

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by)
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company)
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and) Case Number
Public Need for the Don Marquis-Bixby 345 kV) 14-1397-EL-BLN
Transmission Line Prop Structure Project in Ross)
County.)

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 **September 24, 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 **September 24, 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,



Patrick Donlon
Interim Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board
(614) 466-6692
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 14-1397-EL-BLN
Project Name: Don Marquis-Bixby 345 kV Transmission Line Prop Structure Project
Project Location: Ross County
Applicant: American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
Application Filing Date: August 26, 2014
Filing Type: **Expedited** Letter of Notification
Inspection Dates: September 5, 2014
Report Date: September 16, 2014
Automatic Approval Date: September 24, 2014
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, C. Burri, G. Zeto, S. Irwin

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description

This project will consist of installing one (1) H-frame steel structure to prop the existing 345 kV Don Marquis-Bixby transmission line in order to allow a future 69 kV transmission line to be built and cross underneath. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2014. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$541,400.

Site Description

Land adjacent to the project area is primarily agricultural, residential or wooded, with an existing 345 kV transmission corridor that includes steel lattice towers. The project is within an existing electrical transmission line corridor, and the characteristics of the project are not significantly different from the existing transmission line. The new prop structure is proposed to be located approximately 1,200 feet southeast of County Road 550 (Pleasant Valley Road).

Nature of Impacts

The Applicant has proposed to construct a prop H-frame structure along the existing 345 kV Don Marquis-Bixby transmission line. The purpose of the project is to provide necessary clearance requirements (as determined by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation) for the installation of a 69 kV transmission line (non jurisdictional to the OPSB) under the Don Marquis-Bixby transmission line. The new structure will be located in existing right-of-way. No new right-of-way will be required however a temporary construction access road will be needed.

The nearest residence to the proposed structure is located approximately 800 feet to the northeast. An existing steel lattice tower on the Don Marquis-Bixby transmission line is already

located approximately 600 feet west of this residence. The applicant does not expect any impacts to the socioeconomic characteristics of the surrounding area.

There are no wetland or stream crossings associated with this project. Likewise, no impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated. The proposed structure is located in an agricultural field.

Conclusion

The Applicant's utilization of existing right-of-way and temporary access for the H-frame location significantly minimizes potential adverse impacts. The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on September 24, 2014.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

9/16/2014 12:08:07 PM

in

Case No(s). 14-1397-EL-BLN

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mrs. Yvonne W Cooper on behalf of Staff of OPSB