

## **Ohio Power Siting Board**

### **Staff Investigation Report and Recommendation**

**Case Number:** 14-0811-EL-BTA

**Project:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the East Springfield-London-Tangy 138 kV Transmission Line

**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Inc.

**Report Date:** July 14, 2014

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Inspection Date(s):** July 8, 2014

**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell & D. Rostofer

#### **Summary of Staff Recommendations (see report text for discussion):**

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

#### **Project Amendment Description**

The Applicant is proposing a minor adjustment to the East Springfield-London-Tangy 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line, originally certificated under case number 11-4884-EL-BTX and amended under case number 13-2112-EL-BTA. Another amendment (ref: 14-0595-EL-BTA) is also pending before the Board.

This filing proposes to shift a 4,381-foot section of the approved alignment approximately 428 feet beyond the 1,000-foot study corridor for the certificated Preferred Route. The approved alignment segment is 4,381 feet in length, and the adjusted portion would be 5,497 feet long.

#### **Amendment Review**

##### *Social Impacts*

Land use in proximity to the amendment is primarily comprised of industrial (active quarry mining), agricultural, and limited rural residential uses. The route adjustment has been filed to accommodate the requests of directly impacted property owners, as well as to alleviate the Applicant's engineering and operational concerns. The proposed route adjustment would allow the quarry to potentially expand their operations. Also, the Applicant's engineering concerns are greatly simplified by adoption of the amendment. Transmission structures that cross an active quarry would have to span large bodies of water, thus complicating future maintenance activities.

The Applicant has obtained verbal approvals for all needed easements and all directly affected property owners are party to those agreements. The Applicant is completing a cultural resource survey along the proposed adjustment. Results of that survey will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office, in accordance with the original certificate. This route adjustment would not significantly alter existing land use. No recreational or public parkland is crossed by this amendment. No residences will need to be removed in order to accommodate this proposal. This route adjustment is expected to result in an overall reduction of potential social impacts.

#### *Ecological Impacts*

The Applicant has delineated water resources and searched for threatened and endangered (T&E) species. No T&E species were encountered by the Applicant, and potential adverse impacts to water resources would still be minimal.

#### **Recommended Findings**

Staff recommends that the Board find that the proposed amendment to the certificate poses minimal social and environmental impacts.

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**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**7/14/2014 3:22:21 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-0811-EL-BTA**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB