

AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

YEAGER - AZALEA 138kV LINE

TYPICAL TANGENT STRUCTURE TUBULAR STEEL H-FRAME SUSPENSION

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2

APPENDIX A

SOCIOECONOMIC, LAND USE, AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW REPORT

YAGER-AZALEA 138KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

SOCIOECONOMIC, LAND USE, AND AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW REPORT

Prepared for:

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company 700 Morrison Road Gahanna, Ohio 45230



Prepared by:



525 Vine Street, Suite 1800 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Project #: 60423281

October 2015





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	. 1
	GENERAL LAND USE DESCRIPTION	
	POPULATION DENSITY ESTIMATE	
	AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT LAND	
5.0	CONCLUSION	. 2

FIGURES (follow text)

Number

FIGURE 1 LAND USE MAP





1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This document presents the socioeconomic, land use, and agricultural district review conducted by AECOM for AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.'s (AEP Ohio Transco) proposed Yager-Azalea 138 kV Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project is required to meet the needs of a specific customer. In response to the customer's needs, AEP Ohio Transco is proposing to install the new Yager-Azalea 138 kV line between the proposed Yager Station in Harrison County, Ohio and the existing Azalea Station in Carroll County, Ohio.

As part of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Letter of Notification (LON) requirements, AEP Ohio Transco is required to assess and report the socioeconomic, land use, and agricultural district characteristics potentially affected by the Project, as stated in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 4906-11-01(D)(1) and (2). These rules state:

- (D) Socioeconomic data. Describe the social and ecological impacts of the project. This description shall contain the following information:
 - (1) A brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including: (a) a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected; and (b) estimates of population density adjacent to rights-of-way within the study corridor (the U.S. census information may be used to meet this requirement).
 - (2) The location and general description of all agricultural land (including agricultural district land) existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the letter of notification within the proposed electric power transmission line right-of-way, or within the proposed electric power transmission substation fenced-in area, or within the construction site boundary of a proposed compressor station.

AEP Ohio Transco retained AECOM to conduct a desktop review of socioeconomic, land use, and agricultural district land characteristics. A study corridor was established that extends 1,000 feet on either side of the proposed Yager-Azalea 138 kV centerline. This resulted in an approximately 1,075-acre study corridor. In conjunction with ecological field surveys for the Project, AECOM noted land uses within this study corridor. This report will be used to assist AEP Ohio Transco's efforts to avoid or minimize impacts to socioeconomic characteristics and land uses potentially present in the study area during construction activities.

2.0 GENERAL LAND USE DESCRIPTION

Land use within the study area is shown on Figure 1. Current land use characteristics were obtained through review of aerial photography taken in 2013-14; the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map of the Uhrichsville, Ohio (1986) and Bowerston, Ohio (1963, photorevised 1976 quadrangles; digital land ownership and parcel data of the Project area; and a field reconnaissance conducted in October 2015.





The study corridor crosses Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. The primary land uses within the 2,000-foot wide study corridor include wooded parcels, agricultural fields, and residential properties. A natural gas processing facility and associated electric substation (Azalea Station) is located at the northern end of the project corridor. Streams, wetlands, ponds, utility corridors, and roads are also present. Based on a review of the Harrison and Carroll County websites, no comprehensive plans or other future land use documents were identified for the counties or townships.

