

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) 17-1566-EL-BLN
Need for the Dowling-Midway 138 kV Transmission)
Line Reconductor 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 Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.03 and Ohio Administrative Code 4906-6-04.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on August 22, 2017, unless suspended by the Board, an administrative law judge, or the chairperson or executive director of the board for good cause shown. 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 August 22, 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

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 17-1566-EL-BLN
Project Name: Dowling-Midway 138 kV Transmission
Line Reconductor Project
Project Location: Wood, Lucas, and Henry counties
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: July 24, 2017
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: August 4, 2017
Report Date: August 15, 2017
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** August 22, 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 (Applicant or ATSI) proposes to reconductor approximately 15 miles of the Dowling-Midway 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line. The project originates at the Applicant's Dowling Substation in Wood County and extends west through Lucas County, terminating at ATSI's Midway Substation located in Henry County.

The project is part of an integrated maintenance effort to address age-related conductor corrosion. Inspections have revealed that the internal conductor core is experiencing reduced conductor strength, thus placing the line at increased risk of future failures. Although this transmission line was originally constructed in 1972, the Applicant's engineers believe the supporting structures to be sound and in compliance with appropriate reliability and safety standards. The estimated capital costs of the project total \$4,632,686.

The Board previously approved reconductoring the Lemoyne-Dowling and the Lemoyne-Midway 138 kV transmission lines under Case No. 17-1008-EL-BLN. The current project would complete reconductoring between the Dowling Substation and the Midway Substation. This transmission line segment shares the same transmission structures and the same transmission corridor that was previously approved. Construction would occur simultaneously on both sides of the same structures. The Applicant also intends to utilize the same access roads. The project is located on existing right-of-way, and no new easements are required.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project is located in Middleton Township and the village of Haskins in Wood County, Providence and Waterville townships and the city of Waterville in Lucas County, and Washington Township in Henry County. The dominant land use in proximity to the project is agricultural. Limited residential uses are also present. No institutional or other sensitive land uses are present in the vicinity.

Temporary disturbance to active agricultural production is expected on farming fields and also upon Agricultural District land. Consistent with best management practices (BMP), the Applicant would compensate for crop loss and repair any damaged field drain tile systems to pre-existing conditions.

The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that adverse impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant consulted with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of their application. The consultation revealed that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. No significant vegetative removal would be required, and no work is proposed within wetlands or streams. If any streams or wetlands must be crossed during construction, ATSI plans to utilize appropriate BMP such as temporary bridging or construction matting to minimize mechanized impacts.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 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 August 22, 2017.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-1566-EL-BLN

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