

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of    )**  
**AEP Ohio Transmission Company for the East Broad    )**         **17-1352-EL-BNR**  
**Kirk 138 kV Transmission Line Extension 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 19, 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 19, 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:** 17-1352-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** East Broad-Kirk 138 kV Transmission Line Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Licking County  
**Applicant:** AEP Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** September 27, 2017  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** October 5, 2017  
**Report Date:** October 12, 2017  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** October 19, 2017  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, J. Cross

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

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

### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to construct a new 0.05-mile long transmission line extension. AEP Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco or Applicant) would construct the 138 kilovolt (kV) extension from the East Broad-Kirk Transmission line to a new Ohio Power Company (Ohio Power) 138kV/12kV distribution station (Mink Station). The Mink distribution substation would be located immediately west of Etna Parkway adjacent to the East Broad-Kirk 138 kV Transmission line. Ohio Power provides distribution service to the immediate vicinity, including Pataskala and Newark.

The Applicant states that the transmission line work associated with this project will occur on existing AEP Ohio Transco property and right-of-way.

The transmission line extension would involve installing six 138 kV single circuit steel structures at a height of between 80 and 110 feet. The cost of the project is estimated at \$755,000, to be jointly funded by the Applicant and Ohio Power. The Applicant would like to commence construction of this project in late 2017 and place the facility in service by August 2018.

### Basis of Need

The transmission line extension would feed Ohio Power's new Mink distribution station. The Application states that the Mink Station is being built to replace a nearby aging distribution substation that can not be upgraded. However, in response to Staff inquiries, the Applicant clarified

that the new substation would not replace an existing substation, but that it would accommodate needed capacity in the Pataskala area due to industrial park development. Further, the Applicant states that the new distribution station would relieve loading on the existing Kirk and Etna stations and would serve both southeast Columbus and the Newark service areas.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

No occupied residences are located within 1,000 feet of the project site. The property to be used for the extension presently consists of agricultural and utility use. The Applicant states that the project is not located within agricultural district land in Licking County. There are no parks, schools, churches, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, or nature preserve lands within 1,000 feet of the project.

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review and Phase I archaeological investigations for the project in May 2017. The literature review identified several previously recorded archaeological sites near the project location, primarily for the construction of the recently built Etna Parkway extension to the east. None of the sites were deemed significant. Phase I shovel testing at the project site identified one previously unrecorded archaeological site, which was not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the Applicant's cultural resources consultant.

There are no buildings or historic structures within the project site. Further, the consultant determined that the project would not involve or impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work is necessary. On October 10, 2017, the Ohio History Connection issued a concurrence letter agreeing with these findings.

### *Surface Waters*

The project does not contain any streams or wetlands. No in-water work is planned in any streams, and no impacts are anticipated.

The Applicant would be required to submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

The project does not cross a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permit would be required.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The federal and state-listed species and/or their suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). However, the Applicant states that no tree clearing is necessary for this project, thus no impacts would occur.

Due to no in-water work, and a lack of suitable habitat, impacts to any state and federal listed species are not anticipated.

**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 case on October 19, 2017.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 17-1352-EL-BNR**

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