

If these recommendations cannot be implemented and take of bald eagles is likely, a bald eagle take permit for this project may be necessary. Further information on eagle take permits can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MidwestBird/EaglePermits/index.html>.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMENTS:

The proposed project lies within the range of the **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*), a federally listed endangered species. Since first listed as endangered in 1967, their population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the Indiana bat, including the loss and degradation of suitable hibernacula, human disturbance during hibernation, pesticides, and the loss and degradation of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees.

Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines. Most recently white-nose syndrome (WNS), a novel fungal pathogen, has caused serious declines in the Indiana bat population in the northeastern U.S. WNS has also been documented in Ohio and declines of Indiana bats during winter censuses have been noted, but the full extent of the impacts from WNS in Ohio are not yet known.

During winter, Indiana bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

- (1) dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas;
- (2) live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oaks) which have exfoliating bark;
- (3) stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

You have indicated that the project will occur within an existing corridor; however some tree clearing will be required. Field reviews of the area indicate that 16 potential roost trees for the Indiana bat may be impacted. You have indicated that if these trees must be removed, they will be removed between October and March. The Service has no objection to the removal of unavoidable trees between October 1 and March 31.

The proposed project lies within the range of the **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a species that is currently proposed for listing as federally endangered. Recently white-nose syndrome (WNS), a novel fungal pathogen, has caused serious declines in the northern long-eared bat population in the northeastern U.S. WNS has also been documented in Ohio, but the full extent of the impacts from WNS in Ohio are not yet known.

During winter, northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

- (1) Roosting habitat in dead or live trees and snags with cavities, peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, which may be used as maternity roost areas;
- (2) Foraging habitat in upland and lowland woodlots and tree lined corridors;
- (3) Occasionally they may roost in structures like barns and sheds.

The proposed project site does contain some forested habitat. We recommend that trees exhibiting any of the characteristics listed above, as well as any wooded areas or tree lined corridors be saved wherever possible. However, if these areas cannot be avoided, they should only be cut between October 1 and March 31.

The proposed project lies within the range of **running buffalo clover** (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), a federally listed endangered species. This plant has been documented within Marion Township, but is located a significant distance from the proposed project area. This species can be found in partially shaded woodlots, mowed areas (lawns, parks, cemeteries), and along streams and trails. Running buffalo clover requires periodic disturbance and a somewhat open habitat to successfully flourish, but cannot tolerate full-sun, full-shade, or severe disturbance. The project area is within an existing cleared corridor. Due to the project location and the onsite habitat no significant impacts are expected to this species.

Due to the project, type, location, and onsite habitat we do not anticipate significant impacts to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy. Please note that consultation under section 7 of the ESA may be warranted for this project if suitable habitat for federally listed species may be impacted by this project. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document.

If you have any questions regarding our response or if you need additional information, please contact Jennifer Finfera at extension 13.

Sincerely,



Mary Knapp, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor

cc: ODNR Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station, 13229 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

FOR THE

**HOCKING – WEST LANCASTER 138 KV TRANSMISSION
LINE REBUILD PROJECT**

PUCO Case No. 14-0144-EL-BLN

Submitted pursuant to OAC 4906-11-01

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company
(AEP Ohio Transco)**

MARCH 2014

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Section (OAC) 4906-11-01 Letter of Notification, American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) submits the following information:

4906-11-01 (B) General Information

4906-11-01 (B) (1) Project Name and Reference Number

The name of this project is the *Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project* (Project) and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Case number is 14-0144-EL-BLN.

4906-11-01 (B) (1) Description of the Project

An existing 138 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit line will be rebuilt in an existing right-of-way (ROW) corridor (100 feet in width) between Hocking Substation and West Lancaster Substation (Figure 1). The line will be built on AEP Ohio Transco standard single-circuit 138 kV structures. It is anticipated that self-supporting, custom, steel structures with direct embed foundations for tangents, and pier foundations for running angle and deadend structures will be utilized. The total length of the 138 kV line is approximately 19.3 miles replacing 118 existing structures with 115 new structures.

4906-11-01 (B) (1) Reason the Project Meets Letter of Notification Requirements

The Project is defined by Item (4)(a) of the OAC Chapter 4906-01, Appendix A “Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines,” which requires a Letter of Notification. This Project consists of replacing electric power transmission line structures within an existing electric power transmission line ROW where two miles or less of new ROW is required.

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

The purpose of the Hocking – W. Lancaster 138 kV Line Rebuild Project is to rebuild the Hocking – W. Lancaster 138 kV Line to improve and maintain the

quality of electric service and reliability to the Central Ohio area, including AEP Ohio load area. The line traverses Fairfield and Hocking Counties. This Project will address the reliability concerns associated with the ageing line.

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

The location of this Project in relation to existing transmission lines is shown on Figure 1. The proposed Project, essentially a pole for pole replacement project along the same centerline, is located in unincorporated areas of Hocking Township and Berne Township, Fairfield County; unincorporated areas of Good Hope Township, Marion Township, and Falls Township and incorporated areas of the City of Logan in Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio.

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

The line route is an existing transmission ROW and other alternatives were not considered.

4906-11-01 (B) (5) Anticipated Construction Schedule

Construction of the 19.3-mile transmission line rebuild is expected to begin in September of 2014 and is scheduled to be in service in November of 2015.

4906-11-01 (B) (6) Maps Depicting Project Location

The Project is within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Amanda, Lancaster, Rockbridge, and Logan quadrangles. Figure 1 has been prepared to show the Project location with aerial photography. To locate and view the Project from the City of Columbus, Ohio, travel Interstate 70 (I-70) east to Exit 105A for United States Route 33 (US 33) East, take the US 22 Exit toward Lancaster/Circleville, turn left onto US 22 Cincinnati Zanesville Road SW and follow for approximately 1.5 miles. West Lancaster Substation will be on your left. The Project exits the West Lancaster Substation in the Hocking Township, north of US 22 and extends south, crossing US 22, and US 33 to the Hocking Substation.

4906-11-01 (B) (7) Property Easements

The existing line is located on easements that were obtained by Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company, now known as Ohio Power Company. All new structures will be located within the existing transmission line ROW. Property owners will be notified of the transmission line Project prior to the commencement of construction activities.

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

4906-11-01 (C) (1) Description of Technical Features

The proposed line will be designed for and operated at 138 kV. Figures 2 through 8 show the typical steel pole structures to be installed. Three 1,033.5 thousand circular mils (kcmil) ACSR “Curlew” conductors, one 19#6 Alumoweld shield wire and one 0.646 inch diameter fiber optic shield wire will be installed and supported by the structures

4906-11-01 (C) (1) Number and Type of Structures

Figures 2 through 8 show the structures to be used for this Project consisting of 1) 97 two-pole tangent H-Frame structures; and 2) 18 dead-ends and running angles.

4906-11-01 (C) (2) (a) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Levels

Electric and magnetic field (EMF) levels were computed one meter above ground under the line and at the ROW edges (50/50 feet, left/right, from centerline). Results are summarized below.

CONDITION	LINE LOAD (A)	GROUND CLEARANCE (FEET)	ELECTRIC FIELD (kV/M)*	MAGNETIC FIELD (mG)*
Normal Maximum Loading [^]	85	32.0	0.6/1.2/0.6	5/15/5
Emergency Line Loading ^{^^}	112	32.0	0.6/1.2/0.6	6/19/6
Winter Normal Conductor Rating ^{^^^}	1068	24.0	0.7/	69/306/69

Notes:

A = amperes; kV/m = kilovolt per meter; mG = milligauss.

*EMF levels (left ROW edge/maximum/right ROW edge) computed one meter above ground at the point of minimum ground clearance, assuming balanced phase currents and nominal voltages. ROW width is 100 feet.

[^]Peak line flow expected with all system facilities in service.

^{^^}Maximum flow during critical system contingency

^{^^^}Maximum continuous flow that the line, including its terminal equipment, can withstand during winter conditions.

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, consistent with the OPSB requirements. 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 Capital Costs

The following estimated capital costs for the proposed Project have been tabulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Electric Plant Transmission Accounts:

FERC ACCOUNTS	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS (\$)	
	Material	Labor
Overhead Conductors and Devices	\$1,887,334	\$4,195,806
Poles and Fixtures	\$4,118,183	\$2,746,107
TOTAL	\$6,005,517	\$6,941,913

4906-11-01 (D) Socioeconomic Data

A desktop review of socioeconomic data for the Project was conducted by POWER Engineers, Inc. A quarter-mile buffer area around the Project centerline was reviewed. A Socioeconomics Report for the Project is attached.

4906-11-01 (D) (1) Land Use and Population Density

This Project is located in unincorporated areas of Hocking Township and Berne Township, Fairfield County; unincorporated areas of Good Hope Township, Marion Township, and Falls Township and incorporated areas of the City of Logan in Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio.

The Project area is located in a predominantly rural setting between the City of Lancaster and the City of Logan, comprised of wooded areas, agricultural fields, low density residential housing, and agricultural fields. Some of the Project is within the developed setting of the City of Logan, where the centerline would cross through residential neighborhoods, an industrial area, parking lot, and a city park. Two cemeteries are located within the buffer area. Two schools are located at the edge of the buffer area. The corridor crosses one railroad. The corridor crosses county and state roads, including US 33, which is a divided roadway.

The population density of the Project area (Fairfield and Hocking Counties, Ohio) varies. Fairfield County has a population density of 289.8 persons per square mile, Hocking County has a population density of 69.7 persons per square mile and the City of Logan has a population density of 1,492.8 persons per square mile based upon 2010 U.S. Census data.

