

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expedited Letter of Notification)
Application of Dominion East Ohio for the PIR #541)
Village of Dennison and Union Township, Tuscarawas) **16-0651-GA-BLN**
County, Ohio 12-inch High Pressure Distribution)
Pipeline Replacement Project)

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 May 5, 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 May 5, 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) 644-8932

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 16-0651-GA-BLN
Project Name: PIR #541 Replacement Project
Project Location: Tuscarawas County
Applicant: Dominion East Ohio
Application Filing Date: April 6, 2016
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: April 15, 2016
Report Date: April 28, 2016
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: May 5, 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 0.85 mile of the existing 10-inch diameter pipeline with 1.04 miles of 12-inch pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 260 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.375 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG. The pipeline would be cathodically protected by a seventeen pound anode and would be externally coated with 14-16 Mils of fusion bonded epoxy.

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 May 2016 and place the line in-service by September 2016. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$1.4 million.

Site Description

The section of pipeline to be replaced would run along Woodland Avenue between Bottom Avenue to McCook Avenue, and then north on McCook Avenue and Penn Road to the Applicant's McCook Border Station in the village of Dennison and Union Township. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential property, forested/wooded properties, and lawns. The entire length of the replacement pipeline would be located within public road right-of-way.

Existing pipe within the road right-of-way would be abandoned, and the existing pipe within the Applicant's existing easements would be removed. The new pipe would be installed at an offset from the existing line along Woodland Avenue, and a new trench would be used to install the remaining sections of the pipeline. Construction would occur within a 60-foot wide easement.

Basis of Need

The Applicant states the primary purpose of the replacement would be to take out of service an aging and obsolete pipeline to ensure a safe and constant natural gas supply to the Applicant's customers. The replacement is necessary to meet current supply demands, and to maintain pipeline safety and reliability. In addition, the pipeline replacement would allow for a complete integrity evaluation along the high pressure pipeline #224 between the defined beginning and end points of the project.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would intersect seven roads. The Applicant proposes to utilize open cut trenching at each road crossing. The Applicant will submit construction plans to the Village of Dennison and Union Township for the appropriate road crossing and temporary driveway construction-related permits and will coordinate temporary road closures, if required, with the village and township.

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. The Applicant will ensure that all property owners and tenants have access to their residences and/or property during construction.

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 and two historic structures adjacent to the project area. However, the Applicant concluded that Phase I investigatory work is not necessary, because the project is located within already disturbed contexts and none of the listed sites would be considered within the Area of Potential Effect.

Surface Waters

The gas transmission line right-of-way contains one Category 2 wetland totaling 0.2 acre. The wetland occurs at the southern end of the project and would not be impacted by the project. No streams would be impacted by the proposed project.

The Applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) General Permit OHC000004. The OEPA authorized the application on February 12, 2016.

The project crosses approximately 250 linear feet of Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-Year Floodplain (Zone AE). The Applicant completed and submitted construction plans and the Tuscarawas County floodplain development permit application to the Village of Dennison zoning administrator. On February 18, 2016, the zoning administrator authorized the project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

State and federal listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the federal and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal and state threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant states that no tree clearing would be necessary for this project. One suitable habitat tree was identified within the project area. In order to reduce potential negative impacts to this species, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Staff recommend that the Applicant be required to adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for the clearing of trees.

The project lies within the range of the federal and state endangered clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), and fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*); the state endangered and federal threatened eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*); the state endangered long-solid (*Fusconaia maculate maculate*), sharp-ridged pocketbook (*Lampsilis ovate*), western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous menona*), northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*), eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*); and the state threatened mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*). 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 May 5, 2016, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

- (1) Prior to the commencement of construction activities that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations. The Applicant shall provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, to Staff within seven days of issuance or receipt by the Applicant.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.

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Case No(s). 16-0651-GA-BLN

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