3.0 POPULATION DENSITY ESTIMATE

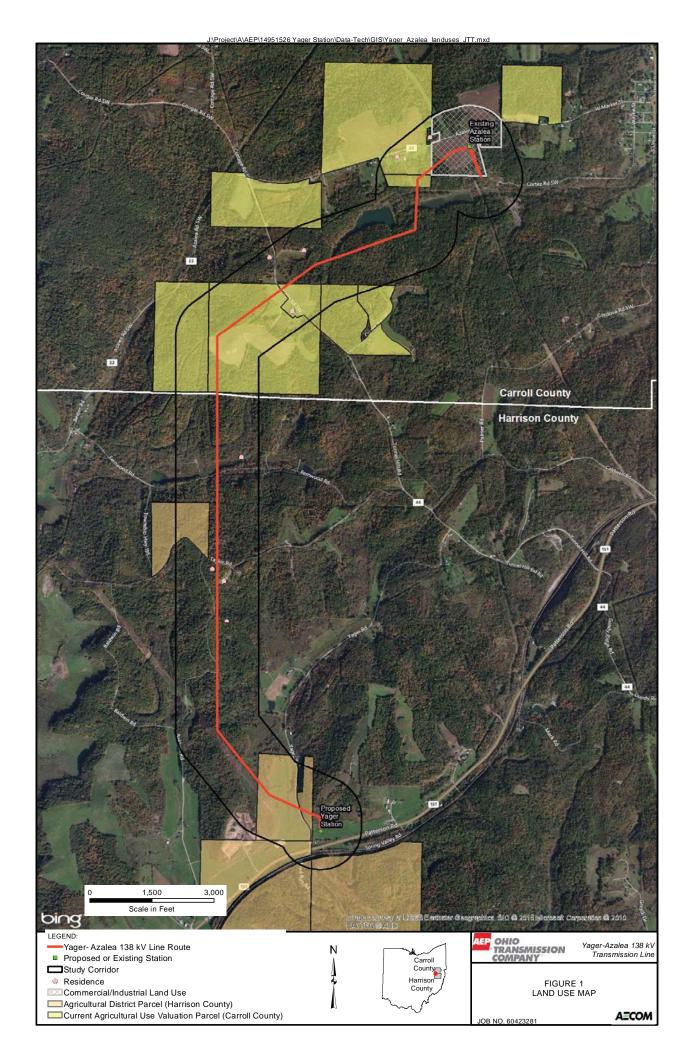
Population density estimates for land within the 2,000-foot wide study corridor were calculated by direct estimation based on study corridor size, number of residences identified in the corridor, and the average number of persons per household in Monroe and Orange Townships. Nine homes were identified within the 1,075-acre study corridor, four of which are within Monroe Township, Harrison County, and five in Orange Township, Carroll County. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the average household in Monroe Township has 2.43 persons. The average household in Orange Township has 2.46 persons. Based on the number of homes identified along the study corridor in each county, the total estimated population along the route is approximately 22 persons. This equates to a population density of 0.02 person per acre.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT LAND

AECOM contacted the Harrison and Carroll County Auditor's offices regarding parcels registered in the agricultural district land program. Six agricultural district land parcels were identified within 1,000 feet of the proposed route in Harrison County. Two of these parcels are crossed by the project centerline. A response from the Carroll County Auditor has not been received to date. Based on parcel information, nine Carroll County parcels are registered in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) program. CAUV is often an indicator of registration in the Agricultural District Program, although it is not necessary to be registered in both. Two of these CAUV parcels are crossed by the project centerline. Impacts to agricultural land, including parcels registered as Agricultural District, are expected to be minimal and generally temporary. After construction, property in current agricultural uses within the right-of-way will be available for continued agricultural use. Permanent impacts are expected to be limited to the footprints of the poles.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Project is not expected to significantly impact current socioeconomic characteristics, land use, or agricultural district land in the vicinity. The Project is not expected to impact any future land use plans for the area.



APPENDIX B

PUBLIC OFFICIALS LETTERS SERVING COPY OF LETTER OF NOTIFICATION



Puskarich Public Library Ms. Sandi Thompson, Director 200 East Market Street Cadiz, OH 43907

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Thomposon:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

We ask that this Letter of Notification be made available to the public.

In compliance with Rule 4906-11-01 of the OPSB Rules and Regulations, we have prepared and filed the attached Letter of Notification. This Notice contains details on the line location, project description and construction schedule, and is submitted for your information.

Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Carroll County District Library Ms. Ellen Finnicum, Director 70 Second Street NE Carrollton, OH 44615

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Finnicum:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Harrison County Board of Commissioners Mr. William H. Host Mr. Dale Ray Norris Mr. Don Rae Bethel 101 Market Street Cadiz, OH 43907

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Commissioners:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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We ask that this Letter of Notification be made available to the public.

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Sincerely.

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Harrison County Engineer Mr. Robert K. Sterling 32500 Cadiz-Dennison Road Scio, OH 43988

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Sterling:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

We ask that this Letter of Notification be made available to the public.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Monroe Township Trustee Mr. Bart A. Busby 601 Busby Drive Bowerston, OH 44695

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Busby:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

We ask that this Letter of Notification be made available to the public.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Monroe Township Trustee Mr. Gene Busby 34060 Scio Bowerston Road Bowerston, OH 44695

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Busby:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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We ask that this Letter of Notification be made available to the public.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Monroe Township Trustee Mr. Ralph T. Ferguson 88290 Plum Run Road Uhrichsville, OH 44683

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Monroe Township Fiscal Officer Ms. Ashley M. Peters 32501 Gundy Ridge Road Uhrichsville, OH 44683

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Peters:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Carroll County Board of Commissioners Mr. Jeffrey L. Ohler Mr. Robert E. Wirkner Mr. Thomas R. White 119 South Lisbon Street, Suite 201 Carrollton, OH 44615

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Commissioners:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

The proposed Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case Number 15-1734-EL-BLN, consists of the construction of a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Yager Substation to the existing Azalea Substation. This new transmission line will provide additional electricity to Utica East Ohio Midstream, LLC's (Momentum) gas processing facility. AEP Ohio Transco will build the new line using standard single circuit 138-kV structures. The Yager-Azalea 138-kV transmission line will be approximately six miles long. The new line will be most likely located in Monroe Township in Harrison County and Orange Township in Carroll County. This project will be an approximate \$10 million investment by AEP Ohio Transco. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2016.

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Sincerely.

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist

American Electric Power



Carroll County Engineer Mr. Brian J. Wise 200 Kensington Road NE Carrollton, OH 44615

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Wise:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Carroll County Regional Planning Commission Ms. Pam Grim 119 South Lisbon Street, Suite 100 Carrollton, OH 44615

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Grim:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Please feel free to contact me at 614-552-1929 and I would be happy to answer any questions concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Orange Township Trustee Mr. Robert B. McClain 9252 Autumn Road SW Bowerston, OH 44695

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. McClain:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Orange Township Trustee Mr. Joseph A. Nign 8141 Deacon Road SW Leesville, OH 44639

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Nign:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Orange Township Trustee Mr. James D. Romig 8283 Roswell Road SW Sherrodsville, OH 44675

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Mr. Romig:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power



Orange Township Fiscal Officer Ms. Marsha Rutledge 8123 Antigua Road SW Sherrodsville, OH 44675

RE: Letter of Notification

Yager-Azalea 138kV Transmission Line Project

Case Number: 15-1734-EL-BLN

Dear Ms. Rutledge:

In accordance with Rules 4906 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is required to submit a Letter of Notification to the State of Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) whenever certain additions are made to our transmission facilities.

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Sincerely,

Brett E. Schmied

Project Outreach Specialist American Electric Power

APPENDIX C

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY REPORT

YAGER-AZALEA 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY REPORT

Prepared for:

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company 700 Morrison Road Gahanna, Ohio 43230



Prepared by:



525 Vine Street, Suite 1800 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Project #: 60423281

October 2015





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION			
2.0	METHODS			
3.0	RESI	JLTS	2	
		State Species of Concern		
		Federal Species of Concern		
4.0	SUMMARY			
5.0 CONCLUSION				

TABLES

Number

ATTACHMENT

Number

ATTACHMENT A AGENCY RESPONSES





1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This document presents the results of the threatened and endangered species assessment conducted by AECOM for AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.'s (AEP Ohio Transco) proposed Yager-Azalea 138 kV Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project is needed to meet the needs of a specific customer. In response to the customer's needs, AEP Ohio Transco is proposing to install the new Yager-Azalea 138 kV line between the proposed Yager Station in Harrison County, Ohio, and the existing Azalea Station in Carroll County, Ohio.

