



Legal Department

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June 11, 2013

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 138kV
Ebersole Substation Project. Case No. 13-0733-EL-BSB.**

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Transco) files this pre-application notification letter in accordance with Rule 4906-5-08 Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.). According to this provision, a prospective applicant must hold a public informational meeting and provide this notice to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). Specifically, 4906-5-08 O.A.C. 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 parts of AEP Ohio's service territory in the Findlay area of Hancock County to accommodate development and to upgrade its transmission system in northwestern Ohio. To accomplish this, AEP Transco proposes to build a new 138-kV transmission substation (Ebersole Station) northeast of the City of Findlay in Hancock County, make improvements at several existing substations, and upgrade and reroute existing 138-kV transmission lines on existing rights of way (ROWS). Existing Lines will be rerouted only for station entrances and exits.

This project — known as the Findlay Area Improvement Plan — is a major transmission reinforcement effort designed to help AEP maintain an adequate level of transmission reliability in northwest Ohio. The proposed Ebersole Station will allow the company to address reliability concerns about potential low voltages under certain contingency conditions. Without this substation, in a worst case scenario, uncontrolled widespread power outages affecting major portions of Hancock and nearby counties may materialize.

The existing transmission system in the area includes the Fostoria Central and East Lima 345/138-kV transformations. In addition, there are 138-kV interconnections with

First Energy at the West Fremont Station and Howard Stations; and 69-kV and 34.5-kV sub-transmission loops around the Findlay area feed the distribution system.

The improvement project is needed to resolve low-voltage concerns discovered during PJM's 2015 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) studies. These N-1-1 (double contingency) studies indicated low voltage and voltage magnitude violations in the Findlay area. The 138-kV stations that experience voltage issues include New Liberty, North Findlay, Findlay Center and Marion. This project will also reinforce several 69-kV and 34.5-kV transmission assets in the vicinity of the proposed Ebersole 138-kV Station. Adding the proposed Ebersole Station will allow AEP to address double contingency violations (as required by AEP and PJM planning criteria) on its existing Findlay 138-kV transmission network.

In summary, construction of the new Ebersole Station will resolve voltage concerns in this area by establishing a new 138-kV source in the Findlay area, reinforcing the existing sub-transmission system. This also will allow for future distribution system expansion in the area as well as allow AEP Ohio to continue to provide its customers with the level of service they expect. AEP studies indicate that without this reinforcement plan, the performance of the company's transmission system will be inadequate.

AEP Transco is proposing to locate the Ebersole 138-kV Station on an approximate 67-acre property in Cass Township, Hancock County, approximately 1.7 miles northeast of the City of Findlay. The property is near the intersection of Township Road 238 and County Road 216. The completed station will use approximately four acres, with between one-half and one acre dedicated to an access drive. AEP will propose "Blue" and "Red" station layouts on this property with relatively no overlap of layouts because of the size of the overall property. This property currently is an active agricultural field.

(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 its plans for the public informational meeting and expects the open house to take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on July 11, 2013, at Owens Community College, Conference Center Room 111, 3200 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio. 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 does not anticipate filing any waiver requests at this time.

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

6/11/2013 4:47:56 PM

in

Case No(s). 13-0733-EL-BSB

Summary: Letter of Notification -pre-application notification letter in accordance with Rule 4906-5-06 Ohio Admin. Code. electronically filed by Erin C Miller on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.