4906-11-01 (D) (2) Location and Description of Existing Agricultural Districts

A list of parcels registered with the State of Ohio Agricultural District Land Program were obtained from the Hocking County Auditor's Office. The Project ROW would cross agricultural district land, as defined by Chapter 929 of the Ohio Revised Code, east of Helber Road (one parcel) and east of Frasure-Helber Road (two parcels) for a total of approximately 2,000 feet, and at the east

endpoint of the Project for approximately 200 feet (one parcel). The Fairfield County Auditor's office provided geographic information system (GIS) shapefiles of agricultural district parcels and protected farmlands, which was overlaid with the study corridor to identify any parcels registered with the State of Ohio Agricultural District Land Program. Although the Project crosses agricultural fields, none of the Project is located within the limits of an Agricultural District in Fairfield County. The construction, operation and maintenance of the Project are not expected to affect the viability of agricultural land and when complete will not require changes in agricultural use or practices.

4906-11-01 (D) (3) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Based on available public database information, the Project corridor contains archaeological sites and historic structures. Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) completed a literature review for the Project in Fairfield and Hocking Counties, Ohio. This review accounted for a corridor that extends 0.8 kilometers (0.5 mile) from the centerline of the existing line, but focuses on sites and surveys that are within, directly involved, or immediately adjacent to this line. There are 99 previously recorded archaeological sites within the defined study radius. There are 14 sites (33FA1015, 33FA1037, 33FA1038, 33FA1040, 33FA1041, 33FA1042, 33FA1043, 33FA1049, 33FA1468, 33HO0311, 33HO0312, 33FA0660, 33HO0663, and 33HO0664) that are within or immediately adjacent to the Project corridor. Most of these sites are associated with prehistoric period components. There are 42 historic inventory forms filed for buildings/structures within the study radius with two that appear to be within or immediately next to the extant corridor. A review of the National Register files indicates 33HO660 (#997379) is within 91 meters (300 feet) of the Project corridor; this is a historic period archaeological site. There are two buildings listed in the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) files including Concord Hall Estate (FAI0017411) and Willow Lane Farm (FAI0059011). The Concord Hall Estate District is just outside of the study radius, about 50 meters. Review of the professional cultural resource management files indicates that there have been 10 surveys that intercept/involve the current Project corridor. These surveys are largely responsible for the

recordation and evaluation of previously recorded resources in the study radius. The Hocking Valley Railway Historic District is located in this area and the corridor just barely extends into it. The Project is located within an existing corridor and access will be developed to minimize impacts to cultural resources. Weller & Associates will be completing a Phase 1 Cultural Resource Management Investigation which will be submitted to the OPSB as a supplement to the Letter of Notification filing.

4906-11-01 (D) (4) Local Officials to be Notified

Copies of this Letter of Notification have been sent to the Fairfield County Commissioners, the Hocking County Commissioners, the Hocking Township Trustees (Fairfield County), the Berne Township Trustees (Fairfield County), the Good Hope Township Trustees (Hocking County), The Marion Township Trustees (Hocking County), the Falls Township Trustees (Hocking County), and the City of Logan Mayor and City Council Planning & Annexation Committee (Hocking County). Copies of these cover letters are attached.

4906-11-01 (D) (4) Public Information Program

AEP Ohio Transco'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

This line will be designed, constructed and operated to meet or exceed the requirements of the National Electric Safety Code, AEP Ohio Transco design standards and all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for authorization of construction stormwater discharge under General Permit OHC000004 (Hocking River watershed). A Stormwater Pollution

Prevention Plan is being prepared for the Project which will be submitted to the OPSB as a supplement to the Letter of Notification filing.

No other local, state or federal governmental agencies are known to have requirements that must be met in connection with construction of the Project unless plans change.

4906-11-01 (E) Environmental

4906-11-01 (E) (1) Endangered or Threatened Species

AEP Ohio Transco conducted a threatened and endangered species review. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) species list for Fairfield and Hocking Counties, Ohio (attached) was reviewed to determine the presence of threatened and endangered species in the Project area. Seven species were listed as potentially occurring in Fairfield and Hocking Counties, which include Indiana bat (endangered), northern long-eared bat (proposed endangered), American burying beetle (endangered), running buffalo-clover (endangered), northern monkshood (threatened), small whorled pogonia (threatened), and eastern Massasauga (candidate species).

The Project area was surveyed for potential Indiana bat and northern long eared bat habitat and potential roosting trees were noted in wooded areas adjacent to the cleared ROW corridor. A Threatened & Endangered Species Survey Report is attached. Any clearing of potential roosting trees would be performed in the winter months between October 1st and March 31st.

AEP Ohio Transco conducted a wetland delineation for the proposed Project. A copy of the report is attached. There are no permanent impacts to streams or wetlands proposed for this Project, therefore, there are no anticipated impacts on the eastern Massasauga, due to its preference for wet prairies and sedge meadows that have an abundance of cover.

Due to the habitat preferences of the three federally listed plant species, such as old growth forests, talus slopes, shaded cliffs, and frequent ground disturbance, it is not anticipated that these species would be located within the cleared ROW corridor.

The American Burying Beetle is considered a habitat generalist which preys primarily on carrion. There were no observations of carrion or the American Burying Beetle within or immediately adjacent to the proposed Project area during the field review.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) database review includes the most current USFWS data regarding protected species plus has the most current, best information regarding bald eagle nesting in the Project area. In a response letter dated December 17, 2013 (attached), the ODNR Natural Heritage Database listed several species occurrences as well as some management areas within 1 mile of the Project centerline. There are 2 state listed mollusks (Clubshell (E) and Rabbitsfoot (T)) and 3 state listed plants (Flame azalea (E), Great Rhododendron (T), and Hairy Mountain Mint (T)).

The Project will avoid permanent impacts to streams or wetlands, with only temporary impacts proposed where construction access must cross a wetland resource, therefore, no impacts are anticipated for the state listed aquatic mollusk species.

According to the ODNR Natural Heritage Database information, the only state listed plant species that is known to be located immediately adjacent to the Project ROW is the Great Rhododendron (near structures 175 and 180), with the remaining species located greater than 1,000 feet away. Due to the on-going vegetation maintenance program within the transmission line ROW and habitat the Great Rhododendron prefers (i.e., moderate shade in damp, deep woods, as opposed to an open, periodically cleared transmission corridor), it is not expected that the Great Rhododendron would be present within the Project corridor.

The ODNR Natural Heritage Database also listed a bald eagle nesting site approximately a quarter mile (1,300 ft.) from the Project corridor. Due to the nature of the Project and the implementation of AEP's Avian Protection Plan (APP), which aims to reduce the incidence of bird interactions as well as prevent a bird take, it is anticipated that there will be no impacts on the bald eagles in the Project vicinity. AEP will also implement recommended timeframes for construction as noted by the USFWS in a letter dated February 10, 2014.

In a February 10, 2014 response letter, the USFWS indicated there are no Federal wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, or Critical Habitat within the vicinity of the project. Due to the projects location within the range of the bald eagle, the USFWS recommends that no tree clearing occur within 660 feet of a bald eagle nest or within any woodlot supporting a nest tree. Further, the USFWS requested that work within 660 feet of a nest, or within the direct line-of-site of a nest, be restricted from January 15 through July 31 to prevent disturbance of the eagles from the egg-laying period until the young fledge. AEP will complete construction as recommended by the USFWS to avoid potential impacts to the bald eagle nesting site.

AEP will comply with the tree clearing restrictions for the Indiana bat as recommended by the USFWS.

4906-11-01 (E) (2) and (3) Areas of Ecological Concern and Other Significant Environmental, Social, Health, or Safety Impacts

The ODNR was contacted regarding areas of ecological concern in the vicinity of the Project. The ODNR responded that there are managed areas located in the Project area including state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks and forests, national wildlife refuges, county metro parks, as well as sites owned by non-profit groups. Two managed areas are located within 0.5 mile of the Project centerline: 1) Willow Wetlands in Falls Township approximately 0.35 mile southwest of the centerline; and 2) a Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

(DNAP) easement (Rhododendron US 33) which is 0.06 mile (approximately 315 feet) southwest of the centerline. No impacts to the managed areas are anticipated as AEP will make every attempt to utilize existing access routes along the ROW.

There are no known unusual conditions or circumstances associated with this Project that will result in significant environmental, social, health or safety impacts. Construction and operation of the proposed Project will meet all applicable safety standards established by OSHA, and 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.



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Berne Township Board of Trustees
Mr. Frank J. Uhl, Trustee
Ms. Kelly E. Shull, Trustee
Mr. Jim Carmichael, Trustee
Mr. Rodney Watkins, Fiscal Officer
112 North Canal Street
Sugar Grove, OH 43155

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Trustees:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain changes are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project, PUCO Case Number 14-0144-EL-BLN, consists of rebuilding an existing 138-kV single-circuit line utilizing an existing 100 feet wide right-of-way corridor between Hocking Substation off Keller Road in Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio and West Lancaster Substation off Cincinnati-Zanesville Road SW in Hocking Township, Fairfield County, Ohio. The new line will be built on AEP Ohio Transco standard single-circuit 138 kV structures. This rebuild project will improve and maintain the quality of electric service and reliability in the central Ohio area.

The total length of the 138-kV line is approximately 19.3 miles. The Project will replace 118 existing structures with 115 new structures. The Project will run through Hocking and Berne Townships in Fairfield County, Ohio and Good Hope, Marion, and Falls Townships in Hocking County, Ohio.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-02 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Letter of Notification. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett E. Schmied", is written over a large, light blue oval shape.

Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Shawn Daubenmire
Marion Township Trustee
28129 LoganHornsmill Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Daubenmire:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Ms. Kim Edgar
Falls Township Trustee
30800 Freeman Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Edgar:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Sam Eggleston
Falls Township Trustee
13950 State Route 664 South
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Eggleston:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Michael Kigerm, President
Mr. Steven Davis, Commissioner
Mr. David L. Levacy, Commissioner
210 East Main Street, Room 301
Lancaster, OH 43130

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Commissioners:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain changes are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project, PUCO Case Number 14-0144-EL-BLN, consists of rebuilding an existing 138-kV single-circuit line utilizing an existing 100 feet wide right-of-way corridor between Hocking Substation off Keller Road in Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio and West Lancaster Substation off Cincinnati-Zanesville Road SW in Hocking Township, Fairfield County, Ohio. The new line will be built on AEP Ohio Transco standard single-circuit 138 kV structures. This rebuild project will improve and maintain the quality of electric service and reliability in the central Ohio area.

The total length of the 138-kV line is approximately 19.3 miles. The Project will replace 118 existing structures with 115 new structures. The Project will run through Hocking and Berne Townships in Fairfield County, Ohio and Good Hope, Marion, and Falls Townships in Hocking County, Ohio.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-02 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Letter of Notification. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brett E. Schmied', is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Good Hope Township Trustees
Mr. Rick Hacker, Trustee
Mr. Harley Goss, Trustee
Mr. Rodney Watkins, Trustee
Ms. Tammy Crawford, Fiscal Officer
26810 Main Street
Rockbridge, OH 43149

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Scott Hardin
Falls Township Trustee
13865 Nickle Plate Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Hardin:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain changes are made to our transmission facilities.

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Andrew Herold, Director
Logan-Hocking Public Library
230 East Main Street
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Herold:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Hocking County Board of Commissioners
Ms. Sandy Ogle, President
Mr. Clark Sheets, Commissioner
Mr. John Walker, Commissioner
1 East Main Street
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Commissioners:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Hocking Township Board of Trustees
Mr. Steven Wolfe, Trustee
Ms. Gail V. Ellinger, Trustee
Mr. Timothy L. Claypool, Trustee
Ms. Dianna J. Russell, Fiscal Officer
1175 Cincinnati-Zanesville Road
Lancaster, OH 43130

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Trustees:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Chuck Hopkins
Falls Township Trustee
33246 Barker Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Scott Kitzmiller
Marion Township Trustee
9531 Bauer Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Kitzmiller:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Mr. Rick Nihiser
Marion Township Trustee
8935 Roley Road
Sugar Grove, OH 43155

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Nihiser:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Ms. Sandra Snider
Marion Township Trustee
7320 Zwickle Road
Logan, OH 43138

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Snider:

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



American Electric Power
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, OH 43230

March 20, 2014

Marilyn Steiner, Director
Fairfield County Public Library
219 North Broad Street
Lancaster, OH 43130

RE: Letter of Notification
Hocking-West Lancaster 138-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Case Number: 14-0144-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Steiner:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain changes are made to our transmission facilities.

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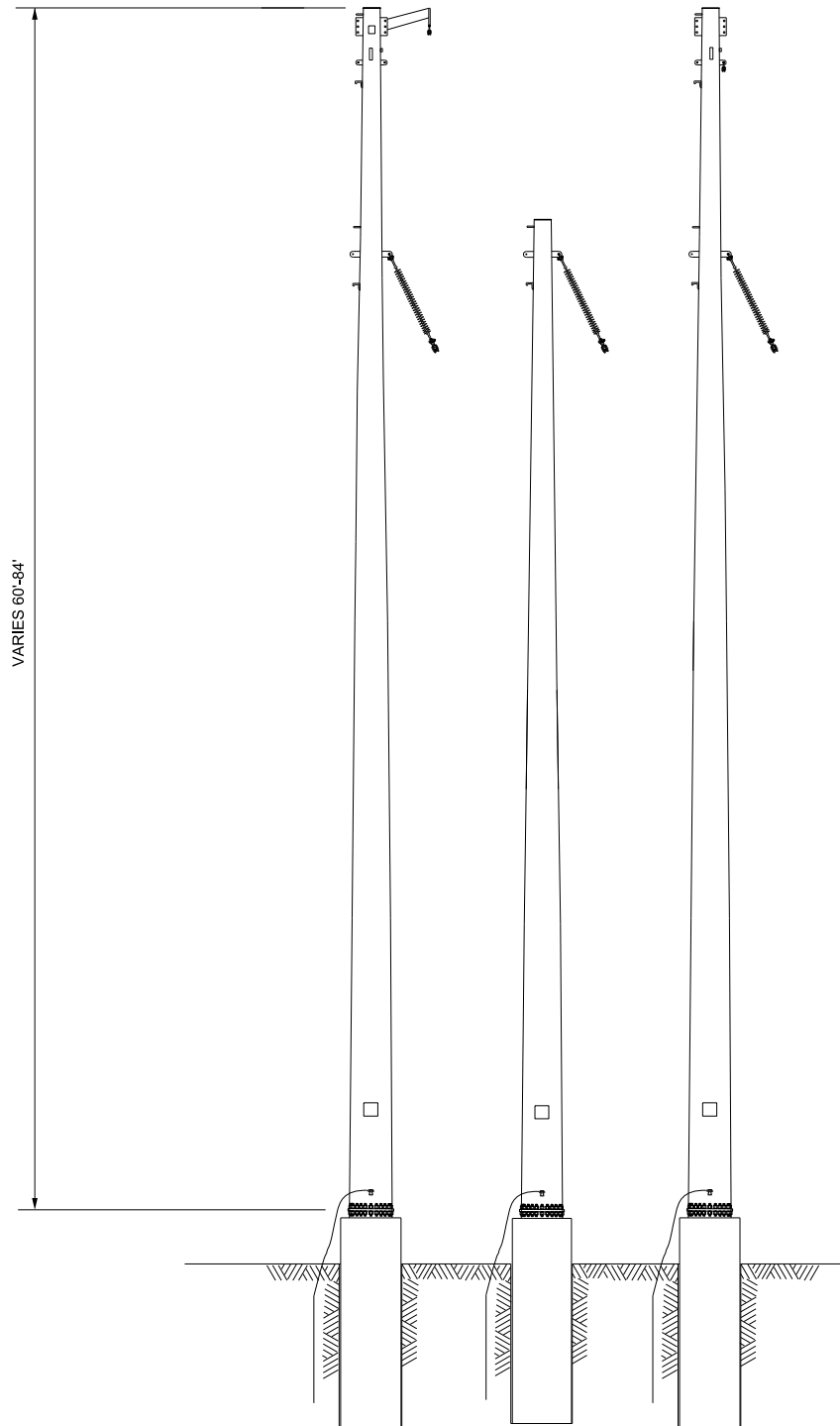
Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

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Brett E. Schmied, J.D.
Project Outreach Specialist
American Electric Power

