

## **Ohio Power Siting Board**

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

**Case No.:** 14-2085-EL-BGA

**Project:** Application to Amend Certificate

**Applicant:** Carroll County Energy

**Report Date:** January 16, 2015

**Waiver Requests:** None

**Inspection Date:** January 14, 2015

**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell & A. Holderbaum

**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 three minor adjustments to the Carroll County Energy generation facility, originally certificated under Case Number 13-1752-EL-BGN on April 28, 2014. First, the Applicant is requesting permission to construct an additional 20-acre temporary laydown area directly adjacent to the certificated facility. A total of approximately 42 additional acres of disturbance is expected from all changes associated with the proposed amendment; however, a majority of the land would be returned to agricultural production upon project completion.

Second, the Applicant's design has been changed to provide additional water-saving measures. The new engineering design would utilize an ion exchange demineralization system (IES) to replace the reverse osmosis (RO) demineralization system. Replacing the RO demineralization system with the IES would result in a substantial reduction of water use and a minimization of wastewater discharge. Originally, it was anticipated that the facility would discharge 300,000 gallons of wastewater per day into the local sewage system. Subsequent design changes reduced the amount to 212,000 gallons daily and presently the expected amount is 90,000 gallons per day. Utilization of the IES system means that the 90,000 gallons of wastewater would be continuously recycled on-site; thus resulting in almost a virtual zero-discharge system. Filtered solids would be periodically removed and disposed off-site. The Applicant seeks the option to employ the IES system as a method to enhance their original facility design.

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Finally, the Applicant is proposing to reorient the facility switchyard to enhance its reliability. A breaker-and-half configuration would be utilized, resulting in an overall improvement of the original ring bus and single lead design.

## **Amendment Review**

### *Social Impacts*

Land use in proximity to the amendment is primarily comprised of agricultural and limited rural residential uses. This amendment would not significantly alter the proposed 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. Overall expected impacts to cultural resources remain minimal, as the areas of new disturbance have already been surveyed during the investigation of the original certificate. The proposed option to treat wastewater on-site is expected to result in a net reduction of potential social impacts, as increased treatment capacity would not be required from the local sewage system.

### *Ecological Impacts*

The Applicant has delineated water resources and investigated for the presence of wetlands. No wetlands are present in any areas of the additionally proposed disturbance. The Applicant needs to add a temporary laydown area and also a 2.5-acre temporary soils stockpile, both located directly north of the facility site. The additional laydown area was included in various studies conducted as part of the original application, including the Wetland Delineation and Stream Identification Report and threatened and endangered species reports. The additional project laydown area is largely comprised of active agricultural land, with some surrounding woods. Additional grading and clearing of the surrounding wooded area is required to adjust the elevations of the area to below 3.5 percent grade and to allow for appropriate stabilization of side slopes. As outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the additional laydown area, construction grading would direct stormwater toward the southeast and be controlled with applicable best management practices.

The Applicant would develop an access point off of the facility driveway to connect to the new laydown area. The access point would not impact any ecological resources and would connect with an existing gravel access road. Utilizing the existing access road would avoid potential impacts to delineated wetlands and streams, protecting ecological resources. No additional work is proposed in wetlands or waterways.

Reorientation of the facility switchyard would require an additional 0.5 acre of permanent tree-clearing. These adjustments would have minimal negative impacts on ecological resources.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

