

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction notice Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio for the I-75 Mandatory) 17-1557-GA-BNR
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 Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.03 and Ohio Administrative Code 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on October 10, 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 October 10, 2017, which is the recommended 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 No.: 17-1557-GA-BNR
Project Name: I-75 Mandatory Relocation Project
Project Location: Wood County
Applicant: Columbia Gas of Ohio
Application Filing Date: July 11, 2017
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: September 27, 2017
Report Date: October 3, 2017
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: October 10, 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

Columbia Gas of Ohio (Applicant) proposes to relocate and replace approximately 1,113 feet of the existing 12-inch diameter pipeline with 1,230 feet of 12-inch diameter pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 145 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.25 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would primarily utilize open cut trench construction methods, but would utilize conventional boring where the pipeline would cross I-75. The bore would be 542 feet in length. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in October 2017 and place the line in-service by January 31, 2018. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$744,150.

Basis of Need

The Applicant states that ODOT is mandating this project as part of ODOT's plan to realign I-75. The new I-75 alignment would cause an engineering and operational conflict with the Applicant's existing facilities and thus requires the pipeline to be relocated.

Site Description

The section of pipeline to be relocated and replaced begins on the west side of I-75 within Northwood, Ohio in Wood County, and ends on the east side of I-75. The surrounding land use is a mix of roadway and lawns. The replacement pipeline would be located within public right-of-way, an existing easement owned by the Applicant, and an easement the Ohio Department

of Transportation (ODOT) plans to obtain. As of the writing of this report, ODOT has not obtained the necessary easement.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would intersect I-75. The Applicant proposes to bore underneath the interstate and use open-cut trenching on the portions adjoining the interstate. The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. The Applicant stated that it would ensure that all property owners and tenants have access to their residences and/or property 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

The project would not impact any surface water resources. The project area contains one wetland. The wetland would be avoided during construction. Silt fencing and filter socks would be used to minimize siltation. No streams or ponds are present in the project area. The Applicant plans to submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit as the project impacts are greater than one acre of land. The Applicant will develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and submit the plan to the City of Northwood. The Applicant has submitted, and Staff has found satisfactory, a frac-out contingency plan for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

State and federally-listed species, and/or their suitable habitat, that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat (*myotis sodalis*) and 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 Ohio Department of Natural Resources, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Staff generally recommend seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter.

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 October 10, 2017.

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 three inches or greater in diameter, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action.

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Case No(s). 17-1557-GA-BNR

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Adam Bargar on behalf of Staff of OPSB