cc: Todd Sides, Project Manager



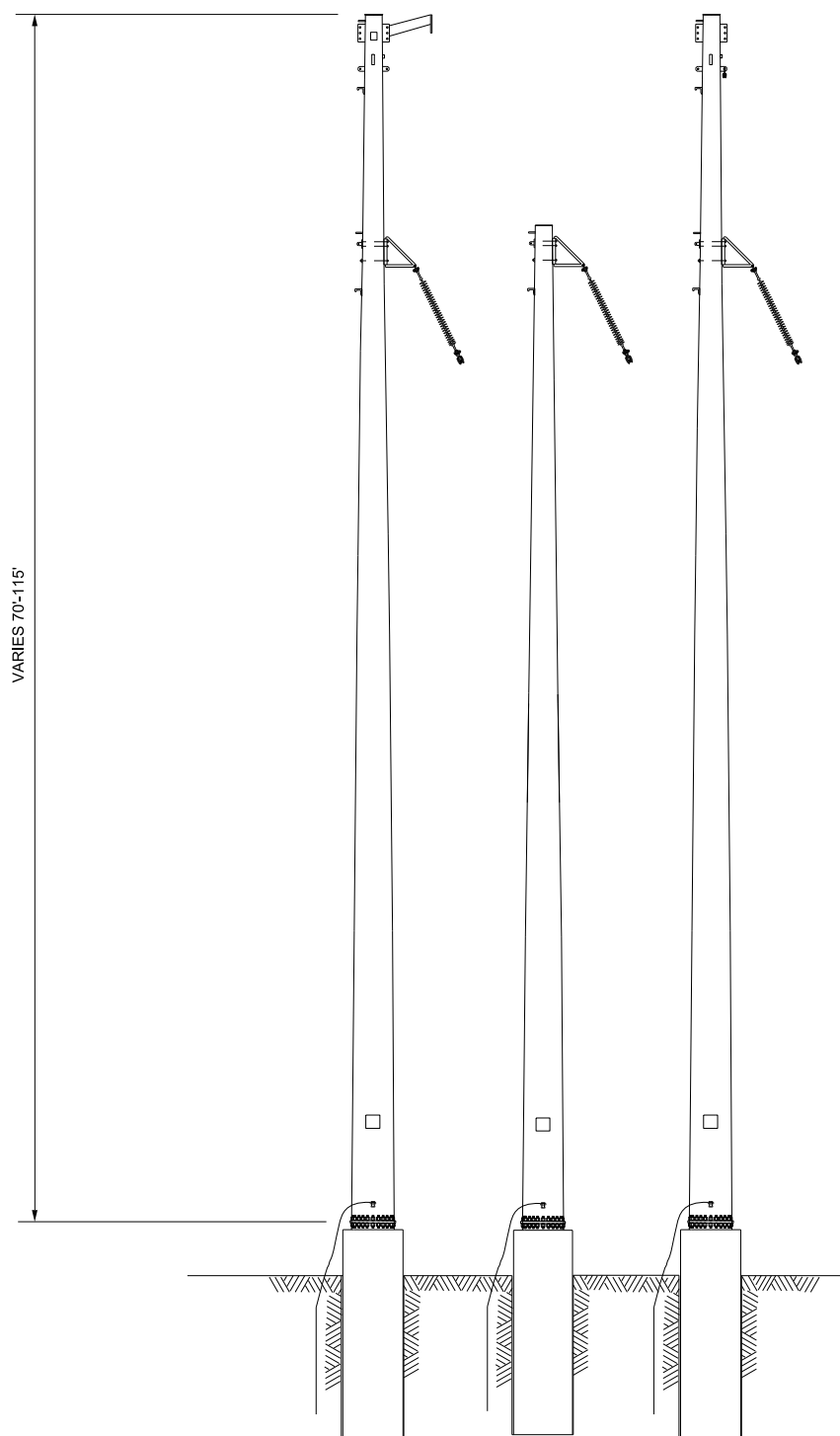
W. LANCASTER - BIXBY 138kV LINE



PROPOSED 138kV SINGLE CIRCUIT
LARGE RUNNING ANGLE STRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 1



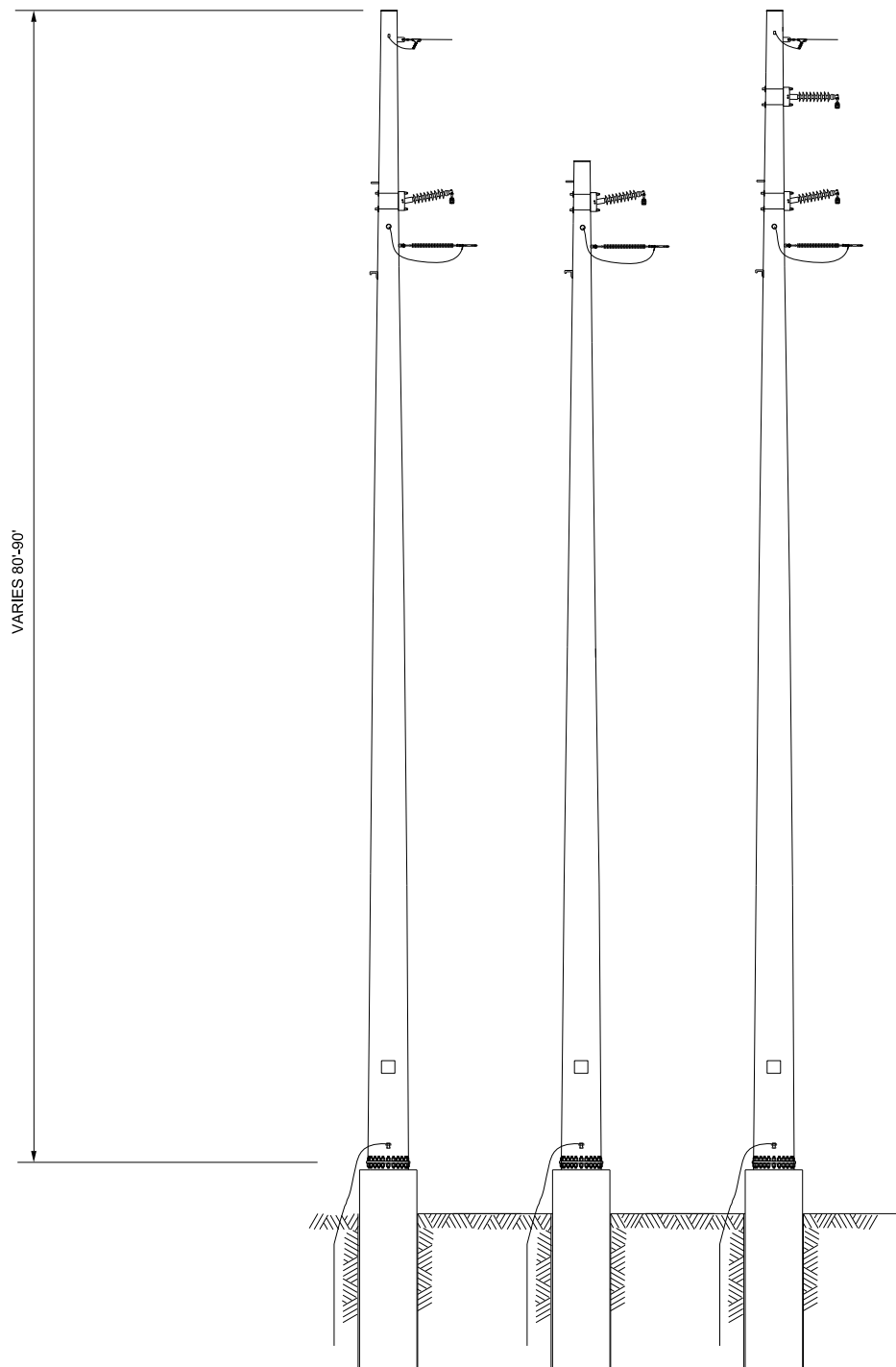
W. LANCASTER - BIXBY 138kV LINE



PROPOSED 138kV SINGLE CIRCUIT
SMALL RUNNING ANGLE STRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2



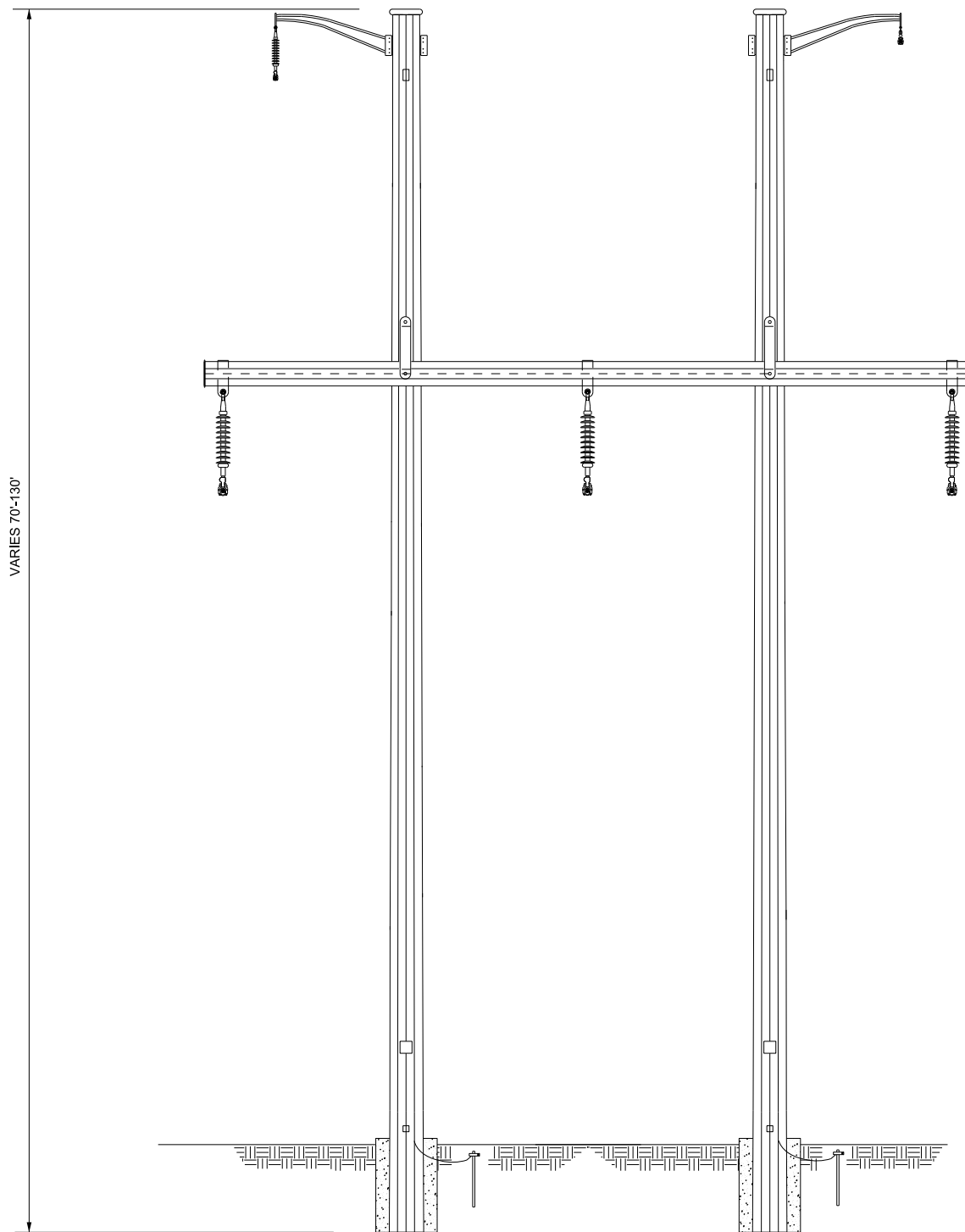
W. LANCASTER - BIXBY 138kV LINE



PROPOSED 138kV SINGLE CIRCUIT
SMALL ANGLE DEADEND STRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 3



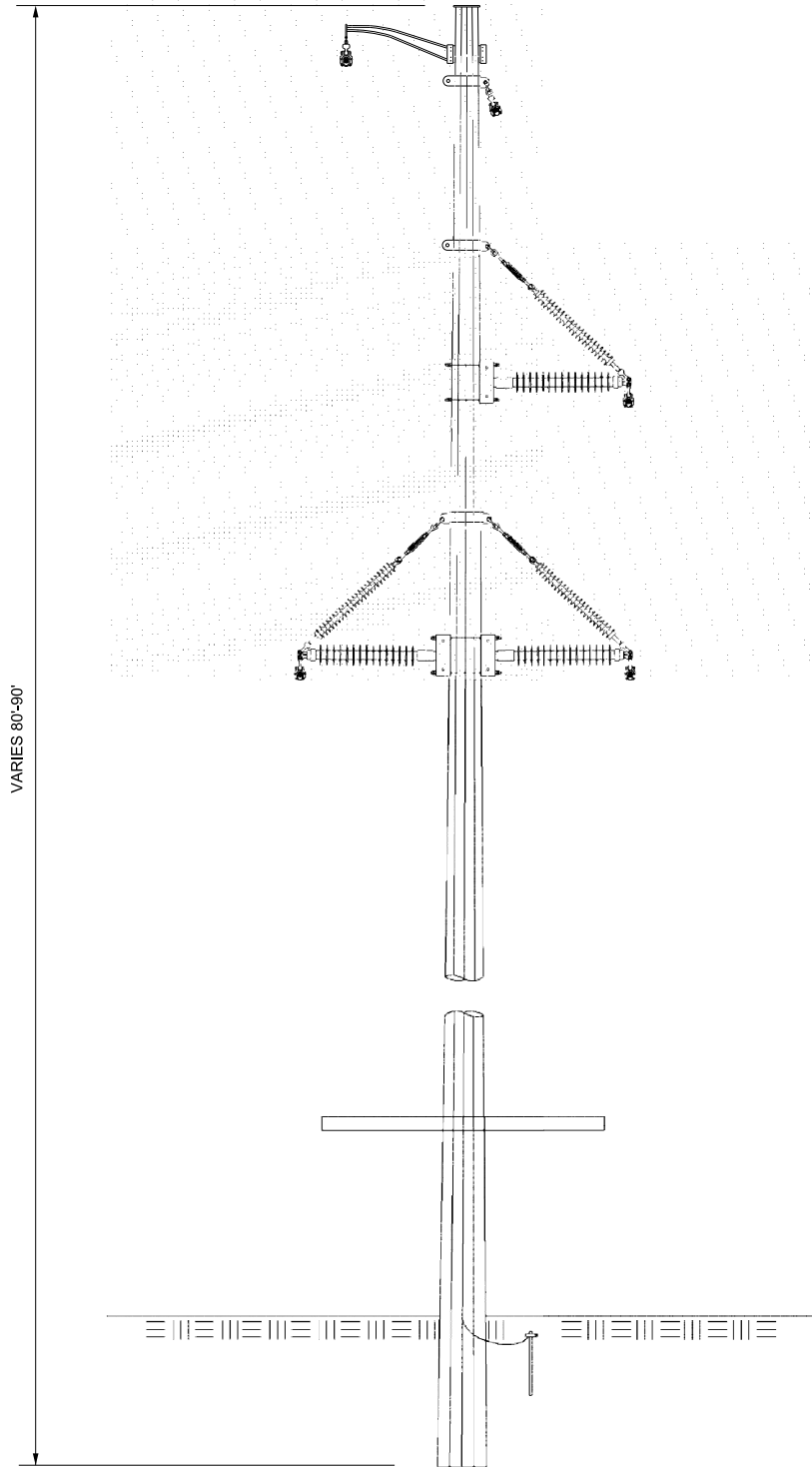
W. LANCASTER - BIXBY 138kV LINE



PROPOSED 138kV SINGLE CIRCUIT
TANGENT H-FRAME STRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 4



W. LANCASTER - BIXBY 138kV LINE



PROPOSED 138kV SINGLE CIRCUIT
TANGENT BRACED POST STRUCTURE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 5

January 30, 2014

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV Line Improvement Project

Socioeconomics Report



PROJECT NUMBER:
127705.00.04

PROJECT CONTACT:
Jaime Newell

EMAIL:
jaime.newell@powereng.com

PHONE:
989-745-5577



Hocking – West Lancaster 138 kV Line Improvement Project

Socioeconomics Report

PREPARED FOR: AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

PREPARED BY: GINA FEGLER

208-288-6281

GINA.FEGLER@POWERENG.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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GENERAL LAND USE DESCRIPTIONS	1
POPULATION DENSITY ESTIMATE.....	2
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT LAND.....	3
CONCLUSION.....	3
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APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A	MAP SET A, LAND USE WITH AERIAL BASE	A-1
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEP	American Electric Power Company
Esri	Environmental Systems Research Institute
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
kV	kilovolt
OAC	Ohio Administrative Code
OPSB	Ohio Power Siting Board
POWER	POWER Engineers, Inc.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

American Electric Power Company (AEP) is proposing to improve an existing transmission line in Hocking and Fairfield counties, Ohio. The single-circuit 138 kilovolt (kV) wood H-frame line runs between AEP's Hocking and West Lancaster Substations (Figures 1 and 2). The existing 19.3 mile transmission line consists mostly of wood, two-pole H-frame structures and will be rebuilt utilizing steel pole, H-frame and 3-pole guyed structures.

The Project is located in Hocking Township and Berne Township, Fairfield County and Good Hope Township, Marion Township and Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio. A portion of the Project is located within the incorporated area of the City of Logan in Falls Township, Hocking County, Ohio. The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Letter of Notification guidelines require that AEP describe the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed Project. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 4906-11-01(D)(1 & 2) describes the requirement as such:

(D) Socioeconomic data. Describe the social and ecological impacts of the project. This description shall contain the following information:

- (1) A brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including:(a) a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected; and (b) estimates of population density adjacent to rights-of-way within the study corridor (the U.S. census information may be used to meet this requirement).
- (2) The location and general description of all agricultural land (including agricultural district land) existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the letter of notification within the proposed electric power transmission line right-of-way, or within the proposed electric power transmission substation fenced-in area, or within the construction site boundary of a proposed compressor station.

AEP retained POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) to review the proposed Project for potential socioeconomic impacts as described in OAC Rule 4906-15-11-01(D)(1 & 2). To that end, a desktop review of socioeconomic, land use, and agricultural district land in the Project area was conducted. A buffer area with a total width of 0.5 mile centered on the transmission line centerline (0.25 mile on each side) was established as the study corridor. The study corridor was reviewed using aerial photo interpretation to identify land uses. The study corridor includes an area of 6,261.8 acres. Additionally, a residence count using aerial photo interpretation was conducted for an 800-foot corridor centered on the transmission line (400 feet on each side).

GENERAL LAND USE DESCRIPTIONS

Land use within the study corridor for the Project is shown on the map sets in Appendices A and B. Current land use characteristics were identified through review and digitizing of the Environmental Systems Research Institute's (Esri) World Imagery Base Layer 2012 imagery. Aerial imagery from Google Earth was reviewed to identify recent land use trends. Wetlands in a 100-foot wide corridor centered on the Project centerline were field delineated.

