



Power Siting Board

John R. Kasich, Governor
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Board Members

August 26, 2013

PUCO

Scott Nally
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Lynn Hanson, President
Ohio Archaeological Council
P.O. Box 82012
Columbus, Ohio 43202

David Goodman
Ohio Development Services Agency

Theodore E. Wymysio, M.D.
Ohio Department of Health

Re: Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Case No. 13-0429-EL-BTX

Jim Zehring
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Hanson,

David Daniels
Ohio Department of Agriculture

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) regarding American Electric Power Transmission Company's (AEP Transco) proposed Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano 138 kV Transmission Line Project. Your correspondence in regards to the project has been docketed in case number 13-0429-EL-BTX.

Jeffery J. Lechak, P.E.
Public Member

Peter Stautberg
Ohio House of Representatives

Sandra Williams
Ohio House of Representatives

To date, the OPSB has not received an application from AEP Transco concerning this project. Once an application is filed, specific routing plans for the line will be available on the OPSB website at www.opsb.ohio.gov.

Bill Selz
Ohio Senate

When reviewing an electric transmission application, OPSB staff investigates each route to determine many criteria. When determining impacts to cultural and historical resources, the OPSB staff consults with the Ohio State Historical Preservation Office to identify and minimize any such potential impacts. An enclosed copy of the OPSB's Electric Transmission FAQ provides additional clarification of the OPSB process and siting criteria.

Michael Skindell
Ohio Senate

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the OPSB at (866) 270-6772. Again, thank you for your continued interest in this case.

Executive Director
Kim Wissman

Very truly yours,

Kim Wissman, Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

KW: sai

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180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

(866) 270-6772
www.OPSB.ohio.gov



THE OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 82012 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43202

Ohio Power Siting Board
Attn: Steve Irwin
180 East Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Re: Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Irwin,

It has come to our attention that AEP's proposed Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano Transmission Line Project, the "Blue Route," will cross over the Anderson Works—an ancient Hopewell earthwork complex. Ohio is known for its ancient Native American earthwork sites, most of which were built about 2000 years ago. In 1914 nearly 600 of these earthwork sites were documented in the state. Many dozens of these sites have since been completely destroyed by gravel mining, road building, and urban development. Many more have been impacted by utility lines that could have been routed around them.

All earthwork sites are unique in their construction, shape, and use, and many are burial grounds. As such, each site is sacred in its own way and each has an important tale to tell. The Anderson Works, which are quite clear on 1938 aerial photographs (see Figure 1), belong to a class of large rectilinear enclosures that are relatively rare in Ohio. Many of the enclosures in this class are perfectly square and represent one of the latest types of large-scale earthwork construction at these Hopewell ceremonial centers. Anderson is somewhat irregular and likely represents an earlier rectilinear construction. This is supported by the only radiocarbon date from the site—which, when calibrated, falls in the range of 173 BC to AD 123.

The Anderson Works is also unique in that it was only just discovered in the 1970s. Since this time, the site has experienced very little scientific study and a portion of it has been seriously impacted by a housing development (see Figure 2). Nevertheless, the southern two-thirds of the site are still topographically evident, indicating that they remain intact. As you can see in Figure 3, the proposed "Blue Route" for the Biers Run-Hopetown-Delano Transmission Line goes right over a portion of the intact earthwork. In addition to what is visible of the earthwork topographically, there likely are intact archaeological features below ground, as well. On-going geophysical surveys in the Ross County area, including one just down the road at Hopewell Mound Group, are finding that there are many other features present below ground at earthwork sites, in addition to the remains of the earthwork's embankments. Thus, any disturbance of the ground at the Anderson Works could negatively impact the site's archaeological remains.

The Ohio Archaeological Council is a private, non-profit corporation registered with the State of Ohio in 1975 as a charitable scientific and educational organization promoting the advancement of archaeology in Ohio. The Council consists of professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and interested students of Ohio archaeology. Our members live and work in all corners of the state and our primary missions are protecting Ohio's historic resources and educating others about them.

