



Legal Department

American Electric Power
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Columbus, OH 43215-2373
AEP.com

December 20, 2017

Chairman Asim Z. Haque
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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**Re: Case No. 17-2441-EL-BLN Request for Expedited Treatment:
In the Matter of the Letter of Notification for the
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138kV Transmission Line Extension Project
Update**

Dear Chairman Haque,

Attached please find a copy of the Letter of Notification (LON) for the above-referenced project by AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP Ohio Transco). This filing and notice is in accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-05.

A copy of this filing will also be submitted to the executive director or the executive director's designee. A copy will be provided to the Board Staff via electronic message. The Company will also submit a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the Treasurer, State of Ohio, for Fund 5610 for the expedited fees.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christen Blend

Christen Blend (0086881), Counsel of Record
Hector Garcia (0084517)
Counsel for AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

cc. John Jones, Counsel OPSB Staff
Jon Pawley, OPSB Staff

Letter of Notification for Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project Update



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

PUCO Case No. 17-2441-EL-BLN

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code
Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

December 20, 2017

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION
PROJECT UPDATE

Letter of Notification
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project Update

4906-6-05

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (“AEP Ohio Transco”) provides this Letter of Notification (“LON”) to the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4906-6-05.

4906-6-5(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

The name of the project and applicant's reference number, names, and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification.

AEP Ohio Transco has identified the need to relocate a segment of the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line (the “Project”) in York Township, Athens County, Ohio. The Project consists of the removal of approximately 0.16 miles of existing 138 kV transmission line that terminates within AEP Ohio Transco’s Poston Station and construction of approximately 0.40 miles of new 138 kV transmission line that will terminate within AEP Ohio Transco’s proposed Lemaster Station. The LON application for the proposed Lemaster Station project has been filed with the OPSB separately under PUCO Case Nos. 16-2314-EL-BLN and 17-2281-EL-BLN in December 2016 and November 2017.

A LON for the Project was previously submitted to the OPSB on April 4, 2017, under PUCO Case No. 17-0635-EL-BLN. The location of the proposed Lemaster Station has shifted slightly east of the previously proposed location outlined in the December 2016 LON for Lemaster Station and therefore the proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line relocation “Project Area” has also shifted slightly to the east. Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 in Appendix A show the existing Poston Station location, the general revised location of the proposed Lemaster Station, the previously proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line relocation, and the revised Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line relocation Project Area.

The proposed transmission line removal work for this Project will occur on property owned by AEP Ohio Transco (Parcels P010010000100 and P010010000109). The proposed transmission line construction work for this Project will occur on property owned by AEP Ohio Transco (Parcels P010010000100, P010010000104, P010010000109) and property owned by the Athens County Port Authority (Parcel P010010000105). AEP Ohio Transco has secured an option to purchase property from the Athens County Port Authority for this Project. No other property acquisition or easements are required to construct and operate the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line. Technical features of this project are discussed in Section B9.

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The Project meets the requirements for a LON because it is within the types of projects defined by (1)(b) of Appendix A to O.A.C. 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix For Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

- (1) *New construction, extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:*
- (b) *Line(s) greater than 0.2 miles in length but not greater than two miles in length.*

B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

The Lemaster 138 kV Station (filed separately under PUCO Case Nos. 16-2314-EL-BLN and 17-2281-EL-BLN) is being developed to replace Poston Station, which will be retired and removed. Poston Station is currently positioned within a floodplain and is comprised of deteriorated equipment installed in the 1940s and 1950s. The equipment in Poston Station poses a safety concern and no longer complies with AEP safety standards. The drivers for replacement of the equipment are age, dielectric strength breakdown, short circuit strength breakdown, and accessory damage. The site where Poston Station currently sits has been subject to flooding in the past, posing a safety concern, as well as increases the difficulty of maintaining and repairing existing structures.

The purpose of this Project is to energize the proposed Lemaster Station and is part of a series of improvements to enhance the reliability of electric service in Athens County and the greater Southern Ohio area. The proposed Project, in combination with the proposed Lemaster Station project, is required to alleviate voltage concerns throughout the Southern Ohio area. The Project will improve the reliability of the transmission network in southeast Ohio and provide adequate voltage on the local 138 kV system under N-1 contingency conditions per the applicable system planning criteria. More information on this project can be found in Table 10 of the Long Term Forecast Report to be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

B(3) Project Location

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the project area.

Figures 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 in Appendix A show the location of the Project in relation to other existing AEP Ohio Transco transmission lines, the existing Poston Station, and the proposed Lemaster Station.

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B(4) Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

Replacing all equipment in place within Poston Station was considered, but it was determined not to be practical, as the station is regularly flooded. In addition, outages are difficult to obtain to replace the equipment because the majority of the equipment is in need of replacement. The estimated cost of replacing this equipment in place is \$15,000,000, not including the cost that may potentially arise from further water damage to the station. Constructing Lemaster Station as a greenfield station is seen as a viable and preferable alternative, as it ensures the longevity of station equipment in comparison to the possibility of more frequent equipment replacement within Poston Station.

This Project minimizes impacts to the community and the environment, while taking into account the engineering and construction needs of the Project (see Sections B9 and B10 for further discussion of socioeconomic, ecological, construction, and engineering aspects of the project). The proposed Project will occur on property owned by AEP Ohio Transco and the Athens County Port Authority. No streams are located in the Project Area, and there are no residences within 1,000 feet of the Project Area. The Project Area is currently undeveloped and primarily non-forested. One emergent wetland is located in the Project Area. However, proposed transmission line removal and relocation activities are not expected to result in the discharge of fill material into this wetland, and timber mats will be utilized at the wetland location if equipment crossings are required. Limited amounts of potentially suitable Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; federally endangered) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; federally threatened) habitat is present within the Project Area, though no potential roost trees or hibernacula for these species were observed during threatened and endangered species habitat assessment field surveys completed for the Project. No potential habitat for other federally listed species was observed within the Project Area.

B(5) Public Information Program

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The proposed Project will be located on property owned by AEP Ohio Transco and the Athens County Port Authority. Within seven days of filing this LON, AEP Ohio Transco will issue a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Project Area. The notice will comply with all requirements under O.A.C. Section 4906-6-08(A)(1-6).

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Further, AEP Ohio Transco maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) which provides the public access to an electronic copy of this LON and the public notice for this LON. The LON will also be sent to applicable public officials concurrently with submittal to the OPSB, and a paper copy of the LON will be provided to the Athens County Public Library.

B(6) Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

Construction is planned to start in January 2018. The in-service date (completion date) of the Project is expected to be on or about September 2018.

B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 1.1 included in Appendix A identifies the location of the Project Area on a USGS quadrangle map. Figure 1.2 in Appendix A is an aerial map of the Project Area. To visit the Project from Columbus, take US 33 southeast to the State Route 682 interchange approximately four miles northeast of Athens, Ohio. Take State Route 682 south for 0.25 miles and then turn right (west) on Poston Road (County Road 110). Follow Poston Road west for approximately 2.75 miles. The Project Area is located on the north side of the road.

B(8) Property Agreements

The applicant shall provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

The proposed Project will be located on property currently owned by AEP Ohio Transco (Parcels P010010000100, P010010000104, P010010000109) and property owned by the Athens County Port Authority (Parcel P010010000105) immediately adjacent to the existing Poston Station and proposed Lemaster Station. AEP Ohio Transco has secured an option to purchase property from the Athens County Port Authority for this Project. No other property acquisition or easements are required to construct and operate the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line.

B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the Project:

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PROJECT UPDATE

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

The proposed Project will remove two existing H-frame pole structures, one existing guyed three-pole structure, and approximately 0.16 miles of existing 138 kV single circuit transmission line. The existing conductor type is 636 KCM ACSR 26/7 “Grosbeak” and the existing shield wire is 3/8 EHS steel. The Project will include the installation of four new steel pole structures and 0.40 miles of new single-circuit 138 kV transmission line, new 1033.5 KCM ASCR 50/7 “Curlew” conductors, along with a 7#8 alumoweld shield wire. All deadends will utilize pier foundations with anchor cages. The design and operating voltage will be 138 kV. Structure design and phasing diagrams are presented in Appendix C.

The proposed Project will occur primarily on property owned by AEP Ohio Transco, though a small portion will be located on Athens County Port Authority property. AEP Ohio Transco has secured an option to purchase property from the Athens County Port Authority for this Project. No other property acquisition or easements are required to construct and operate the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line.

(b) For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line. The discussion shall include:

(i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Strength Levels

This section is not applicable. There are no occupied residences or institutions located within 100 feet of the Project.

(ii) A discussion of the applicant's consideration of design alternatives with respect to electric and magnetic fields and their strength levels, including alternate conductor configuration and phasing, tower height, corridor location, and right-of-way width.

There are no occupied residences or institutions located within 100 feet of the Project. The transmission line removal and relocation work associated with the Project will occur on existing AEP Ohio Transco property and Athens County Port Authority property immediately adjacent to AEP Ohio Transco’s existing Poston Station and proposed Lemaster Station. AEP Ohio Transco has secured an option to purchase property from the Athens County Port Authority for this Project. Therefore, no design alternatives were considered.

(c) The estimated capital cost of the project.

The 2018 capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$1,000,000.

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B(10) Social and Economic Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project.

B(10)(a) Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is located within York Township, Athens County, Ohio. Figure 1.3 in Appendix A shows U.S. Department of Agriculture land use categories for the Project Area. According to this map, land uses in the Project Area consist of grassland, developed land, pasture/hay fields, and deciduous forest. Field observations by AEP Ohio Transco's consultant indicate the Project Area is primarily comprised of "old field" habitat, which can be characterized as non-forested grassland that is occasionally disturbed (mowed, grazed, or cleared) and contains a variety of herbaceous species, young shrubs, vines, and tree saplings. Limited areas of mixed early successional/second growth deciduous/coniferous forest, industrial/developed land, and emergent wetland are also located in the Project Area (see Appendix B). No streams are located in the Project Area.

There are currently no active residences, cemeteries, churches, schools, or other community facilities located within 1,000 feet of the Project Area (as shown on Figures 1.2 and 1.3 in Appendix A). The nearest residences are located along State Route 691 approximately 1,500 feet to the west of the Project Area. A water filtration plant is located approximately 0.25 miles to the east of the Project (approximately 1,000 feet northeast of the existing Poston Station).

No wildlife management areas or nature preserve lands are located within 1,000 feet of the Project. However, the Wayne National Forest, the Hamley Run Floodplain Forest Conservation Site, a Breeding Amphibian Site, a Floodplain Forest Plant Community, and a Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community were reported by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Ohio Natural Heritage Program ("ONHP") as occurring within one mile of the Project Area (see Appendix B). The proposed Project will not impact any of these resources.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

The Project is not located within a registered agricultural district, based on coordination with the Athens County Auditor's Office. Additionally, the Project Area does not contain any active agricultural row crop land (see Figure 1.3 in Appendix A and Figure 3 in Appendix B).

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B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

In February and March of 2017, AEP Ohio Transco's consultant, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) conducted Phase I cultural resource management investigations for the Project (see Appendix B of the previously filed LON under PUCO Case No. 17-0635-EL-BLN). The field investigations were conducted within the original Project Area. AEP Ohio Transco's consultant conducted additional cultural resources surveys within the revised Project Area on October 31, 2017. The Project plans are to slightly move the proposed Lemaster Station location and Lemaster-Strouds Run transmission line relocation Project Area to the east. Weller had previously completed cultural resource management surveys for the Lemaster-Strouds Run transmission line relocation as it was proposed, which is just west of the currently planned area. The work involved visual inspection of the subject area and shovel probing to verify the conditions. The field investigations did not identify any cultural materials and the area was found to be fully and severely disturbed by grading activity associated with coal mining and activities associated with the extant Poston Station. Weller did not recommend any additional work for the Project.

The literature review conducted for this Project indicated previous cultural resource management activity involving the northern and southern portions of the Project Area (Weller 2016; Otto 1976). However, there are no previously identified sites within the Project Area. Weller's 2016 survey was for a tract where the new Lemaster Station is planned. Otto's survey (1976) was for an electric line corridor. The Poston Station (ATH0063302) is located within the study area, though this site is not regarded as significant. Site 33AT1057 is located near the western edge of the previous study area. This site was recommended for additional work if it were to be impacted. However, it is not near the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV transmission line relocation Project Area. For more information, see the Phase I Cultural Resources Management Investigations report included in Appendix B of the previously filed LON under PUCO Case No. 17-0635-EL-BLN. An addendum cultural resources survey letter report has been prepared under separate cover.

The Project will not directly involve any buildings, structures, or archaeological sites. The archaeological field reconnaissance involved subsurface testing and visual inspection and determined that the Project Area has been severely altered and disturbed or previously investigated. No cultural materials were identified during these investigations. The Project will not involve or impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks and AEP Ohio Transco's consultant recommends no further cultural resource management work.

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B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented and maintained to minimize erosion and control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events. If applicable (based on the final Project disturbance area), a project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000004.

No streams are located in the Project Area. However, one emergent wetland is located in the Project Area (see Appendix B). Transmission line removal and relocation activities are not expected to result in the discharge of fill material in this wetland, and timber mats will be utilized at the wetland location if equipment crossings are required. Therefore, the Project is not expected to require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Pre-Construction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Project is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) 100-year floodplain area. Therefore, no floodplain permitting is required for the Project. There are no other known local, state or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) Midwest Region’s *Ohio County Distribution of Federally-Listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species* (available at <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/ohio-cty.html>) was reviewed to determine the threatened and endangered species currently known to occur in Athens County. This USFWS publication listed the following threatened or endangered species as occurring in Athens County: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; federally endangered), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; federally threatened), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*; federally endangered), sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*; federally endangered), pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis*

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abrupta; federally endangered), snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*; federally endangered), and American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*; federally endangered). Limited amounts of potentially suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat habitat is present within the Project Area, though no potential roost trees or hibernacula for these species were observed during threatened and endangered species habitat assessment field surveys completed for the Project. No potential habitat for other federally listed species was observed within the Project Area. As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office seeking technical assistance on the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. The November 28, 2016 response letter from USFWS (see Appendix B) indicated that the proposed Project is within the range of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat in Ohio, and within the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats, but if tree clearing occurs between October 1 and March 31, they do not anticipate the Project having any adverse effects to these species or any other federally listed endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. The USFWS letter did not include any comments specific to the other federally listed species.

Several state-listed threatened species, endangered species, and species of concern are listed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/species%20and%20habitats/state-listed%20species/athens.pdf>) as occurring, or potentially occurring in Athens County. These state-listed species are addressed in detail in the Ecological Resources Inventory Report included in Appendix B.

Coordination letters were submitted via email to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) Division of Wildlife (“DOW”) Ohio Natural Heritage Program (“ONHP”) and the ODNR - Office of Real Estate in November 2016, seeking an environmental review of the proposed Project for potential impacts on state-listed and federally-listed threatened or endangered species. Correspondence from ODNR’s DOW/ONHP and the ODNR – Office of Real Estate was received on November 17 and December 30, 2016, respectively (see Appendix B).

