

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by )  
American Transmissions Systems, Incorporated for a )  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public ) Case Number:  
Need for the Barberton-West Akron 138 kV ) 14-1086-EL-BNR  
Transmission Line Reconductoring Project )**

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 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.

The application will be automatically approved on August 6, 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 from the date of suspension.

Any concerns you or your designee may have with this case must be presented to the Executive Director of the Power Siting Board at least four business days prior to August 6, 2014, which is the automatic approval date. To contact the Executive Director with concerns, reply to the email to which this document was attached, or use the ContactOPSB email address listed below.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon  
Interim Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
(614) 644-8932  
[ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us)

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 14-1086-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Barberton-West Akron 138 kV  
Transmission Line Reconductoring Project  
**Project Location:** Summit County  
**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Incorporated  
**Application Filing Date:** June 24, 2014  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** July 14, 2014  
**Report Date:** July 29, 2014  
**Automatic Approval Date:** August 6, 2014  
**Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell, D. Rostofer

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

### Project Description

This project involves reconductoring two sections of the Barberton-West Akron 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, totaling approximately 7.4 miles. Existing Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced wires would be replaced with heavier Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported cables. The project is needed to alleviate line loading that is a result of generation retirement.

### Site Description

No new right-of-way or easements are required. Land use in proximity to the project includes suburban, commercial, industrial and institutional uses. The line parallels a large graveyard and traverses a golf course. Additionally, the existing line crosses well maintained residential landscaping. Staff believes that construction in these sensitive land uses can be accomplished by careful coordination during a pre-construction conference and the development of a detailed access plan. Staff did not encounter any notable ecological impacts during its investigation.

**Staff Recommended Conditions:**

1. The Applicant shall conduct a pre-construction conference prior to the start of any project work (including any vegetation clearing), which the Staff shall attend, to discuss how project concerns will be satisfactorily addressed. Multiple conferences may be held at the Applicant's discretion.
2. At least 30 days before the initial pre-construction conference, the Applicant shall submit to the Staff, for review and approval, a project construction access plan. This plan shall include all laydown areas, sensitive access points (walk-in locations only), areas that would be limited to less invasive vehicle use, structures restricted to hand-climbing, and any locations where vegetation clearing is required. The plan shall consider the location of residential fencing, private structures, streams, wooded areas, graveyards, and golf courses.
3. The Applicant shall avoid, where possible, any damage to drainage systems, and/or water and sewer lines resulting from construction of the facility. Damaged systems and lines shall be repaired to at least original conditions at the Applicant's expense.

**Conclusion**

Access is readily available for construction. No significant vegetative clearing is required. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**7/29/2014 5:44:39 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 14-1086-EL-BNR**

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