

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
the City of New Albany for a Certificate of)
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the) Case No. 18-0683-EL-BNR
Beech Road Duct Bank 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 May 18, 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 May 18, 2018, which is the automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 18-0683-EL-BNR
Project Name: Beech Road Duct Bank Project
Project Location: Licking County
Applicant: The City of New Albany
Application Filing Date: April 30, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Dates: May 8, 2018
Report Date: May 11, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: May 18, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, J. Cross, A. Holderbaum

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description and Need

The City of New Albany (Applicant or City) proposes to construct four parallel duct banks under Beech Road in Licking County. The length of each duct bank would be 150 feet. The City anticipates that these duct banks would house 138 kV transmission circuits at a later date to serve adjacent anticipated development. The City of New Albany would initially pay for the duct banks as part of the overall Beech Road improvement project, subject to reimbursement by potential parties once a letter of commitment has been entered into for electric service.

The City is requesting approval to install the duct banks while the road is being constructed, rather than at a later date after construction of the new roadway has been completed. The siting of any future major utility electric transmission circuits that could potentially use these duct banks would be the subject of a future filing before the OPSB. Staff notes that the recommended approval of these four duct banks does not preclude the use of a different route or form of construction for any future major utility facility electric transmission circuit in the vicinity of these duct banks.

The capital costs for the duct banks would be approximately \$430,000 and would initially be paid by the City of New Albany.

The Applicant proposes to begin construction in May 2018, with an in-service date of June 2018.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic

The project area is located in Licking County, approximately 2,000 feet south of State Route 161. Construction of Beech Road is presently ongoing. Land use in the vicinity of the project area is roadway use, residential, commercial/industrial and agricultural. Development has been occurring on parcels east and west of Beech Road. There are no residences located within 100 feet of the site.

The Applicant states that they (City) own the property where the duct banks would be constructed. The New Albany Company owns the adjacent property on both the east and west sides of Beech Road, where future development is expected to occur.

Because the limits of this project are existing roadway which is being removed and rebuilt along with the City's public infrastructure improvements, no impacts to cultural resources or historic properties are anticipated.

Ecological Impacts

No impacts to surface waters are anticipated. The Applicant has submitted a notice of intent (NOI) permit for the public infrastructure replacement work being conducted at the site location. A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is in place per the Applicant in accordance with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Stormwater General Permit requirements.

While several threatened and endangered species are known to occur in Licking County, as this duct bank project will occur under a developed roadway, suitable habitats for these species are not present. No tree clearing would be required for this project, and there are no wetlands or streams at the immediate site. Impacts to state and federal listed threatened, endangered, and rare species are not anticipated.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Subject to the following condition, Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on May 18, 2018.

Condition:

- (1) The duct banks shall not be used as conduits for any future major utility electric transmission circuits until such time as a certificate for those circuits is obtained.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

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in

Case No(s). 18-0683-EL-BNR

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