According to the ODNR - Office of Real Estate, the Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat and presence of the Indiana bat has been established in the area. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the ODNR recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the ODNR recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If no tree removal is proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. The ODNR - Office of Real Estate also indicated that due to the Project location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this Project is not likely to impact federal and state-listed mussel species. The Project is also within the range of the channel darter (*Percina copelandi*), a state threatened fish, and the river darter (*Percina shumardi*), a state threatened fish. The ODNR - Office of Real Estate recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed, this Project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species. The project is also within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern, the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species, mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*), a

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state threatened species, and black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species. The ODNR - Office of Real Estate indicated that due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact these species.

According to the DOW/OHNP, three species are known to occur within a one-mile radius of the Project Area, including rough boneset (*Eupatorium pilosum*; status not yet determined), a caddisfly (*Brachycentrus numerosus*; state endangered), and eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*; state species of concern). None of these known locations is within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area and no impacts to these species are anticipated (see Appendix B for further information). Potentially suitable habitat for three other state-listed species, black bear (*Ursus americanus*; state endangered), marsh fern moth (*Fagiana littera*; state threatened), and timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*; state endangered) was observed in the Project Area. However, none of these species is known to occur within a mile of the Project Area, and no impacts to these species are anticipated (see Appendix B for further information).

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

The ODNR DOW/OHNP response indicated that they are unaware of any unique geological features or scenic rivers within a mile of the Project Area, but did state that the Wayne National Forest, the Hamley Run Floodplain Forest Conservation Site, a Breeding Amphibian Site, a Floodplain Forest Plant Community, and a Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community exist within a one-mile radius of the Project. However, none of these known locations occur within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area and no impacts are anticipated (see Appendix B). Correspondence received from the USFWS (see Appendix B) indicated that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat in the Project vicinity.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map was consulted to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped in the Project Area (specifically, map number 39009C0095C). Based on this map, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project Area. Therefore, no floodplain permits will be required for this Project.

Wetland and stream delineation field surveys were completed within the Project Area by AEP Ohio Transco's consultant in November 2016 and November 2017. The results of the wetland and stream delineations are presented in the Ecological Resources Inventory Report included in Appendix B. No streams were identified in the Project Area. However, one emergent wetland is located in the Project Area (see Appendix B). Proposed transmission line removal and relocation

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activities are not expected to result in the discharge of fill material in this wetland, and timber mats will be utilized at the wetland location if equipment crossings are required.

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of AEP Ohio Transco's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

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Appendix A. Project Maps

Figure No.

1.1

Title

Project Location Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster - Strouds Run 138kV
Transmission Line Relocation Project

Project Location

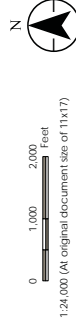
Adams County, Ohio

193704783

Prepared by HLE on 2017-11-09

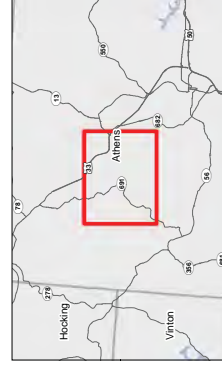
Technical Review by G on 2017-11-09

Independent Review by DCS & AK on 2017-11-15



Legend

- Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line
- Relocation
- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line to be Removed
- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Project Area
- Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Former Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line
- Existing Transmission Line



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, NADs
3. Background: BGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangles Nelsonville (OH, 1983) and the Parma (OH, 1975)

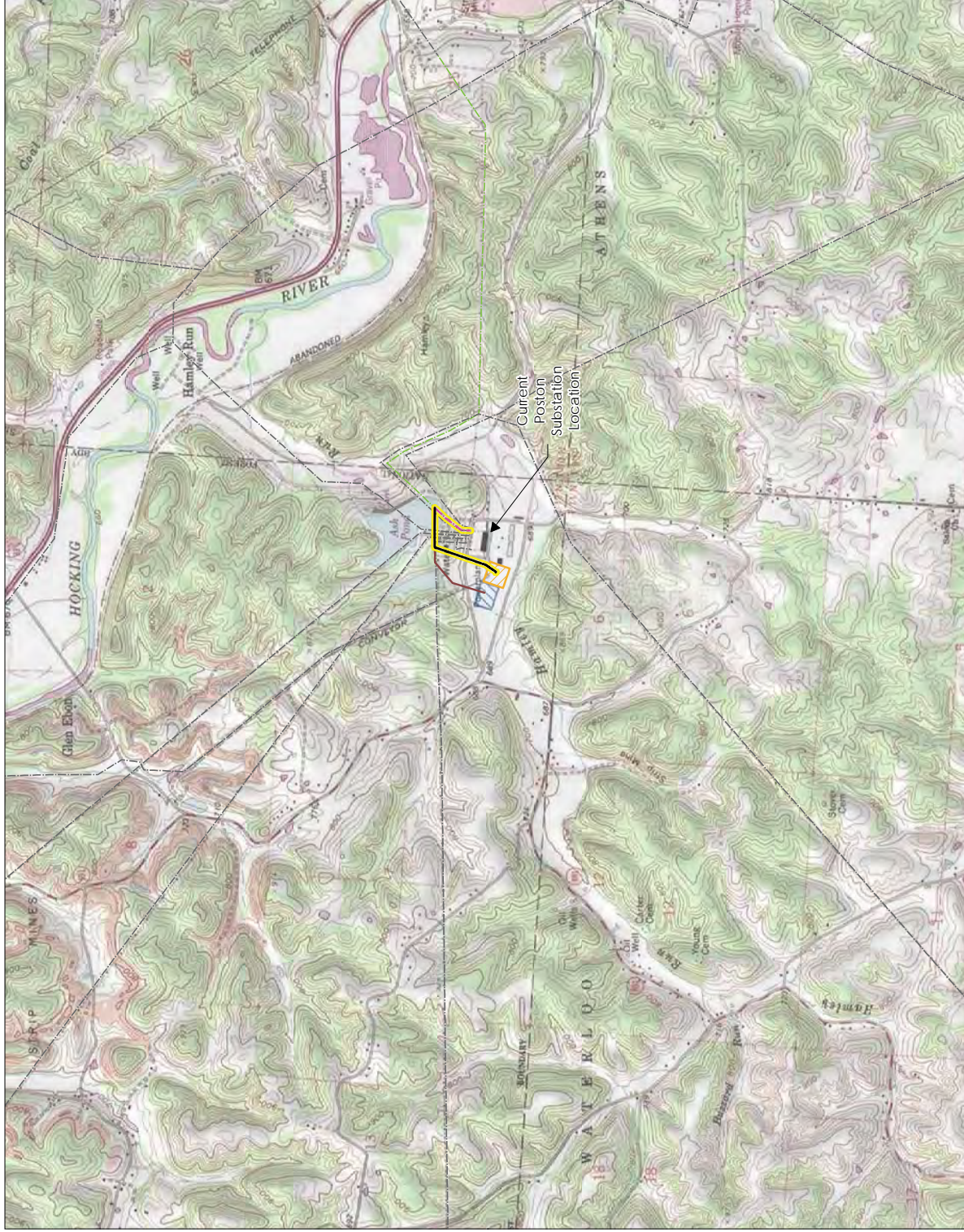


Figure No.

1.2

Title

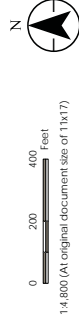
Project Layout Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster - Strouds Run 138kV
Transmission Line Relocation Project

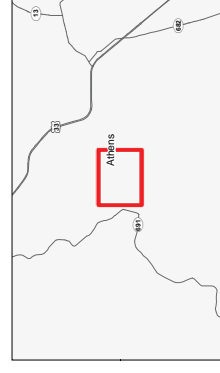
Project Location

Adams County, Ohio
193704782
Reviewed by HIR on 2017-11-09
Technical Review by G on 2017-11-09
Independent Review by DCS & AK on 2017-11-15



Legend

- Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line to be Removed
- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Project Area
- Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Former Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line
- Existing Transmission Line
- AEP Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, MADS, OGRP
3. Orthophotography 2015, NAD

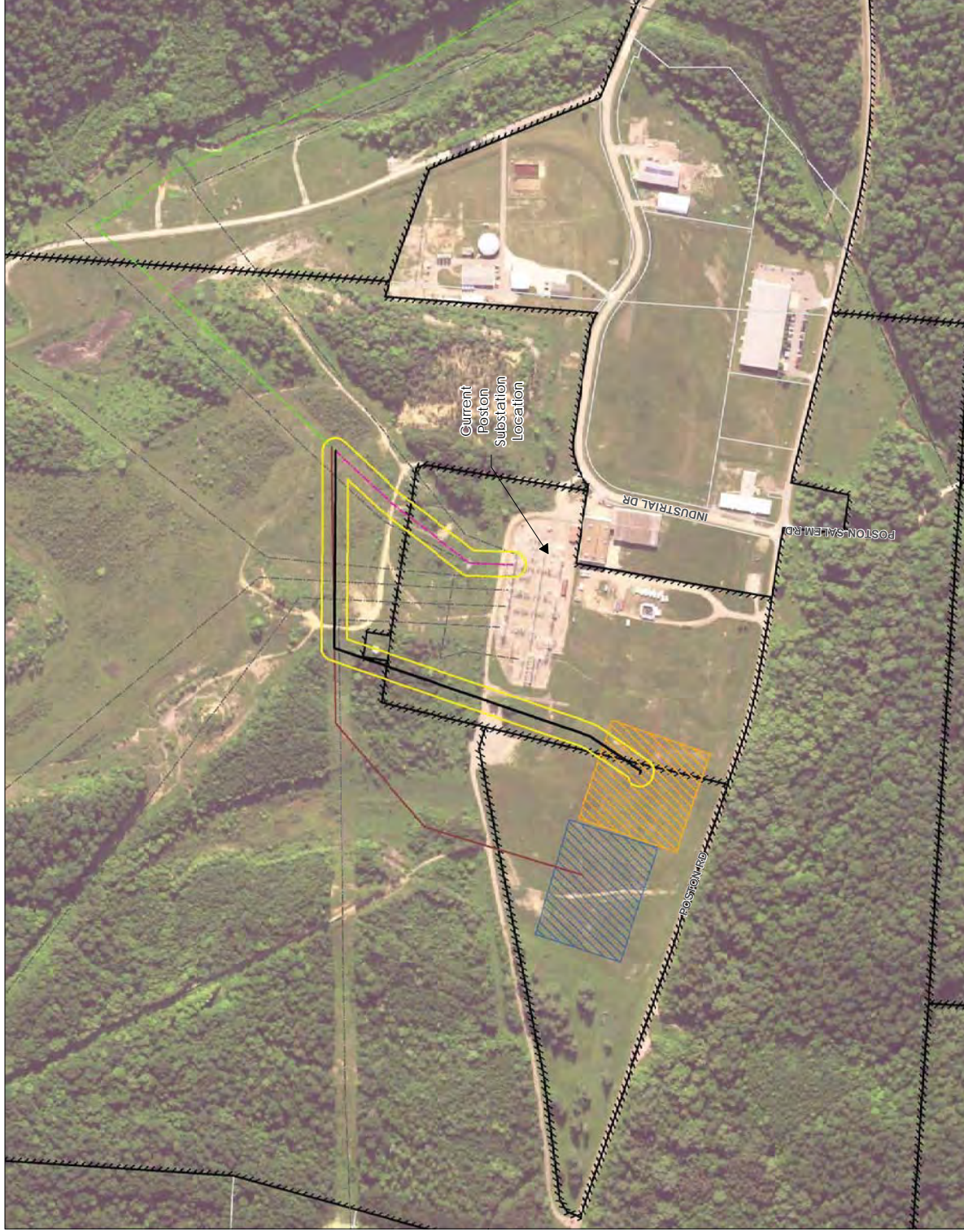
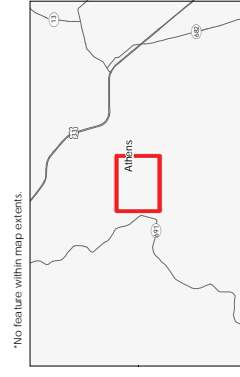
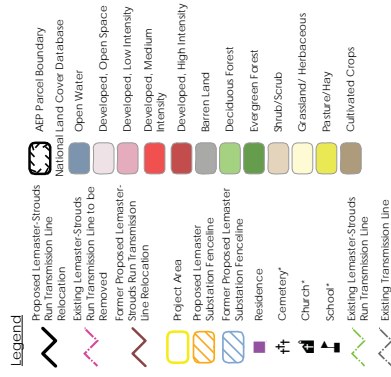
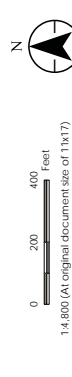


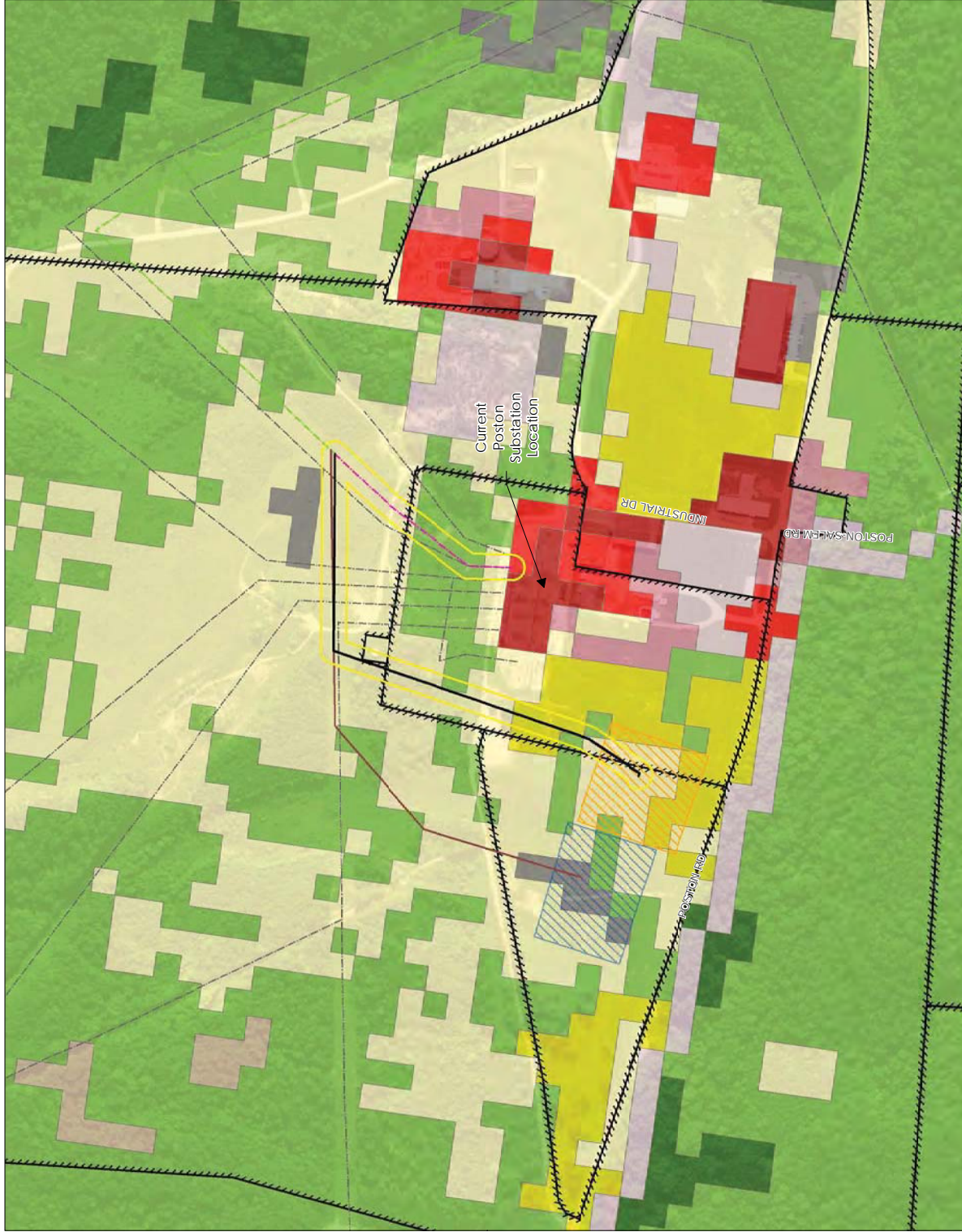
Figure No.
1.3

Title
Land Use Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster - Strouds Run 138kV
Transmission Line Relocation Project
Project Location
Adams County, Ohio
193704782
Prepared by HIR on 2017-11-09
Technical Review by SG on 2017-11-09
Independent Review by DCS & AK on 2017-11-15