The study corridor is located in a principally rural setting between the City of Lancaster and the City of Logan. Some of the study corridor is within the developed setting of the City of Logan and the Village of Sugar Grove. Land use within the study corridor is predominantly woodland. Agriculture

and residential development are also primary land uses. Land use/land cover within the study corridor are as follows:

- Forested or wooded areas occupy approximately 59.8% of the study corridor.
- Agriculture occupies approximately 19.3% of the study corridor.
- Residential development occupies approximately 15.1% of the study corridor. Based on review of aerial photography, a total of approximately 204 residences were identified within 400 feet of the Project centerline.
- Commercial/industrial uses occupy approximately 2.3% of the study corridor.
- Recreational land use, which includes parks and golf courses, occupy approximately 1.7% of the study corridor.
- Industrial/transportation uses, which include highways and railroad, occupy approximately 0.9% of the study corridor. The corridor crosses one railroad line and county and state roads, including US Route 33, which is a divided roadway.
- Open water and wetlands occupy approximately 1.0% of the study corridor.

Additionally, two cemeteries and two schools are located within the study corridor.

POPULATION DENSITY ESTIMATE

Population density was estimated for the study corridor based on land area and average persons per household in Fairfield County, Hocking County, and the City of Logan in Hocking County. Based on 2010 U.S. Census data for average persons per household 2008-2012, in Fairfield County the approximately 92 residences identified within 400 feet of the Project centerline would have an estimated total population of 243 persons; in unincorporated Hocking County, the approximately 54 residences identified within 400 feet of the Project centerline would have an estimated total population of 134 persons; and in the City of Logan, the approximately 58 residences identified within 400 feet of the Project centerline would have an estimated total population of 131 persons. The total estimated population within 400 feet of the Project centerline would be 508 persons.

Based on 2010 U.S. Census data for population density (persons per square mile) of Fairfield County, unincorporated Hocking County and the City of Logan and the study corridor area within Fairfield County (3,424.6 acres, or 5.35 square miles), unincorporated Hocking County (2,286.6 acres, or 3.57 square miles), and the City of Logan (550.4 acres, or 0.86 square miles), the total population of the 0.5-mile wide (0.25 mile each side of centerline) study corridor is estimated to be approximately 3,083 persons. Population estimates are limited to available U.S. Census statistics and generalizations across the study corridor area. Census population data is included in Table 1.

TABLE 1 STUDY CORRIDOR CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATES

HEADING	PERCENTAGE OF CORRIDOR	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE, 2010	PERSONS PER HYOUSEHOLD, 2008-2012	2010 CENSUS POPULATION
Fairfield County	54.7	289.8	2.64	146,156
Hocking County (unincorporated)	36.5	69.7	2.48	29,380
City of Logan	8.8	1,492.8	2.25	7,152

It is not expected that the Project will significantly impact land use within the vicinity of the Project. The proposed project is to rebuild an existing line within a cleared and maintained right-of-way. The changes to the corridor will be primarily due to construction impacts, which will be temporary.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT LAND

A list of parcels registered with the State of Ohio Agricultural District Land Program was obtained from the Hocking County Auditor's Office. The Project right-of-way would cross agricultural district land, as defined by Chapter 929 of the Ohio Revised Code, east of Helber Road (one parcel) and east of Frasure-Helber Road (two parcels) for a total of approximately 2,000 feet, and at the east endpoint of the project for approximately 200 feet (one parcel). The Fairfield County Auditor's office provided geographic information system (GIS) shapefiles of agricultural district parcels and protected farmlands, which was overlaid with the study corridor to identify any parcels registered with the State of Ohio Agricultural District Land Program. Although the Project crosses agricultural fields, none of the Project is located within the limits of an Agricultural District in Fairfield County. The construction, operation and maintenance of this transmission line are not expected to affect the viability of agricultural land within the study area. This Project when complete will not require changes in agricultural practices from what they were at the time of this study.

