

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for the East)
Lima-Marysville 345 kV Transmission Line Extension) Case No. 18-0256-EL-BNR
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 March 26, 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 March 26, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
Chief of Siting, Efficiency and Renewables Division
Rates and Analysis Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-7707
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 18-0256-EL-BNR
Project Name: East Lima-Marysville 345 kV Transmission Line Extension Project
Project Location: Hardin County
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Application Filing Date: March 2, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: March 13, 2018
Report Date: March 19, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: March 26, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: D. Collins, J. Cross

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description and Need

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to extend approximately 0.2 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the East Lima-Marysville 345 kV Transmission Line to the anticipated Hardin Switch Station. The project would involve the construction of five steel pole structures for two transmission line extensions, each approximately 0.04 miles long, to tap into the Hardin Switch Station. The Hardin Switch Station would be constructed as part of the Hardin Wind Farm project (see Case No. 09-0479-EL-BGN).

The project is located in McDonald Township, Hardin County. The new construction would occur on right-of-way belonging to Ohio Power Company and on the Hardin Wind Energy LLC. The Applicant intends to begin construction in the first or second quarter of 2018, with an in-service date in October 2018. The total cost of construction is estimated at \$1,800,000.

The Applicant states that the proposed project is necessary to interconnect the proposed Hardin Wind Project to the electric transmission grid. AEP Ohio Transco would loop the East Lima- Marysville 345 kV circuit in and out of the Hardin Switch Station. This project is required by PJM Interconnection LLC generation, based on evaluations conducted under queue positions

U2-041 and V3-028. The Applicant has executed Interconnection Service Agreements and Construction Service Agreements applicable to both queue positions.^{1, 2}

Nature of Impacts

Land use in the proximity of the project is agricultural or residential. The project is located completely within existing right-of-way and easement modifications are not required. The Applicant conducted a cultural resource survey to determine potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey results indicate that no adverse effects to historical properties and archaeological sites are expected. No other institutional or sensitive land uses or agricultural district land, are present in the project area. The proposed transmission line extension would not result in adverse impacts to streams, wetlands, or the habitat of federal or state listed species.

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 March 26, 2018.

1 PJM Interconnection, LLC is the regional transmission organization charged with planning for upgrades and administering the generation queue for the regional transmission system in Ohio. Generators wanting to interconnect to the bulk electric transmission system located in the PJM control area are required to submit an interconnection application for review of system impacts. The interconnection process provides for the construction of expansions and upgrades of the PJM transmission system, as needed to maintain compliance with reliability criteria with the addition of generation in its footprint.

2. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Docket No. ER13-1981-000, issue date August 12, 2013, <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>.

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Case No(s). 18-0256-EL-BNR

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