As part of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Letter of Notification (LON) requirements, AEP Ohio Transco is required to assess and report the federal and state designated species potentially affected by the Project, as stated in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 4906-11-01(E)(1). This rule states:

- (E) Environmental data. Describe the environmental impacts of the proposed project. This description shall include the following information:
 - (1) A description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the area likely to be disturbed by the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

AEP retained AECOM to conduct threatened and endangered species review and field survey within areas crossed by the proposed Project. This report will be used to assist AEP Ohio Transco's efforts to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species potentially present in the study area during construction activities.

2.0 METHODS

The first phase of the assessment involved a review of online lists of federal and state species of concern. In addition to the review of available literature, AECOM submitted a request to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Natural Heritage Database for geographical information system (GIS) records of species of concern that were reported within an extended area that included the Project. These GIS records were overlain on the Project GIS maps to identify designated species and other sensitive areas as reported by ODNR in relation to the Project. ODNR reported no records of designated species within one mile of the Project area. A copy of the letter provided with the Natural Heritage Database GIS records is included in Attachment A. URS also submitted a coordination letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ODNR soliciting comments on the Project. Copies of the response letters provided by ODNR and USFWS are included as Appendix A. Agency-identified species and available species-specific information was reviewed to identify the various habitat types that listed species are known to frequent. This information was used during the field survey to assess the potential for these species of concern in, or near the Project study corridor.



3.0 RESULTS

AECOM field ecologists conducted a designated species habitat survey in conjunction with the stream and wetland field surveys in October 2015. AECOM observed the Project area to predominately consist rolling wooded hillsides, with scattered agricultural fields and residences.

3.1 State Species of Concern

ODNR provided Biodiversity Database GIS records and a corresponding letter response dated January 26, 2015. The data included the Project area plus an approximate one mile buffer. No records of special status species or habitats were identified within the search area. A copy of the ODNR response is included in Attachment A.

After receiving the ODNR Biodiversity Database response, AECOM sent a second letter to ODNR soliciting specific comments regarding the Project on April 17, 2015. AECOM received a response from ODNR on May 26, 2015. A copy of the ODNR response is also included in Attachment A. Table 1 lists the species identified by ODNR in Carroll and Harrison Counties in the May 26, 2015 letter.

TABLE 1 STATE LISTED SPECIES THAT COULD INHABIT CARROLL AND HARRISON COUNTIES, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status				
Mussels						
Clubshell	Pleurobema clava	Endangered				
Fish						
Northern madtom	Noturus stigmosus	Endangered				
Mountain madtom	Noturus eleutherus	Threatened				
Amphibians	Amphibians					
Eastern hellbender	Cryptohbranchus alleganiensis	Endangered				
Eastern spadefoot toad	Scaphiopus holbrookii	Endangered				
Birds						
Upland sandpiper	Bartramia longicauda	Endangered				
Mammals						
Indiana bat	Myotis sodalis	Endangered				
Black bear	Ursus americanus	Endangered				





ODNR requested that suitable Indiana bat habitat should be conserved or cut between October 1 and March 31. If clearing is necessary outside of this time window, a net survey must be conducted between June 15 and July 31 prior to cutting.

The range of the black bear was identified to potentially be within the vicinity of the Project. ODNR stated that due to the mobility of this species, no impacts are likely.

ODNR stated that no impacts are anticipated to the mussel and fish species, or eastern hellbender if no in-water work is planned. AEP has no plans to perform in-water work at this time. Similarly, ODNR stated that no impacts to the Eastern spadefoot toad are anticipated due to the type of habitat along the project route.

