



Legal Department

American Electric Power  
1 Riverside Plaza  
Columbus, OH 43215-2373  
AEP.com

December 30, 2013

Chairman Todd Snitchler  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Yazen Alami, Esq.  
Regulatory Services  
(614) 716-2920 (P)  
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yalami@aep.com

Re: Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Relocation Project  
Case Number 13-2412-EL-BLN

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

In accordance with Rules 4906-5-02 and 4906-11-01, Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C."), Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio submits this Letter of Notification for expedited approval. A check in the amount of two thousand dollars for expedited review will be submitted under separate cover. The requested start date of construction is March 2014 and the project is scheduled to be in-service in December 2014.

As required by Rule 4906-11-01(D)(4), O.A.C., AEP Ohio has submitted a copy of this Letter of Notification to the political subdivisions immediately affected by the proposed project. Copies of these letters are enclosed.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Yazen Alami  
Yazen Alami

Attachments

**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR THE**

**GAVIN 138KV EXTENSION NO.2 RELOCATION PROJECT**

**OPSB Case No. 13-2412-EL-BLN**

**Submitted pursuant to OAC 4906-11-01**

**AEP Ohio**

**December 2013**

# **LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

## **Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Relocation Project**

The following information is being provided in accordance with the procedures delineated in Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-11-01: Letter of Notification Requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the Ohio Power Siting Board.

### **4906-11-01 (B): General Information**

#### **4906-11-01 (B) (1) a: Name and Reference Number**

Name of Project: Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Relocation (Project)

2012 LTFR Reference: This Project is identified on tab FE-T9\_OH T-2 in the Long-Term Forecast Report (LTFR) for 2012.

#### **4906-11-01 (B) (1) b: Brief Description of Project**

American Electric Power, DBA Ohio Power Company (AEP Ohio) is proposing to relocate a 1.3 mile portion of the existing double circuit Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 overhead electric transmission line, to accommodate the Gavin FGD Landfill Expansion. This project has been assigned **OPSB Case Number 13-2412-EL-BLN**. The Project is located just northwest of the Village of Cheshire in Cheshire Township, Gallia County, Ohio, and will connect the Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Transmission Line to the Sporn – Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line. Exhibit 1 shows the general location of the project superimposed on a portion of the United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle for Gallia County, Ohio (Quad, Map ID 38082-H2). Exhibit 2 provides an aerial photograph of the Project area showing the proposed route and existing transmission lines.

The Project is located on AEP property at the Gavin Plant in Gallia County, Ohio. The relocated transmission line will extend northwest, to tie into the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV Line. The relocation will require construction of six new steel lattice towers and one two-pole dead-end structure on AEP owned property south and west of the existing landfill.

The route taps the existing Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line, then passes over the Sporn-South Point 138 kV line. The new structures will be approximately 600 feet apart, depending upon the need to span ponds, streams, wetlands, and ravines. Approximate structure locations are indicated on Figures 1 and 2. Wetlands and waterbodies and proposed access routes are shown on Figures 4A and 4B in the Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Report. A summary description of the major route characteristics described from north to south is provided below:

- From structure 1 to 2, the route heads southeast and spans a dry ravine where upland drainages 1 and 2 were observed that flow to Pond 3.
- The span from structures 2 to 3 passes southeast through a valley across Wetlands 1, 2, and 4, and Pond 2, the Gavin Fly Ash Impoundment. Wetland 2 is located at the edge of the survey corridor.
- From structures 3 to 4 the route passes southeast-east over a second ravine and Wetlands 3 and 4, and a second crossing of Pond 2, the Gavin Fly Ash Impoundment. There are two crossings of Wetland 3, which fringes this crossing of Pond 2.
- For the remainder of the route, the project runs mainly along dry, wooded ridge tops before terminating at existing structure 6. The Project will be located on property owned by AEP. The Project will require a 100-foot-wide permanent ROW.

**4906-11-01 (B) (1) c: Why the Project Meets the Requirements for a Letter of Notification**

The Project falls under Item (1) (d) of the Interim Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines, in Appendix A of 4906-1-01. This section of the Code states that an applicant may use the LON process if the Project is:

- (1) *Rerouting or extension of new construction of a single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s) as follows:*

*(d) Line(s) one hundred twenty-five kV and above, but less than three hundred kV, and greater than 0.2 miles in length but not greater than two miles in length.*

The Project presented in this LON fulfills this condition, as the project is a 138kV line less than two miles in length.

**4906-11-01 (B) (2): Need for the Project**

The Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Relocation Project will relocate an existing transmission line to allow for the expansion of an FGD landfill at the AEP's Gavin Plant.

**4906-11-01 (B) (3): Location Relative to Existing or Proposed Lines**

Three transmission lines are located in the immediate vicinity of the Project. This Project will be replacing the northern portion of Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Transmission Line that exits the Gavin Substation to the east (Exhibit 1). The portion of the Gavin 138 kV Transmission line that enters the Substation from the south will remain in place. The second line is the Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 1 which runs immediately to the west of the Gavin Substation and heads to the northwest, just to the west of the Project. The project passes over Sporn-South Point 138 kV line before tapping the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV line immediately to the north. The Gavin-Maysville 765 kV line runs northwest to southeast a little less than a mile to the east of the Project. Additional transmission and distribution lines are located further to the southeast of the Project.

These additional transmission lines are shown on Exhibit 1.

**4906-11-01 (B) (4): Alternatives Considered**

AEP conducted a route evaluation for the relocation of the line. Limitations of the project included a strong preference to keep the project on AEP-owned land, to minimize impacts to neighbors and to accommodate the existing ash pond and landfill limits and proposed landfill expansion. A routing study that looked at multiple options was conducted, but subsequent re-mapping of the landfill limits and incompatible geo-technical conditions within the ash pond removed many of those options from consideration and limited practical routes to those west of the landfill limits. Additional technical limitations included favorable terrain for passing over the Sporn-South Point

138 kV line, and the reasonable access to the proposed pole locations. The combination of AEP-owned property, need to avoid the landfill expansion, the existing landfill and ashpond footprint, the terrain challenges, and the limited tap point locations dictated the route for the project.

#### **4906-11-01 (B) (5): Construction Schedule**

Tree clearing for the Project is scheduled to begin in February 2014. Construction of the proposed Project is scheduled to begin in March of 2014, with a proposed in-service date of December 2014.

#### **4906-11-01 (B) (6): Area Map**

Exhibit 1 is a map depicting the general location of the Project site. To locate and view the Project site from the Columbus, Ohio area:

- Take Interstate 70 east towards Wheeling.
- Take exit 105A to merge onto US-33 east toward Lancaster.
- Keep right at the fork and follow signs for US-33 east.
- Merge onto US-33 east/US-32 west.
- Keep right at the fork and merge onto US-33 east.
- Take OH-124 west/OH-7 south exit toward Gallipolis.
- Turn right onto OH-124 west/OH-7 south.
- Turn right onto OH-554 west.
- Turn left onto County Road 13/Gravel Hill Road.
- Take the 1<sup>st</sup> right onto Township Road 619/Turkey Run Road.
- The site will be on the right-hand side of the road.

#### **4906-11-01 (B) (7): Property Owner List**

The Project is located on property owned by AEP. No additional properties are required.

