

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by )  
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a )  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public ) 17-1008-EL-BLN  
Need for the Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV and )  
Lemoyne-Dowling 138 kV Transmission Line )  
Reconductor and Structure Addition 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 23, 2017, 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.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to May 23, 2017, 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  
[ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us)

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 17-1008-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV and Lemoyne-Dowling 138 kV Transmission Line Reconductor and Structure Addition  
**Project Location:** Wood and Lucas counties  
**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Incorporated  
**Application Filing Date:** April 24, 2017  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Letter of Notification  
**Inspection Dates:** May 1 and 5, 2017  
**Report Date:** May 15, 2017  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** May 23, 2017  
**Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☒ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☐ Approval with Conditions  
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Project Description

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to replace conductors along approximately 29.4 miles of the existing Lemoyne-Midway 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line and also along approximately 9.8 miles of the Lemoyne-Dowling 138 kV Transmission Line. Additionally, ATSI plans to install four new structures within the existing right-of-way.

The project is part of an integrated maintenance effort to alleviate the deterioration of transmission equipment. A majority of the original lines were built in 1972. The Applicant's analysis demonstrates that the transmission lines are experiencing increased corrosion and declining conductor strength. The estimated capital costs of the project total approximately \$14,609,000.

### Nature of Impacts

#### *Land Use*

ATSI intends to employ helicopters in order to reduce the project's overall construction impacts. Land use in proximity to the project is primarily comprised of rural residential and agricultural uses. The project is entirely located on existing right-of-way, and easement modifications are not required. No institutional or other sensitive land uses are present in the vicinity. The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical and archaeological sites. The survey determined that impacts to historical properties are not expected.

Essentially all construction activities would occur in areas with active farming operations. Impacts to farming operations are expected to be temporary in nature. Occasionally, damage to field drain tiles could result from construction activities. In that event, ATSI has committed to timely repair drainage systems to their original or better condition.

### *Ecological Impacts*

The Applicant has consulted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of their application to the Board. The consultation revealed that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal is required, and no work is proposed within wetlands or streams. One wetland would require access. However, the Applicant plans to utilize construction matting to minimize mechanized impacts.

### **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 application on May 23, 2017.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/15/2017 11:53:33 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-1008-EL-BLN**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB