

2.0 Results of Desktop Review

The USFWS identified the species listed in Table 1 as occurring, or potentially occurring, in Carroll County, Ohio.

TABLE 1
Federally-listed Species Identified within Carroll County, Ohio

Common Name (Federal Status) ¹	Species Name	General Habitat Notes ^{2,3}
Indiana bat (Endangered)	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Hibernates in caves and mines. Roosts in exfoliating/loose tree bark of living and dead trees, or cavities and hollows of dead trees. Maternity and foraging habitat includes small stream corridors with well-developed riparian woods and upland forests.
Northern long-eared bat (Proposed as Endangered)	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Hibernates in caves and mines. Swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. During late spring and summer roosts and forages in upland forests. In summer, night roosts include caves, mines, quarry tunnels, while day roosts include crevices, hollows, or under loose bark of trees, or in small spaces associated with buildings and other structures.

¹Source: USFWS, 2013

²Source: ODNR DOW, 2014

³Source: NatureServe Explorer, 2014

The ODNR DOW identified one species and conservancy area, listed in Table 2, as occurring within 1.5 miles of the Project area (Schneider, 2014, personal communication). Known locations provided by the ODNR DOW are depicted on Figure 2 of Attachment 1.

TABLE 2
State-listed Species and Management Area Identified within a 1.5-mile Radius of the Project Area

Common Name ¹ (State Status) ²	Species Name ¹	Known Record Location ¹	General Habitat Notes ³
Richardson's Pondweed (Threatened)	<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Nearest known occurrence is approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Project area.	Found in brackish or alkaline waters up to 5 meters in depth.
Leesville Lake – Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	--	Leesville Lake is approximately 1-mile northeast of the Project area.	N/A

¹Source: Schneider, 2014, personal communication

²Source: ODNR DOW, 2012

³Source: ODNR DNAP, 1983

3.0 Site Observations

CH2M HILL biologists investigated the Project area during site visits in December 2013 and January 2014 to document existing vegetation communities and hydrologic conditions. CH2M HILL identified and delineated nine waterbodies within the Project area, including one perennial stream, seven ephemeral streams, and one pond. CH2M HILL also identified seven wetlands – one palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands, two palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS) wetlands, and four mixed PEM/PSS wetlands within the Project area. The Project area was disturbed with vehicle tracks and debris from mining activities. Attachment 3 provides representative photos of the streams, wetlands, and habitats.

The majority of the Project area is comprised of woodlands consisting of secondary growth forest interspersed with smaller areas of new field and early successional forest, ROW, and agricultural fields. Dominant canopy vegetation in the forested areas included Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). The understory was comprised mostly of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*).

Property surrounding the existing substation was comprised mostly of mowed turf grass.

Dominant vegetation within the maintained ROW and new fields included multiflora rose and fescue grasses (*Festuca* sp.), including nodding fescue (*Festuca subverticillata*).

Agricultural fields showed indications of being planted with corn (*Zea mays*) during the growing season.

PSS wetlands were dominated by black willow (*Salix nigra*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), multiflora rose, and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Herbaceous species in PSS wetlands included sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*).

PEM wetlands were dominated by broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* sp.), and common sedge.

4.0 State-Listed Species Effects Determinations

Preliminary effect determinations have been made for the state-listed species and conservancy area outlined in Table 2.

Richardson's Pondweed

Richardson's Pondweed is currently listed as State Endangered by ODNR. This aquatic plant is generally found in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways, inland lakes, rivers, and creeks at a depth of up to 5 meters. It prefers brackish or alkaline water. The hazards to Richardson's Pondweed are unknown, but may be turbidity or mechanical disturbance (ODNR DNAP, 1983). The GIS data obtained from ODNR DOW displayed a known occurrence of Richardson's Pondweed approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Project area in Leesville Lake. The Project area contains only one perennial stream that may be a potential habitat. The total proposed impact to the perennial stream is 155 linear feet. Impacts to the perennial stream will be temporary in nature and limited to potential equipment crossings during construction. Because of the distance to the nearest known occurrence and the temporary impact to potentially suitable habitat, CH2M HILL requests ODNR's concurrence that the Project will not affect Richardson's Pondweed.

