

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice)
Application of Dominion East Ohio for the Line 1745)
Piggability Project Pipeline Replacement and) **16-0052-GA-BNR**
Launcher/Receiver Installation)

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 Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) 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 recommended for automatic approval on March 1, 2016, unless suspended by the Board's chairperson or an administrative law judge. If suspended, the Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days from the date of suspension.

The staff report includes recommended conditions of the certificate. Prior to the automatic approval date, the applicant must file a supplement to its application that adopts these conditions. Absent such supplement, Staff will recommend that the case be suspended.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to March 1, 2016, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon
Director, Rates and Analysis
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-6692

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 16-0052-GA-BNR
Project Name: Line 1745 Piggability Project
Project Location: Summit and Stark counties
Applicant: Dominion East Ohio
Application Filing Date: February 8, 2016
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: February 17, 2016
Report Date: February 23, 2016
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: March 1, 2016
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

Dominion East Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace approximately 1,700 feet of the existing 8-inch diameter pipeline with 12-inch pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,565 pounds per square inch gauge. The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.500 inches. The Applicant also proposes to install a pig launcher/receiver for pigging operations and to replace 15 existing fittings.

The Applicant would primarily utilize open cut trench construction methods, but may utilize conventional or directional boring methods at road crossings and in environmentally-sensitive areas. The existing pipeline would be removed as the new pipeline replaces it. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in March 2016 and place the line in-service by September 6, 2016. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$1 million.

Site Description

The section of existing pipeline to be replaced runs north and south from Fairpark Avenue NW to just north of Glencoe Street NW. The new pipeline would be installed in the same place as the existing pipeline, which would be removed. The proposed launcher would be installed at the Applicant's existing Franklin Station and the proposed receiver would be installed at 10399 Persimmon Street, Lawrence Township. The 1,700 feet of pipeline to be replaced is located within Stark County and the proposed launcher/receiver and replacement fittings are located within Summit County and Stark County. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential area,

open field, wooded property, and undeveloped and developed agricultural fields. Construction would occur within the 60-foot wide right-of-way of the existing pipeline. Temporary easements would be required from adjacent property owners for access roads and laydown areas. One easement amendment would be required for the receiver installation. The Applicant states the amended easement is pending. The Applicant did not specify the exact locations of the necessary laydown areas required for the project but anticipates the need for two temporary laydown areas for pipeline and equipment storage, each approximately 100 feet by 200 feet in size.

Basis of Need

The Applicant states that the existing 8-inch pipeline needs to be replaced with the larger 12-inch pipeline in order to conduct integrity management inspections on the pipeline. The existing fittings are not suitable for pigging and need to be replaced. Installing a launcher and a receiver would allow the pig to assess the pipeline internally.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would intersect Fairpark Avenue NW and Skyline Street NW. The Applicant proposes to utilize either open cut trenching or directional boring at each road crossing. The Applicant will submit construction plans to Lawrence Township for the appropriate road crossing and temporary driveway construction-related permits and will coordinate temporary road closures, if required, with the township.

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. Temporary easements would be required from adjacent property owners for access roads and laydown areas. Additionally, one easement would be amended for the property at the receiver location. The Applicant will ensure that all property owners and tenants have access to their residences and/or property during construction.

Agricultural Land

The proposed construction of the pipeline is not located within any agricultural districts. A small portion at the southern end of the project, where the receiver would be installed, is located on property that is actively farmed.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. The review identified one previously recorded archaeological site adjacent to the project area. However, the Applicant concluded that Phase I investigatory work is not necessary, because the project area has previously been disturbed.

Surface Waters

The gas transmission line study corridor contains two streams, one perennial and one intermittent, and three wetlands. All onsite streams and wetlands are contained within the Summit County Metro Park property. The Applicant has coordinated with the metro park. On January 6, 2016, the Applicant was approved by the metro park to temporarily impact upland areas within the park in order to replace pipeline fittings. The section of the pipeline to be replaced does not cross the streams or wetlands, and no fittings would be replaced within wetlands or streams. No wetlands or streams would be impacted by the proposed project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

State and federally-listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), in an email response to the Applicant dated December 30, 2015, confirmed that records show that the Indiana bat presence has been recorded the vicinity of the proposed project. Since the presence of the Indiana bat has been confirmed, the presence of the northern long-eared bat is assumed. Ten potential roost trees were also identified within the study corridor. The USFWS recommends the clearing of any trees over three inches in diameter be limited to seasonal cutting dates between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse impacts to these species. The Applicant has agreed to adhere by these dates.

The project lies within the range of the state endangered American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), pugnose minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae*), the western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphamus menona*), and the state threatened spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) and lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*). Due to the location of the pipeline, lack of suitable habitat, and type of work proposed, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on March 1, 2016, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

1. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall obtain all applicable permits and authorizations as required by federal and state entities for any activities where such permit or authorization is required.
2. The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic-related issues with the appropriate entities (including the Ohio Department of Transportation, local authorities, and public and emergency services) to ensure that the flow of traffic will be maintained along public roadways and private drives during construction, or that appropriate plans will be followed for temporary traffic diversions.
3. The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of trees, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allow a different course of action.
4. The Applicant shall replace agricultural field tiles damaged during the construction of this project and segregate, restore, and backfill excavated topsoil in agricultural fields.
5. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit to Staff, for review and confirmation that it complies with this condition, a project construction plan which includes the specific locations of its laydown areas. If the specific locations chosen appear to have additional adverse impacts, the Applicant shall either propose different specific locations without such impacts, or refile its application.

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Case No(s). 16-0052-GA-BNR

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