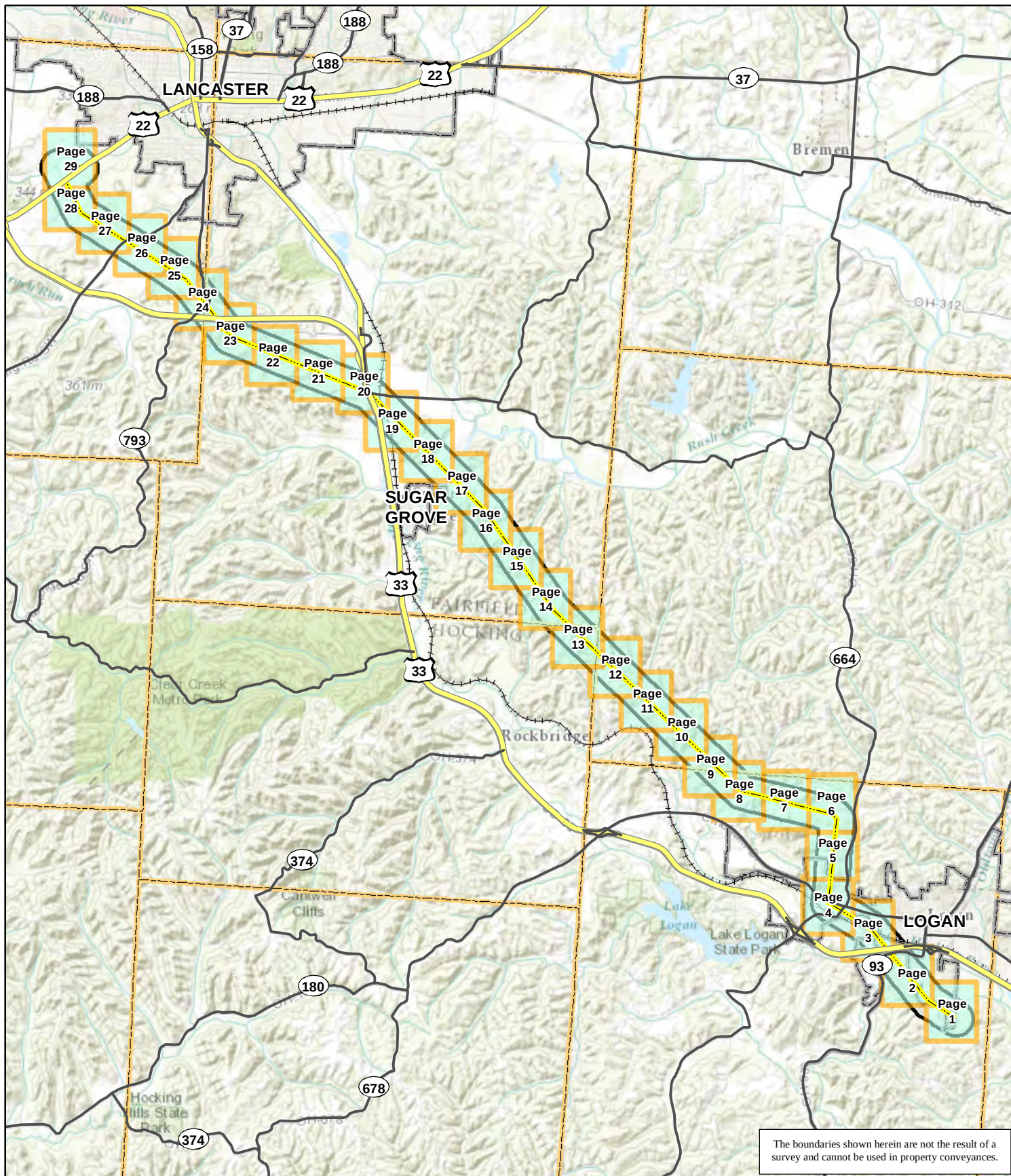
CONCLUSION

No significant impacts to socioeconomic characteristics, land use characteristics, or agricultural practices are expected in the study corridor as a result of this Project as an existing electrical transmission line is currently in place. Construction will cause temporary, localized changes at structure locations and access routes. The Project is not expected to alter future land use patterns.

REFERENCES

- Dilley, Nicholas L., Fairfield County Auditor, Office of. Email correspondence. Fairfield County, Ohio. November 2013.
- O'Nail, Christy and Nelson, Frank, Hocking County Auditor, Office of. Email correspondence. Hocking County, Ohio. November 2013.
- U.S. Census Bureau. Census of Population and Housing, 2010. Washington, D.C. Retrieved From <http://www.census.gov>. Accessed January 28, 2014.

APPENDIX A MAP SET A, LAND USE WITH AERIAL BASE



The boundaries shown herein are not the result of a survey and cannot be used in property conveyances.



- Hocking Alignment
- Quarter Mile Buffer
- ++ Railroads
- City Boundary
- Township Boundary

1" = 10,000'

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Feet

The State of Ohio
Hocking and Fairfield Counties
Falls, Marion, Good Hope, Berne and Hocking Townships

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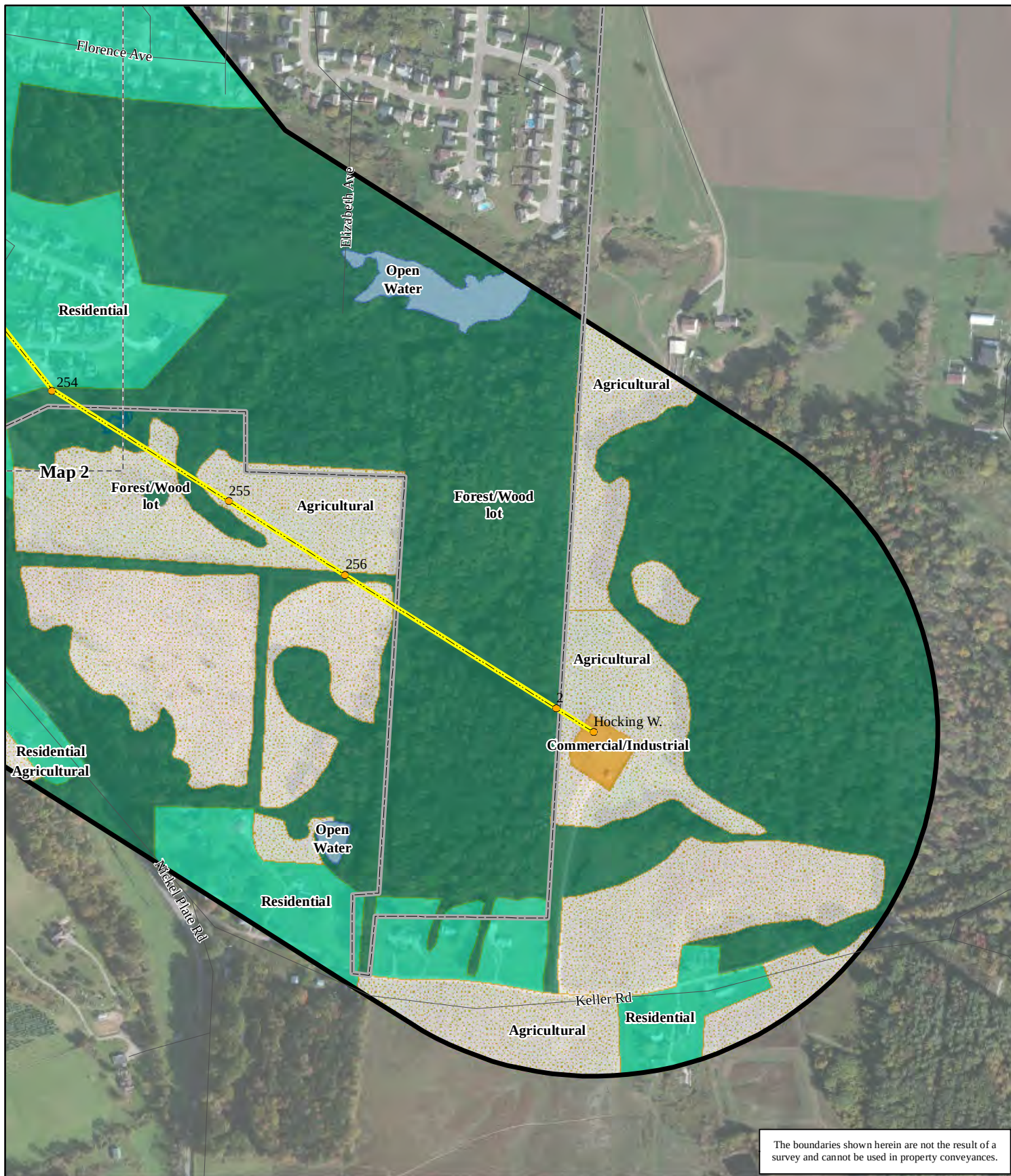
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| ● Structures | ▨ Agricultural |
| — Hocking Alignment | ▨ Forest/Wood lot |
| — Roads | ▨ Residential |
| + Railroads | ▨ Recreational |
| ■ Quarter Mile Buffer | ▨ Commercial/Industrial |
| ▨ Township Boundary | ▨ Industrial/Transportation |
| ▨ City Boundary | ▨ Open Water |
| ▨ Map Sheet | ▨ Delineated Wetlands |