## **4906-11-01 (C): Technical Features of the Project**

### **4906-11-01 (C) (1): Operating Characteristics**

AEP will design and construct the new transmission line for 138 kV operations. Additional details are included in Section 4906-11-02 (B) (2) above. The transmission line has the following characteristics:

Voltage: 138 kV

Conductor: Double Circuit 1,033 kcmil ACSR (54/7) Curlew

Shield Wire: 159 kcmil ACSR (12/7) Guinea

#### **Structure types**

Structure 1: New 2 Pole Structure on concrete foundation (Tap Str 17A)

Structure 2: New Steel Lattice Suspension Tower

Structure 3: New Dead End Tower

#### **4906-11-01 (C) (2) (a): Calculated Electric and Magnetic Fields**

Gavin-Sporn 138 kV and Gavin-Millbrook 138 kV (Super Bundle Configuration ABC-ABC)			
Condition	Ckt. 1/Ckt. 2 Load (A)	Electric Field (kV/m)	Magnetic Field (mG)
(1) Normal Max. Loading	324/98	0.2/2.2/0.2	20/40/14
(2) Emergency Line Loading	460/220	0.2/2.2/0.2	30/61/24
(3) WN Conductor Rating	979/979	0.1/3.0/0.1	88/218/88
Gavin-Sporn 138 kV and Gavin-Millbrook 138 kV (Low Reactance Configuration ABC-CBA)			
Condition	Ckt. 1/Ckt. 2 Load (A)	Electric Field (kV/m)	Magnetic Field (mG)
(1) Normal Max. Loading	324/98	0.2/1.0/0.2	15/34/5
(2) Emergency Line Loading	460/220	0.2/1.0/0.2	19/47/6
(3) WN Conductor Rating	979/979	0.2/1.8/0.2	36/195/36
EMF levels (left ROW edge/maximum/right ROW edge) calculated one meter above ground assuming balanced currents and nominal voltages			
Electric fields reflect normal and emergency operations; lower electric fields are expected during emergency conditions when one mutually-coupled line is out of service.			
For power-frequency EMF, IEEE Standard C95.6TM-2002 recommends the following limits:			
	General Public	Controlled Environment	
Electric Field Limit (kV/m)	5.0	20.0*	
Magnetic Field Limit (mG)	9040	27,100	
*10.0 kV/m within power line ROW.			

#### **4906-11-01 (C) (2) (b): EMF Discussion**

Three loading conditions were examined: (1) normal maximum loading, (2) emergency line loading, and (3) winter normal conductor rating. Normal maximum loading represents the peak flow expected with all system facilities in service; daily/hourly flows fluctuate below this level. Emergency loading is the maximum current flow during unusual (contingency) conditions, which exist only for short periods of time. Winter normal (WN) conductor rating represents the maximum current flow that a line, including its terminal equipment, can carry during winter conditions. It is not anticipated that this line would operate at its WN rating in the foreseeable future.

#### **4906-11-01 (C) (3): Estimated Costs**

The estimated capital costs for the Project is \$4,200,000.



## **4906-11-01 (D): Socioeconomic Data**

### **4906-11-01 (D) (1): Land Use**

The Project is located northwest of the town of Cheshire and entirely within Gallia County, Ohio. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2010 population for the town of Cheshire was 132 and Gallia County was 30,708.

The proposed transmission line relocation passes through and over a series of hills and valleys, many of which have been previously mined according to the USGS topographical map. Much of the route has been recolonized by woodland since the mines were abandoned, making woodland the dominant land use along the route. Of the total 1.3 mile route, 5,820 linear feet is woodland. The remainder of the route crosses minor roads, and two arms of a fly ash pond. The land uses crossed as measured from the GIS mapping are:

- woodlands (5,820 linear feet),
- existing access road (88 linear feet),
- existing ROW (191 linear feet),
- palustrine forested (PFO) and emergent wetlands (PEM) (194 linear feet),
- ponds (376 linear feet).

### **4906-11-01 (D) (2): Agricultural Land**

The proposed project does not cross any agricultural land.

### **4906-11-01 (D) (3): Archaeological or Cultural Resources**

As part of AEP's assessment of the Project, a search of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office National Register of Historic Places on-line database was conducted. This search did not identify the existence of any historic sites within the Project area. Properties in the database include all Ohio listings on the National Register of Historic Places as well

as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Based on this review it does not appear that the Project will have an adverse impact on known cultural or historic resources. Weller and Associates conducted a Phase I survey for the project. A copy of this report is attached under separate cover.

**4906-11-01 (D) (4) a: Documentation of Letter of Notification Transmittal**

AEP is providing this Letter of Notification to the following officials of Cheshire Township and Gallia County, Ohio. Copies of the transmittal letters to these officials have been included with the transmittal letter submitting this Letter of Notification to the Ohio Power Siting Board.

**Gallia County**

Mr. Harold Montgomery, President  
Mr. David Smith  
Mr. Brent Saunders  
Gallia County Board of Commissioners  
18 Locust Street  
Gallipolis, OH 45631

Mr. Brett Boothe, PE  
Gallia County Engineer's Office  
1167 SR 160  
Gallipolis, OH 45631

**Cheshire Township Trustees**

Joseph Dean Roush  
2324 State Route 554  
Cheshire, OH 45620

Michael R. Conkle  
127 Cemetery Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620

J.D. Taylor  
403 Grover Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620

**Middleport Public Library**

178 S 3rd Avenue  
Middleport, OH 45760

**Cheshire Township**

Ms. Virginia Letson  
Cheshire Township Fiscal Officer  
Cheshire Township  
1908 Turkey Run Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620

**4906-11-01 (D) (4) b: Public Information Program**

AEP's Manager of External Affairs will advise local officials of features and the status of the proposed transmission line Project as necessary.

#### **4906-11-01 (D) (5): Current or Pending Litigation**

There is no known current or pending litigation involving this Project.

#### **4906-11-01 (D) (6): Local, State, and Federal Requirements**

Project activities may temporarily affect wetland areas and small intermittent streams located on the Project site; however, AEP anticipates that any impacts can be permitted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit program (Nationwide Permit 12) if necessary.

The project will require an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, however will be covered under the Individual Permit for the flyash pond currently permitted through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Best Management Practices will be incorporated into the E&S Plan and prepared in accordance with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit OCH000004 – Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

There are no additional known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of construction on the proposed transmission line Project.

#### **4906-11-01 (E): Environmental Data**

##### **4906-11-01 (E) (1): Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species Investigation**

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in a response dated October 22, 2013, there are no records of rare, threatened, or endangered species (RTE) located within one mile of the general Project area. ODNR further indicated they are unaware of 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

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ohio Ecological Services Field Office identified the following federally-listed endangered species and candidate species as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Gallia County, Ohio:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered),
- northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, proposed endangered),
- fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*, endangered),
- pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*, endangered),
- sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*, endangered),
- and snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*, endangered).

AEP anticipates to conduct clearing activities during the period of October 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore the Project is unlikely to adversely affect Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat or their habitat. Based on the limited amount and flow regime of aquatic resources, the Project will not likely adversely affect the listed mussel species.