Leesville Lake – Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Leesville Lake is one of 14 lakes in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. The conservation easement for Leesville Lake is 1,000 acres of water and 2,700 acres of land (Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, 2014). The GIS data obtained from ODNR show this conservancy district occurring approximately one mile northwest of the Project area. The Project is not a water-dependent activity and the relative distance from the Project area eliminates potential impacts to this conservation area. CH2M HILL requests ODNR's concurrence that the Project will have no effect on Leesville Lake or the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

On behalf of our client, AEP, we respectfully request your comments on potential impacts to Richardson's Pondweed and Leesville Lake in relation to the proposed Project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Suzann Collins at 215-640-9118 or by email at Suzann.Collins@ch2m.com, or Mark Driscoll at 617-626-7061 or by email at Mark.Driscoll@ch2m.com.

Sincerely,



Suzann Collins
Environmental Scientist



Mark Driscoll
Project Manager

Mr. Schneider, ODNR Page 4
February 5, 2014

cc: Ms. Rebekah Hovermale, AEP

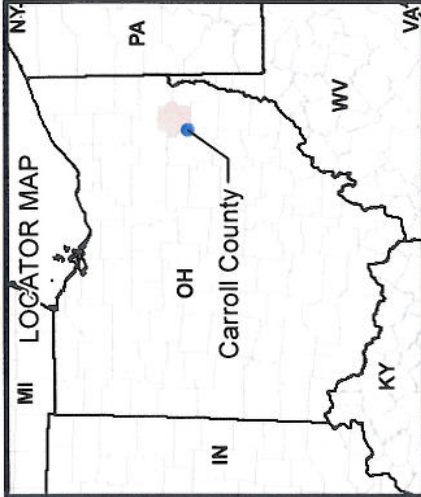
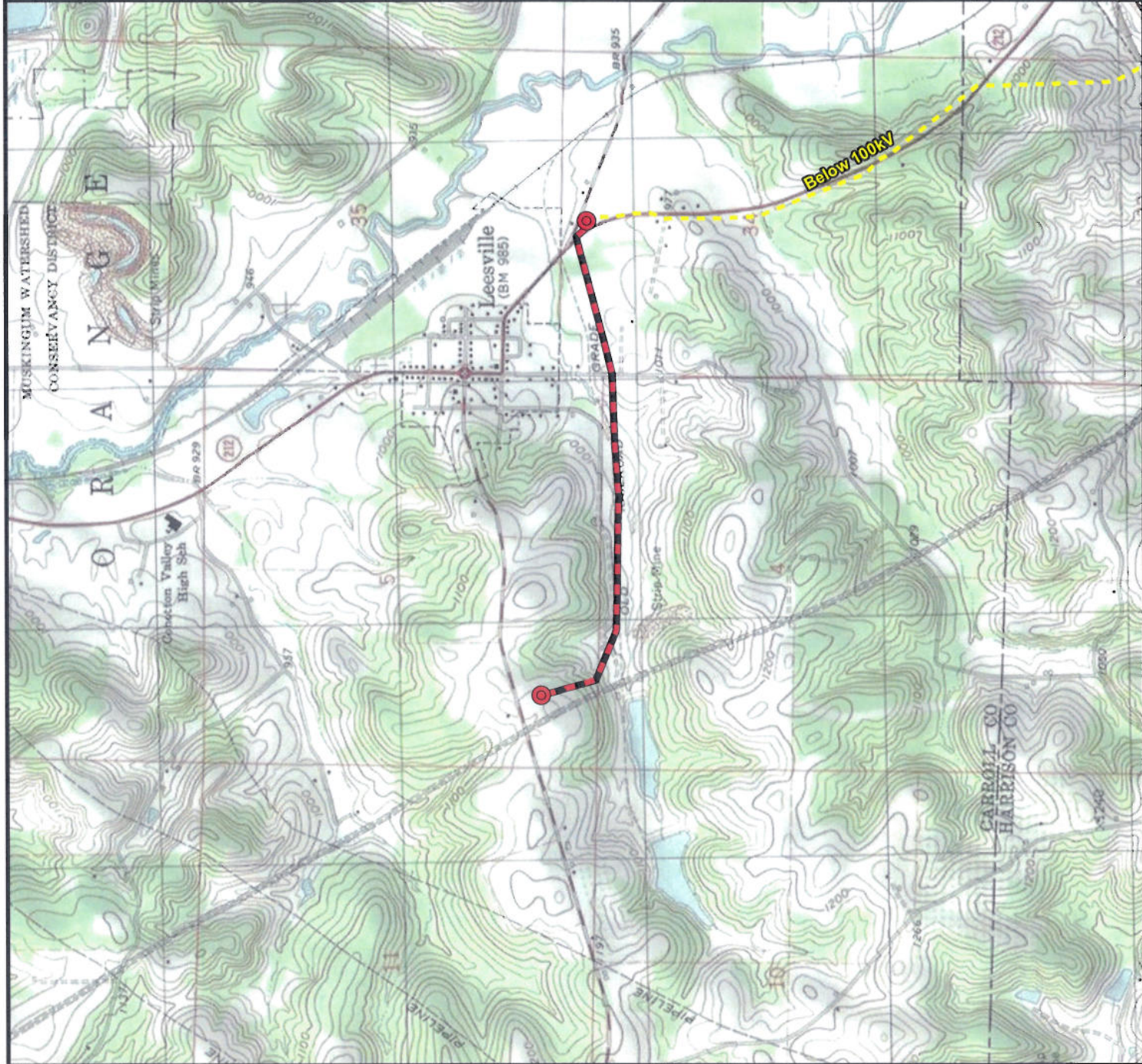
Attachments:

