

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by
American Electric Power Ohio Power Company for a
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
Need for the Canal - Mound 138 kV Transmission Line
Relocation Project in Franklin County, Ohio.**

Members of the Board:

Todd Snitchler, Chairman, PUCO
David Goodman, Director, ODSA
Dr. Ted Wymyslo, Director, ODH
David Daniels, Director, ODA
Scott Nally, Director, Ohio EPA
Jim Zehringer, Director, ODNR
Jeffery J. Lechak, PE, Public Member

Peter Stautberg, State Representative
Sandra Williams, State Representative
Michael Skindell, State Senator
Bill Seitz, State Senator

To the Honorable Power Siting Board:

Please review the attached Staff Report of Investigation, which has been filed in accordance with the Board's rules. The applicant's accelerated certificate application in this case is subject to an automatic approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The application will be automatically approved on August 10, 2013, unless suspended by the Board's chairperson, the executive director, or an administrative law judge. If suspended, the Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days.

The Staff Report includes recommended conditions of the certificate. Prior to the automatic approval date, the applicant must file a supplement to its application that adopts these conditions. Absent such supplement, Staff will recommend that the case be suspended.

Any concerns you or your representative may have with this case must be presented to the Executive Director of the Power Siting Board at least four business days prior to August 10, 2013, which is the automatic approval date. To contact the Executive Director with concerns, you can reply to the email to which this document was attached, or use the ContactOPSB email address listed below.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Warner

Kim Wissman
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
(614) 466-6692
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 13-1533-EL-BNR
Project Name: Canal – Mound 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Project Location: Franklin County, Ohio
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Power Company
Application Filing Date: June 28, 2013
Filing Type: **Construction Notice**
Inspection Date: July 10 and July 30, 2013
Report Date: July 31, 2013
Automatic Approval Date: August 10, 2013
Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to relocate the Canal-Mound 138 kV transmission line that runs beneath Interstate 71 (I-71) in downtown Columbus, Ohio. Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be utilized to cross under I-71 with the relocated transmission line. Some open trench work in two adjacent roadways/alleyways will also be necessary at the entry and exit tie-in line locations. The Applicant estimates the total capital cost of this project to be approximately \$3.3 million. The 138 kV line must be relocated due to upcoming scheduled construction work to continue to widen I-71. This road widening will involve changes in elevation of the highway that would result in exposing the existing underground 138 kV transmission line. Construction is expected to commence on September 1, 2013 and be completed and placed in service by December 31, 2013.

Site Description

The relocated 138 kV line will be approximately 1,400 feet in length and located underground. The line is proposed entirely within City of Columbus and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) road right-of-way. The HDD under I-71, at 870 feet in length, will be greater than half the length of the entire project.

Nature of Impacts

The Applicant has proposed to construct the entire line within existing road right-of-way. Therefore, potential impacts are expected to be largely confined to operation of the HDD equipment and temporary road and driveway closures. The Applicant is coordinating with the

City of Columbus to mitigate noise impacts from HDD equipment and traffic/parking issues to the greatest extent practicable on surrounding residents and businesses, by limiting hours of operation and road/driveway closures.

There will be no permanent adverse visual effects of this line relocation, as the project will result in the retirement of an existing section of underground transmission line, with the installation of a new transmission line section underground and within road right-of-way.

Conclusion

The Applicant's utilization of existing road right-of-way for the entire length of the project significantly minimizes potential adverse impacts. With the following conditions, the construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on August 10, 2013.

Staff Recommended Conditions:

- (1) The Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state laws and regulations for any activities where such permit or authorization is required. Copies of such permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, shall be provided to Staff;
- (2) The Applicant shall institute a public information program 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, complaint contact information, and a schedule for restoration activities. Notification to property owners shall be given at least 30 days prior to work at the affected property;
- (3) The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic related issues with the appropriate entities (Ohio Department of Transportation and City of Columbus) to ensure that traffic is maintained and parking impacts are temporary during construction.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/31/2013 2:51:31 PM

in

Case No(s). 13-1533-EL-BNR

Summary: Report of investigation electronically filed by Mr. Adam S Bargar on behalf of Staff of OPSB