#### **4906-11-01 (E) (2): Areas of Ecological Concern**

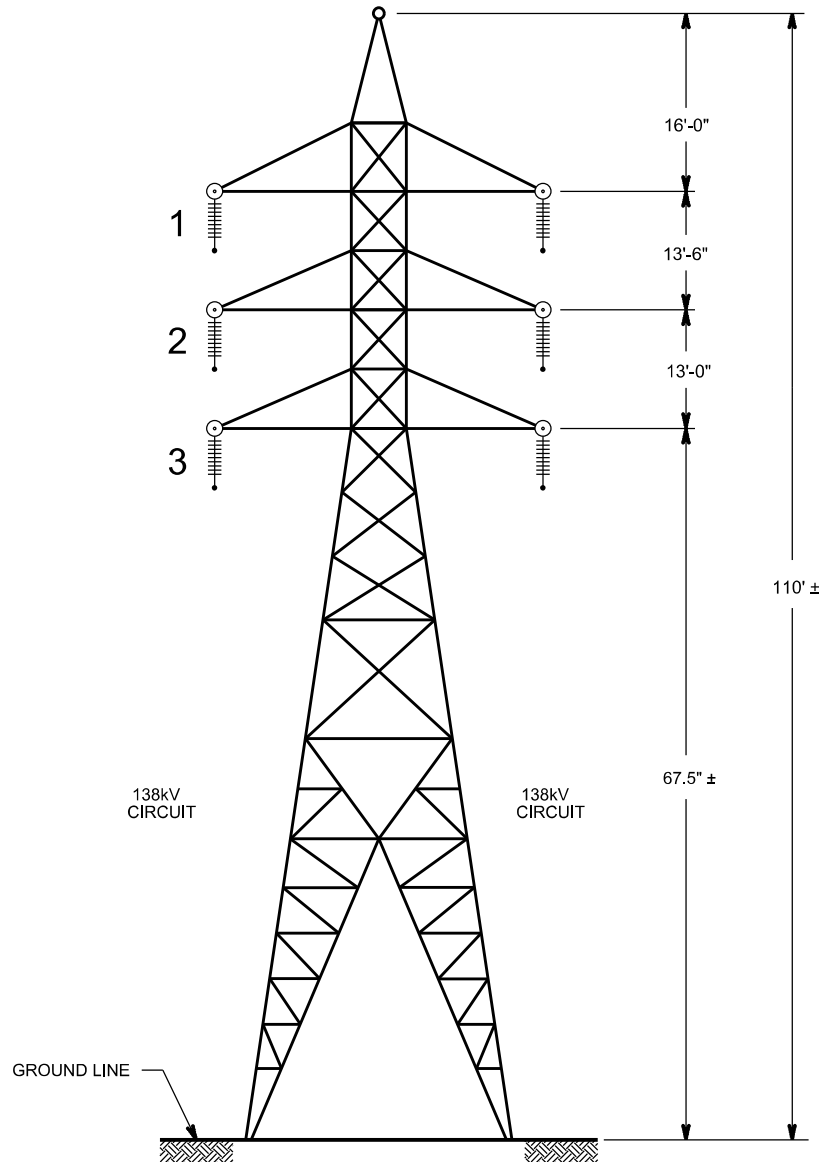
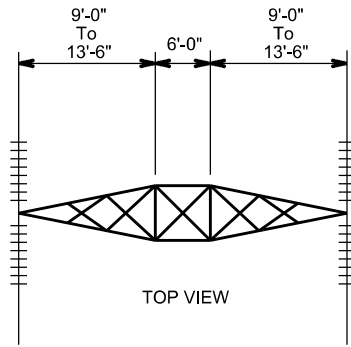
A wetland and waterbody delineation was conducted for the project between October 15 and 16; and December 4, 2013. This delineation identified four wetlands and two ponds. The four wetlands consisted of two PEM wetlands, and two wetlands that had portions of PFO and PEM vegetation were identified within the Project area. No wetlands will be permanently impacted by the project. AEP will place structures outside of wetland boundaries and will not fill or change the contours of any wetland on site. Access to each structure location will, to the extent practical, avoid crossing through wetlands. Where a wetland crossing cannot be avoided, AEP will employ flexible matting which will be removed following completion of construction.

A stream crossing is not anticipated, but if necessary will be made by existing access routes where available. Where stream crossings are required, they will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and one of several methods may be used, from fording if conditions are dry, to use of temporary timber bridges.

All temporary impacts associated with construction activities will be restored after construction is completed.

**4906-11-01 (E) (3): Additional Information**

Construction and operation of the proposed Project will be in accordance with the requirements specified in the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and will meet all applicable safety standards established by Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



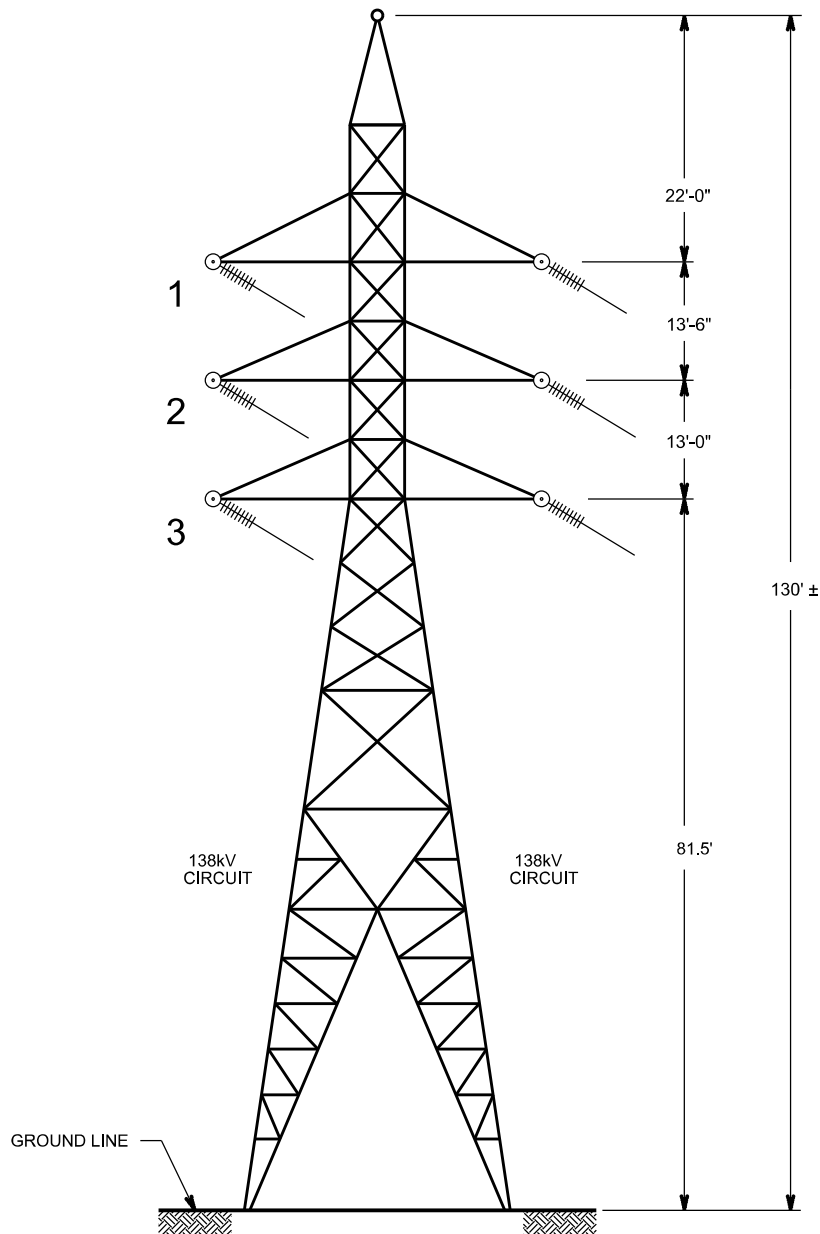
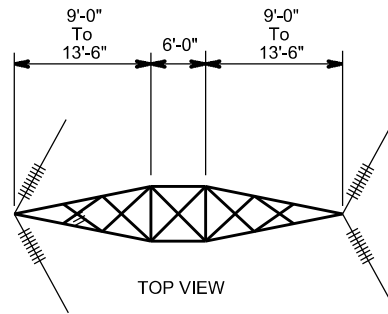
GAVIN 138kV EXTENSION NO. 2