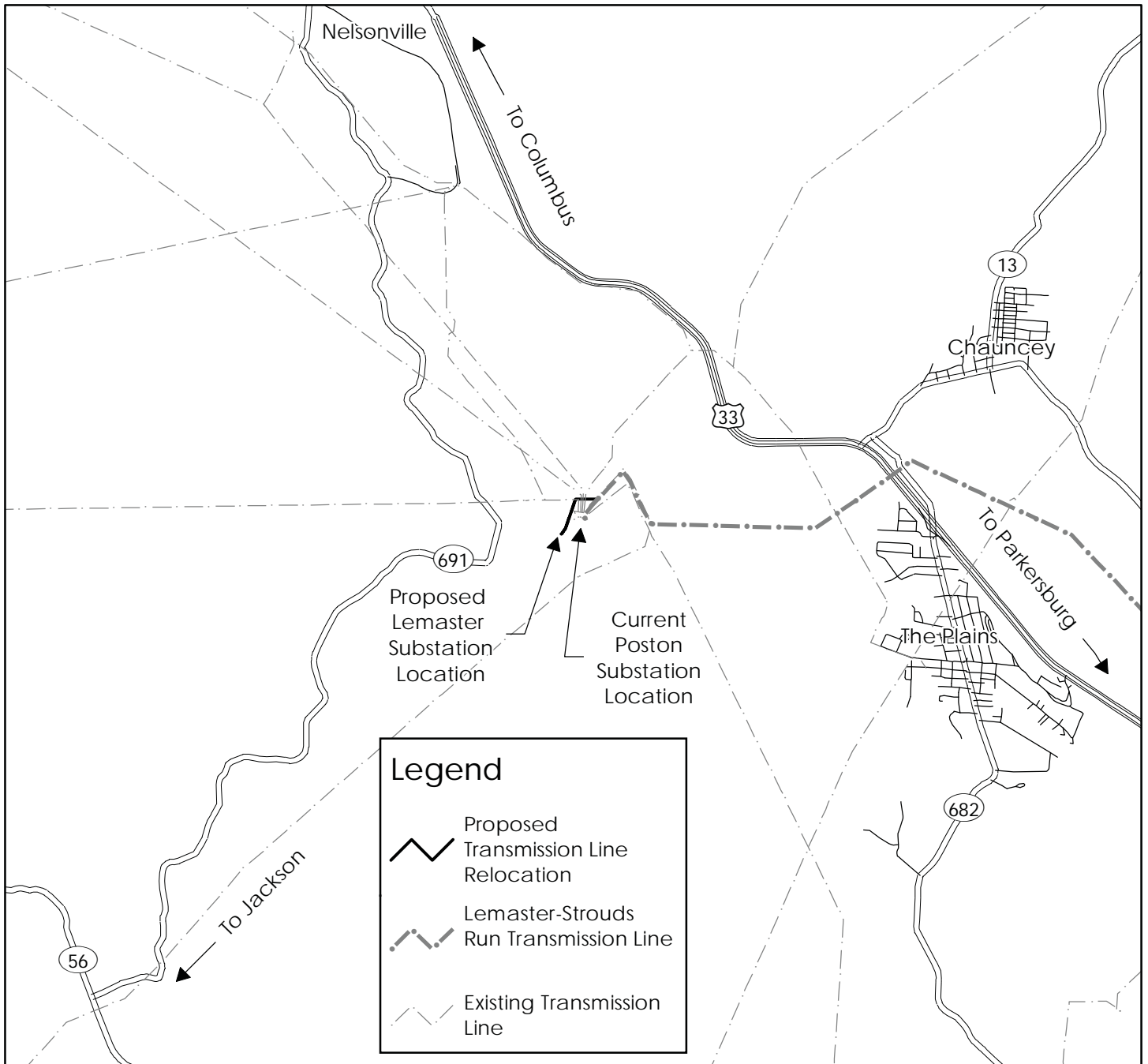


Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, MCD, NAD, OGRP
3. Orthophotography 2015, NIP



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Figure 1.4 - Concept Map



LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION
PROJECT UPDATE

Appendix B. Ecological Resources Inventory Report

**Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV
Transmission Line Relocation Project,
Athens County, Ohio**

**Ecological Resources Inventory
Report**



Prepared for:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
700 Morrison Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11687 Lebanon Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

November 17, 2017

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS
COUNTY, OHIO

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LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

1.0 Introduction

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP) is proposing to relocate a portion of the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV electric transmission line in Athens County, Ohio (Figure 1, Appendix A). The Project includes removing approximately 0.16 miles of existing 138 kV transmission line which terminates at AEP's existing Poston Station and constructing approximately 0.40 miles of new 138 kV transmission line which will terminate at AEP's proposed Lemaster Station (Figure 1, Appendix A). The proposed Lemaster Station is a separate AEP project. The Project area (as depicted on Figures 1, 2, and 3 in Appendix A) was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on November 7-8, 2016, and November 10, 2017. The approximate locations of features adjacent to the Project area were also recorded during field surveys. These features are shown on the Figure 2 maps in Appendix A as "approximate" wetlands, streams, open waters, and upland drainage features. This report covers recent revisions to the proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run transmission line location due to a shift in the location of the proposed Lemaster Station. The previous proposed transmission line and station locations are illustrated in Figures 1, 2, and 3 for documentation purposes.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

2.0 Methods

2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

Prior to completing the field surveys, a desktop review of the Project area was conducted using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, and aerial imagery mapping. Stantec completed a wetland delineation study in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region* (Version 2.0) (USACE 2012). Wetland categories were classified using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Version 5.0 (Mack 2001).

2.2 STREAM DELINEATION

Streams that demonstrated a continuously defined channel (bed and bank), ordinary high water mark (OHWM), and the disturbance of terrestrial vegetation were delineated within the Project area, per the protocols outlined in the USACE's Guidance on Ordinary High Water Mark Identification (Regulatory Guidance Letter, No. 05-05) (USACE 2005). Delineated streams were classified as ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial per definitions in the Federal Register/Vol. 67, No. 10 (USACE 2002). Functional assessment of streams within the Project area was based on completion of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) and/or Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI). The centerline of each waterway was identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy GPS unit and mapped with GIS software. Additionally, the locations of ponds/open water features and upland drainage features (which lacked a continuously defined bed and bank/OHWM) identified within the Project area were also recorded with a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit during the field surveys.

2.3 RARE SPECIES

Prior to conducting the field surveys, Stantec contacted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for information regarding rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats of concern within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix B – Agency Correspondence). To assess potential impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, Stantec scientists conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed Project area, collected information on existing habitats within the Project area, and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by these species.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

3.0 Results

3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on November 7-8, 2016, and November 10, 2017, for threatened and endangered species or their habitats. Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the vegetation communities/habitats and locations of any identified rare, threatened or endangered species habitat observed within the Project area. Representative photographs of the vegetation communities/habitats identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3, Appendix A). Information regarding the vegetation communities/habitats identified within the Project area is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Found within the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Athens County, Ohio

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within the Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
Old Field	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by opportunistic invaders or native highly tolerant taxa). Dominant species include tall fescue (<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>), broomsedge bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>), goldenrod (<i>Solidago sp.</i>), and aster (<i>Symphyotrichum sp.</i>).	No	5.6
Mixed Early Successional/ Second Growth Deciduous/Coniferous Forest	Some past disturbance but trending to naturalized. Dominated by sugar maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>), beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), pine (<i>Pinus sp.</i>) and American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>).	No	0.9
Industrial	Extreme Disturbance/existing gravel pad. Dominated by dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) and white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>).	No	0.4
Total			6.9

3.2 WETLANDS

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on November 7-8, 2016, and November 10, 2017, for wetlands and waterbodies. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the wetlands identified by Stantec within the Project area. Representative photographs of the wetlands identified within

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination and ORAM data forms are included in Appendix D. Information regarding the Cowardin classification and ORAM categories of wetlands identified within the Project is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of Wetland Resources Found within the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Athens County, Ohio

Wetland Name	Figure 2 Photo Location ¹	Isolated?	Wetland Classification ²	ORAM Score ⁴	ORAM Category ⁴	Delineated Area (acres) within Project Area
Wetland 1	1	No	PEM ³	12	1	0.02
TOTAL						0.02
¹ Figure 2 and Appendix C – Representative Photographs						
² Wetland classification is based on Cowardin et al. (1979).						
³ PEM = Palustrine Emergent Wetland						
⁴ ORAM Score and Category are based on the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands v. 5.0 (Mack 2001).						

3.3 STREAMS

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on November 7-8, 2016, and November 10, 2017, for wetlands and waterbodies. No streams or open waters were identified within the Project area. However, Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the locations of upland drainage features identified within the Project area. Representative photographs of upland drainage features identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A).

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

3.4 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 3. Summary of Potential Ohio State-Listed Species within the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 KV Transmission Line Project Area, Athens County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County? ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area? ³	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Insects								
Regal Fritillary	Speyeria idalia	E	Yes	No	Occurs in tall grass prairie remnants (Lotts and Naberhaus 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus centaureae wyandot	E	Yes	No	This species is associated with openings in mature oak forests that support stands of Canada cinkweil. Most of these areas are highly disturbed, and are characterized by fair amounts of exposed soil and rock (ODNR 2017b).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
American Burying Beetle	Nicrophorus americanus	E	Yes	No	Current information suggests this species is a habitat generalist, or one that lives in many types of habitat, but with a slight preference for grasslands and the open understory of oak-hickory forests (ODNR 2017b).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Caddisfly	Brachycentrus numerosus	E	Yes	Yes	Habitat preference has not been assessed at this time (NatureServe 2017), though caddisflies normally occur in streams, rivers, and ponds.	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Marsh Fern Moth	Fagiana litorea	T	Yes	No	This species typically occurs in unforested wetlands such as bogs, shrub swamps, and marshes. This species also occurs along wet powerlines and wet open pinelands (New York Natural Heritage Program 2015).	Yes	Some potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. However, this species is not known to occur within the vicinity of the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Fishes								
Channel Darter	Etheostoma tippecanoe	T	Yes	No	This fish prefers medium to large streams in the Ohio River drainage system and are found in riffles of moderate current with substrate of gravel or cobble sized rocks (ODNR 2017b).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species or other aquatic species.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area ²³	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
River Darter	<i>Percina shumardi</i>	T	Yes	No	Large rivers and lower portions of tributaries; deep chutes and riffles where current is swift and substrates are coarse gravel or rock (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	ODNR recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species or other aquatic species.
Amphibians								
Midland Mud Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton montianus diastictus</i>	T	Yes	No	Muddy springs, slow floodplain streams, and swamps along slow streams; backwater ponds and marshes created by beaver activity (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and type of work proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	E	Yes	No	Eastern spadefoots occur in areas of sandy, gravelly, or soft, light soils in wooded or unwooded terrain. On land, they range up to at least several hundred meters from breeding sites. When inactive, they remain burrowed in the ground. Eggs and larvae develop in temporary pools formed by heavy rains. Breeding sites include temporary pools and areas flooded by heavy rains (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and type of work proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Eastern Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	E	Yes	No	Rocky, clear creeks and rivers, usually where there are large shelter rocks. The species prefers cool waters with temperatures usually lower than 20 degrees Celsius. High amounts of instream cover are needed for shelter/reproduction, including large flat rocks or submerged logs (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Mussels								
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	Yes	No	The clubshell is found in small to medium rivers, but occasionally found in large rivers, especially those having large shoal areas. It is generally found in clean, coarse sand and gravel in runs, often just downstream of a riffle and cannot tolerate mud or slackwater conditions (USEWS 1994). Badra and Goforth (2001) found the clubshell in gravel/sand substrate, in runs having laminar flow (0.06-0.25 m/sec) within small to medium sized streams.	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Snuffbox	<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	E	Yes	No	Occurs in medium-sized streams to large rivers generally on mud, rocky, gravel, or sand substrates in flowing water. Often deeply buried in substrate and overlooked by collectors (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing	Known to Occur in Athens County?	Known Within One Mile of Project Area?	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Fanshell	<i>Cyrogenia stegalia</i>	E	Yes	No	Medium to large streams and rivers with moderate to strong current in coarse sand and gravel and depth ranging from shallow to deep (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Pink Mucket	<i>Lampsilis orbiculata</i>	E	Yes	No	Large rivers in habitats ranging from silt to boulders, but apparently more commonly from gravel and cobble. Collected from shallow and deep water with current velocity ranging from zero to swift, but never standing pools of water (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Sheepnose	<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	E	Yes	No	Although it does inhabit medium-sized rivers, this mussel generally has been considered a large-river species. It may be associated with riffles and gravel/cobble substrates but usually has been reported from deep water with slight to swift currents and mud, sand, or gravel bottoms. It also appears capable of surviving in reservoirs. Specimens in larger rivers may occur in deep runs (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Black Sandshell	<i>Ligumia recta</i>	T	Yes	No	Typically found in medium-sized to large rivers in locations with strong current and substrates of coarse sand and gravel with cobbles in water depths from several inches to six feet or more (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Threhorn Wartyback	<i>Obliquaria reflexa</i>	T	Yes	No	This species is typical of the large rivers where there is moderately strong current and a stable substrate composed of gravel, sand, and mud (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla donaciformis</i>	T	Yes	No	This species occurs in both large and medium-sized rivers at normal depths varying from less than three feet up to 15 to 18 feet in big rivers such as the Tennessee. Substrates of either sand or mud are suitable and although it is typically found in moderate current, it can adapt to a lake or embayment environment lacking current (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the Project location and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Yes	No	<p>Mammals</p> <p>The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas. Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2017b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known</p>	No	No hibernacula or suitable roost trees were observed within the Project area. If AEP determines trees >3" dbh must be removed for this project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no adverse effects are anticipated.	The project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat. Presence of the Indiana bat has been established in the area, and therefore additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, ODNR recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, ODNR recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area ³	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Allegheny Woodrat	Neotoma magister	E	Yes	No	Typical habitat is rocky cliffs and slopes (NatureServe 2017). to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Black Bear	Ursus americanus	E	Yes	No	Black bears inhabit forests and nearby openings, including forested wetlands. When inactive, they occupy dens under fallen trees, ground-level or above-ground tree cavities or hollow logs, underground cave-like sites, or the ground surface in dense cover (NatureServe 2017).	Yes	Habitat was observed within the Project area, but due to the mobility of this species no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the mobility of this species, the Project is not likely to impact this species.
Northern Long-eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	SOC	Yes	No	The northern long-eared bat is found throughout Ohio. This species generally forages in forested habitat and openings in forested habitat and utilizes cracks, cavities, and loose bark within live and dead trees, as well as buildings as roosting habitat (Brack et al. 2010; USFWS 2016). The species utilizes caves and abandoned mines as winter hibernacula. Various sized caves are used providing they have a constant temperature, high humidity, and little to no air current (Brack et al. 2010).	No	No hibernacula or suitable roost trees were observed within the Project area. If AEP determines trees >3" dbh must be removed for this project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no adverse effects are anticipated.	No comments received.
Reptiles								
Timber Rattlesnake	Crotalus horridus horridus	E	Yes	No	In the central Midwest, optimum habitat is a high, dry ridge with oak-hickory forest interspersed with open areas. Hibernacula are typically located in a rocky area where underground crevices provide retreats for overwintering, such as a fissure in a ledge, a crevice between ledge and ground, and fallen rock associated or unassociated with cliffs (NatureServe 2017).	Yes	Potential habitat (open areas adjacent to hilly forested areas) was observed within the Project area, but typical habitat was not observed and due to the mobility of this species, no impacts are anticipated.	Due to the location, the type of habitat at the project site, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.
Spotted Turtle	Clemmys guttata	T	Yes	No	Spotted turtles inhabit mostly unpolluted, shallow bodies of water with a soft bottom and aquatic vegetation, such as small marshes, marshy pastures, bogs, fens, woodland streams, swamps, small ponds, vernal pools, and lake margins in some areas they occur in brackish tidal streams (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Eastern Box Turtle	Terrapene carolina	SOC	Yes	Yes	This species prefers forests, fields, and scrub shrub habitats. Eastern box turtles use loose soil, debris, and leaf litter for cover. Areas with loose, loamy soils are preferred for egg laying sites (NatureServe 2017).	Yes	This species typically prefers moist forest and scrub shrub habitat as opposed to the open, old field habitat observed in the majority of the Project area. Small amounts of forested habitat are present within the Project area. Due to this and the mobility of this species, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County? ²	Known Within One Mile of Project Area? ³	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	ODNR Comments/Recommendations
Plants								
Rough Boneset	Eupatorium pilosum	Status Not Determined	Yes	Yes	This species prefers wet meadows and open, swampy woods dominated by native species (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
¹ E=Endangered; ¹ =Threatened; SOC=Species of Concern ² According to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, State Listed Wildlife Species by County (ODNR 2017a). ³ According to Ohio Natural Heritage Program (Appendix B).								

