

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
Azalea 138 kV Transmission Line Extension in Carroll) 14-0195-EL-BLN
County, Ohio.)**

Members of the Board:

Chairman, Public Utilities Commission	Ohio House of Representatives
Director, Development Services Agency	Ohio Senate
Director, Department of Health	
Director, Department of Agriculture	
Director, Environmental Protection Agency	
Director, Department of Natural Resources	
Public Member	

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 March 8, 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.

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 March 8, 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

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 14-0195-EL-BLN
Project Name: Azalea 138 kV Transmission Line Extension
Project Location: Carroll County, Ohio
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: February 7, 2014
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: February 21, 2014
Report Date: February 27, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: March 8, 2014
Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Whitis, G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP) proposes to construct a 1.35 mile overhead 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from AEP's existing Leesville Substation to the existing Momentum 69 kV station. The line would serve a natural gas processing facility to be owned and operated by Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC (Momentum). Twenty new galvanized steel pole structures would be installed. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2.4 million. Construction is expected to begin in May 2014 with a proposed in service date of July 1, 2014.

Site Description

The project would be located in Orange Township, in Carroll County, Ohio. The project would utilize new transmission line easements that have been obtained by AEP.

Nature of Impacts

Surface Waters

The project contains a significant amount of existing access for construction activities. Wetlands and streams would be avoided where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, wetlands and streams would be matted with timber matting to prevent surface water impacts. Wetlands would be clearly staked prior to the commencement of any clearing in order to minimize incidental vehicle impacts.

The Applicant would utilize best management practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts to surface waters. The proposed BMPs would be outlined in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan,

and a copy would be provided to the Board's Staff. Staff recommends that the Applicant be required to provide a final construction access plan for review prior to construction. The plan would consider the location of streams, wetlands, wooded areas, and park lands, and explain how impacts to all sensitive resources would be avoided or minimized during construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

The Applicant anticipates submitting a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio EPA General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Federal and state listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat. The Applicant is currently coordinating with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for any additional listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area. The Applicant would provide Staff with any comments from the ODNR and USFWS review of the project and continue coordination with ODNR and Staff based on ODNR's comments.

In order to reduce potential impacts to the Indiana bat, ODNR, USFWS, and Staff recommend that the Applicant be required to adhere to seasonal clearing dates of October 1 through March 31 for the clearing of trees that exhibit suitable Indiana bat habitat unless coordination efforts with ODNR and USFWS reflects a different course of action (e.g., an authorized deviation from seasonal tree cutting dates for a period of time).

Conclusion

This project would provide electric service to a natural gas processing facility to be owned and operated by Utica East Ohio Midstream. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Tree clearing is required and would begin in March 2014 to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on March 8, 2014, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Staff Recommended Conditions

- (1) 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 a 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.
- (2) The Applicant shall submit to the Staff, for review and approval, a final project construction access plan prior to construction. This plan shall include all laydown areas, residential and environmentally sensitive area access points (walk-in locations only), and any locations where vegetation clearing is required.
- (3) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of suitable Indiana bat habitat trees, if avoidance measures cannot be achieved.
- (4) Prior to construction, the Applicant shall coordinate with ODNR, USFWS, and Staff to determine if any further action is necessary to avoid impacts to federal or state listed species.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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

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