PROPOSED LINE  
TOWER - SUSPENSION  
CONFIGURATION

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 1



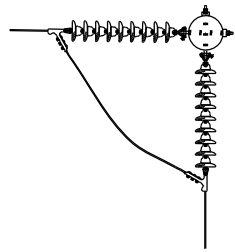
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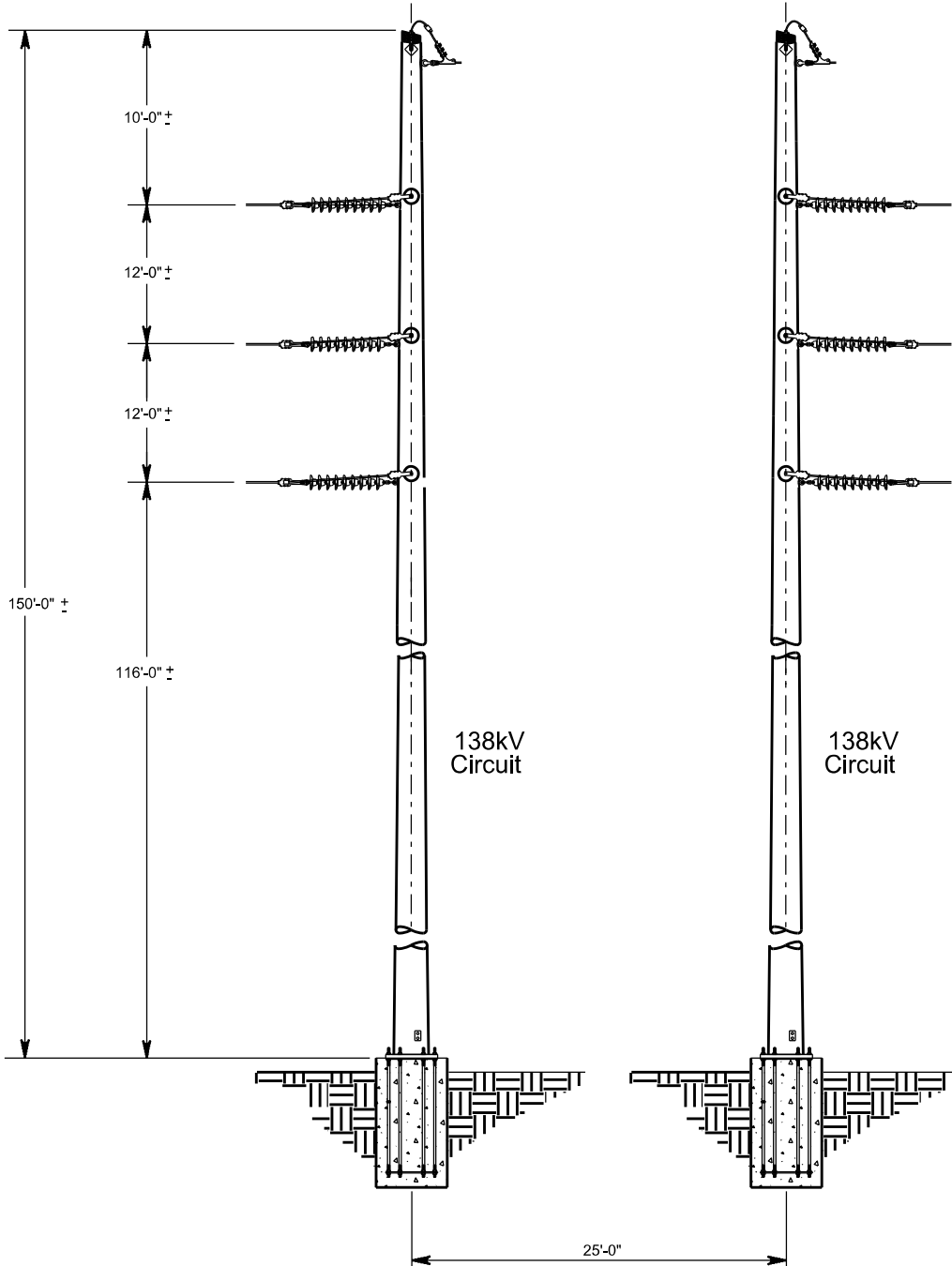
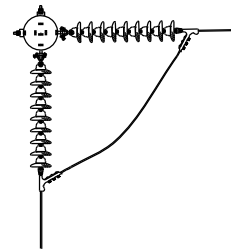
PROPOSED LINE  
TOWER - DEADEND  
CONFIGURATION

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2



TOP VIEW



GAVIN 138kV EXTENSION NO. 2



PROPOSED LINE  
DEADEND TWO POLE  
CONFIGURATION

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 3





700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, OH  
43230

December 30, 2013

Gallia County Board of Commissioners  
Mr. Harold Montgomery  
Mr. David Smith  
Mr. Brett Saunders  
18 Locust Street  
Gallipolis, OH 45631

**Letter of Notification**  
**Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project**  
**Case No. 13-2412-EL-BLN**

Dear Board of Commissioners:

In the above captioned project, AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power, is proposing to construct a 1.3-mile overhead 138 kV electric transmission line. The line will connect the Gavin Substation located on the northwest side of the Gavin Generation Facility to the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV transmission line 1.3 miles to the north. The Project is located in Cheshire Township, Gallia County, Ohio. The proposed Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project (Project) is a steel lattice-supported electric transmission line and will require a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) completely located on AEP-owned property.

In accordance with the provisions of Ohio Administrative Code (“OAC”) Rule 4906-1-01, this project falls within the Ohio Power Siting Board’s requirements for a Letter of Notification (LON). Therefore, in compliance with OAC 4906-11-02 of the OPSB’s Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached LON with the OPSB for their review and approval. The LON contains a description of the project, and is provided for your information.

