

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio for the Center Ridge Road) 18-0291-GA-BNR
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 July 9, 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 July 9, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom
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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case No.: 18-0291GA-BNR
Project Name: Center Ridge Road Replacement Project
Project Location: Cuyahoga County
Applicant: Columbia Gas of Ohio
Application Filing Date: April 9, 2018
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: May 16, 2018
Report Date: July 2, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: July 9, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: A. Holderbaum, E. Morrison

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Columbia Gas of Ohio (Applicant) proposes to relocate and replace approximately 0.51 mile of existing 8-inch diameter pipeline with 12-inch pipeline. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 250 pounds per square inch gauge (PSIG). The pipeline would be installed with a wall thickness of 0.250 inches and would have a minimum yield strength of 52,000 PSIG.

The Applicant would utilize open cut trench construction methods. The existing pipeline would be abandoned in place. The Applicant proposes to begin construction on July 9, 2018 and place the line in-service by November 1, 2018. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project at \$1.1 million.

Site Description

The section of pipeline to be relocated is contained entirely within the public road right-of-way of Center Ridge Road in the City of Westlake. This is a mandatory relocation project mandated from the City of Westlake. The City of Westlake intends to widen the existing pavement of Center Ridge Road and plans to install a new water line near the location of the Applicant's existing 8-inch diameter pipeline. The surrounding land use is a mix of residential and commercial properties. Temporary easements would not be required from adjacent property owners for access roads and laydown areas.

Basis of Need

The City of Westlake requires the relocation of all conflicting utilities to install a new water line. The Applicant identified the 8-inch diameter, 2,680 foot section of pipeline for replacement for this reason. Additionally, the existing pipeline's diameter is causing pressure drop issues during high demand situations. Replacing the 8 inch pipe with the proposed 12 inch coated steel main would significantly decrease the amount of pressure lost, and consequently allow for more reliable transportation of product to the downstream distribution systems. Further, the existing coated steel pipeline has become antiquated. The pipe to be abandoned is 1950's vintage coated steel and considered inferior by modern standards.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The replacement pipeline would be installed entirely within the Center Ridge Road right-of-way. The Applicant stated that it will submit construction plans to the City of Westlake and obtain a roadway permit from the City prior to beginning construction. The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials. The Applicant did not send notifications about the project to affected property owners as the City of Westlake has been educating the public about the project scope. No permanent or temporary easements would be required from adjacent property owners.

Surface Waters

The proposed project would not impact any streams, wetlands, or ponds.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project area is within the range of the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species may be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Staff recommend the Applicant adhere to seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter. The City of Westlake would be conducting any necessary tree clearing along Center Ridge Road in order to widen the road. The Applicant would not conduct any tree clearing. No impacts to these species are anticipated from installation of the pipeline.

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 July 9, 2018.

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). 18-0291-GA-BNR

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