We urge you to reconsider the routing of the Biers Run – Hopetown – Delano Transmission Line over the Anderson Works. Though seemingly a small impact to the site, this proposed transmission line will forever damage this ancient monument that has been in place for 2000 years.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lynn M. Hanson, President
Ohio Archaeological Council
lynn.hanson0301@yahoo.com
(937) 239-0547

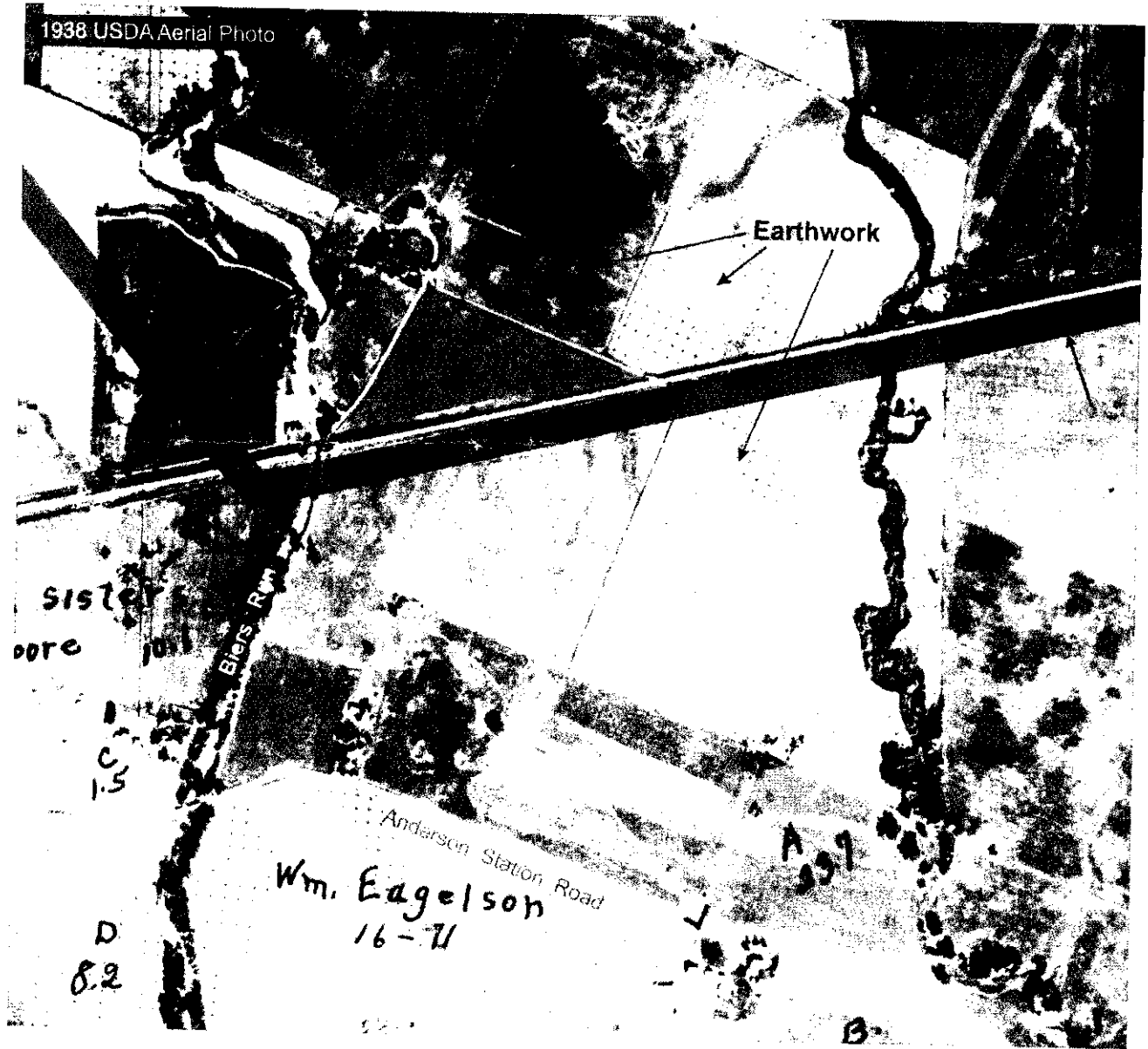


Figure 1. The Anderson Works as it appeared in 1938.