I will be happy to answer your questions concerning this matter. You can contact me at (614) 552-1890.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Hovermale  
Transmission Line Siting Specialist  
American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, OH  
43230

December 30, 2013

Mr. Brett Boothe, P.E.  
Gallia County Engineer's Office  
1167 SR 160  
Gallipolis, OH 45631

**Letter of Notification**  
**Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project**  
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American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
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December 30, 2013

Ms. Virginia Letson, Fiscal Officer  
Cheshire Township  
1908 Turkey Run Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620

**Letter of Notification**  
**Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project**  
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American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, OH  
43230

December 30, 2013

Mr. Joseph Roush  
Cheshire Township Trustee  
2324 State Route 554  
Cheshire, OH 45620  
740-367-7530

**Letter of Notification**  
**Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project**  
**Case No. 13-2412-EL-BLN**

Dear Cheshire Township Trustee:

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Transmission Line Siting Specialist  
American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, OH  
43230

December 30, 2013

Mr. Michael Conkle  
Cheshire Township Trustee  
127 Kyger Cemetery Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620  
740-367-7791

**Letter of Notification**  
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American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
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December 30, 2013

Mr. James Taylor  
Cheshire Township Trustee  
403 Grover Road  
Cheshire, OH 45620  
740-367-0512

**Letter of Notification**  
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Transmission Line Siting Specialist  
American Electric Power



700 Morrison Road  
Gahanna, OH  
43230

December 30, 2013

Middleport Public Library  
178 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Middleport, OH 45760  
740-992-5713

**Letter of Notification**  
**Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project**  
**Case No. 13-2412-EL-BLN**

To Whom it May Concern

In the above captioned project, American Electric Power Company, Incorporated (“AEP”) is proposing to construct a 1.3-mile overhead 138kV electric transmission line. It will connect the Gavin Substation located on the northwest side of the Gavin Generation Facility to the Sporn-Portsmouth 138 kV transmission line 1.3 miles to the north. The Project is located in Cheshire Township, Gallia County, Ohio. The proposed Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Project (Project) is a steel lattice-supported electric transmission line and will require a 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW).

In accordance with the provisions of Ohio Administrative Code (“OAC”) Rule 4906-1-01, this project falls within the Ohio Power Siting Board’s requirements for a Letter of Notification (LON). Therefore, in compliance with OAC 4906-11-02 of the OPSB’s Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached LON with the OPSB for their review and approval. The LON contains a description of the project, and is provided for your information.

I will be happy to answer your questions concerning this matter. You can contact me at (614) 552-1890.

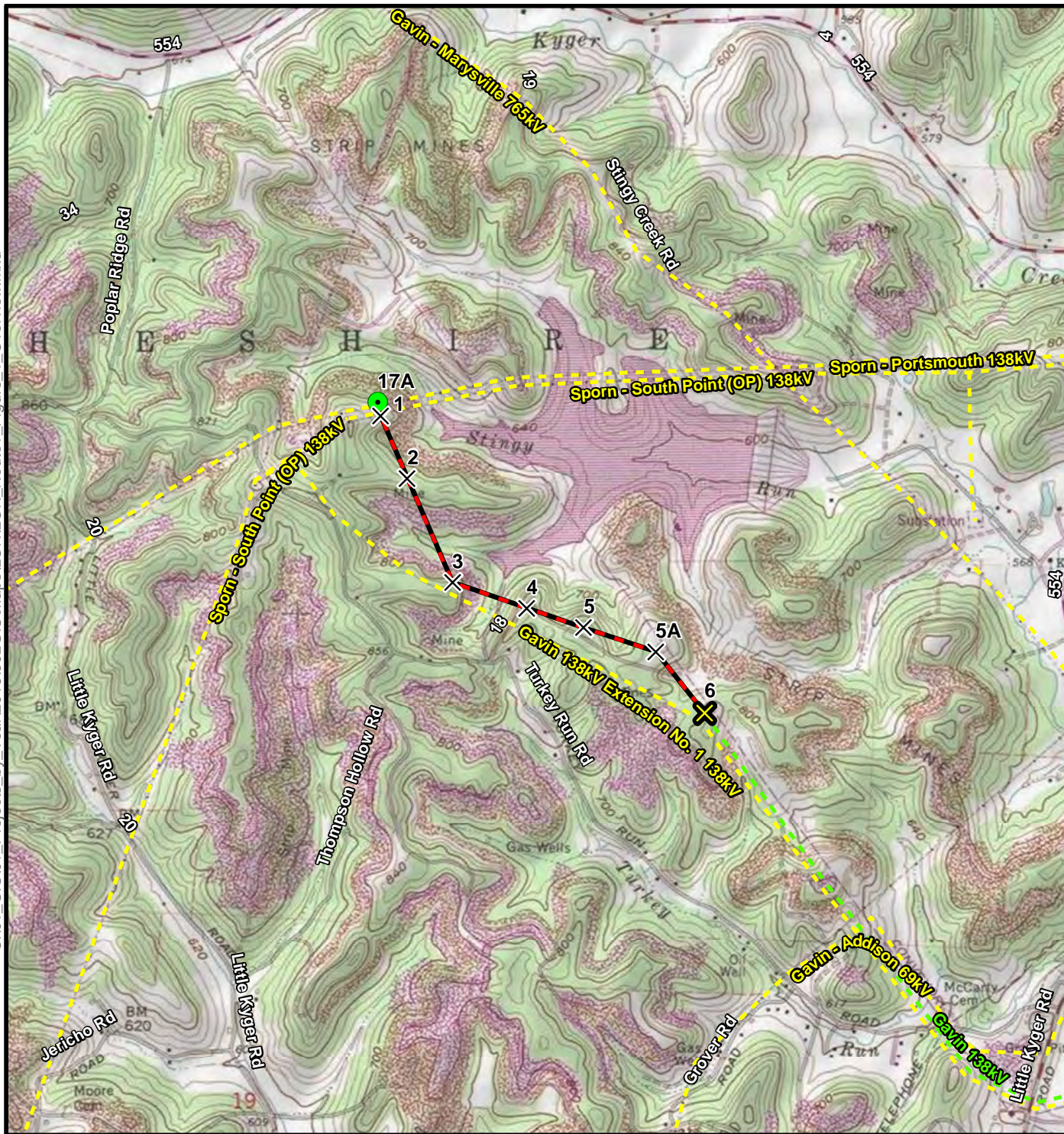
Sincerely,

Rebekah Hovermale  
Transmission Line Siting Specialist  
American Electric Power

## **EXHIBITS**

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#### LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Tap Structure
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Gavin 138 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Gavin 138kV Extension 2



BASE MAP SOURCE:  
USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle:  
Addison (published 1977)

LOCATOR MAP SOURCE:  
ESRI Data and Maps, 2010:  
U.S. States; U.S. Counties

0 2,000 4,000  
Scale In Feet



Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2  
Transmission Line

### EXHIBIT 1 OVERVIEW MAP

PN: 457954	DATE: 12/2/2013
CREATED BY: BC	
REVIEWED BY: JH	





**LEGEND:**

- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Tap Structure
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Gavin 138 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Gavin 138kV Extension 2
- 100-ft. Right-of-Way

BASE MAP SOURCE:  
Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP), 2007  
Gallia County



Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2  
Transmission Line

**EXHIBIT 2  
PROJECT AREA**

PN: 457954

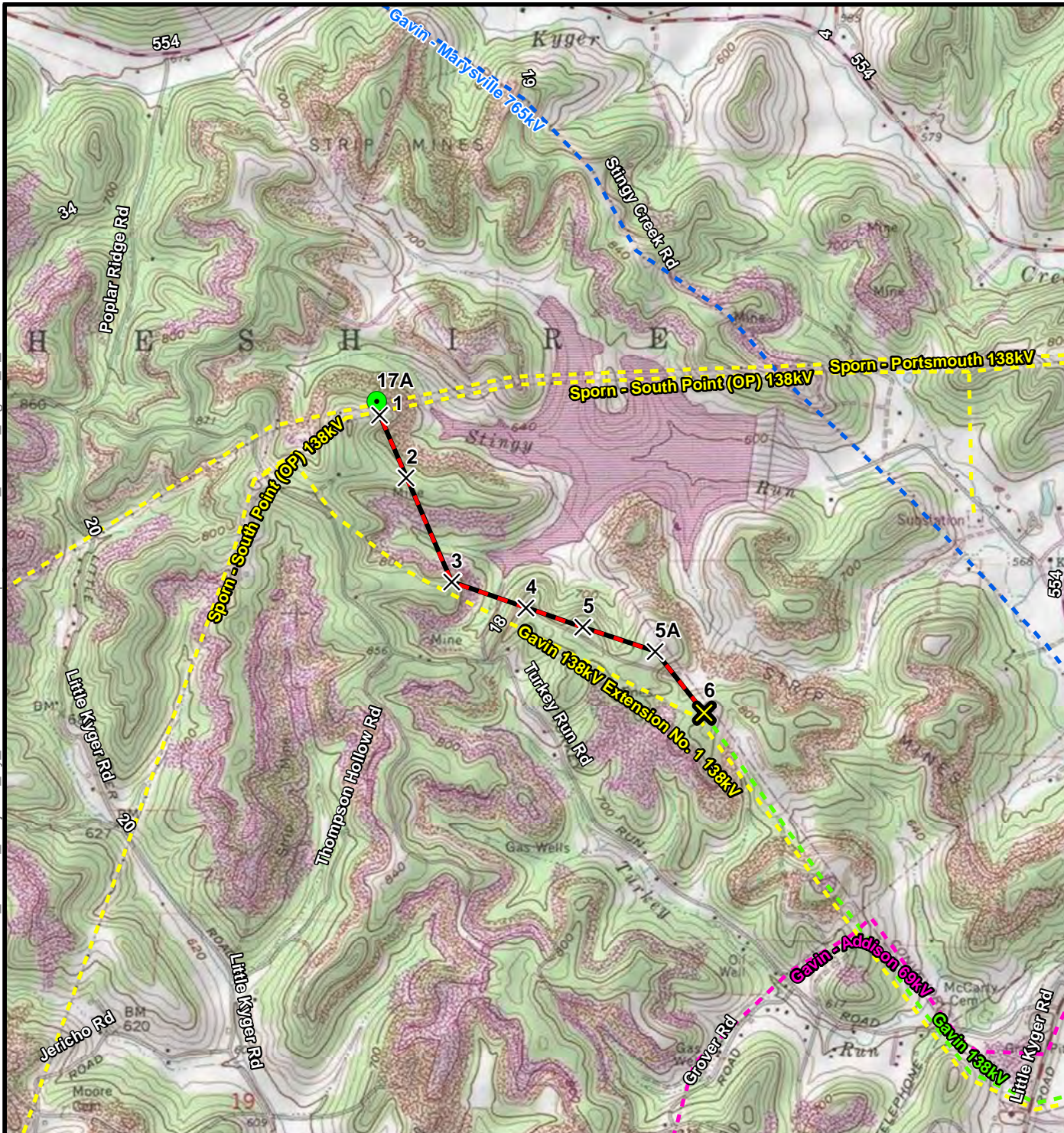
DATE: 12/2/2013

CREATED BY: BC

REVIEWED BY: JH







#### LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Tap Structure
- Proposed Gavin 138kV Extension 2
- Existing Gavin 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 69 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing 765 kV Transmission Line

BASE MAP SOURCE:  
USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle:  
Addison (published 1977)

0 2,000 4,000  
Scale In Feet



Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2  
Transmission Line

### EXHIBIT 3 EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES

PN: 457954	DATE: 12/2/2013
CREATED BY: BC	
REVIEWED BY: JH	





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

December 13, 2013

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

Subject: Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Transmission Line  
American Electric Power  
Gallia County, Ohio  
Threatened and Endangered Species Records Review and Site Reconnaissance Report

Dear Ms. Hovermale:

This Threatened and Endangered Species Records Review and Site Reconnaissance Report (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 October 15 and 16; and December 4, 2013, site reconnaissance visits conducted by CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc. (CH2M HILL) at the Gavin 138 kilovolt (kV) Extension No. 2 Transmission Line Project (Project) site. The Project reconnaissance documented the vegetation communities, wetlands, and waterbodies present within the Project area. The Project is located just northwest of the town of Cheshire in Gallia County, Ohio, and will connect the Gavin 138kV Extension No. 1 Transmission Line to the Sporn – Portsmouth 138 kV Transmission Line. American Electric Power (AEP) is proposing to relocate the existing Gavin 138 kV transmission as part of the expansion of the existing Gavin Coal Combustion Resource Landfill. The Project will require a 100-foot permanent, maintained right-of-way (ROW). Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) 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 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. The Project area consisted of approximately 36 acres. This area includes a 200 to 245-foot wide corridor, mostly centered on the proposed transmission line route, plus a 20-foot wide corridor centered along six access roads. Prior to conducting the site visit, CH2M HILL reviewed the USFWS Federally Listed Species by Ohio Counties report (USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office, 2013a) for information concerning which federally listed, proposed endangered, proposed threatened, and candidate species are known to occur, or potentially occur, in Gallia County, Ohio. CH2M HILL also reviewed the relevant United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map (Addison and Cheshire quadrangles [Figure 1]). Additionally, CH2M HILL submitted an ODNR Ohio Biodiversity Database Program Data Request Form to the ODNR Division of Wildlife via email on October

17, 2013, to solicit information on known occurrences of federally-listed and state-listed species documented within a one-mile radius of the Project area. A response from the ODNR Division of Wildlife was received on October 22, 2013, via email (Attachment A). The results of the Ohio Biodiversity Database Program search are discussed in Section 2.0 below.

## 2.0 RESULTS OF DOCUMENT REVIEW

The ODNR Division of Wildlife's October 22, 2013, letter identified no records of federally or state-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species within the Project area or a one-mile radius. 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 (2013a) identified the following federally-listed endangered or proposed endangered species as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Gallia County, Ohio: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, proposed endangered), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*, endangered), pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*, endangered), sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*, endangered), and snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*, endangered).

## 3.0 SITE OBSERVATIONS

The Project area was investigated by CH2M HILL during site visits on October 15 and 16; and December 4, 2013, to document existing vegetation communities and hydrological conditions. Two palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM); two mixed PEM and palustrine forested (PFO) wetlands; and two ponds, including the Gavin Fly Ash Impoundment, were also identified within the Project area (Figure 2). Representative photos of these features are included in Attachment B.

### VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

Vegetative communities within the Project area include old field within the transmission ROW, upland forest, open land, and palustrine wetland.