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Table 4. Summary of Potential Federally-Listed Species within the Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Project Area, Athens County, Ohio

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County? ²	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	USFWS Comments/ Recommendations
Mammals							
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Yes	The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas: Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2017b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).	No	No hibernacula or suitable roost trees were observed within the Project area. If AEP determines trees >3" dbh must be removed for this project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no adverse effects are anticipated.	The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, USFWS recommends that trees >3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees >3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with USFWS is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, USFWS recommends that removal of any trees >3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable.
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	T	Yes	The northern long-eared bat is found throughout Ohio. This species generally forages in forested habitat and openings in forested habitat and utilizes cracks, cavities, and loose bark within live and dead trees, as well as buildings as roosting habitat (Brack et al. 2010; USFWS 2016). The species utilizes caves and abandoned mines as winter hibernacula. Various sized caves are used providing they have a constant temperature, high humidity, and little to no air current (Brack et al. 2010).	No	No hibernacula or suitable roost trees were observed within the Project area. If AEP determines trees >3" dbh must be removed for this project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no adverse effects are anticipated.	No specific comments received (other than discussion of suitable habitat).
Birds							
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	SOC	Yes	Breeding habitat most commonly includes areas close to (within 4 km) coastal areas, bays, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or other bodies of water that reflect the general availability of primary food sources including fish, waterfowl, or seabirds. This species typically nests in large trees or on cliffs (NatureServe 2017).	No	No nests or suitable nesting habitat was observed in the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Mussels							
Snuffbox	<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	E	Yes	Occurs in medium-sized streams to large rivers generally on mud, rocky, gravel, or sand substrates in flowing water. Often deeply buried in substrate and overlooked by collectors (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Fanshell	<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	E	Yes	Medium to large streams and rivers with moderate to strong current in coarse sand and gravel and depth ranging from shallow to deep (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing ¹	Known to Occur in Athens County? ²	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat Observed in Project Area?	Impact Assessment	USFWS Comments/ Recommendations
Pink Mucket	Lampsilis orbiculata	E	Yes	Large rivers in habitats ranging from silt to boulders, but apparently more commonly from gravel and cobble. Collected from shallow and deep water with current velocity ranging from zero to swift, but never standing pools of water (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Sheepnose	Plethobasus cyphus	E	Yes	Although it does inhabit medium-sized rivers, this mussel generally has been considered a large-river species. It may be associated with riffles and gravel/cobble substrates but usually has been reported from deep water with slight to swift currents and mud, sand, or gravel bottoms. It also appears capable of surviving in reservoirs. Specimens in larger rivers may occur in deep runs (NatureServe 2017).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Insects							
American Burying Beetle	Microphorus americanus	E	Yes	Current information suggests this species is a habitat generalist, or one that lives in many types of habitat, but with a slight preference for grasslands and the open understory of oak-hickory forests (ODNR 2017b).	No	No habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
Reptiles							
Timber Rattlesnake	Crotalus horridus horridus	SOC	Yes	In the central Midwest, optimum habitat is a high, dry ridge with oak-hickory forest interspersed with open areas. Hibernacula are typically located in a rocky area where underground crevices provide retreats for overwintering, such as a fissure in a ledge, a crevice between a ledge and ground, and fallen rock associated or unassociated with cliffs (NatureServe 2017).	Yes	Potential habitat (open areas adjacent to hilly forested areas) was observed within the Project area, but typical habitat was not observed and due to the mobility of this species, no impacts are anticipated.	No comments received.
¹ E=Endangered; T=Threatened; SOC=Species of Concern ² According to USFWS (2017a).							

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbodies delineation and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species or their habitats within the Project area on November 7-8, 2016, and November 10, 2017. During the field surveys, one palustrine emergent wetland totaling approximately 0.02 acres was identified within the Project area. See Table 2 for more information regarding the wetland classifications and ORAM categories for wetlands identified within the Project area. No streams or open waters were identified within the Project area.

The information provided by Stantec regarding wetland boundaries is based on an analysis of the wetland and upland conditions present within the Project area at the time of the fieldwork. The delineations were performed by experienced and qualified professionals using regulatory agency-accepted practices and sound professional judgment.

Two state-listed species of concern and one state-listed endangered species are known to occur within a one-mile radius of the Project area according to correspondence received from the ODNR Natural Heritage Program (NHP), including rough boneset, eastern box turtle, and a caddisfly, respectively (Appendix B). None of these known locations are within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. Some small amounts of potentially suitable habitat for eastern box turtle is present in the Project area, though this species typically prefers moist forest and scrub shrub habitats. No eastern box turtles were observed in the Project area and due to the mobility of this species and the dominant habitat observed in the Project area (open, non-forested), the proposed Project is not expected to impact this species. No habitat for rough boneset or caddisfly occurs in the Project area and no impacts to these species are anticipated. Potential habitat for two other state-listed species, black bear, and timber rattlesnake, were also observed in the Project area. However, neither of species is known to occur within a mile of the Project area, and due to their mobility, no impacts to these species are anticipated. The ODNR NHP also responded that they are unaware of any unique geological features or scenic rivers within a mile of the Project area, but did state that the Wayne National Forest, the Hamley Run Floodplain Forest Conservation Site, a Breeding Amphibian Site, a Floodplain Forest Plant Community, and a Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community exist within a mile of the Project area (Appendix B). However, none of these known locations occur within or immediately adjacent to the Project area and no impacts are anticipated.

According to the ODNR - Office of Real Estate, the Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat and presence of the Indiana bat has been established in the area. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area, ODNR recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees must be cut, ODNR recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If no tree removal is proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. No hibernacula or suitable summer roost habitat for the Indiana bat (or northern long-eared bat) was identified in the project area during the field surveys. If trees >3"

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dbh must be removed for this Project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31.

The ODNR - Office of Real Estate also indicated that due to the Project location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this Project is not likely to impact federal and state-listed mussel species. The Project is also within the range of the channel darter, a state threatened fish, and the river darter, a state threatened fish. The ODNR - Office of Real Estate recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed, this Project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species. No streams were identified in the Project area during field surveys and therefore no suitable mussel habitat or fish habitat is located in the Project area. The Project is also within the range of the timber rattlesnake, a state endangered species and a federal species of concern, the eastern spadefoot toad, a state endangered species, mud salamander, a state threatened species, and black bear, a state endangered species. The ODNR - Office of Real Estate indicated that due to the location, the type of habitat present at the Project site, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact these species.

A technical assistance letter was submitted to the USFWS for this Project. The USFWS response letter (Appendix B) indicates the proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, USFWS recommends that trees >3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because the project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees >3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with USFWS is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, USFWS recommends that removal of any trees >3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable. No hibernacula or suitable summer roost habitat for Indiana bat (or northern long-eared bat) was identified in the Project area during field surveys. If trees >3" dbh must be removed for this project, AEP anticipates clearing the trees between October 1 and March 31. The USFWS also stated that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat in the Project area, but recommended that impacts to wetlands and other water resources be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation and prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment.

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5.0 References

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Appendix A Figures

A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Figure No.

1

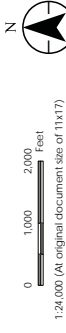
Project Location Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138kV
Transmission Line Relocation Project

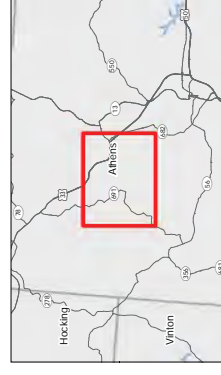
Project Location

Adams County, Ohio
Prepared by HIR on 2017-11-09
Technical Review by JH on 2017-11-09
Independent Review by DCS & AK on 2017-11-15



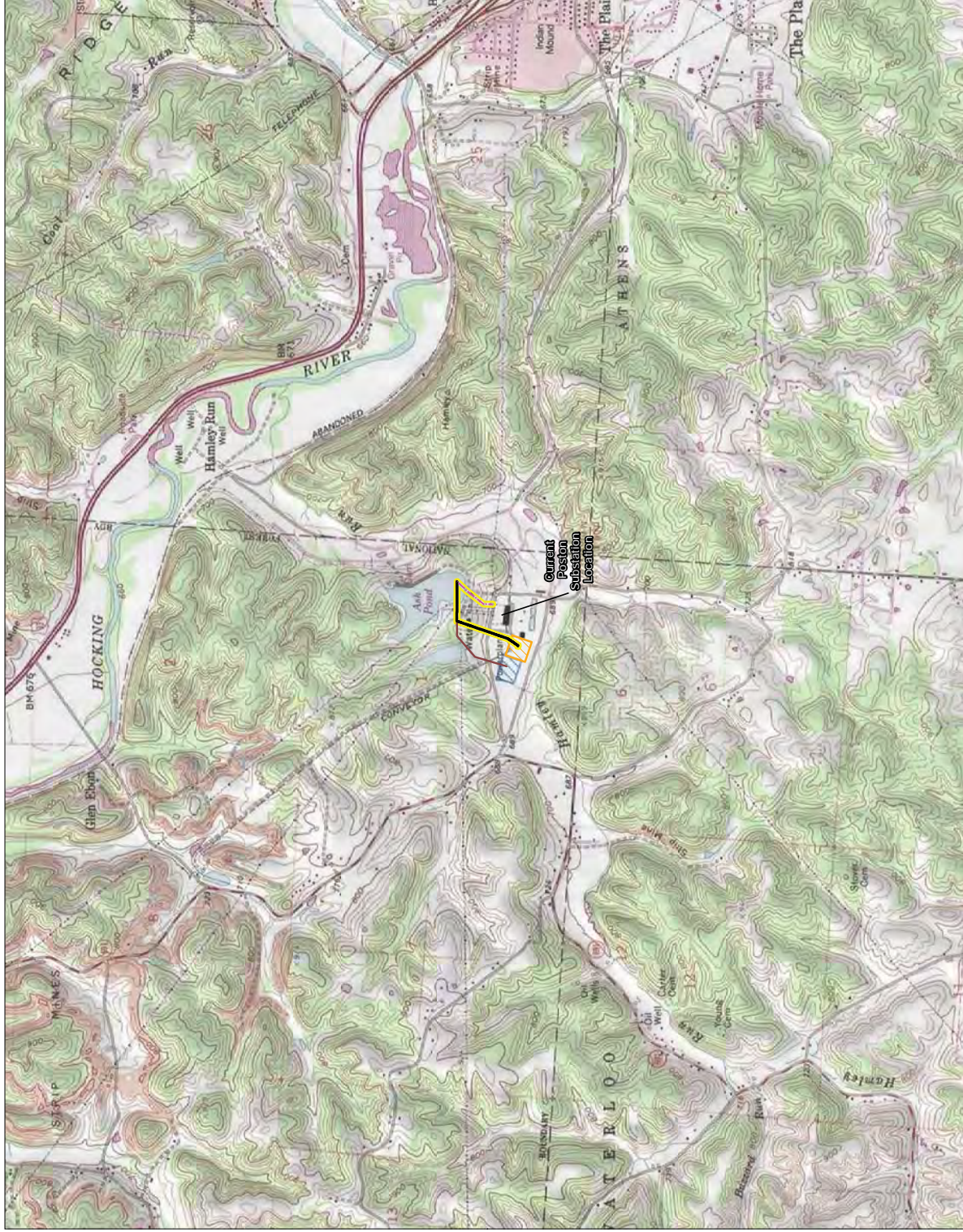
Legend

- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line to be Removed
- Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Project Area (100' ROW)
- Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Former Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, NADS
3. Background: USGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangles - Nelsonville (OH, 1983) and The Plains (OH, 1975)



LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS
COUNTY, OHIO

A.2 FIGURE 2 – WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP

Figure No.