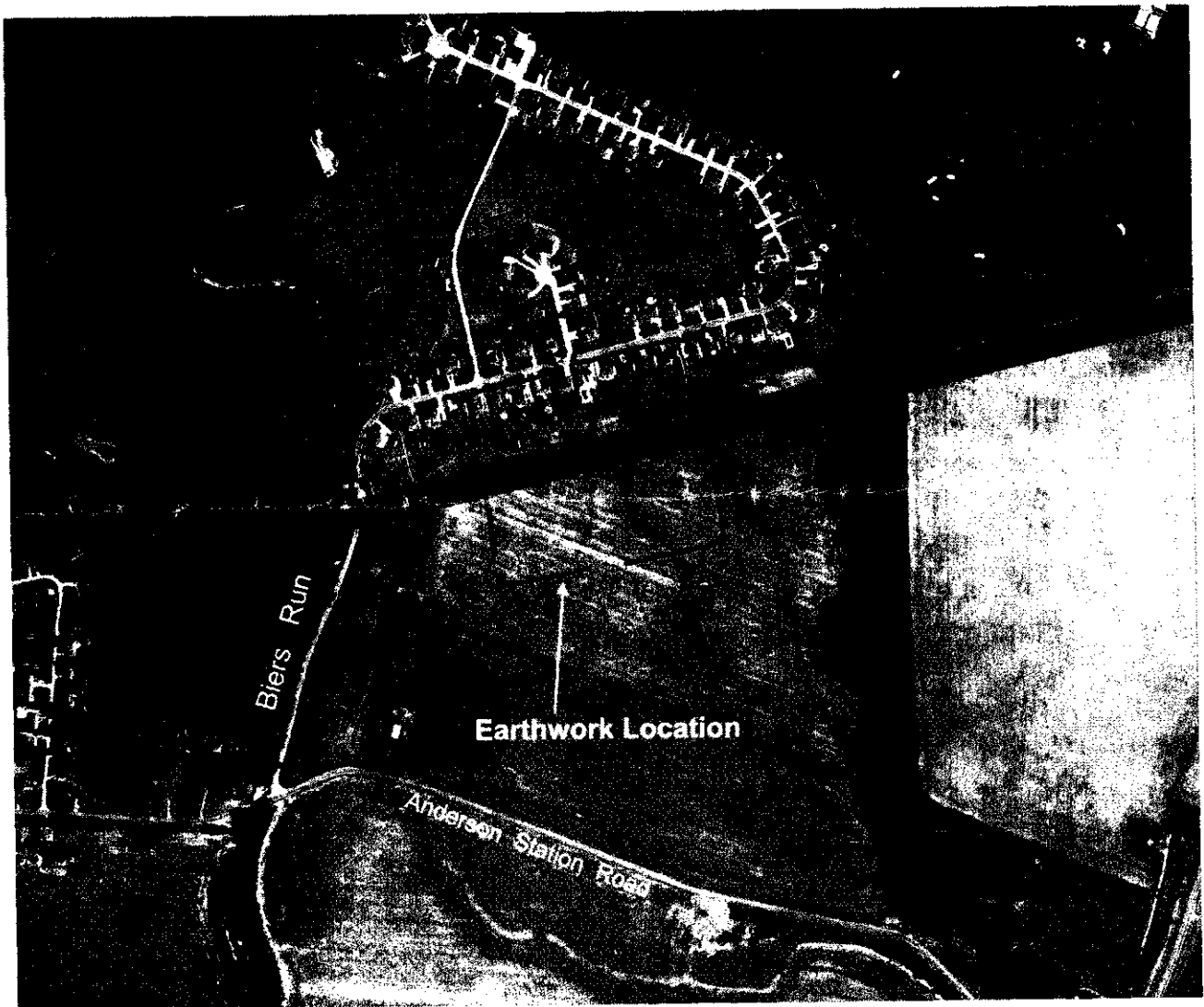


Figure 2. The location of the Anderson Works on a 2012 aerial photograph.