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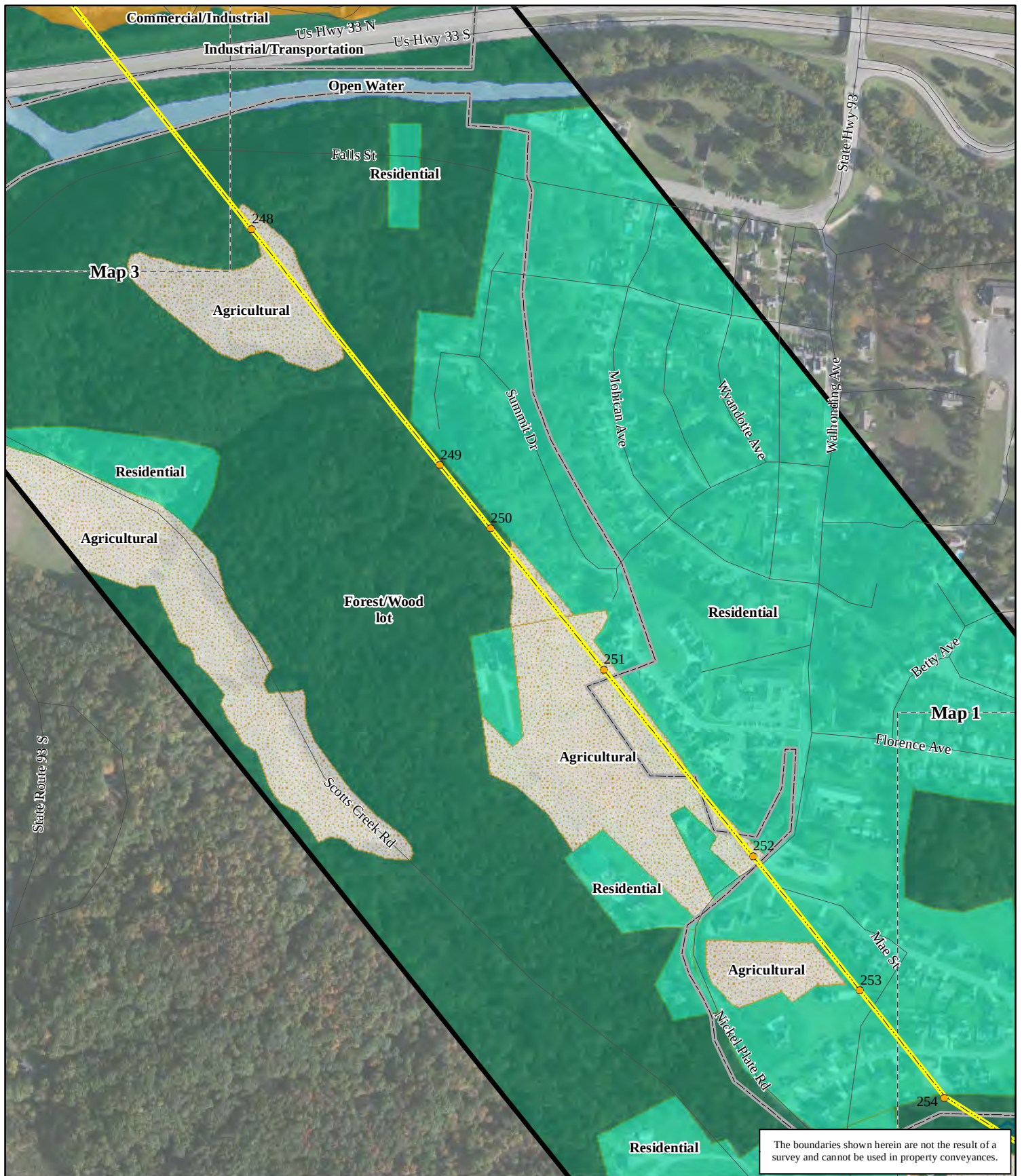
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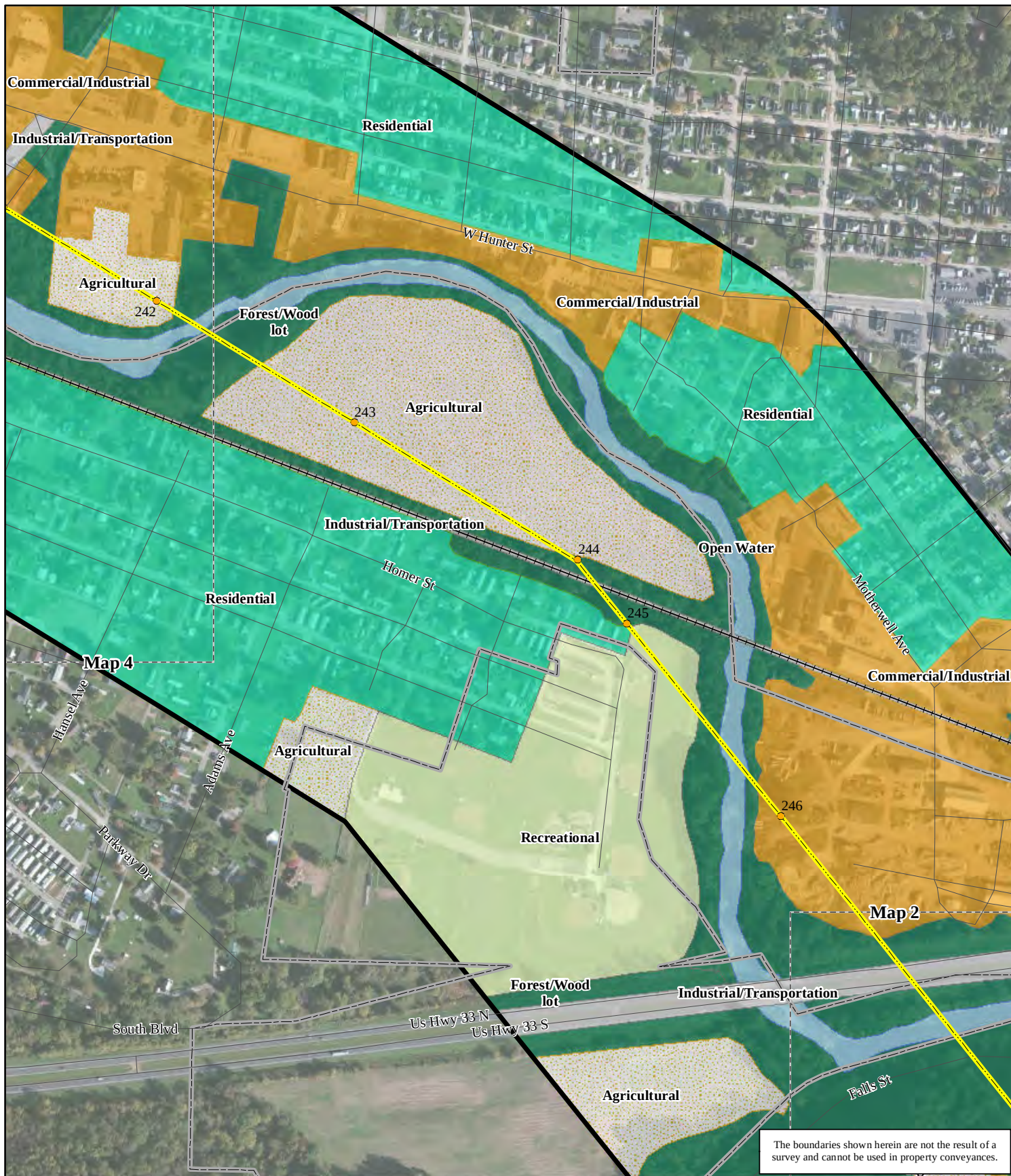
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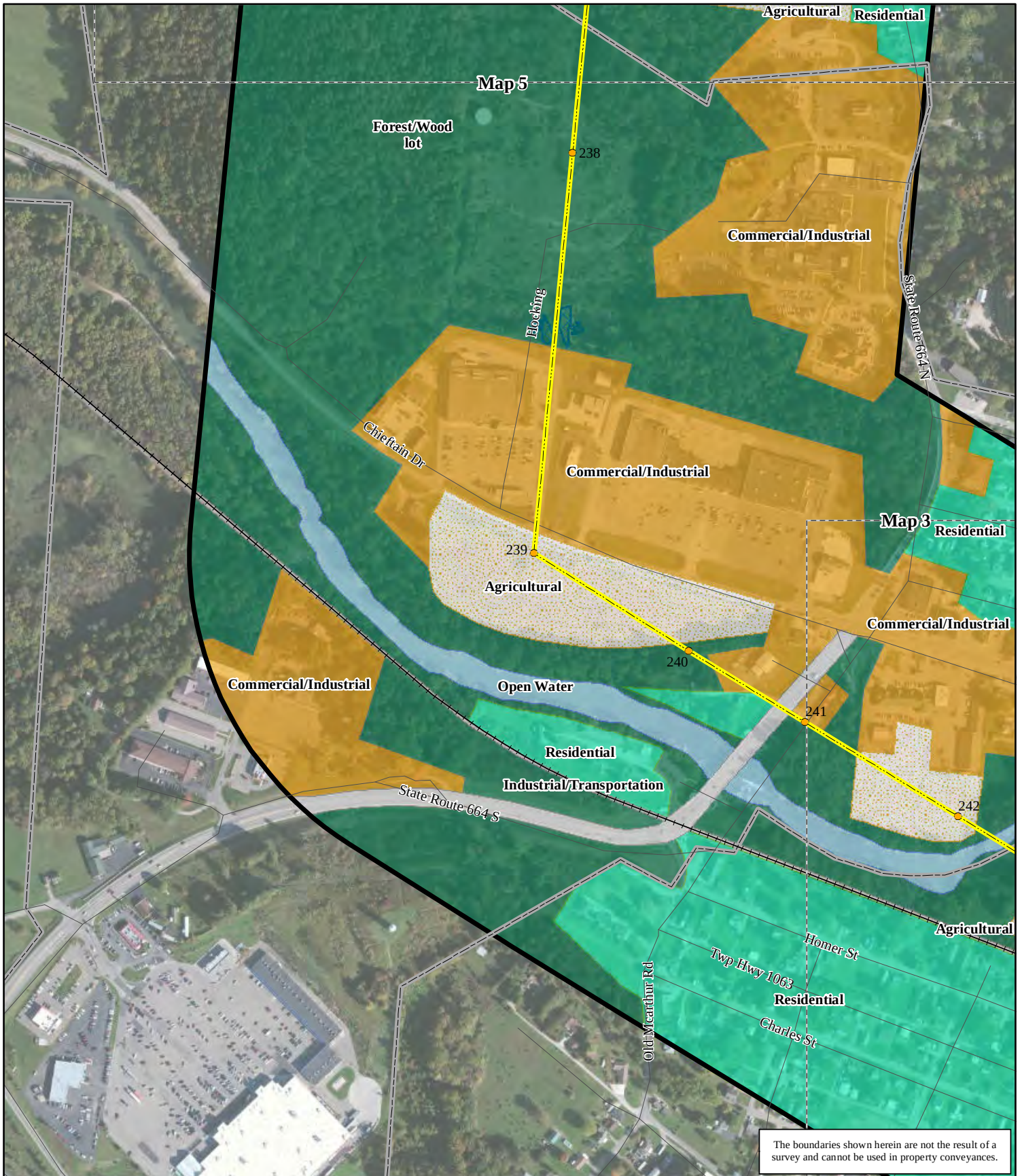
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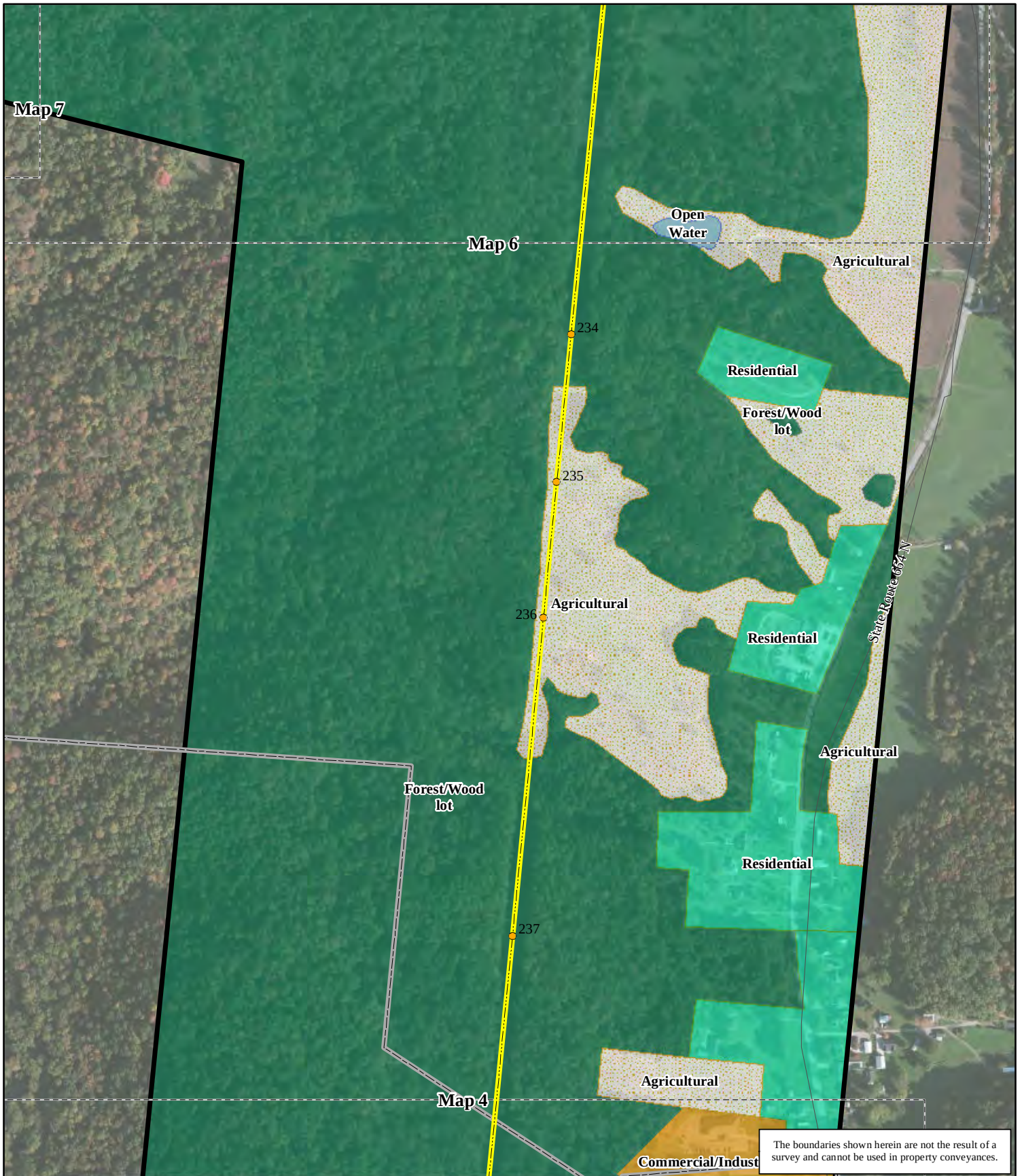