2

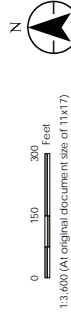
Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138KV
Transmission Line Relocation Project

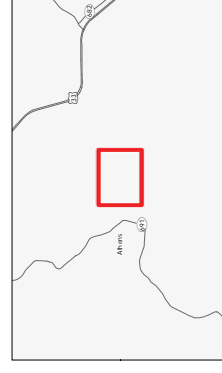
Project Location

Adams County, Ohio
193704782
Prepared by HIR on 2017-11-09
Technical Review by JH on 2017-11-09
Independent Review by DSC & AK on 2017-11-15



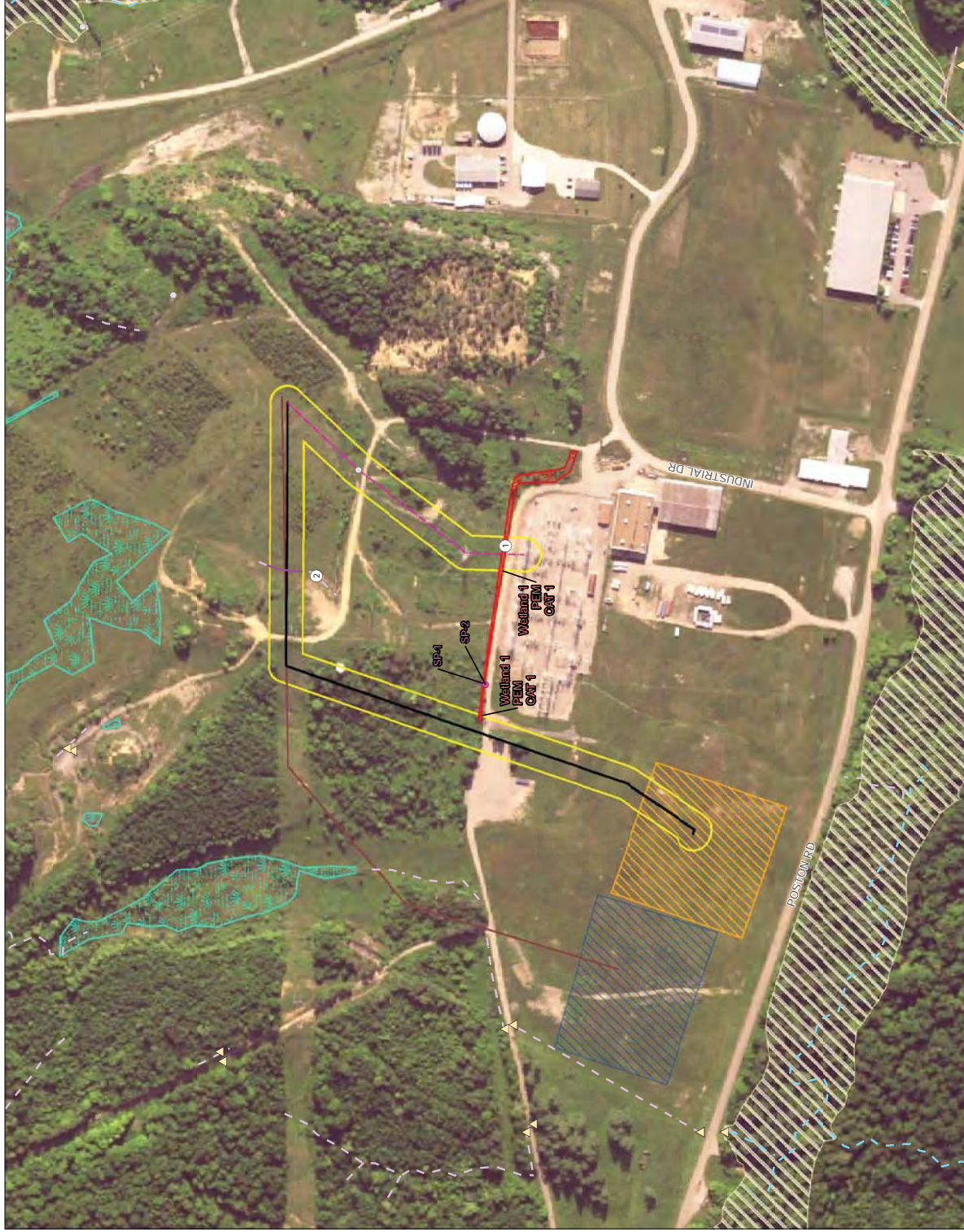
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- Legend**
- | | |
|---|---|
| ● Existing Structure | ● Wetland Determination Sample Point |
| --- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line to be Removed | ▲ Existing Culvert |
| --- Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | ○ Photo Location |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Approximate Upland Drainage Feature |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Approximate Waterway |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Field Delineated Emergent Wetland |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Approximate Wetland |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- FEMA Flood Hazard Areas |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- 100-year Flood Zone |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- 100-year Floodway |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Lemaster Substation |
| --- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation | --- Fenceline |



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources include: Stantec, AEP, MADS, FEMA, USGS, OGRIP
3. Orthophotography, 2015 MAP



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COUNTY, OHIO

A.3 FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

Figure No.

3

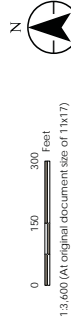
Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138KV
Transmission Line Relocation Project

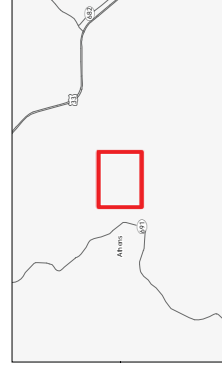
Project Location

Adams County, Ohio
Prepared by HIR on 2017-11-09
Technical Review by JH on 2017-11-09
Independent Review by DCS & AK on 2017-11-15



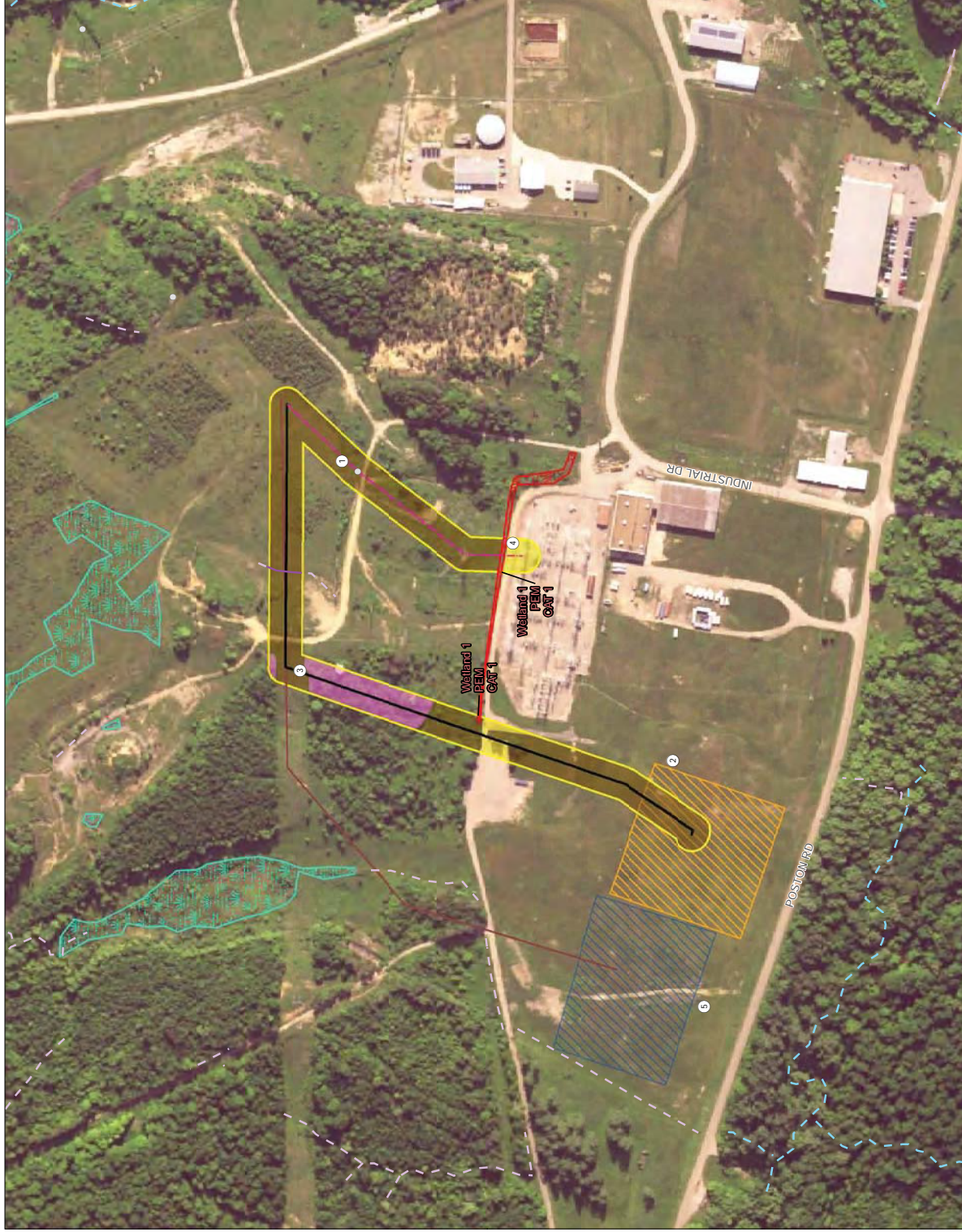
Legend

- Existing Structure
- Existing Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line to be Removed
- Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Former Proposed Lemaster-Strouds Run Transmission Line Relocation
- Project Area (100' ROW)
- Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Former Proposed Lemaster Substation Fenceline
- Photo Location
- Upland Drainage Feature
- Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
- Approximate Waterway
- Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
- Approximate Wetland
- Habitat Area
- Industrial
- Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous/Coniferous Forest
- Old Field



Notes

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
- Data Sources Include: Stantec, AEP, MADS, USGS, OGRIP
- Orthophotography: 2015 MAP



Appendix B Agency Correspondence



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
Paul R. Baldridge, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6649
Fax: (614) 267-4764

December 30, 2016

Dan Godec
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11687 Lebanon Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Re: 16-865; Request for Technical Assistance, AEP Lemaster Station Project

Project: The proposed project involves the construction of the Lemaster Station.

Location: The proposed project is located in York, Dover, and Waterloo Townships, Athens County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage data request response is included on pages 3-4 of the project documentation.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Presence of the Indiana bat has been established in the area, and therefore additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of

trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the club shell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the pink mucket (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the threehorn wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*), a state threatened mussel, the fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), a state threatened mussel, and the black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), a state threatened mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the channel darter (*Percina copelandi*), a state threatened fish, and the river darter (*Percina shumardi*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*), a state endangered species, and a federal species of concern. The timber rattlesnake is a woodland species. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake also utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices known as den sites for overwintering. Due to the location, the type of habitat at the project site, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, the type of habitat at the project site and within the vicinity of the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus*), a state threatened species. Due to the location, the type of habitat present at the project site, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of this species, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

<http://water.ohiodnr.gov/water-use-planning/floodplain-management#PUB>

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact John Kessler at (614) 265-6621 if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

John Kessler
ODNR Office of Real Estate
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
John.Kessler@dnr.state.oh.us



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

Ohio Division of Wildlife
Raymond W. Petering, Chief
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
Phone: (614) 265-6300

November 17, 2016

Dan Godec
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
11687 Lebanon Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Dear Mr. Godec,

I have reviewed the Natural Heritage Database for the Lemaster Station project area, including a one mile radius, in York, Dover and Waterloo Townships, Athens County, Ohio. The numbers/letters on the list below correspond to the areas marked on the accompanying map. Common name, scientific name and status are given for each species.

- A. Wayne National Forest – US Forest Service
- B. Hamley Run Floodplain Forest Conservation Site
- 1. *Eupatorium pilosum* – Rough Boneset, recently added to inventory, status not determined
- 2. Breeding Amphibian Site
- 3. *Brachycentrus numerosus* – caddisfly, endangered
- 4. Floodplain Forest Plant Community
- 5. *Terrapene carolina* – Eastern Box Turtle, species of concern
- 6. Mixed Mesophytic Forest Plant Community

A Conservation Site is an area deemed by the Natural Heritage Program to be a high quality natural area not currently under formal protection. It may, for example, harbor one or more rare species, be an outstanding example of a plant community or have geologically significant features, etc. These sites may be in private ownership and our listing of them does not imply permission for access.

We are unaware of any geologic features, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forests or national wildlife refuges or parks within a one mile radius of the project area.