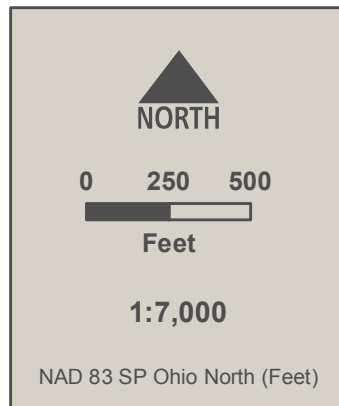
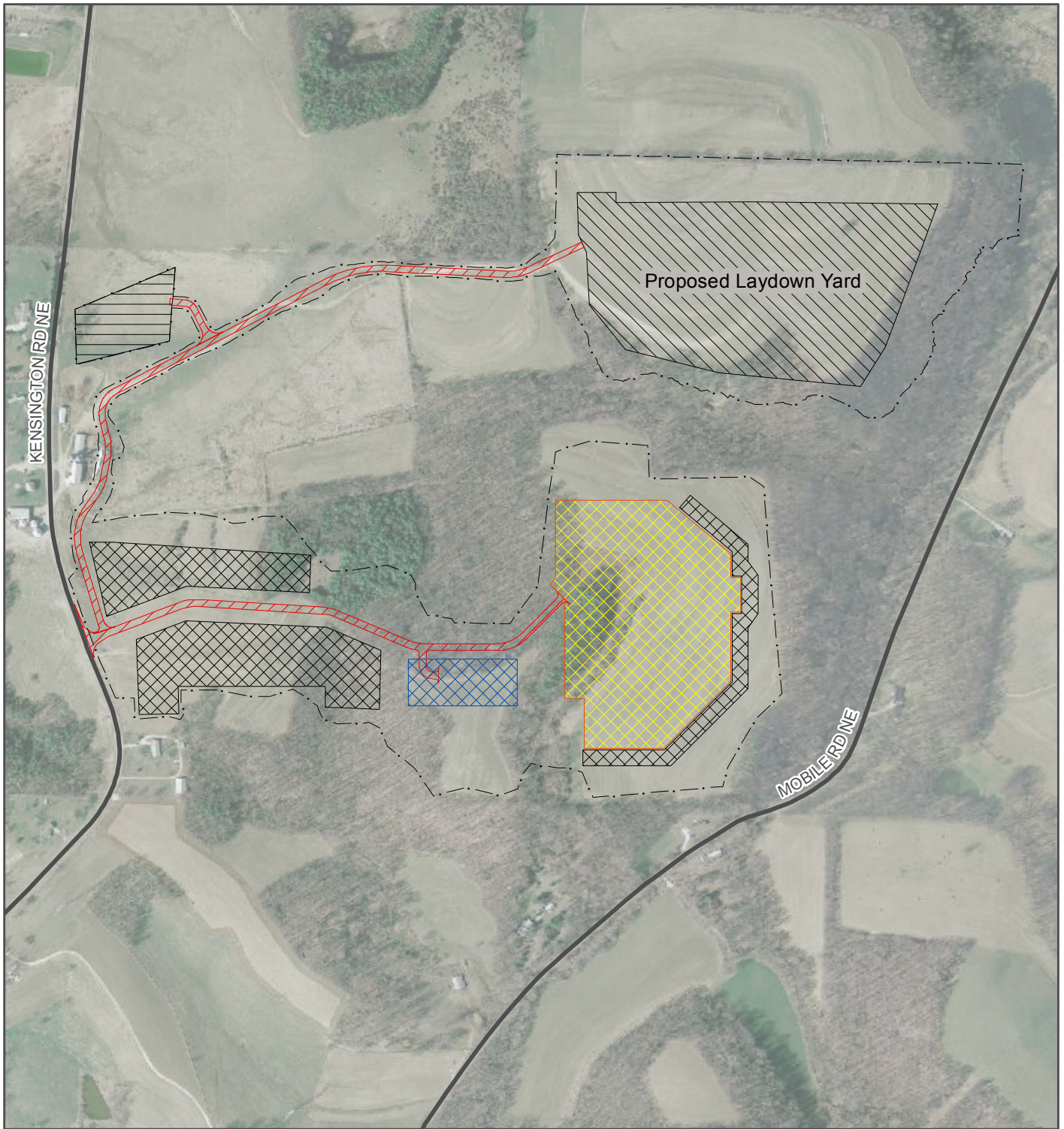
No additional state or federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed species were identified. A total of approximately 12 acres of additional tree clearing would be required for the temporary laydown area and 0.5 acres for the reorientation of the switchyard. In order to avoid potential disturbance to summer roosting habitat associated with the Indiana Bat, the Applicant has agreed to restrict habitat tree clearing outside of April 1 through September 30. The Applicant would maintain a minimum 20-foot riparian buffer around surrounding intermittent streams associated with Pipes Fork in order to minimize potential impacts to water resources.

### **Recommended Findings**

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

### **Condition**

In order to best protect ecological resources associated with this project and to minimize potential social impacts, Staff would recommend that the Applicant be required to conform to the conditions and commitments of the original certificate.



## Overview Map

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**Carroll County Energy Generation Facility Amendment**

*Maps are presented solely for the purpose of providing a visual representation of the project in the staff report, and are not intended to modify the project as presented by the Applicant in its certificate application and supplemental materials.*

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

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**1/16/2015 3:45:43 PM**

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**Case No(s). 14-2085-EL-BGA**

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