

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Application of Carroll County)
Energy, LLC for a Third Amendment to its Certificate)
to Install and Operate an Electric Generation Facility in) 17-0925-EL-BGA
Carroll County, Ohio)**

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 rules. The application in this case is subject to an approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Project Name: Carroll County Energy Facility
Case Number: 17-0925-EL-BGA (associated with prior case numbers 13-1752-EL-BGN, 14-2085-EL-BGA and 16-0841-EL-BGA)
Project Location: Carroll County
Applicant: Carroll County Energy, LLC
Application Filing Date: April 11, 2017
Inspection Date: April 28, 2017
Report Date: May 19, 2017
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell

Application Description

The Applicant is currently constructing a 742 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired electric generation facility in Carroll County on a 77-acre property. The Applicant proposes to amend its certificate in order to install black start capabilities to their generation facility. The Applicant's facility has been selected by PJM, the grid operator, to support an emergency re-start after a system wide blackout has occurred. This amendment addresses the Applicant's proposal to install four 3.9 MW Caterpillar emergency generators. The strategic deployment of emergency generators throughout Ohio allows for a rapid, safe re-energization of the grid.

The amended area is located entirely on the Applicant's property and completely within their original limit of disturbance. The proposed facility addition would be housed within a 5,168 square foot pre-engineered metal building. Fuel for the Caterpillar units would be supplied by single 6,600-gallon storage tanks that are incorporated into the design of each individual unit.

Application Review

Social Impacts

This portion of the generation facility would continue to be well screened from any nearby residences. There are no other sensitive land uses present. The amended area has been previously studied for the presence of archaeological and historic impacts and no significant effects on cultural resources are expected.

The Caterpillar units would be individually tested for a 30 to 60 minute time period monthly. Also for a similar period of time annually, all four units would operate simultaneously. During these daylight testing periods, the Applicant anticipates that nearby residences would experience an ambient noise increase of between 9 and 30 decibels. The Applicant states that all nearby residential property owners are project participants because they have previously entered into "good neighbor agreements" with the Applicant. These testing periods are necessary to demonstrate emergency operational readiness to PJM. The Applicant has agreed to confine routine testing to normal business hours (Ref: Condition Two).

Ecological Impacts

Streams or wetlands would not be impacted by the proposed amendment. No tree or vegetation clearing is necessary and the proposed installation area would not require additional grading. Potential impacts to any federal or state listed species are not anticipated.

The Applicant states that no additional pollution control equipment is required to be installed on the emergency generators. The Applicant anticipates that the hours of operation for the Caterpillar units would be substantially below permitted allowable thresholds. The Applicant would comply with all regulatory air permit requirements.

Recommended Findings

Staff's review of the amendment application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the amendment application meets the necessary criteria for granting an amended certificate. Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendment to the certificate, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Recommended Conditions:

- (1) The Applicant shall continue to adhere to all conditions of the Opinion, Order, and Certificate for the Carroll County Energy Center in Case No. 13-1752-EL-BGN.
- (2) The Applicant shall restrict all non-emergency testing and operation of the Caterpillar generation units to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-0925-EL-BGA

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