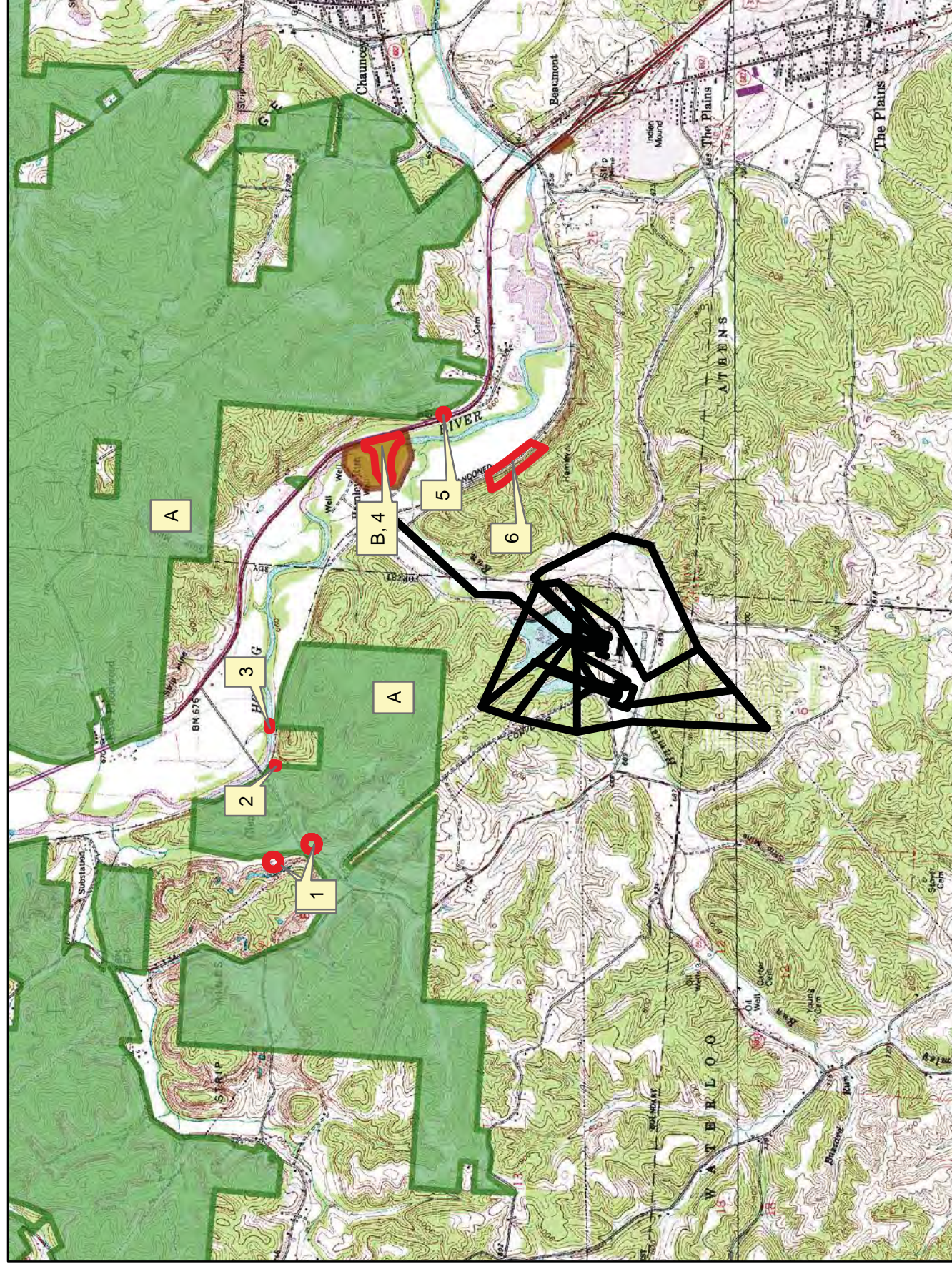
Our inventory program has not completely surveyed Ohio and relies on information supplied by many individuals and organizations. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. This letter only represents a review of rare species and natural features data within the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. It does not fulfill coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 661 et seq.) and does not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Please contact me at 614-265-6818 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Debbie Woischke
Ohio Natural Heritage Program

This is a topographic map of the Waterloo area, featuring several annotations. A large black polygon is drawn over the central part of the map, likely representing a specific area of interest or a boundary. Yellow callout boxes with numbers 1 through 6 and letters A, B, G are placed around the polygon. Red dots are marked at locations 1, 2, 3, and 5. The map shows topographic contours, roads, and various landmarks like 'The Plains' and 'Waterloo'.



Godec, Daniel

From: susan_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:29 AM
To: Godec, Daniel
Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; kate.parsons@dnr.state.oh.us
Subject: Lemaster Electric Transmission Substation Project, Athens Co.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS: 03E15000-2017-TA-0252

Dear Mr. Godec,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. The following comments and recommendations will assist you in fulfilling the requirements for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that proposed developments avoid and minimize water quality impacts and impacts to high quality fish and wildlife habitat (e.g., forests, streams, wetlands). Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. All disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES COMMENTS: All projects in the State of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened **northern long-eared bat** (*Myotis septentrionalis*). In Ohio, presence of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, we recommend that trees ≥ 3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because the project will result in a small amount of forest clearing

relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees ≥ 3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and tree removal is unavoidable, we recommend that removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable. **Please note that, because Indiana bat presence has already been confirmed in the project vicinity, any additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence surveys for this species.**

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the ESA, between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend that the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the ESA, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Service's Mitigation Policy. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact John Kessler, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6621 or at john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan Everson

Field Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW

Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW

Appendix C Representative Photographs

Wetland and Waterbody Photographs

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 1. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing east.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 2. Representative view of upland drainage feature. Photograph taken facing southwest.

Habitat Photographs

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 1. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photo Location 2. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing northeast.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 3. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing west.



Photo Location 3. Representative view of mixed early successional/second growth deciduous/coniferous forest habitat. Photograph taken facing south.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 4. Representative view of industrial habitat. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 5. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing northeast.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project
Athens County, Ohio



Photo Location 5. Representative view of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing east.

Appendix D Data Forms

D.1 WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORMS

Project/Site: Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation		Stantec Project #: 193704783		Date: 11/07/16							
Applicant: Project American Electric Power				County: Athens							
Investigator #1: Aaron Kwolek		Investigator #2: Jody Nicholson		State: Ohio							
Soil Unit: Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes		NWI/WWI Classification: None		Wetland ID: Wetland 1							
Landform: --		Local Relief: Concave		Sample Point: SP-1							
Slope (%): 4%		Latitude: 39.38321744510		Community ID: PEM							
		Longitude: -82.18024529		Datum: NAD83							
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? (If no, explain in remarks)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> significantly disturbed?		Are normal circumstances present?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> naturally problematic?				Section: 1							
				Township: 12N							
				Range: 15W Dir: --							
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS											
Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Hydric Soils Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
Wetland Hydrology Present?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Is This Sampling Point Within A Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
Remarks:											
HYDROLOGY											
Wetland Hydrology Indicators (Check here if indicators are not present): <input type="checkbox"/>											
<u>Primary:</u>			<u>Secondary:</u>								
<input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - High Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Saturation <input type="checkbox"/> B1 - Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> B2 - Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B3 - Drift Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B4 - Algal Mat or Crust <input type="checkbox"/> B5 - Iron Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery			<input type="checkbox"/> B6 - Surface Soil Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> B8 - Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface <input type="checkbox"/> B10 - Drainage Patterns <input type="checkbox"/> B16 - Moss Trim Lines <input type="checkbox"/> C2 - Dry Season Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> C8 - Crayfish Burrows <input type="checkbox"/> C9 - Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> D1 - Stunted or Stressed Plants <input type="checkbox"/> D2 - Geomorphic Position <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D3 - Shallow Aquitard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D4 - Microtopographic Relief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D5 - FAC-Neutral Test								
Field Observations: Surface Water Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.) Water Table Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.) Saturation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.)			Wetland Hydrology Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No								
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available: N/A											
Remarks:											
SOILS											
Map Unit Name: Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes		Series Drainage Class: Somewhat poorly drained									
Taxonomy (Subgroup):											
Profile Description (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.) (Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered/Coated Sand Grains; Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix)											
Top Depth	Bottom Depth	Horizon	Matrix		Mottles		Type	Location	Texture (e.g. clay, sand, loam)		
			Color (Moist)	%	Color (Moist)	%					
0	10	1	10YR	4/2	90	10YR	6/8	10	C	M	silt loam
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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NRCS Hydric Soil Field Indicators (check here if indicators are not present): <input type="checkbox"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> A1- Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Black Histic <input type="checkbox"/> A4 - Hydrogen Sulfide <input type="checkbox"/> A5 - Stratified Layers <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2 cm Muck (LRR N) <input type="checkbox"/> A11 - Depleted Below Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> A12 - Thick Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S1 - Sandy Muck Mineral (LRR N, MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> S4 - Sandy Gleyed Matrix </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> S5 - Sandy Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S6 - Stripped Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> S7 - Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S8 - Polyvalue Below Dark Surface (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> S9 - Thin Dark Surface (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F2 - Loamy Gleyed Matrix <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F3 - Depleted Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F6 - Redox Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F7 - Depleted Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F8 - Redox Depressions </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> F12 - Iron-Manganese Masses (LRR N, MLRA 136) <input type="checkbox"/> F13 - Umbric Surface (MLRA 122, 136) <input type="checkbox"/> F19 - Piedmont Floodplain Soils (MLRA 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F21 - Red Parent Material (MLRA 127, 147) </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2cm Muck (MLRA 147) <input type="checkbox"/> A16 - Coast Prairie Redox (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F19 - Piedmont Floodplain Soils (MLRA 136, 147) <input type="checkbox"/> TF12 - Very Shallow Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) </div> </div>											
Restrictive Layer (If Observed) Type: Rock Depth: 10" <div style="float: right;"> Hydric Soil Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div>											
Remarks:											

¹ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Project/Site: **Lemaster-Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project** Wetland ID: Wetland 1 Sample Point: SP-1

VEGETATION (Species identified in all uppercase are non-native species.)

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

	Species Name	% Cover	Dominant	Ind.Status
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)

1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)

1.	<i>Typha X glauca</i>	70	Y	OBL
2.	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	20	N	FACW
3.	<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	5	N	OBL
4.	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	5	N	FACW
5.	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	5	N	FACW
6.	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	5	N	OBL
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
11.	--	--	--	--
12.	--	--	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--
14.	--	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		110		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Remarks:

Additional Remarks:

Dominance Test Worksheet

Number of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index Worksheet

Total % Cover of:

Multiply by:

OBL spp.	<u>80</u>	x 1 =	<u>80</u>
FACW spp.	<u>30</u>	x 2 =	<u>60</u>
FAC spp.	<u>0</u>	x 3 =	<u>0</u>
FACU spp.	<u>0</u>	x 4 =	<u>0</u>
UPL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>

Total 110 (A) 140 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 1.273

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

Yes	No	Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dominance Test is > 50%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 *
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Morphological Adaptations (Explain) *
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Problem Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain) *
* Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.		

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree - Woody plants 3 in. (7.6cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft. tall.

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft. tall.

Woody Vines - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft. in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present Yes No



Project/Site: Lemaster- Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation		Stantec Project #: 193704783		Date: 11/07/16						
Applicant: Project American Electric Power				County: Athens						
Investigator #1: Aaron Kwolek		Investigator #2: Jody Nicholson		State: Ohio						
Soil Unit: Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes		NWI/WWI Classification: None		Wetland ID: Wetland 1						
Landform: --		Local Relief: Convex		Sample Point: SP-2						
Slope (%): 4%		Latitude: 39.38319645410		Community ID: Upland						
		Longitude: -82.18026061		Datum: NAD83						
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? (If no, explain in remarks)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> significantly disturbed?		Are normal circumstances present?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> naturally problematic?				Section: 1						
				Township: 12N						
				Range: 15W Dir: --						
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS										
Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Hydric Soils Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No						
Wetland Hydrology Present?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		Is This Sampling Point Within A Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Remarks:										
HYDROLOGY										
Wetland Hydrology Indicators (Check here if indicators are not present): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
<u>Primary:</u>			<u>Secondary:</u>							
<input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - High Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Saturation <input type="checkbox"/> B1 - Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> B2 - Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B3 - Drift Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B4 - Algal Mat or Crust <input type="checkbox"/> B5 - Iron Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery			<input type="checkbox"/> B6 - Surface Soil Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> B8 - Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface <input type="checkbox"/> B10 - Drainage Patterns <input type="checkbox"/> B16 - Moss Trim Lines <input type="checkbox"/> C2 - Dry Season Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> C8 - Crayfish Burrows <input type="checkbox"/> C9 - Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> D1 - Stunted or Stressed Plants <input type="checkbox"/> D2 - Geomorphic Position <input type="checkbox"/> D3 - Shallow Aquitard <input type="checkbox"/> D4 - Microtopographic Relief <input type="checkbox"/> D5 - FAC-Neutral Test							
Field Observations: Surface Water Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.) Water Table Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.) Saturation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Depth: (in.)			Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No							
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available: N/A										
Remarks:										
SOILS										
Map Unit Name: Fitchville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes		Series Drainage Class: Somewhat poorly drained								
Taxonomy (Subgroup):										
Profile Description (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.) (Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered/Coated Sand Grains; Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix)										
Top Depth	Bottom Depth	Horizon	Matrix		%	Mottles		Type	Location	Texture (e.g. clay, sand, loam)
			Color (Moist)			Color (Moist)	%			
0	6	1	10YR	4/4	100	--	--	--	--	silt loam
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NRCS Hydric Soil Field Indicators (check here if indicators are not present): <input type="checkbox"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> A1- Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Black Histic <input type="checkbox"/> A4 - Hydrogen Sulfide <input type="checkbox"/> A5 - Stratified Layers <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2 cm Muck (LRR N) <input type="checkbox"/> A11 - Depleted Below Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> A12 - Thick Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S1 - Sandy Muck Mineral (LRR N, MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> S4 - Sandy Gleyed Matrix </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> S5 - Sandy Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S6 - Stripped Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> S7 - Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S8 - Polyvalue Below Dark Surface (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> S9 - Thin Dark Surface (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F2 - Loamy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F3 - Depleted Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F6 - Redox Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F7 - Depleted Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F8 - Redox Depressions </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> F12 - Iron-Manganese Masses (LRR N, MLRA 136) <input type="checkbox"/> F13 - Umbric Surface (MLRA 122, 136) <input type="checkbox"/> F19 - Piedmont Floodplain Soils (MLRA 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F21 - Red Parent Material (MLRA 127, 147) </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2cm Muck (MLRA 147) <input type="checkbox"/> A16 - Coast Prairie Redox (MLRA 147, 148) <input type="checkbox"/> F19 - Piedmont Floodplain Soils (MLRA 136, 147) <input type="checkbox"/> TF12 - Very Shallow Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) </div> </div>										
Restrictive Layer (If Observed) Type: Rock Depth: 6" <div style="float: right;"> Hydric Soil Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </div>										
Remarks:										

¹ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Project/Site: **Lemaster- Strouds Run 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation Project** Wetland ID: Wetland 1 Sample Point: SP-2

VEGETATION (Species identified in all uppercase are non-native species.)

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

	Species Name	% Cover	Dominant	Ind.Status
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)

1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)

1.	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	25	Y	FACU
2.	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	10	N	FAC
3.	<i>Solidago altissima</i>	25	Y	FACU
4.	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	5	N	FACW
5.	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	2	N	FACU
6.	<i>Daucus carota</i>	5	N	UPL
7.	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	5	N	FACU
8.	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	10	N	FACU
9.	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	10	N	FACU
10.	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	5	N	FACU
11.	--	--	--	--
12.	--	--	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--
14.	--	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		102		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Remarks:

Additional Remarks:

Dominance Test Worksheet

Number of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index Worksheet

Total % Cover of:

Multiply by:

OBL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>
FACW spp.	<u>5</u>	x 2 =	<u>10</u>
FAC spp.	<u>10</u>	x 3 =	<u>30</u>
FACU spp.	<u>82</u>	x 4 =	<u>328</u>
UPL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>

Total 97 (A) 368 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.794

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Yes | No | Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Dominance Test is > 50% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Morphological Adaptations (Explain) * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | Problem Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain) * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> * Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic. | | |

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree - Woody plants 3 in. (7.6cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft. tall.

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft. tall.

Woody Vines - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft. in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present Yes No

☐

☒

LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION PROJECT, ATHENS
COUNTY, OHIO

D.2 ORAM DATA FORMS

Version 5.0	Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands 10 Page Form for Wetland Categorization	
	Background Information Scoring Boundary Worksheet Narrative Rating Field Form Quantitative Rating ORAM Summary Worksheet Wetland Categorization Worksheet	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Final: February 1, 2001

Instructions

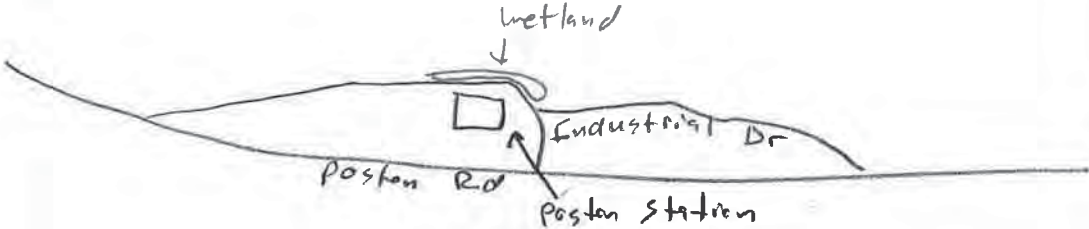
The investigator is *STRONGLY URGED* to read the Manual for Using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands for further elaboration and discussion of the questions below prior to using the rating forms.