ODNR requested that habitat for the upland sandpiper - dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program - not be impacted during the species' nesting period of April 15 to July 31. AEP Ohio Transco currently intends to comply with the seasonal construction restriction for vegetation clearing and grading within the proposed right-of-way. However, if construction must occur during the nesting period, a qualified biologist will complete a presence/absence survey based on the most current ODNR protocol.

While limited habitat for the Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, and upland sandpiper were observed during the field survey in October 2015, no species of concern or signs of these species were observed.

3.2 Federal Species of Concern

To address the Project's potential to impact federally protected species, URS conducted a web based literature review of USFWS Ohio County Distribution of *Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species, Revised April 2015*, to identify what species potentially occur in Carroll and Harrison Counties, Ohio. Table 2 lists the two species identified during the USFWS literature review. A copy of the USFWS response is included in Attachment A.

TABLE 2
FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES THAT COULD INHABIT
CARROLL AND HARRISON COUNTIES, OHIO*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	County
Mammals			
Indiana bat	Myotis sodalis	Endangered	Carroll, Harrison
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Threatened	Carroll, Harrison

^{*}Ohio County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species, Revised April 2015.

Accessed October 12, 2015: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/ohio-cty.html





Indiana Bat: The federal government lists this species as endangered in Ohio. Winter Indiana bat hibernacula include caves and mines, while summer habitat typically includes tree species exhibiting exfoliating bark or cavities that can be used for roosting. The 8- to 10-inch diameter size classes of several species of hickory (*Carya* spp.), oak (*Quercus* spp.), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), birch (*Betula* spp.), and elm (*Ulmus* spp.) have been found to be utilized by the Indiana bat. These tree species and many others may be used when dead, if there are adequately sized patches of loosely-adhering bark or open cavities. The structural configuration of forest stands favored for roosting includes a mixture of loose-barked trees with 60 to 80 percent canopy closure and a low density sub-canopy (less than 30 percent between about 6 feet high and the base canopy). The suitability of roosting habitat for foraging or the proximity to suitable foraging habitat is critical to the evaluation of a particular tree stand. An open subcanopy zone, under a moderately dense canopy, is important to allow maneuvering while catching insect prey. Proximity to water is critical, because insect prey density is greater over or near open water. Much of the Project route is wooded, with approximately 65 potential roost trees identified from the proposed Yager Station site to Azalea Station.

Northern Long-Eared Bat: The federal government lists this species as proposed endangered in Ohio. As with the Indiana bat, winter northern long-eared bat hibernacula include caves and mines, while summer habitat typically includes tree species exhibiting exfoliating bark or cavities that can be used for roosting. Northern long-eared bat has also been found, albeit rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds.

In a letter April 22, 2015, USFWS indicated that due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (only clearing between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats, adverse effects to any federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species are not anticipated.

4.0 SUMMARY

AEP retained AECOM to conduct threatened and endangered species review for areas located within 1,000 feet of the proposed Project and a field survey within 100 feet of the Project route. This report will be used to assist AEP's efforts to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species potentially present in the study area during construction activities. Field surveys were conducted by AECOM field ecologists in October 2015. While limited habitat for the Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat, and upland sandpiper were observed during the field surveys, no species of concern or signs of these species were observed. AEP Ohio Transco intends to comply with seasonal tree clearing restrictions to avoid impacts to the Indiana and northern long-eared bats. Impacts to the upland sandpiper are currently expected to be avoided through adherence to the seasonal construction restriction for vegetation clearing and initial grading within the proposed right-of-way. However, if construction must occur during the nesting period in suitable habitat for the upland sandpiper, a qualified biologist will complete a presence/absence survey based on the most current ODNR protocol.





5.0 CONCLUSION

Based upon the nature of the Project, review of available current literature, review of federal and state records of species of concern, the field survey, and adherence to seasonal construction restrictions or presence/absence surveys, if necessary, it is not anticipated that federal or state species of concern will be impacted by the Project as currently planned.

ATTACHMENT A

AGENCY RESPONSES

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Ohio Division of Wildlife Scott Zody, Chief 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G Columbus, OH 43229-6693 Phone: (614) 265-6300

January 26, 2015

Sarah Bell AECOM 525 Vine St., Suite 1800 Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Ms. Bell,

Per your request, I have e-mailed you a set of shapefiles with our Natural Heritage Program data for the Yager Station project, including a one mile radius, in Harrison, Tuscarawas and Carroll counties, Ohio, and on the Bowerston, Uhrichsville, Deersville and Tippecanoe Quads. This data will not be published or distributed beyond the scope of the project description on the data request form without prior written permission of the Natural Heritage Program.

Records included in the data layer may be for rare and endangered plants and animals, geologic features, high quality plant communities and animal assemblages. Fields included are scientific and common names, state and federal statuses, as well as managed area and date of the most recent observation. State and federal statuses are defined as: E = endangered, T = threatened, P = potentially threatened, SC = species of concern, SI = special interest, FE = federal endangered, FT = federal threatened and A = recently added to inventory, status not yet determined.

In addition to the species given in the data shapefile, there are one or more additional records for a Bald Eagle nest within your project area or the one mile radius. These are shown in the additional eagle nests data layer. Because of the way some Bald Eagle data was submitted to us, we had to create a separate shapefile for some of the most recent nest records. Therefore there may be some overlap of these records with the data layer. Since the Bald Eagle was removed from the state rare species list, the Natural Heritage Program will no longer be maintaining comprehensive Bald Eagle nest data going forward.

In addition to the species given in the data shapefile, there is a record for one or more sensitive species within your project study area. Please be aware that we do not give out specific locations for sensitive species, therefore a generalized location is shown in the sensitive species shapefile.

The managed areas layer includes state, federal and county lands, as well as areas owned by non-profits, museums and other entities. Managed areas are sites under formal protection for their natural resources. Please be aware that this layer may not be complete and we are continually updating it as new information becomes available to us.

Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6818 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Debbie Woischke

Ohio Natural Heritage Program

Debbie Worschhe

Office of Real Estate Paul R. Baldridge, Chief 2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2 Columbus, OH 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6649

Fax: (614) 267-4764

May 26, 2015

Aaron Geckle AECOM 525 Vine Street, Suite 1800 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Re: 15-319; Yager Station and Associated Electric Transmission Line Interconnection

Project: The proposed project involves the construction of two new electric stations and approximately 27 miles of electric transmission lines.

Location: The proposed project is located in Carroll, Harrison, and Tuscarawas Counties, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has the following data at or within a one mile radius of the project area:

Drummond's aster (*Symphyotrichum drummondii*), T Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), FSC Sora rail (*Porzana carolina*), SC Great Blue Heron Rookery (breeding animal concentration) Leesville Lake – Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

We are unaware of any geologic features, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests or national wildlife refuges within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Statues are defined as: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; A = species recently added to state inventory, status not yet determined; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federal endangered, FT = federal threatened, FSC = federal species of concern, FC = federal candidate species.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (Carya ovata), shellbark hickory (Carya laciniosa), bitternut hickory (Carya cordiformis), black ash (Fraxinus nigra), green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), white ash (Fraxinus americana), shingle oak (Quercus imbricaria), northern red oak (Ouercus rubra), slippery elm (Ulmus rubra), American elm (Ulmus americana), eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), sassafras (Sassafras albidum), post oak (Quercus stellata), and white oak (Quercus alba). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*), a state endangered fish, and the mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is also within the range of the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, and the type of habitat along the project route, and within the vicinity of the project route, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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Case No(s). 15-1734-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification -Part 2 electronically filed by Mr. Hector Garcia on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company