

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public)
Need for the Clark-Greene 138 kV and Clark-East) Case No. 18-0226-EL-BLN
Springfield 138 kV Transmission Lines Rebuild 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 April 5, 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 April 5, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
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Rates and Analysis Department
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 18-0226-EL-BLN
Project Name: Clark-Greene 138 kV and Clark-East Springfield
138 kV Transmission Lines Rebuild
Project Location: Clark County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: March 7, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: March 16, 2018
Report Date: March 29, 2018
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** April 5, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell and J. Cross

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) is proposing a partial transmission line rebuild for a 7.8-mile section of the existing Clark-Green and Clark-East Springfield 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. A total of 46 wood pole structures would be replaced with single wood poles, laminate poles or single steel poles. All replacement structures would be installed in approximately the same locations as the existing wood poles. The total estimated capital cost of the project is approximately \$2,000,000.

The Clark-Greene 138 kV and Clark-East Springfield 138 kV transmission lines were constructed between the years 1962 and 1967. ATSI states that failing insulators have caused customer outages along the transmission line. During field inspections, the Applicant noticed damage to the wood pole structures which cause strength issues and non-compliance with the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code. The structures to be replaced do not meet minimum loading requirements defined in Section 250 of the 2017 NESC. ATSI did not include the proposed project in its most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, as the project was not known at that time.

In addition, the Applicant did not submit this proposal as a supplemental project to PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM). In response to Staff data requests, the Applicant indicated that it typically only submits supplemental projects to PJM that would alter the existing topology of the transmission system.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Springfield Township and the City of Springfield. The project area is surrounded by agricultural, industrial, commercial, vacant, wooded, low-to-moderate density rural residential and railroad land uses. No institutional or other sensitive land uses are present in the vicinity. The project would be located within existing right-of-way and no new easements need to be acquired.

ATSI conducted a cultural resource review to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The Applicant's review determined that adverse impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant performed an ecological resources survey of the project area to determine potential impacts to sensitive resources. The survey focused on wetlands, streams, waterbodies and threatened/endangered species. As part of the Applicant's investigation, ATSI coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services.

The project's type, size, location and time-frame help preclude permanent adverse impacts to ecological resources. No tree clearing or significant vegetative removal is anticipated and no in-water work is proposed. Temporary disturbances to wetlands and streams would be avoided or minimized through the implementation of a construction access plan and by the utilization of Best Management Practices such as temporary bridging and construction matting.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on April 5, 2018, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

Conditions

- (1) Prior to construction, the Applicant shall submit to Staff, for review and confirmation that it complies with this condition, a project construction plan that provides the specific locations of its laydown areas and access roads that avoid or minimize adverse impacts to ecological areas of significance.
- (2) The Applicant shall include this project in its 2018 Long-Term Forecast Report.

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in

Case No(s). 18-0226-EL-BLN

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