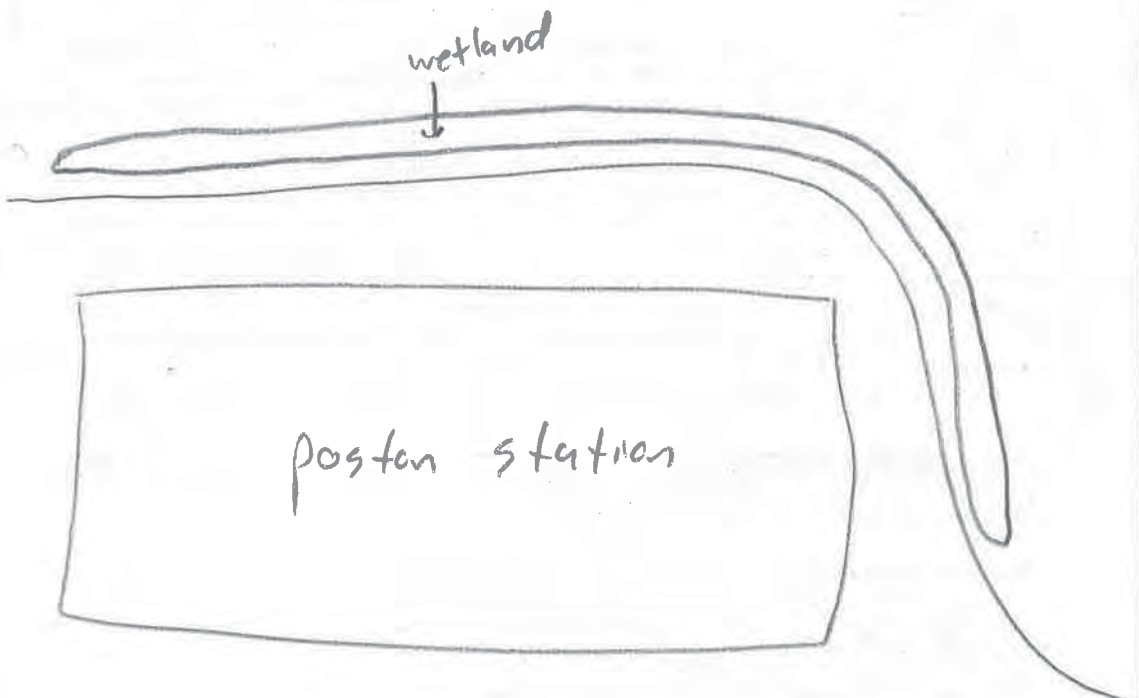
The Narrative Rating is designed to categorize a wetland or to provide alerts to the Rater based on the presence or possible presence of threatened or endangered species. The presence or proximity of such species is often an indicator of the quality and lack of disturbance of the wetland being evaluated. In addition, it is designed to categorize certain wetlands as very low quality (Category 1) or very high quality (Category 3) regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating. In addition, the Narrative Rating also alerts the investigator that a particular wetland *may* be a Category 3 wetland, again, regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating.

It is *VERY IMPORTANT* to properly and thoroughly answer each of the questions in the ORAM in order to properly categorize a wetland. To *properly* answer all the questions, the boundaries of the wetland being assessed must be correctly identified. Refer to Scoring Boundary worksheet and the User's Manual for a discussion of how to determine the "scoring boundaries." In some instances, the scoring boundaries may differ from the "jurisdictional boundaries."

Refer to the most recent ORAM Score Calibration Report for the scoring breakpoints between wetland categories. The most recent version of this document is posted on Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water web page at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wetlands/WetlandEcologySection.aspx>

Background Information

Name:	Aaron Kwalek		
Date:	11/14/16		
Affiliation:	Stantec		
Address:	11687 Lebanon Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241		
Phone Number:	513 842 8200		
e-mail address:	Aaron.Kwalek@stantec.com		
Name of Wetland:	wetland 1		
Vegetation Community(ies):	PEM		
HGM Class(es):	Depressional		
Location of Wetland: include map, address, north arrow, landmarks, distances, roads, etc.			
Lat/Long or UTM Coordinate	39.383058, -82.178780		
USGS Quad Name	Nelsonville		
County	Athens		
Township	The Plains		
Section and Subsection	Sec 1 T12N R15W		
Hydrologic Unit Code	050302040801		
Site Visit	11/7/16		
National Wetland Inventory Map			
Ohio Wetland Inventory Map	None		
Soil Survey	FAA - Fitchville silt loam, 0-3% slopes		
Delineation report/map	See Jurisdictional Waters Delineation Report		

Name of Wetland: <u>wetland 1</u>	
Wetland Size (acres, hectares): <u>0.06 ac</u>	
Sketch: Include north arrow, relationship with other surface waters, vegetation zones, etc.	
	
Comments, Narrative Discussion, Justification of Category Changes:	
Final score : <u>12</u>	Category: <u>1</u>

Scoring Boundary Worksheet

Wetland 1

INSTRUCTIONS. The initial step in completing the ORAM is to identify the “scoring boundaries” of the wetland being rated. In many instances this determination will be relatively easy and the scoring boundaries will coincide with the “jurisdictional boundaries.” For example, the scoring boundary of an isolated cattail marsh located in the middle of a farm field will likely be the same as that wetland’s jurisdictional boundaries. In other instances, however, the scoring boundary will not be as easily determined. Wetlands that are small or isolated from other surface waters often form large contiguous areas or heterogeneous complexes of wetland and upland. In separating wetlands for scoring purposes, the hydrologic regime of the wetland is the main criterion that should be used. Boundaries between contiguous or connected wetlands should be established where the volume, flow, or velocity of water moving through the wetland changes significantly. *Areas with a high degree of hydrologic interaction should be scored as a single wetland.* In determining a wetland’s scoring boundaries, use the guidelines in the ORAM Manual Section 5.0. In certain instances, it may be difficult to establish the scoring boundary for the wetland being rated. These problem situations include wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, wetlands divided by artificial boundaries like property fences, roads, or railroad embankments, wetlands that are contiguous with streams, lakes, or rivers, and estuarine or coastal wetlands. These situations are discussed below, however, it is recommended that Rater contact Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401/Wetlands Section if there are additional questions or a need for further clarification of the appropriate scoring boundaries of a particular wetland.

#	Steps in properly establishing scoring boundaries	done?	not applicable
Step 1	Identify the wetland area of interest. This may be the site of a proposed impact, a reference site, conservation site, etc.	✓	
Step 2	Identify the locations where there is physical evidence that hydrology changes rapidly. Such evidence includes both natural and human-induced changes including, constrictions caused by berms or dikes, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, or other factors that may restrict hydrologic interaction between the wetlands or parts of a single wetland.	✓	
Step 3	Delineate the boundary of the wetland to be rated such that all areas of interest that are contiguous to and within the areas where the hydrology does not change significantly, i.e. areas that have a high degree of hydrologic interaction are included within the scoring boundary.	✓	
Step 4	Determine if artificial boundaries, such as property lines, state lines, roads, railroad embankments, etc., are present. These should not be used to establish scoring boundaries unless they coincide with areas where the hydrologic regime changes.	✓	
Step 5	In all instances, the Rater may enlarge the minimum scoring boundaries discussed here to score together wetlands that could be scored separately.	✓	
Step 6	Consult ORAM Manual Section 5.0 for how to establish scoring boundaries for wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, divided by artificial boundaries, contiguous to streams, lakes or rivers, or for dual classifications.	✓	

End of Scoring Boundary Determination. Begin Narrative Rating on next page.

Narrative Rating

wetland 1

INSTRUCTIONS. Answer each of the following questions. Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be answered based on information obtained from the site visit or the literature *and* by submitting a Data Services Request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Natural Heritage Data Services, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Building F-1, Columbus, Ohio 43224, 614-265-6453 (phone), 614-265-3096 (fax), <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap>. The remaining questions are designed to be answered primarily by the results of the site visit. Refer to the User's Manual for descriptions of these wetland types. Note: "Critical habitat" is legally defined in the Endangered Species Act and is the geographic area containing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species or as an area that may require special management considerations or protection. The Rater should contact the Region 3 Headquarters or the Columbus Ecological Services Office for updates as to whether critical habitat has been designated for other federally listed threatened or endangered species. "Documented" means the wetland is listed in the appropriate State of Ohio database.

#	Question	Circle one	
1	Critical Habitat. Is the wetland in a township, section, or subsection of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle that has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for any threatened or endangered plant or animal species? Note: as of January 1, 2001, of the federally listed endangered or threatened species which can be found in Ohio, the Indiana Bat has had critical habitat designated (50 CFR 17.95(a)) and the piping plover has had critical habitat proposed (65 FR 41812 July 6, 2000).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 2	NO Go to Question 2
2	Threatened or Endangered Species. Is the wetland known to contain an individual of, or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 3	NO Go to Question 3
3	Documented High Quality Wetland. Is the wetland on record in Natural Heritage Database as a high quality wetland?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 4	NO Go to Question 4
4	Significant Breeding or Concentration Area. Does the wetland contain documented regionally significant breeding or nonbreeding waterfowl, neotropical songbird, or shorebird concentration areas?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 5	NO Go to Question 5
5	Category 1 Wetlands. Is the wetland less than 0.5 hectares (1 acre) in size and hydrologically isolated and either 1) comprised of vegetation that is dominated (greater than eighty per cent areal cover) by <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , or <i>Phragmites australis</i> , or 2) an acidic pond created or excavated on mined lands that has little or no vegetation?	YES Wetland is a Category 1 wetland Go to Question 6	NO Go to Question 6
6	Bogs. Is the wetland a peat-accumulating wetland that 1) has no significant inflows or outflows, 2) supports acidophilic mosses, particularly <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., 3) the acidophilic mosses have >30% cover, 4) at least one species from Table 1 is present, and 5) the cover of invasive species (see Table 1) is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 7	NO Go to Question 7
7	Fens. Is the wetland a carbon accumulating (peat, muck) wetland that is saturated during most of the year, primarily by a discharge of free flowing, mineral rich, ground water with a circumneutral pH (5.5-9.0) and with one or more plant species listed in Table 1 and the cover of invasive species listed in Table 1 is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 8a	NO Go to Question 8a
8a	"Old Growth Forest." Is the wetland a forested wetland and is the forest characterized by, but not limited to, the following characteristics: overstory canopy trees of great age (exceeding at least 50% of a projected maximum attainable age for a species); little or no evidence of human-caused understory disturbance during the past 80 to 100 years; an all-aged structure and multilayered canopies; aggregations of canopy trees interspersed with canopy gaps; and significant numbers of standing dead snags and downed logs?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 8b	NO Go to Question 8b

wetland 1

8b	Mature forested wetlands. Is the wetland a forested wetland with 50% or more of the cover of upper forest canopy consisting of deciduous trees with large diameters at breast height (dbh), generally diameters greater than 45cm (17.7in) dbh?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status. Go to Question 9a	NO Go to Question 9a
9a	Lake Erie coastal and tributary wetlands. Is the wetland located at an elevation less than 575 feet on the USGS map, adjacent to this elevation, or along a tributary to Lake Erie that is accessible to fish?	YES Go to Question 9b	NO Go to Question 10
9b	Does the wetland's hydrology result from measures designed to prevent erosion and the loss of aquatic plants, i.e. the wetland is partially hydrologically restricted from Lake Erie due to lakeward or landward dikes or other hydrological controls?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9c
9c	Are Lake Erie water levels the wetland's primary hydrological influence, i.e. the wetland is hydrologically unrestricted (no lakeward or upland border alterations), or the wetland can be characterized as an "estuarine" wetland with lake and river influenced hydrology. These include sandbar deposition wetlands, estuarine wetlands, river mouth wetlands, or those dominated by submersed aquatic vegetation.	YES Go to Question 9d	NO Go to Question 10
9d	Does the wetland have a predominance of native species within its vegetation communities, although non-native or disturbance tolerant native species can also be present?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9e
9e	Does the wetland have a predominance of non-native or disturbance tolerant native plant species within its vegetation communities?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 10
10	Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) Is the wetland located in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, or Wood Counties and can the wetland be characterized by the following description: the wetland has a sandy substrate with interspersed organic matter, a water table often within several inches of the surface, and often with a dominance of the gramineous vegetation listed in Table 1 (woody species may also be present). The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can provide assistance in confirming this type of wetland and its quality.	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 11	NO Go to Question 11
11	Relict Wet Prairies. Is the wetland a relict wet prairie community dominated by some or all of the species in Table 1. Extensive prairies were formerly located in the Darby Plains (Madison and Union Counties), Sandusky Plains (Wyandot, Crawford, and Marion Counties), northwest Ohio (e.g. Erie, Huron, Lucas, Wood Counties), and portions of western Ohio Counties (e.g. Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Van Wert etc.).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Complete Quantitative Rating	NO Complete Quantitative Rating

wetland 1

Table 1. Characteristic plant species.

invasive/exotic spp	fen species	bog species	Oak Opening species	wet prairie species
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Zygadenus elegans</i> var. <i>glaucus</i>	<i>Calla palustris</i>	<i>Carex cryptolepis</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	<i>Cacalia plantaginea</i>	<i>Carex atlantica</i> var. <i>capillacea</i>	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>
<i>Najas minor</i>	<i>Carex flava</i>	<i>Carex echinata</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex atherodes</i>
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	<i>Carex oligosperma</i>	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex trisperma</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	<i>Carex pellita</i>
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	<i>Carex sartwellii</i>
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	<i>Eriophorum viridicarinarum</i>	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>		<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	<i>Gentianopsis</i> spp.	<i>Larix laricina</i>		<i>Liatris spicata</i>
<i>Typha xglauca</i>	<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>	<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>		<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>
	<i>Parnassia glauca</i>	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>		<i>Lythrum alatum</i>
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.		<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>		<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>
	<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>		<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
	<i>Salix candida</i>	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>		<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
	<i>Salix myricoides</i>	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>		<i>Solidago riddellii</i>
	<i>Salix serissima</i>	<i>Xyris difformis</i>		
	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>			
	<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>			
	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>			
	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>			

End of Narrative Rating. Begin Quantitative Rating on next page.

Site: <u>Wetland 1</u>	Rater(s): <u>ASK</u>	Date: <u>11/7/16</u>
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0	0
max 6 pts.	subtotal

Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

Select one size class and assign score.

- ☐ >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
- ☐ 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
- ☐ 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
- ☐ 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
- ☐ 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
- ☒ 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
- ☐ <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

3	3
max 14 pts.	subtotal

Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.