The majority of the Project area is dominated by upland forest. Dominant canopy species include sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), hickory (*Carya* sp.), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*). Portions of the understory maintained a sparse to moderately dense shrub layer, including multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), grape (*Vitis* sp.), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), roundleaf greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), and saplings of the canopy species. Dominant herbaceous species included Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Pennsylvania smartweed (*Polygonum pennsylvanicum*), Canadian woodnettle (*Laportea canadensis*), needle spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*), blunt spikerush (*Eleocharis obtusa*), Nepalese browntop (*Microstegium vimineum*), and barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*).

Four transmission line ROWs cross the Project area. These areas contain old field species and forest edge habitat. Dominant vegetation in these areas includes early goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*), Canada

goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), multiflora rose, dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), and previously identified species from the adjacent upland forest.

A small portion of open land habitat will also be traversed in the southern portion of the Project area. The open land habitat contained orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Canada goldenrod, multiflora rose, dogbane, Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), and Japanese bristlegrass (*Setaria faberi*).

Palustrine wetland habitat was dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American elm, tuliptree, sassafras, woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), rice cutgrass, soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), netted chainfern (*Woodwardia areolata*), barnyard grass, common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), and rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*).

Site photographs documenting vegetation communities within the Project area are included in Attachment B.

## **WETLANDS AND WATERBODIES**

Four wetlands (W01, W02, W03, and W04) and two ponds (P02, and P03) were identified within the Project area.

### Category One Wetland

Based on an ORAM score of 25.5, one Category 1 wetland (W01) was identified within the Project area. This wetland was classified as PEM, and dominated by barnyard grass, common spikerush, and rice cutgrass.

### Category 2 Wetlands

With ORAM scores ranging from of 30-46.5, one Category 1 or 2 gray zone wetland (W03), one Modified Category 2 wetland (W02), and one Category 2 wetland (W04) were identified within the Project area. It is noted that these wetlands would be considered Category 2 wetlands for permitting. Two of these wetlands (W02 and W04) were classified as mixed PEM/PFO wetlands. Dominant plant species in the mixed PEM/PFO wetlands included red maple, American elm, tuliptree, sassafras, woolgrass, rice cutgrass, soft rush, and netted chainfern. The PEM wetland (W03) was dominated by soft rush and rice cutgrass.

The wetlands identified within the Project area appear to be hydrologically connected to surface water systems in the Project area and its vicinity and therefore will likely be considered jurisdictional by the USACE. Note that the USACE makes the final determination of wetland hydrologic connectivity and jurisdiction.

Five upland data points were recorded during the wetland delineation to determine the presence/absence of wetlands and/or document upland conditions within the Project area. These data points were determined not to be wetlands because they did not have positive indicators of one or more of the three wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils.

#### Waterbodies

No streams were identified within the Project area. Two upland drainage ditches (UD01 and UD02) were observed but are not expected to be considered jurisdictional by the USACE.

Two ponds were identified within the Project area (P02 and P03). P02 is the Gavin Fly Ash Impoundment. P03 is a small pond in the northern portion of the Project area.

## **4.0 FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES HABITAT ASSESSMENT**

A habitat assessment and site reconnaissance of potentially suitable threatened and endangered species habitats within the Project area was completed on October 15 and 16; and December 4, 2013.

As shown on Figure 2, the majority of the Project area is comprised of upland forest habitat with lesser amounts of open land and old field habitat associated with existing transmission line ROWs. The remainder of the Project area consists of PEM and PEM/PFO wetlands. Two ponds, including the Gavin Fly Ash Impoundment were identified within the Project area.

Potentially suitable Indiana bat summer habitat was identified within the upland forested areas located throughout the Project area. Summer roosting habitat consists of trees with crevices, cavities, or exfoliating bark (USFWS 2007). Based on Project plans provided by AEP, approximately 14 acres of upland forest would be impacted by Project construction and operation. Indiana bat winter habitat consists of caves, mines, and other cave-like locations (USFWS 2007). No potentially suitable Indiana bat winter habitat was observed during the site visit. The Indiana bat has been recorded in 46 of Ohio's 88 counties and the entirety of the state is considered potential breeding habitat (ODNR 2013). According to the ODNR, no summer occurrences or hibernacula of Indiana bats have been documented in Gallia County. The nearest documented Indiana bat summer records are in Lawrence, Scioto, Pike, Hocking, and Athens Counties, Ohio (ODNR 2013). The nearest documented Indiana bat hibernaculae to Gallia County are located in Lawrence, Scioto, Hocking, Adams, Brown, and Highland Counties, Ohio (ODNR 2013).

Suitable habitat for the Northern long-eared bat includes caves, mines, and wooded areas. The range of the northern long-eared bat includes much of the eastern and north central United States (USFWS 2013b). The northern long-eared bat was proposed endangered by the USFWS on October 2, 2013 (USFWS 2013c). The USFWS will make a final decision on listing the species after a 12-month review period (USFWS 2013c). Potentially suitable northern long-eared bat was identified within the upland forested areas located throughout the Project area.

Four federally-listed mussel species were identified on the USFWS Federally Listed Species by Ohio Counties report (USFWS 2013a): fanshell, pink mucket pearly mussel, sheepsnose, and snuffbox. Suitable habitat for these species is found in larger rivers and streams, and in smaller streams with a good current (USFWS 2013a). Based on the the waterbodies identified within the Project area, as outlined in Section 3.0, no potentially suitable habitat was identified for these species within the Project area.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

This letter report summarizes the results of the threatened and endangered species habitat assessment, conducted by CH2M HILL, within the Gavin 138 kilovolt (kV) Extension No. 2 Transmission Line Project area in Gallia County, Ohio. CH2M HILL identified four wetlands, totaling 0.89 acre, within the Project area. Two ponds were also identified, totaling 1.78 acres. Vegetative communities identified included

Rebekah Hovermale

Page 5

December 13, 2013

upland forest, old field associated with existing transmission line ROWs, open land, and palustrine wetlands.

Approximately 14 acres of upland forest will be impacted by the Project construction and operation. Data obtained from the ODNR DOW did not indicate any known occurrences of the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat from the Project area or within a one mile radius. Based on the limited amount of tree clearing proposed for the Project, the lack of ODNR records, and provided that the trees are cleared between October 15th and March 31st, it is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat or the northern long-eared bat.

Data obtained from the ODNR DOW did not indicate any known occurrences of the fanshell, pink mucket pearly mussel, sheepsnose, or snuffbox from the Project area or within a one mile radius. Based on the limited amount and flow regime of the waterbody identified within the Project area, CH2M HILL anticipates that this Project is not likely to adversely affect the fanshell, pink mucket pearly mussel, sheepsnose, or snuffbox.

If you have questions, please feel free to call John Hurd at (513) 587-7158.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc.