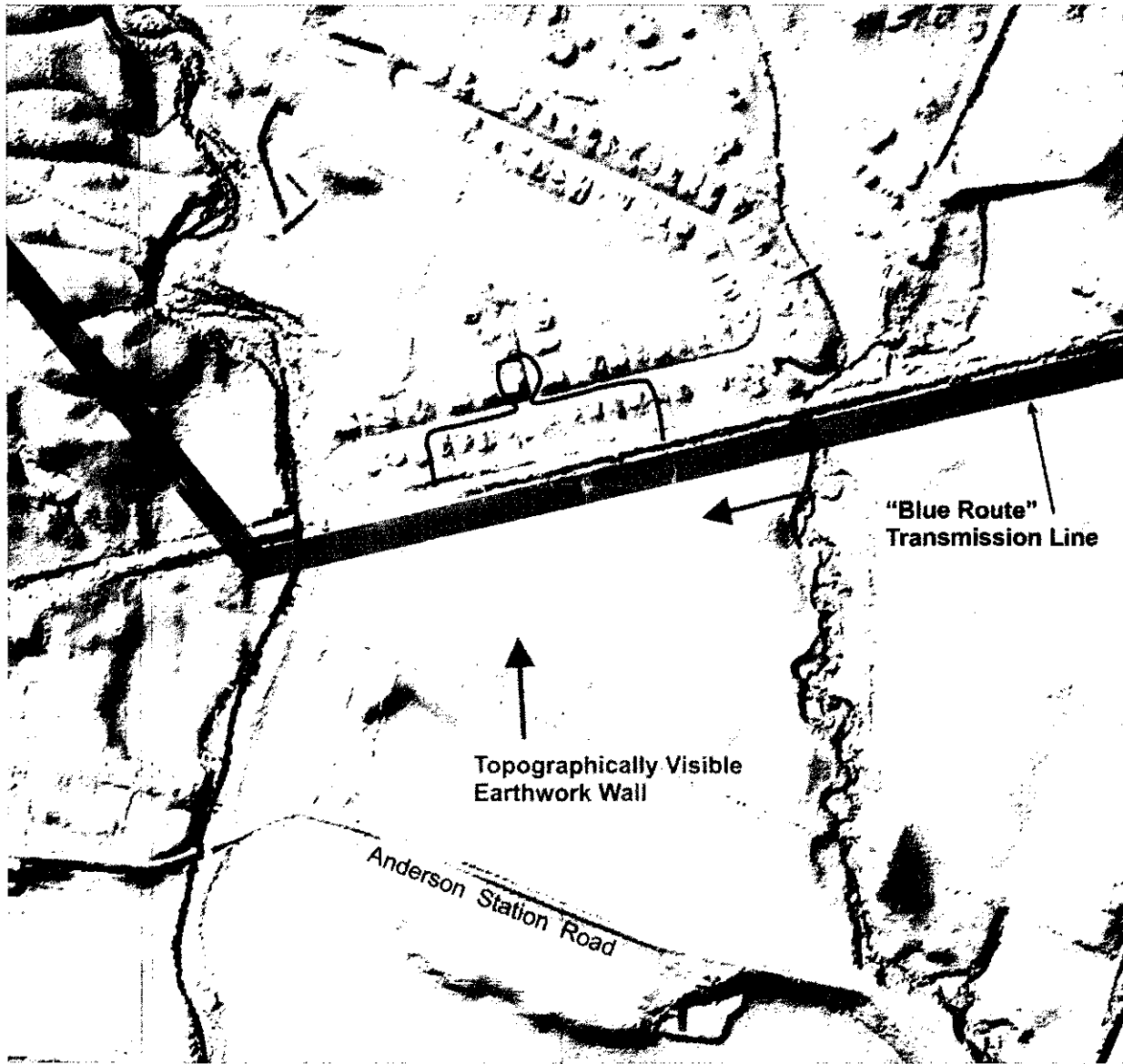


Figure 3. The topographic signature of the Anderson Works circa 2006/2007.