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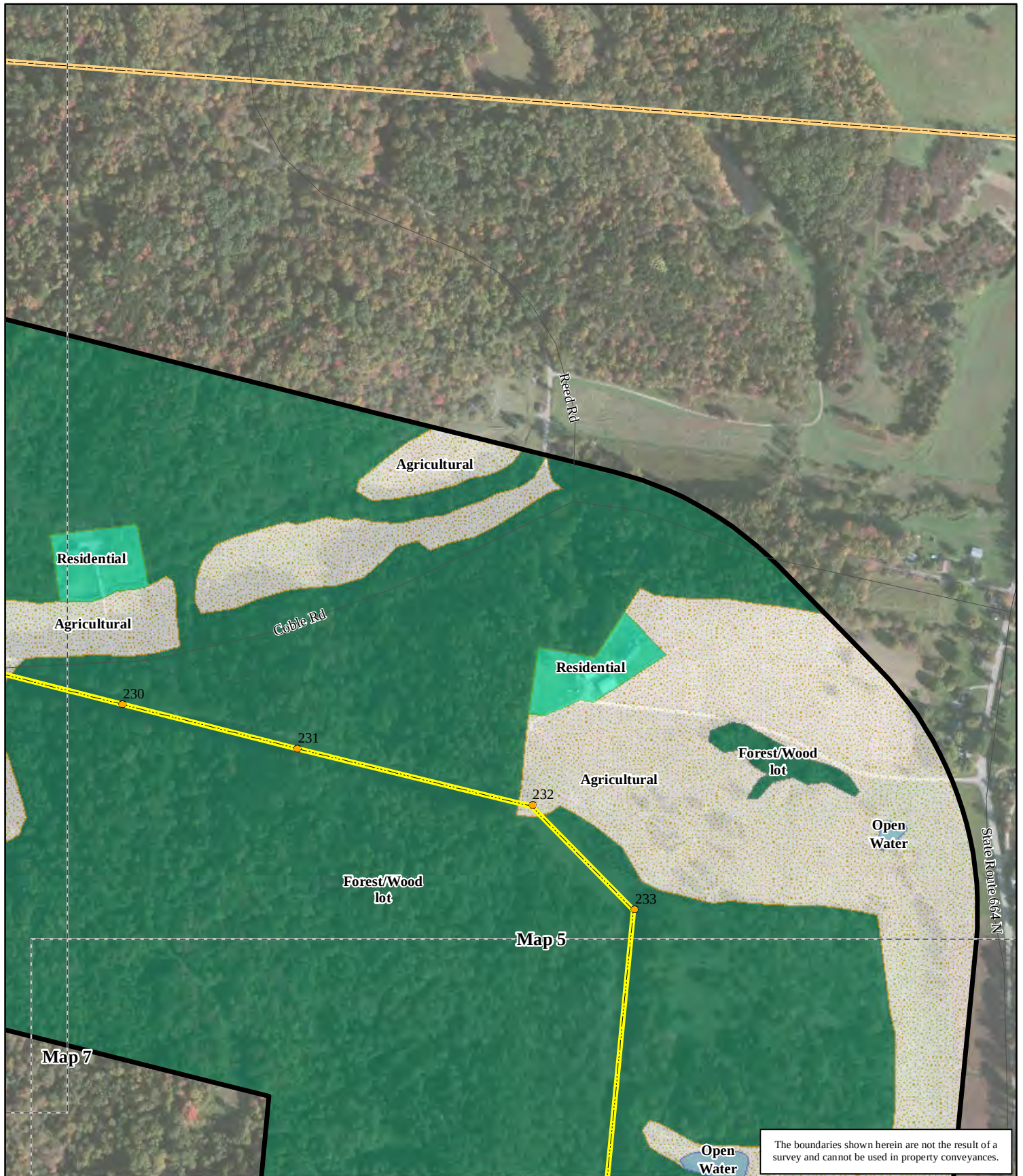
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Summary: Letter of Notification Hocking W Lancaster 138 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Part 5 of 9) electronically filed by Mr. Yazen Alami on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company