- Attachment 1 Figures
- Attachment 2 ODNR Correspondence
- Attachment 3 Photographic Documentation

References

- Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. 2014. Leesville Lake. <http://www.mwcd.org/places/lakes/leesville-lake>. Accessed January 17, 2014.
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- ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW). 2012. Ohio State-listed Species by County. http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourcessubhomepage/ResearchandSurveys/OhioNaturalHeritageDatabase/rareplantsbycounty/tabid/23654/Default.aspx. Accessed January 16, 2014.
- ODNR DOW. 2014. A to Z Species Guide. http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/species_a_to_z/SpeciesGuideIndex/tabid/6491/Default.aspx. Accessed January 16, 2014.
- Schneider, Greg/ODNR DOW, Program Administrator. 2014. Personal communication with Alicia Cross/CH2M HILL. January 8, 2014.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013. Federally Listed Species by Ohio Counties, Revised October 2013. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/ohio-cty.html>. Accessed January 16, 2014.

Attachment 1 Figures



LEGEND:

- Substation
- Proposed Route
- Below 138 kV
- Existing Transmission Line



BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle:
Bowerston (published 1963)

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



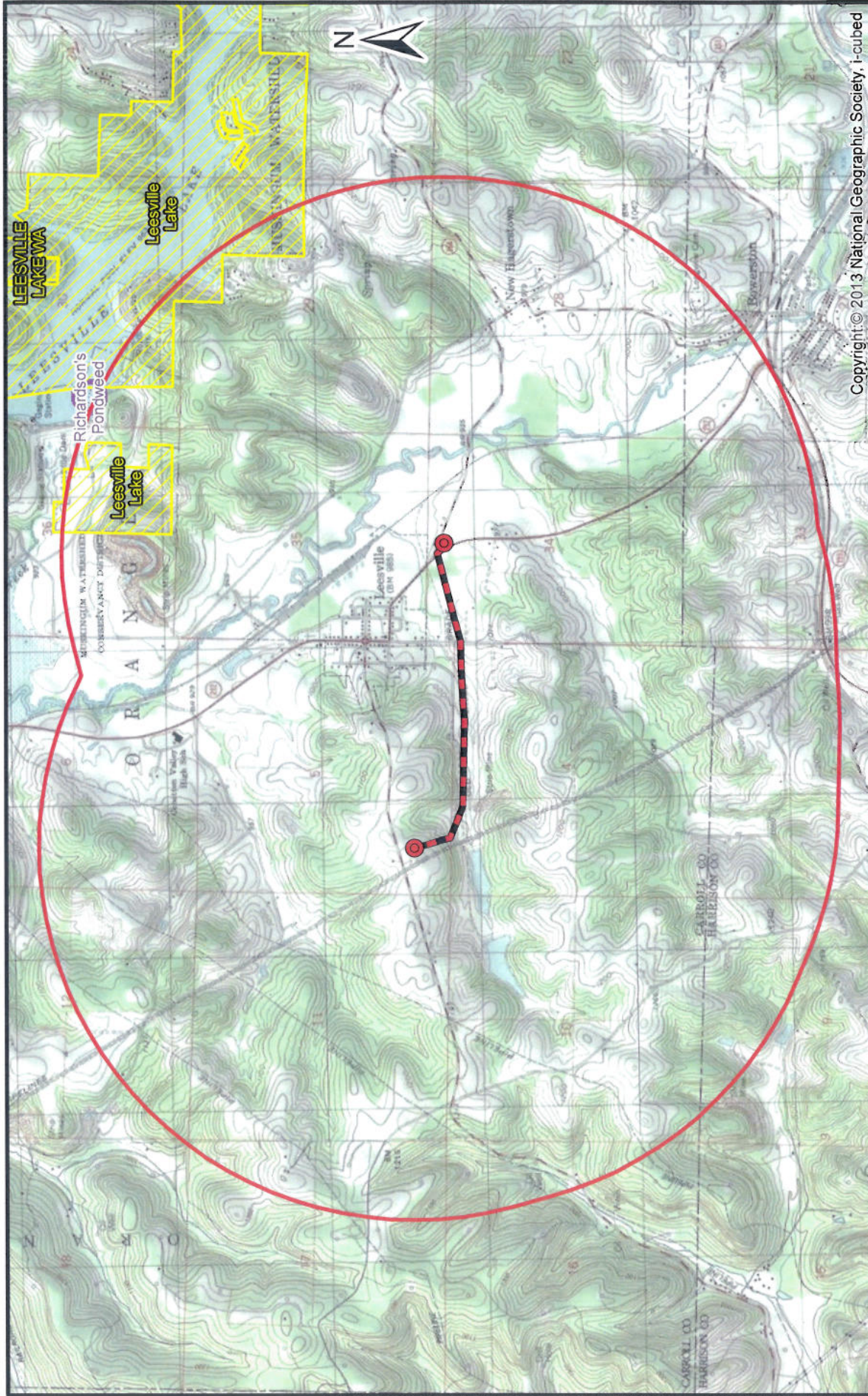
Leesville
Momentum Project
Carroll County, OH

FIGURE 1
OVERVIEW MAP

PN: 485272

DATE: 1/29/2014





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Leesville
Momentum Project
Carroll County, OH

FIGURE 2 HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

PN: 485272

DATE: 1/28/2014



LEGEND:

- Substation
- Proposed Route
- 1.5 Mile Buffer
- ODNR Managed Area
- Threatened Species

0 3,000 6,000

Scale In Feet

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle
Bowerston (published 1963)

Managed Area and Threatened Species - Ohio Department
of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 1/8/2014

Attachment 2
ODNR Correspondence



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 8, 2014

Alicia Cross
CH2M Hill
10123 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Cincinnati, OH 45242