Lindsey Hescl  
Environmental Scientist



John Hurd  
Project Manager

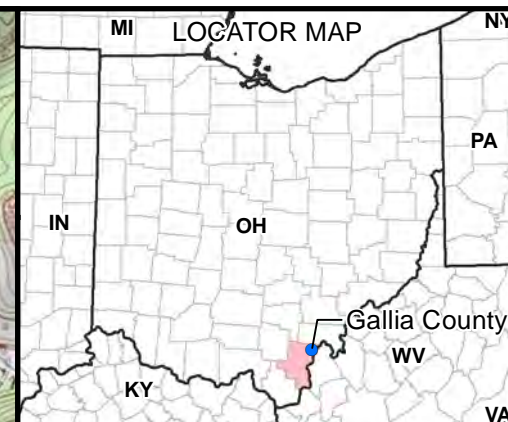
Attachments: Figures  
Attachment A – ODNR Division of Wildlife Correspondence  
Attachment B – Site Photographs



## REFERENCES

- NatureServe Explorer. An Online Encyclopedia of Life. Version 7.1. 2013. Available online at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>. Last updated July 2013. Accessed November 2013.
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife. 2013. Ohio Department of Natural Resources Indiana Bat Management Strategy. March 2013. pp 1-20.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). 2000. *ORAM v. 5.0 Quantitative Score Calibration*. Columbus, Ohio.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). 2002. *Field Evaluation Manual for Ohio's Primary Headwater Habitat Streams*. Final Version 1.0. September 2002.
- U.S. 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.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2012. Bald and golden eagles. Available online at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm> and accessed on November 6, 2013.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013a. Ohio County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and candidate Species. Revised Oct. 2013. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/lists/pdf/OhioCtyList2013.pdf>. Accessed November 7, 2013.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013b. Northern Long-Eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*. Revised Oct. 2013. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/nlbaFactSheet.html>. Accessed November 8, 2013.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013c. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes Endangered Status for the Northern Long-eared Bat; Listing Not Warranted for Eastern Small-footed Bat. Revised Oct. 2013. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/NewsRelease17Oct2013.html>. Accessed November 8, 2013.



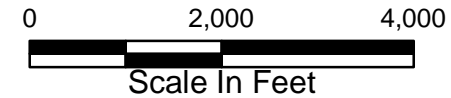


#### LEGEND:

- Project Area
- Proposed Access Road
- Proposed Route

BASE MAP SOURCE:  
USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle:  
Addison (published 1977)

LOCATOR MAP SOURCE:  
ESRI Data and Maps, 2010:  
U.S. States; U.S. Counties



Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2  
Transmission Line

### FIGURE 1 OVERVIEW MAP

PN: 457954	DATE: 12/10/2013
CREATED BY: BC	
REVIEWED BY: JH	





# **LEGEND:**

- Project Area
- Proposed Route
- Upland Drainage
- Wetland
- Pond

## **Habitat Type**

- Existing Access Road
- Open Land
- Transmission ROW
- Upland Forest



LOCATOR MAP SOURCE:  
Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC,  
NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong),  
Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

BASE MAP SOURCE:  
Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP), 2007  
Gallia County

0 800 1,600



Scale In Feet



Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2  
Transmission Line

**FIGURE 2**  
**HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP**

PN: 457954

DATE: 12/10/2013

CREATED BY: BC

REVIEWED BY: JH





# 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

October 22, 2013

Bryan Cross  
CH2M HILL  
10123 Alliance Rd. Suite 300  
Cincinnati OH 45242

Dear Mr. Cross

After reviewing the Natural Heritage Database, I find the Division of Wildlife has no records of rare or endangered species in the Gallia County - Confidential Utility Siting Project area, including a one mile buffer, in Cheshire Township, Gallia 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 blue ink that reads "Greg Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Schneider, Administrator  
Ohio Natural Heritage Database Program





Photo 1: View of upland habitat along Access Road (AR) 1, facing northeast.



Photo 2: View of transmission line right-of-way (ROW) and adjacent upland forest habitat.





Photo 3: View of existing transmission line ROW.



Photo 4: View of an upland drainage facing east.





Photo 5: View of an upland drainage facing northeast.



Photo 6: View of upland forest habitat along AR 2.





Photo 7: View of upland habitat along AR 3.

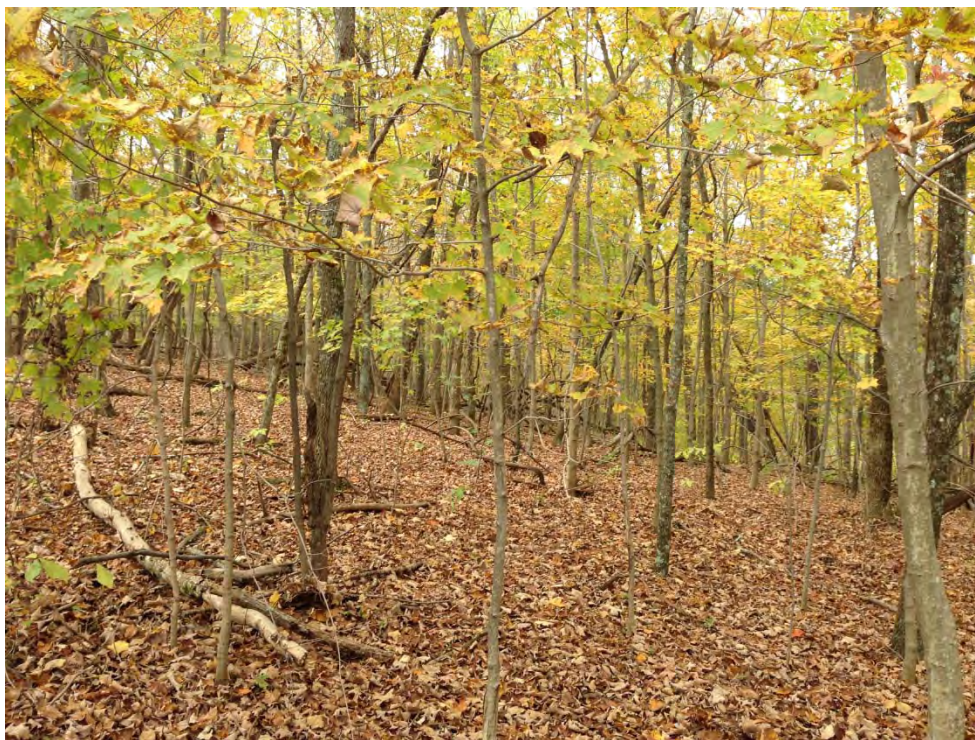


Photo 8: View of upland forest habitat at the terminus of AR 4.





Photo 9: View of Wetland W01 facing east.



Photo 10: View of Wetland W01 facing north.

American Electric Power  
Gavin 138 kV Extension No. 2 Gallia County, Ohio  
Photographs Taken on October 15 and 16; and December 4, 2013





Photo 11: View of upland data point taken in upland forest habitat, facing east.



Photo 12: View of old mining road/ATV trail abutting Wetland W01, facing east.





Photo 13: View of Wetland W02 facing southeast.



Photo 14: View of data point taken in upland forest habitat, facing west.





Photo 15: View of Wetland W02, Pond P02, and an ephemeral stream upstream of the Project area, facing east.



Photo 16: View of Stream P03, facing southeast.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**12/30/2013 3:23:47 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 13-2412-EL-BLN**

Summary: Letter of Notification Gavin 138kV Extension No. 2 Relocation Project (Part 1 of 4)  
electronically filed by Mr. Yazen Alami on behalf of Ohio Power Company