

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice
Application by Dominion East Ohio Gas for a Certificate
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
PIR #264, Sugar Street, Lima, Allen County, OH, 12-inch
High Pressure Distribution Line Replacement Project**) **Case Number**
) **14-1327-GA-BNR**

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 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 **August 30, 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.

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 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 30, 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) 466-6692
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 14-1327-GA-BNR
Project Name: PIR #264, Sugar Street 12-inch High Pressure Distribution Line Replacement
Project Location: Allen County
Applicant: Dominion East Ohio Gas
Application Filing Date: August 8, 2014
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: August 19, 2014
Report Date: August 21, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: August 30, 2014
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: E. Steele, C. Burri, G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: Approval Disapproval Approval with Conditions

Waiver: Approval Disapproval Not Applicable

Project Description

Dominion East Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace 5,369 feet of existing 6-inch and 10-inch high pressure bare steel pipeline with 695 feet of 6-inch fusion bond epoxy steel .280W Grade B and 5,075 feet of 12-inch fusion bond epoxy steel .375W Grade X-42. The maximum allowable pressure of the line will be 125 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). The proposed project will run on the west side of Sugar Street under the sidewalk between Kibby Street and 4th Street in the City of Lima, OH. The estimated replacement cost of the line is \$2,390,468.00. The construction is anticipated to begin in September, 2014 and be in-service by December 15, 2014.

Site Description

The project site is the city of Lima, OH, Allen County. The area is mostly residential and the proposed line will be installed under the existing sidewalk which will require removal and replacement of the sidewalks. Some driveways will also be impacted. There is a wetland (approximately 300') that will be directionally drilled. There are some large mature trees near the proposed right-of-way.

Need

The project would improve the gas supply to the Applicant's existing customers in Lima and the surrounding residential and industrial areas in Allen County. The existing pipelines are more than 61 years old and have been identified as high priority replacement pipelines due to considerable maintenance and leak repairs in the past several years. This will result in a savings

to the Applicant's customers in maintenance expenses on the existing pipeline. In addition, this line will meet all of the safety standards that have been enacted since the installation of the old line.

Nature of Impacts

Route options within the urbanized project area are limited. The existing line that is being replaced is located on the opposite side of the street from the location of the proposed line. There are some trees that may have to be cleared and some that the Applicant has committed to work around to avoid impacting these trees. The wetland on this project will be directionally bored to avoid impacting it. The federal and state listed species and/or their suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the federal and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat, the Applicant would 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.

Conclusion

The project would improve the reliability and safety of the gas pipelines in the area. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on **August 30, 2014** provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

1. Prior to any tree cutting activities, the Applicant shall re-survey trees that may be impacted within the project area to determine suitable Indiana bat habitat trees.
2. The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of suitable Indiana bat habitat trees, unless coordination efforts with the ODNR and the USFWS reflects a different course of action.
3. That the Applicant shall utilize Best Management Practices when working in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas.
4. That 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.
5. The applicant will coordinate all traffic related issues with the appropriate entities to ensure that traffic will be maintained along public roadways and private drives during construction.
6. Applicant must secure all easements prior to any construction related activity.
7. Where the pipeline route crosses existing paved, gravel or concrete driveways, sidewalks, and/or fences, the impacted driveways, sidewalks and fences shall be repaired promptly to their pre-construction state, including tie in points and bore pits.

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Case No(s). 14-1327-GA-BNR

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