

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice** )  
**Application of Dominion Energy Ohio for the** ) **17-2456-GA-BNR**  
**Austintown Transmission Station Replacement Project** )

Members of the Board:

Chairman, Public Utilities Commission	Ohio House of Representatives
Director, Development Services Agency	Ohio Senate
Director, Department of Health	
Director, Department of Agriculture	
Director, Environmental Protection Agency	
Director, Department of Natural Resources	
Public Member	

To the Honorable Power Siting Board:

Please review the attached Staff Report of Investigation, which has been filed in accordance with Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) rules. The accelerated certificate application in this case is subject to an automatic approval process as required by Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.03 and Ohio Administrative Code 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on January 4, 2018, unless suspended by the Board, an administrative law judge, or the chairperson or executive director of the board for good cause shown. If suspended, the Board must render a decision on the application within 90 days from the date of suspension.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office at least four business days prior to January 4, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Tamara S. Turkenton  
Director, Rates and Analysis  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
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## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case No.:** 17-2456-GA-BNR  
**Project Name:** Austintown Transmission Station Project  
**Project Location:** Mahoning County  
**Applicant:** Dominion Energy Ohio  
**Application Filing Date:** December 13, 2017  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** December 19, 2017  
**Report Date:** December 28, 2017  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** January 4, 2018  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** A. Holderbaum

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

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

### Project Description

Dominion Energy Ohio (Applicant) proposes to replace an existing metering and regulation station. The project area is located in Austintown, Mahoning County. Existing public roadways, private roadways, and the Applicant's existing right-of-way would provide access to the facility during construction. The entire project would take place within the Applicant's existing metering and regulation station site.

Approximately 0.37 mile of new pipeline, of various sizes, would be installed. The 0.37 mile of new pipeline would consist of 30 feet of 30-inch pipeline, 170 feet of 26-inch pipeline, 15 feet of 24-inch pipeline, 1,200 feet of 20-inch pipeline, 20 feet of 18-inch pipeline, 8 feet of 16-inch pipeline, and 530 feet of 12-inch pipeline. The replacement pipelines would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 600 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.375 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would replace 104 valves with 15 new automated valves and 127 new manually operated valves. The Applicant would also replace 24 pressure regulators with 11 new pressure regulators. Two new meters would be installed and eighteen existing meters would be removed. Two new launcher receivers would replace the two launcher receivers currently in use. The Applicant would replace the current heater with a new heater, install a new filter and in place of six existing filters, and install a new 100 barrel tank. The Applicant proposes to begin construction

on March 1, 2018 and place the line in-service by the end of September 2018. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$6.5 million.

### **Basis of Need**

The Applicant states the existing station consists of a large amount of vintage piping and components from 1948-1950 including bare steel piping. The Applicant states the existing station is aging and obsolete and needs to be replaced. The station moves gas from the Applicant's high pressure transmission pipelines to regional distribution systems for delivery to the Applicant's customers. The station is a critical asset for the Applicant and the proposed pipeline replacement is essential for the new station. The Applicant states there are currently six leaks within the station and replacement parts for the existing equipment are not available as the existing regulators are over 40 years old.

### **Nature of Impacts**

#### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners. Temporary easements would not be required from adjacent property owners for access roads nor laydown areas. No roads would be crossed or impacted by the project. The Applicant states potential laydown areas would be selected by the contractor for the project. The Applicant anticipates the potential laydown areas would be located on existing property owned by the Applicant. The Applicant stated that it would provide Staff with the selected laydown area locations once selected.

#### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project on October 27, 2017. No historic features, listed properties or archaeological features were found. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

#### *Surface Waters*

No streams, wetlands or ponds are located within the project area. No impacts to surface waters are anticipated.

#### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

State and federally-listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant states no tree clearing would be required for this project, therefore no impacts to these species are anticipated.

The project lies within the range of the state endangered and federal candidate eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), and the federal species of concern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Due to the location and lack of suitable habitat within the project area, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

The Applicant is currently coordinating with the ODNR for any additional state-listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area. The Applicant would provide Staff with any comments from the ODNR review of the project and continue coordination with the ODNR and Staff based on the ODNR comments.

## **Conclusion**

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on January 4, 2018, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

## **Conditions**

1. Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations. The Applicant shall provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, to Staff within seven days of issuance or receipt by the Applicant.
2. Prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit to Staff, for review and confirmation that it complies with this condition, a project construction plan which includes the specific locations of its laydown areas. If the specific locations chosen appear to have additional adverse impacts, the Applicant shall either propose different specific locations without such impacts, or refile its application.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**12/28/2017 8:21:58 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-2456-GA-BNR**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Jason Cross on behalf of Siting Staff