

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of )  
Dominion East Ohio for the PIR 2505 Pipeline ) 17-0360-GA-BNR  
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 26, 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 26, 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

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 17-0360-GA-BNR  
**Project Name:** PIR 2505 Pipeline Replacement Project  
**Project Location:** Allen County  
**Applicant:** Dominion East Ohio  
**Application Filing Date:** February 24, 2017  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** March 21, 2017  
**Report Date:** May 19, 2017  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** May 26, 2017  
**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 4,945 feet of existing 8-inch diameter natural gas pipeline with a 12-inch pipeline. The project will run along the east side of Shawnee Road between Shorewood Lane and 960 feet south of Hume Road within Shawnee Township in Allen County, Ohio. The existing pipe would be abandoned in place, and the proposed replacement would be offset approximately 5 feet within the existing right-of-way. The project is located entirely within existing easement. The project is needed to take the existing aging and obsolete pipeline out of service and to ensure a safe and constant natural gas supply to customers. Additionally, the pipeline will meet the requested increase of supply demands from customers served by the line through various distribution pipeline systems.

The 12-inch diameter pipeline would be constructed of coated steel with a wall thickness of approximately 0.375-inch and a maximum allowable operating pressure of 275 pounds per square inch gauge. The Applicant proposes to commence construction of the project in June or July 2017 and to place the new pipeline in-service by December 31, 2017. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,115,450.

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The project is located within public road right-of-way, private roadways, and the existing right-of-way owned by the Applicant. The proposed pipeline route crosses three roads, several residential properties and terminates just south of the Shawnee Alliance Church parking lot. Most impacts

would be limited to the grass areas immediately adjacent to the road, while a small amount of work would impact driveways and the paved roadway. The pipeline would only impact roadways at the three road crossings. The Applicant would construct the entire length of the proposed pipeline via open-cut trench, except for the section that crosses the Little Ottawa River.

The Applicant is committed to restoring these areas to their pre-existing condition. Staff recommends the Applicant maintain traffic along the roadway and access to adjacent land uses during construction.

The Applicant provided notification letters to affected property owners. A second letter, describing a complaint resolution process, would be sent to affected property owners prior to the start of construction.

### *Agricultural Lands*

Six properties in the project area are listed as agricultural district land for a total of 0.9 acre. None of these properties will be crossed by the proposed pipeline or impacted during construction.

### *Cultural Resources*

Due to previous ground disturbance and the absence of previously documented historic sites in the project area, impacts to historical and cultural resources are not anticipated.

### *Surface Waters*

One Category 1 wetland and one perennial stream (Little Ottawa River) were delineated within the project area. The Applicant would bore under the Little Ottawa River via horizontal directional drilling in order to avoid impacts to the stream. The wetland would not be crossed by the replacement pipeline. However it may be crossed by equipment during construction. The Applicant would utilize best management practices, including timber matting, to avoid impacts to the wetlands.

All disturbed areas will be returned to their original slope and contour, stabilized, seeded, and revegetated to provide permanent herbaceous cover to stabilize soils, and temporary erosion controls would be maintained until this permanent cover is established.

A Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) General Permit OHC000004 – Construction Storm Water was submitted for this project in November 2016 and was issued the permit by the OEPA on December 12, 2016. The Applicant also developed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which was submitted to the Allen County Engineer's Office in November 2016 and was issued the permit by the Allen County Engineer on December 2, 2016.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The project area is within the range of the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species may be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and Staff recommends the Applicant adhere to seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter.

The project lies within the range of several federal and state endangered mussel species. Due to the use of HDD under the Little Ottawa River, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

The project is within the range of the state endangered upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program. If this type of habitat will be impacted, staff recommends that construction be avoided in this habitat during the species nesting period of April 15 through July 31.

#### 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 26, 2017, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

#### **Conditions**

1. Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas 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 any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter, 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 maintain traffic along public roadways and access to adjacent land uses during construction.
4. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall provide Staff with a detailed frac-out plan for pipeline segments that are expected to be installed via horizontal directional drilling. This plan shall address monitoring during drilling activities and procedures that will be taken in the event that a frac-out occurs.
5. Construction in upland sandpiper preferred nesting habitat types shall be avoided during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources allows a different course of action.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/19/2017 9:17:47 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-0360-GA-BNR**

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