Dear Ms. Cross

I have reviewed the Natural Heritage Database for the Southern Carroll and Northern County - Confidential Utility Siting Project. We have records for rare species and managed areas in your project area. I am attaching a shape file for the rare and endangered plants and animals, geologic features, high quality plant communities and animal assemblages. Fields included are scientific and common names, state and federal statuses, as well as date of the most recent observation. State and federal statuses are defined as: E = endangered, T = threatened, P = potentially threatened, SC = species of concern, SI = special interest, FE = federal endangered, FT = federal threatened, FPE = federal potentially endangered, FC = federal candidate and FSC = federal species of concern, F = federal listing only. This data may not be published or distributed beyond the scope of the project description on the data request form without prior written permission of the Natural Heritage Program. I have also attached a shape file for managed areas that include state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks and forests, national wildlife refuges, county metro parks, as well as sites owned by non-profit groups. Please be aware that the managed areas layer may not be complete. We are continually updating this layer as additional information becomes available to us.

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".

Greg Schneider, Administrator
Ohio Natural Heritage Program

Attachment 3
Photographic Documentation



Photo 1: Representative photo of PSS wetlands (WRG009) along the proposed transmission line looking northeast.



Photo 2: Representative photo of PEM wetlands (WRG001) along the proposed transmission line looking southeast.



Photo 3: Representative photo of riparian forest habitat along the proposed transmission line looking northwest.



Photo 4: Representative photo of mowed turf grass along the proposed transmission line looking southeast toward the existing substation.



Photo 5: Representative photo of agricultural fields along the proposed transmission line looking west.



Photo 6: Representative photo of new field habitat along the proposed transmission line looking west.



Photo 7: Representative photo of existing transmission line right-of-way looking east.



Photo 8: Representative photo of ephemeral streams (SRG006) along the proposed transmission line looking northwest.



Photo 9: Representative photo of perennial streams (SRG004) along the proposed transmission line looking northeast.



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February 5, 2014

Dr. Mary Knapp
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, OH 43230

Subject: **Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment
American Electric Power Company, Inc., Proposed 69 kV Service to Momentum in
Leesville, Ohio Project, Carroll County, Ohio**

Dear Dr. Knapp:

On behalf of American Electric Power Company, Inc. (AEP), CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc. (CH2M HILL) requests a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determination of effect of the proposed new 69 kilovolt (kV) service to the Utica East Ohio Midstream LLC (Momentum) facility in Leesville, Ohio (the Project). The Project involves installation of 1.35 miles of electric transmission line designed to a 138 kV specification, but energized to 69 kV, to serve the Momentum Station in Leesville, Carroll County (Attachment 1; Figure 1). AEP is working with Momentum to use the existing right-of-way (ROW) from Momentum's facility towards the existing AEP Ohio Leesville Station for construction of the Project.

1.0 Background

AEP retained CH2M HILL to review available information and assess threatened and endangered species habitat within the Project area. CH2M HILL reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ohio Ecological Services Office website (USFWS, 2013a) for information on federally listed species known to occur, or potentially occur, in Carroll County, Ohio. CH2M HILL also reviewed the relevant U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps (Bowerston; Attachment 1; Figure 1).

CH2M HILL submitted a Natural Heritage Database data request form and mapping to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DOW) by email on January 2, 2014, to solicit information on known occurrences of federally listed and state listed species within a 1.5-mile radius of the Project area. Through this request, CH2M HILL obtained geographic information system (GIS) data on January 8, 2014, that outlined known records of state and federally listed species within the Project area (Schneider, 2014, personal communication). This GIS data is displayed on Figure 2 of Attachment 1. The ODNR DOW also provided a response letter, which is included as Attachment 2.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 14-0195-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification Azalea 138 kV Extension East Project (Part 3 of 5)
electronically filed by Mr. Yazen Alami on behalf of Ohio Power Company