

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice** )  
**Application by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for the** ) **16-1420-GA-BNR**  
**Center Ridge Road Mandatory Relocation 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 July 12, 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 July 12, 2016, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Patrick Donlon  
Director, Rates and Analysis  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 16-1420-GA-BNR  
**Project Name:** Center Ridge Road Mandatory Replacement Project  
**Project Location:** Lorain County  
**Applicant:** Columbia Gas of Ohio  
**Application Filing Date:** June 20, 2016  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** June 23, 2016  
**Report Date:** July 5, 2016  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** July 12, 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

Columbia Gas of Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace and relocate approximately 502 feet of existing 8-inch diameter pipeline with approximately 750 feet of 12-inch diameter pipeline. This relocation project is mandated by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 250 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). Based on discussions with the Applicant, the pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.250 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG. The Applicant proposes to begin construction on July 6, 2016 and place the line in-service by September 2016. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$430,000.

The Applicant originally filed this Construction Notice under case number 16-0577-GA-BNR. Due to an adjustment to the pipeline route that avoids the wetland present within the public right-of-way, the Applicant refiled the Construction Notice under this case number.

### Site Description

The section of pipeline to be replaced runs along the west-bound travel lane of Center Ridge Road between Main Avenue and McKinney Street in the city of North Ridgeville. The surrounding land use is a mix of moderately populated property in a municipality. The entire length of the pipeline would be located within public road right-of-way.

## **Basis of Need**

The proposed project is a mandatory relocation by ODOT. ODOT plans to widen Center Ridge Road and has required the Applicant to relocate the existing pipeline in order to complete construction.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The replacement pipeline would intersect Main Avenue and McKinley Street. The Applicant proposes to utilize open cut trenching at each road crossing. The replacement pipeline would be installed underneath the west-bound travel lane of Center Ridge Road. The existing pipeline would be abandoned in place by the Applicant. According to the Applicant, ODOT has agreed to remove the existing pipeline once construction of the retaining wall commences. The Applicant will submit construction plans to the City of North Ridgeville for the appropriate road crossing permits if needed and will coordinate temporary road closures, if required, with the city. The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials on June 14, 2016.

### *Cultural Resources*

The proposed pipeline would be located solely within the public right-of-way. ODOT performed a cultural resource literature review for the widening of Center Ridge Road. This more encompassing corridor study includes the study area for the proposed pipeline. The Applicant does not anticipate any archaeological or cultural resources impacts from this project. The Applicant therefore concluded that investigatory work is not necessary, because the project is located within already disturbed contexts and would not impact any significant cultural resources. The Applicant will provide the cultural resource study conducted by ODOT to the State Historic Preservation Office prior to construction.

### *Surface Waters*

The gas transmission line right-of-way does not cross any wetlands or streams. In coordination with ODOT's more encompassing corridor study, which includes review of all environmental impacts, no ecological impacts are anticipated. The Applicant has obtained a Storm Water General Permit from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and does not foresee any other required permits being necessary for this project. Best management practices would be used to minimize impacts.

### *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 (*Myotis sodalis*) and the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant states that no tree clearing would be necessary for this project.

The project lies within the range of the federal species of concern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the federal endangered piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Kirtland warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), and Rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus*). Due to the project location, and lack of suitable habitat, 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 July 12, 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 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.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**7/5/2016 2:22:16 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 16-1420-GA-BNR**

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