- ☐ WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
- ☐ MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
- ☒ NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
- ☐ VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)

2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.

- ☐ VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
- ☐ LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
- ☒ MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
- ☒ HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

4	7
max 30 pts.	subtotal

Metric 3. Hydrology.

3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.

- ☐ High pH groundwater (5)
- ☐ Other groundwater (3)
- ☒ Precipitation (1)
- ☐ Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
- ☐ Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)

3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.

- ☐ >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
- ☐ 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
- ☒ <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)

3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (12)
- ☐ Recovered (7)
- ☒ Recovering (3)
- ☐ Recent or no recovery (1)

3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.

- ☐ 100 year floodplain (1)
- ☐ Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
- ☐ Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
- ☐ Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)

3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.

- ☐ Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
- ☐ Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
- ☐ Seasonally inundated (2)
- ☒ Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ditch <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dike <input type="checkbox"/> weir <input type="checkbox"/> stormwater input	<input type="checkbox"/> point source (nonstormwater) <input type="checkbox"/> filling/grading <input type="checkbox"/> road bed/RR track <input type="checkbox"/> dredging <input type="checkbox"/> other

4/	11
max 20 pts.	subtotal

Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (4)
- ☐ Recovered (3)
- ☒ Recovering (2)
- ☐ Recent or no recovery (1)

4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.

- ☐ Excellent (7)
- ☐ Very good (6)
- ☐ Good (5)
- ☐ Moderately good (4)
- ☐ Fair (3)
- ☐ Poor to fair (2)
- ☒ Poor (1)

4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.

- ☐ None or none apparent (9)
- ☐ Recovered (6)
- ☐ Recovering (3)
- ☒ Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input type="checkbox"/> mowing <input type="checkbox"/> grazing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> clearcutting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> selective cutting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> woody debris removal <input type="checkbox"/> toxic pollutants	<input type="checkbox"/> shrub/sapling removal <input type="checkbox"/> herbaceous/aquatic bed removal <input type="checkbox"/> sedimentation <input type="checkbox"/> dredging <input type="checkbox"/> farming <input type="checkbox"/> nutrient enrichment

11
subtotal this page

Site: <u>wetland 1</u>	Rater(s): <u>ATK</u>	Date: <u>11/7/16</u>
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11

subtotal first page

0	11
max 10 pts	subtotal

Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

Check all that apply and score as indicated

- ☐ Bog (10)
- ☐ Fen (10)
- ☐ Old growth forest (10)
- ☐ Mature forested wetland (5)
- ☐ Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- ☐ Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- ☐ Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- ☐ Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- ☐ Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- ☐ Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- ☐ Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

1	12
max 20 pts	subtotal

Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography.

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale

- ☐ Aquatic bed
- ☒ Emergent
- ☐ Shrub
- ☐ Forest
- ☐ Mudflats
- ☐ Open water
- ☐ Other

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersions.

Select only one.

- ☐ High (5)
- ☐ Moderately high (4)
- ☐ Moderate (3)
- ☐ Moderately low (2)
- ☐ Low (1)
- ☒ None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- ☐ Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- ☒ Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- ☐ Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- ☐ Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- ☐ Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- ☐ Vegetated hummocks/tussucks
- ☐ Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- ☐ Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- ☒ Amphibian breeding pools

Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

12

End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.

ORAM Summary Worksheet

wetland 1

		circle answer or insert score	Result
Narrative Rating	Question 1 Critical Habitat	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 2. Threatened or Endangered Species	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 3. High Quality Natural Wetland	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 4. Significant bird habitat	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 5. Category 1 Wetlands	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 1.
	Question 6. Bogs	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 7. Fens	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8a. Old Growth Forest	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8b. Mature Forested Wetland	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9b. Lake Erie Wetlands - Restricted	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9d. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with native plants	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3
Quantitative Rating	Question 9e. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with invasive plants	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 10. Oak Openings	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, Category 3
	Question 11. Relict Wet Prairies	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Metric 1. Size	6	
	Metric 2. Buffers and surrounding land use	3	
	Metric 3. Hydrology	4	
	Metric 4. Habitat	21	
	Metric 5. Special Wetland Communities	6	
Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography	1		
	TOTAL SCORE	12	Category based on score breakpoints

Complete Wetland Categorization Worksheet.

Wetland Categorization Worksheet

wetland 1

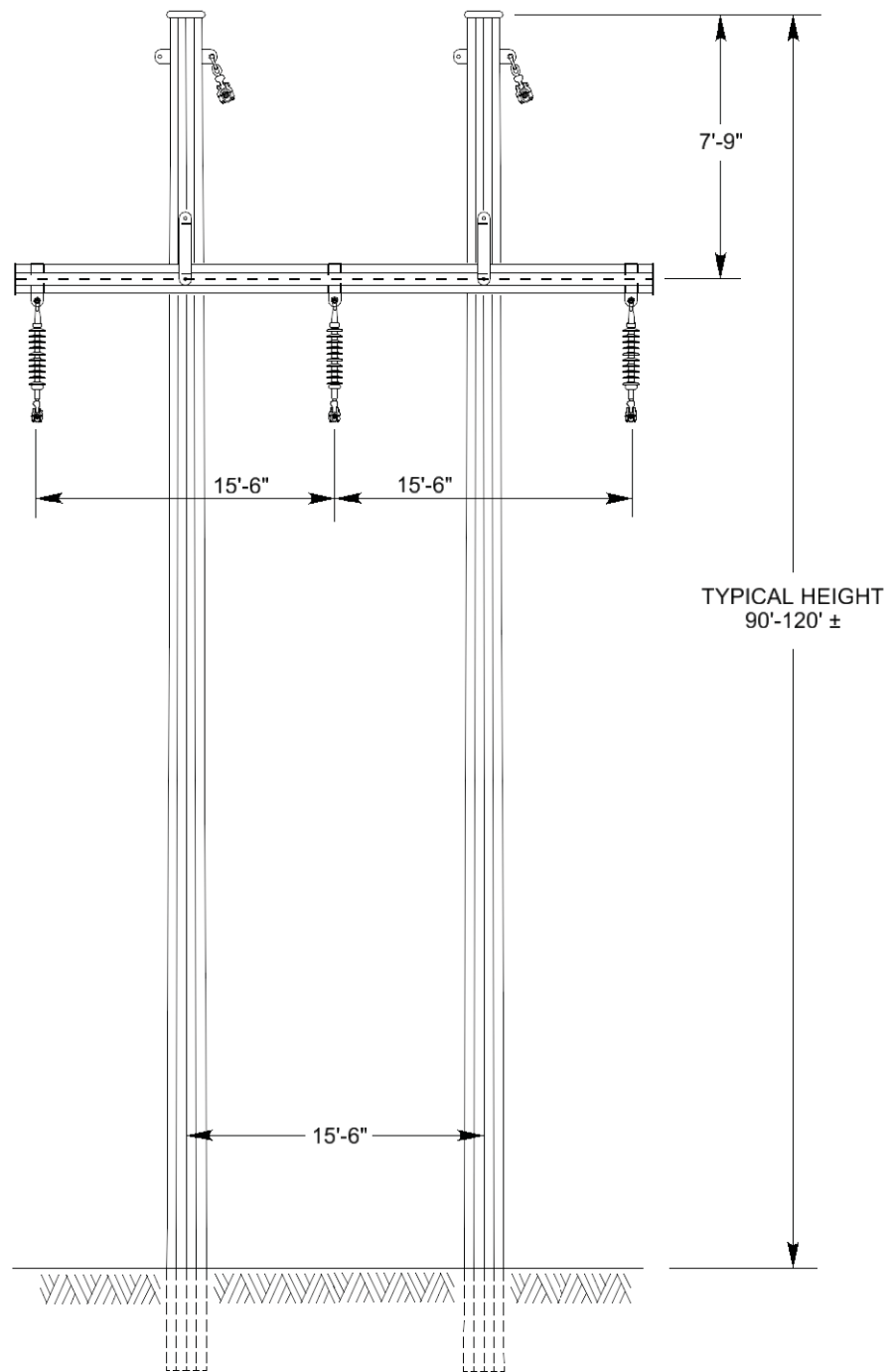
Choices	Circle one	Evaluation of Categorization Result of ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8a, 9d, 10	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 3 wetland	NO Is quantitative rating score <i>less</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold (<i>excluding</i> gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been over-categorized by the ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 1, 8b, 9b, 9e, 11	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status	NO Evaluate the wetland using the 1) narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and 2) the quantitative rating score. If the wetland is determined to be a Category 3 wetland using either of these, it should be categorized as a Category 3 wetland. Detailed biological and/or functional assessments may also be used to determine the wetland's category.
Did you answer "Yes" to Narrative Rating No. 5	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 1 wetland	NO Is quantitative rating score <i>greater</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold (<i>including</i> any gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been under-categorized by the ORAM
Does the quantitative score fall within the scoring range of a Category 1, 2, or 3 wetland?	YES Wetland is assigned to the appropriate category based on the scoring range	NO If the score of the wetland is located within the scoring range for a particular category, the wetland should be assigned to that category. In all instances however, the narrative criteria described in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) can be used to clarify or change a categorization based on a quantitative score.
Does the quantitative score fall with the "gray zone" for Category 1 or 2 or Category 2 or 3 wetlands?	YES Wetland is assigned to the higher of the two categories or assigned to a category based on detailed assessments and the narrative criteria	NO Rater has the option of assigning the wetland to the higher of the two categories or to assign a category based on the results of a nonrapid wetland assessment method, e.g. functional assessment, biological assessment, etc, and a consideration of the narrative criteria in OAC rule 3745-1-54(C).
Does the wetland otherwise exhibit <i>moderate OR superior</i> hydrologic OR habitat, OR recreational functions AND the wetland was <i>not</i> categorized as a Category 2 wetland (in the case of moderate functions) or a Category 3 wetland (in the case of superior functions) by this method?	YES Wetland was undercategorized by this method. A written justification for recategorization should be provided on Background Information Form	NO Wetland is assigned to category as determined by the ORAM. A wetland may be undercategorized using this method, but still exhibit one or more superior functions, e.g. a wetland's biotic communities may be degraded by human activities, but the wetland may still exhibit superior hydrologic functions because of its type, landscape position, size, local or regional significance, etc. In this circumstance, the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) and (3) are controlling, and the under-categorization should be corrected. A written justification with supporting reasons or information for this determination should be provided.

Choose one **Final Category**
 Category 1 Category 2 Category 3

End of Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands.

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR LEMASTER-STROUDS RUN 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATION
PROJECT UPDATE

Appendix C. Structure Design and Phasing Diagrams

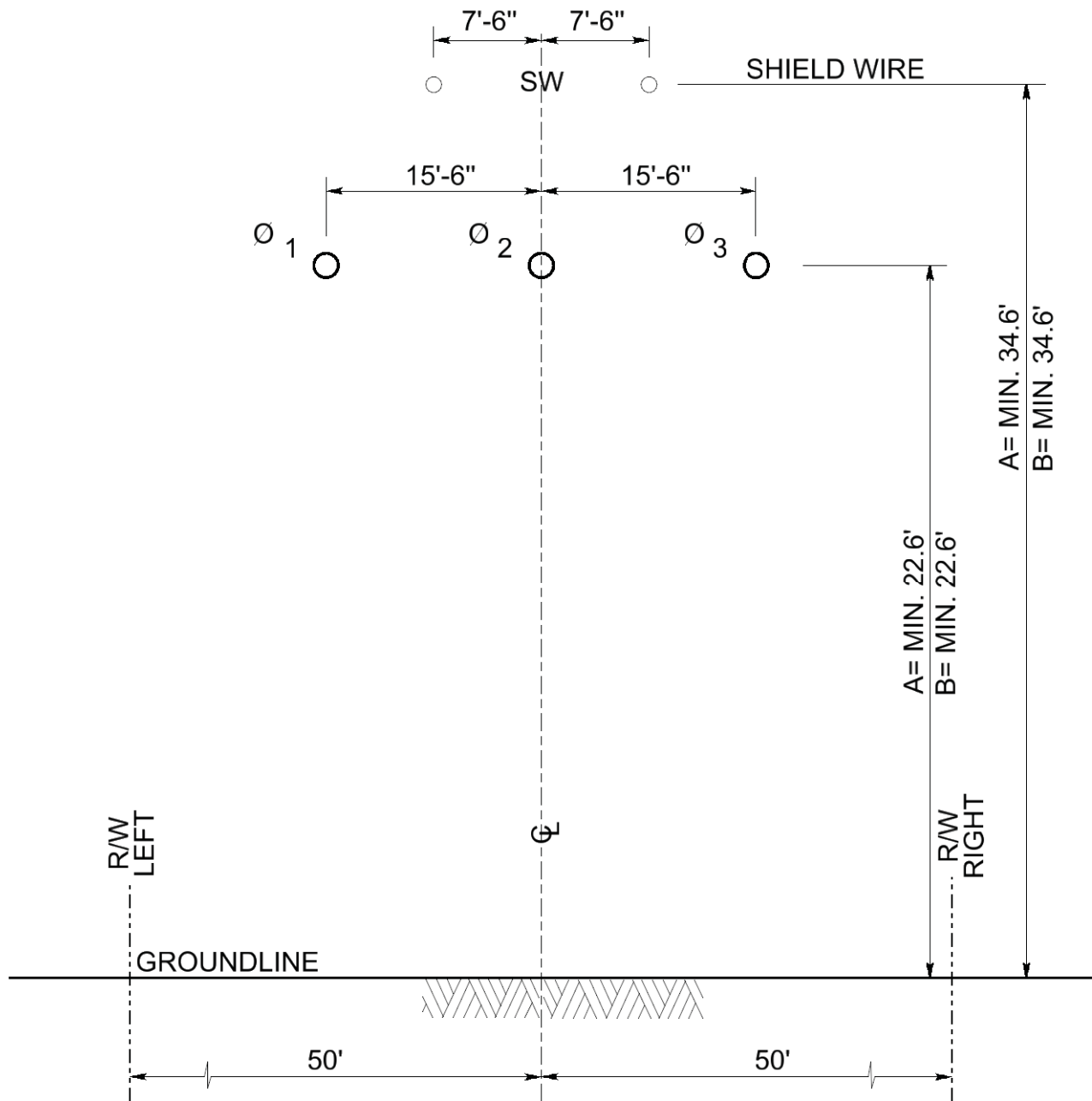


LEEMASTER - STROUDS RUN
138kV LINE

TYPICAL TANGENT STRUCTURE
TUBULAR STEEL
H-FRAME SUSPENSION

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 1



DIMENSION "A" SINGLE CIRCUIT - HOR. CONFIGURATION (STEEL POLE)
(UNDER EMERGENCY & NORMAL MAX. LINE LOADING)

DIMENSION "B" SINGLE CIRCUIT - HOR. CONFIGURATION (STEEL POLE)
(UNDER WINTER NORMAL CONDUCTOR RATING)



LEEMASTER - STROUDS RUN
138kV LINE

TYPICAL PHASE ARRANGEMENT
STEEL POLE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 17-2441-EL-BLN

Summary: Letter of Notification electronically filed by Ms. Christen M. Blend on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Power Company, Inc.