

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by )  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company for a Certificate of )  
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the ) Case Number  
Kammer - West Bellaire 345 kV Circuit Reconductor ) 14-0024-EL-BNR  
Project in Monroe and Belmont Counties, Ohio. )**

Members of the Board:

Todd Snitchler, Chairman, PUCO  
David Goodman, Director, ODSA  
Dr. Ted Wymyslo, Director, ODH  
David Daniels, Director, ODA  
Craig Butler, Interim 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 February 20, 2014, 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 February 20, 2014, 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 Wissman  
Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
(614) 466-6692  
[ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us)

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 14-0024-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Kammer - West Bellaire 345kV Reconductor Project  
**Project Location:** Monroe and Belmont Counties, Ohio  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** January 8, 2014  
**Filing Type:** **Construction Notice**  
**Inspection Date:** February 6, 2014  
**Report Date:** February 11, 2014  
**Automatic Approval Date:** February 20, 2014  
**Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, J. Whitis, J. Cross

### 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 reductor the existing Kammer-West Bellaire 345 kV circuit, which is located on the east side of the Muskingum River-Tidd 345 kV Transmission Line and on the Kammer 345 kV Extension No. 2 Transmission Line. The project is designed to provide for a sturdier, low sag conductor, to alleviate potential future overloads on this circuit.

### Nature of Impacts

The project will be located along existing easements for the Muskingum River-Tidd 345 kV Transmission Line and on the Kammer 345 kV Extension No. 2 Transmission Line. No new easements will be required for this reductoring project. The Applicant has indicated that a helicopter will likely be used to install the replacement 345 kV circuit on the existing towers, primarily because of the rough, hilly terrain in the area. The project will be approximately 13.5 miles in length. In order to address clearance concerns, two of the 48 steel lattice towers will be replaced with taller steel single pole structures. All other tower structures will remain in place for this project. Construction access is present for all existing structures but needs to be improved. The Applicant has submitted an access plan to Staff detailing improvements that will be necessary to the existing roads. No streams or agricultural or residential properties should be affected by this project. The Applicant has stated that trees and brush may need to be trimmed and/or cleared along the access routes. Any trimming or clearing of trees shall follow Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) seasonal cutting protocols.

The Applicant will secure all approvals and permits as needed for helicopter use, road crossings, and storm water pollution prevention prior to construction. The Applicant had a Phase I

archaeological survey performed for the reconductoring project in November, 2013. No additional archaeological survey work was recommended in the Phase I survey report.

### **Conclusion**

The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and environmental impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on February 20, 2014.

### **Staff Recommended Conditions:**

- (1) Prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with all applicable permits and authorizations as required by Federal and State entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required, including any permits necessary for helicopter use. Copies of such permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation shall be provided to Staff;
- (2) The Applicant shall utilize best management practices when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the installation of silt fencing (or similarly effective tool) prior to initiating construction near streams and wetlands. The installation shall be done in accordance with generally accepted construction methods and shall be inspected regularly;
- (3) 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, and a schedule for restoration activities. Notification to property owners shall be given at least seven days prior to work on the affected property;
- (4) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 and March 31 for removal of suitable Indiana bat habitat trees, if avoidance measures can not be achieved.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**2/11/2014 3:09:14 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-0024-EL-BNR**

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