Recovery Plan: First Revision. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, MN. 258 pp.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Ohio Division of Wildlife
Scott Zody, Chief
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

January 22, 2013

John Hurd
CH2M Hill
10123 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Cincinnati, OH 45242

Dear Ms. Hurd,

After reviewing the Natural Heritage Database, I find the Division of Wildlife has no records of rare or endangered species in the confidential utility area, including a one mile radius, in the City of Canton, Stark County, Ohio. We are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests, national wildlife refuges, parks or forests or other protected natural areas within a one mile radius of the project area.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although we inventory all types of plant communities, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6452 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Schneider".

Greg Schneider, Administrator
Ohio Natural Heritage Database Program

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Case No(s). 13-0170-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification Wagenhals-West Canton 138kV Line Improvement Project
(Part 3) electronically filed by Mr. Yazen Alami on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company