

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for a Certificate of)
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the) Case Number
Frank Road/Interstate 71 Mandatory Relocation Project.) 14-2300-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 **February 3, 2015**, 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.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to **February 3, 2015**, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



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

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 14-2300-GA-BNR
Project Name: Frank Road/Interstate 71 Mandatory Relocation Project
Project Location: Franklin County
Applicant: Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.
Application Filing Date: December 22, 2014
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: January 8, 2015
Report Date: January 20, 2015
Automatic Approval Date: February 3, 2015
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Columbia Gas of Ohio (Applicant) proposes to relocate approximately 750 feet of 16-inch natural-gas pipeline to accommodate the widening of the Frank Road underpass beneath Interstate 71. The project is a mandatory relocation project required by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The project would occur primarily on public right-of-way, including the right-of-way across Interstate 71 and along the south side of Frank Road. Private right-of-way on the east side of State Route 104, owned entirely by Inland Products, Inc., will also be utilized and would require a new easement.

The relocated segment would be constructed of 16-inch high-pressure steel pipe, with a maximum allowable operating pressure of 174 psig. Six hundred feet of the relocated pipeline would be installed by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) underneath Interstate 71 from Frank Road to State Route 104. The remaining 150 feet of relocated pipeline would be installed using an open excavation along Frank Road on the east side of Interstate 71. Three 16-inch gate valves would also be installed along the east side of State Route 104. The Applicant would abandon in place 1,555 feet of existing pipeline. The proposed relocated pipeline would travel underneath Interstate 71 and connect to the existing pipeline instead of following Frank Road to the existing pipeline. This route is more direct and would result in a shorter pipeline. Construction would begin about June 1, 2015, and the in-service date for the new pipeline is expected to be about July 15, 2015. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,300,000.

Site Description

The project is located between Frank Road and State Route 104 just south of the Interstate 71 underpass in Columbus, Ohio. The vicinity is mostly highway with adjacent commercial entities that would not be affected. The project is located within the Scioto River 100-year flood plain.

Need

As noted above, the project is a mandatory relocation project requested by the ODOT.

Nature of Impacts

The pipeline relocation would require excavation of an open trench along Frank Road on the east side of Interstate 71. The trench would run primarily through a grass covered field. The Applicant would utilize silt fencing to ensure compliance with safety and environmental controls. The pipeline would also require HDD underneath Interstate 71 from Frank Road to State Route 104. The Applicant has obtained a permit from ODOT for the Interstate 71 crossing. No streams, wetlands, or environmentally sensitive areas would be impacted. As noted above, the project is within the Scioto river 100-year flood plain. Construction is not expected to impact the Scioto River, however the applicant is currently seeking a flood plain permit from the City of Columbus.

Because the Applicant is proposing to use HDD to install the line, a frac-out plan has been developed for this project and reviewed by Staff. Staff believes the plan appropriately addresses inadvertent returns into surface waters, response and notification procedures, and cleanup. Additionally, the Applicant would utilize best management practices to minimize impacts to surface waters.

Conclusion

The construction of this project should pose only minimal negative social and ecological impacts. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on February 3, 2015.

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Case No(s). 14-2300-GA-BNR

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