

## **VORYS**

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March 23, 2015

Barcy F. McNeal, Secretary Ohio Power Siting Board 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Re:

Carroll County Energy LLC Case No. 13-1752-EL-BGN

Dear Ms. McNeal:

This correspondence documents prior conversations and communications with the Ohio Power Siting Board's Staff regarding initial tree clearing at the project site.

Carroll County Energy first notified Staff by written correspondence dated December 31, 2014 (copy attached) that initial habitat tree clearing would commence on the project site no later than March 31, 2015. An initial tree clearing preconstruction conference was held on January 12, 2015 with Staff, and on that call Carroll County Energy informed Staff that initial tree clearing would commence on February 9, 2015. Staff subsequently issued correspondence dated January 13, 2015 to Carroll County Energy LLC approving tree clearing related to the Board's April 28, 2014 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") issued in Case No. 13-1752-EL-BGN. That correspondence was docketed by Staff on January 13, 2015. Initial tree clearing commenced on February 9 and was completed on February 27, 2015.

Please call me or Amy Frazier, Associate General Counsel and Manager, Environmental Permitting, Advanced Power Services (NA) Inc. at 617-456-2209 if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Settineri

MJS/bja

cc:

Raymond Strom James O'Dell



December 31, 2014

Mr. Donald Rostofer Ohio Power Siting Board 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Request for Approval for Initial Tree Clearing Activities

Carroll County Energy, Washington Township, Ohio – Case No. 13-1752-EL-BGN

## Dear Mr. Rostofer:

The Carroll County Energy facility (the Facility) is preparing for financial close and formal Notice to Proceed with on-site construction activities. As acknowledged in the Facility's Opinion, Order and Certificate for Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Case 13-1752-EL-BGN, removal of trees that exhibit suitable Indiana bat habitat is restricted to the period from October 1 through March 31 and is allowed to proceed in advance of other Facility construction efforts and associated obligations. This letter outlines the proposed limited activities, and requests confirmation that OPSB obligations have been satisfied to allow commencement of this work.

Carroll County Energy LLC (CCE) is requesting approval to initiate tree clearing activities within the areas identified in the attached drawing. Similar information will be provided at a later date associated with additional clearing reflected in the Carroll County Energy Amendment Application (Case No. 14-2085-EL-BGA) currently under review by the OPSB.

A total of 20.5 acres of wooded area was identified as requiring clearing in the OPSB application and is reflected in the Certificate. As design progresses, minimizing clearing continues to be a priority to the extent possible. The current plans reflect the need for approximately 18.65 acres of clearing for the Facility footprint and on-site Construction Laydown Area.

CCE will mobilize a local contractor to the site to remove all trees within the area indicated. Access to the work areas will be through the use of existing farm and wood roads, and no new access will be constructed. The work, occurring no later than March 31, is expected to be completed during periods of ground freeze which will minimize the potential for inadvertent ground disturbance. The stumps will remain in place, further eliminating potential ground-disturbing activities.

The limits of disturbance will be indicated in the field through the use of flagging or marking by a properly licensed surveyor. The clearing contractor will utilize a feller buncher (or track saw) as the primary means of tree felling, with some hand clearing as necessary due to terrain or access issues. A skidder will be utilized to remove felled trees, and a mower and chipper will be utilized on smaller brush and limbs. It is anticipated that the clearing will be completed within an approximately 2 to 3 week period. The cut trees will be removed from the site.

No clearing work in streams or wetlands is proposed, with the exception of clearing within the two small (each 0.005 acre) wetlands authorized for fill under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 39, issued on May 23, 2014. Since these wetlands are authorized to be disturbed and filled, and are not in proximity to other wetland or water resources, no special measures are planned for use in these areas. As can be seen on the attached drawing, no other wetlands or streams are in close proximity to the proposed clearing activities. Care will be taken to avoid dropping cut trees in the direction of the surrounding wetlands or streams. If work occurs any closer than 25 feet from wetland or stream resources, silt fencing will be installed in that location to demarcate and protect that resource. Other than that, no special protection measures are anticipated.

Following completion of the work, it will be inspected and a report will be generated to confirm the clearing was completed within the planned areas with no unanticipated disturbance or impact. Should any significant debris associated with clearing activities be observed in wetland or stream areas (other than the two small wetland areas that are authorized for fill), clean-up will occur prior to considering the clearing effort completed. This will be documented in the inspection memo, with follow-up as necessary.

Given the limited activities proposed in associated with this clearing, we do not anticipated the need for additional environmental permits (for example, a Construction General Permit is not required because ground disturbance of 1 acre or more will not occur). We have also considered the various obligations under the Facility's Opinion, Order and Certificate, and are satisfying pre-construction conference requirements with this correspondence. We do not believe other requirements of the Opinion, Order and Certificate apply for this limited activity (for example, neither a streamside vegetation restoration plan nor a staff-approved environmental specialist would be necessary, as no work is proposed in sensitive areas such as stream banks). Please let us know if you believe additional actions are required.

We look forward to your review of this information. If you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to discuss the proposed activities, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your assistance. We will appreciate return correspondence confirming CCE can commence this activity. Thank you!

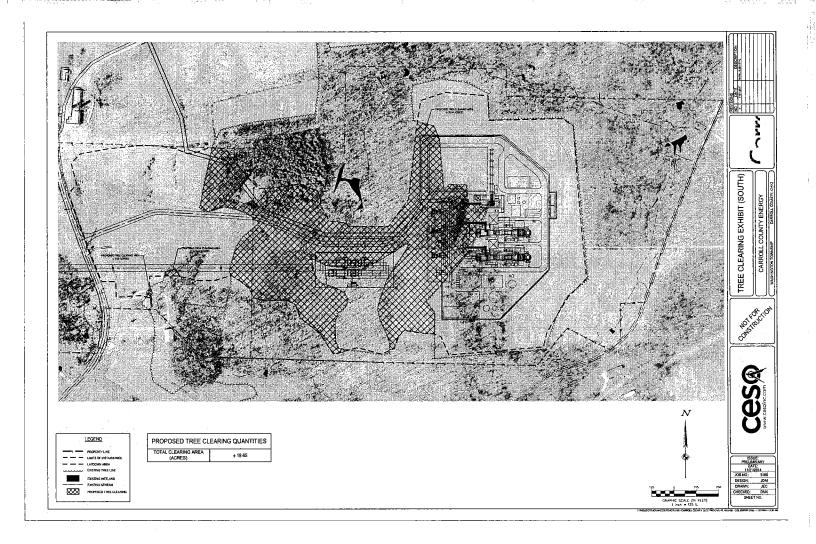
Sincerely,

Tetra Tech, Inc.

Lynn Gresock

**Environmental Consultant** 

Lynn gresock



This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on** 

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in

Case No(s). 13-1752-EL-BGN

Summary: Correspondence by Carroll County Energy LLC Regarding Initial Clearing electronically filed by Mr. Michael J. Settineri on behalf of Carroll County Energy LLC