

Construction Notice for the Morse Road Station Expansion Project



PUCO Case No. 18-1465-EL-BNR

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code
Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

October 3, 2018

Construction Notice

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.'s Morse Road Station Expansion Project

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. ("AEP Ohio Transco") provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") in accordance with the accelerated request of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-5(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

The name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice.

AEP Ohio Transco is proposing to expand the Morse Road Station Expansion ("Project"), located in Franklin County, Ohio. This Project will expand the Morse Road station to add transmission line protection, replace and relocate nine 138kV circuit breakers, and add control equipment into a new control building. Four of the nine 138kV circuit breakers have been identified as being over-dutied, and five others require replacement due to age, condition, and high failure rate. The Morse Road station is currently 3.3 acres and will be increased by 0.4 acres.

Figure 1 shows the location of the Project. Figure 2 shows how the Morse Road Station fence will change as a result of the expansion. Figure 3 shows that there are no cultural resources that have been identified within the project area. Figure 4 depicts the wetlands in the project area.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice ("CN") because it is within the types of projects defined by Item 4(a) Appendix A to O.A.C. 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix For Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

(4) Construction additions to existing electric power transmission stations or converting distribution stations to transmission stations where:

(a) There is a twenty percent or less expansion of the fenced area.

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 18-1465-EL-BNR.

B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

This is a baseline project (b2821). See Appendix D for excerpts from the PJM SRRTEP-West on April 21 and May 31, 2017. The proposed project at Morse Road station is only one portion of multiple improvements that are incorporated into the baseline project in the Columbus metropolitan area. There

are station improvements at Karl Road station, Clinton station (b2822), and Morse Road station. Morse Road station is the only OPSB-jurisdictional station improvement, and there will be a related approximately 0.2-mile OPSB jurisdictional transmission line project that will be filed later this year, Morse-Genoa 138 kV.

Planning criteria violations were identified in four 138kV circuit breakers at the Morse Road Station. These circuit breakers are over-dutied and are nearing the end of their useful life. Five additional 138kV circuit breakers that are not the subject of PJM project b2821 require replacement due to age, condition, and high failure rate.

B(3) Project Location

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the project area.

The Morse Road station is located in the northwest quadrant of the Morse Road and I-270 interchange. Figure 1 identifies the Project location within the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

There were no other alternatives considered for this Project. Based on the scope of the Project to replace existing aged, over-dutied equipment and the limited alternatives to achieve a flow through configuration, it was not reasonable to study other options. The proposed Project has the fewest impacts and is the most cost effective solution to achieve the desired electrical configuration.

B(5) Public Information Program

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The entire construction of the station expansion will be on the existing station property. Therefore, there are no affected property owners that AEP Ohio Transco is required to inform. AEP Ohio Transco informs affected property owners and tenants about its projects through several different mediums. Within seven days after filing this CN, AEP Ohio Transco will mail a letter, via first class mail, to elected officials and contiguous owners. The letter complies with all the requirements of O.A.C. 4906-6-08(B). AEP Ohio Transco also maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>), which provides the public access to an electronic copy of this CN. A paper or electronic copy of the CN will be served to elected officials, and a paper copy to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this proposed Project.

B(6) Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

The Project is anticipated to begin the week of October 22, 2018 and should be completed by July 2021.

B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 identify the location of the Project and the associated changes that will be occurring to the station footprint. The Project area is just west of I-270 and north of Morse Road in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. The Property is approximately 9.7 acres in size and is bound on the west by Transit Drive and on the south by Service Road 7a. It is bound on the east by Kelly BMW, an auto dealership, and on the north by Woodspring Suites Columbus Easton, a hotel chain. The land use in the area surrounding the Project is primarily commercial in nature.

B(8) Property Agreements

The applicant shall provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

All work will be performed on the existing AEP station parcel. No other property easements, options, or land use agreements are necessary to construct the Project or operate the transmission line.

B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the Project:

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

This Project will expand the Morse Road station to add transmission line protection, replace and relocate nine 138kV circuit breakers, and control equipment into a new control building. All of the proposed work will occur within existing AEP Ohio property. The following equipment will be added.

- 1) Replace nine existing 138KV circuit breakers with 3000A continuous current, 63KA fault interrupting units.
- 2) Install two new 138KV, 3000A continuous current, 63KA fault interrupting circuit breakers.
- 3) Replace twenty-two 3-phase, group-operated disconnect switches with 3000A continuous current units for the 138kV circuit breakers.

- 4) Install two 3000A continuous current, 3-phase, group-operated disconnect switches for the new circuit breakers.
- 5) Replace six transmission line 138KV, 3-phase group-operated disconnect switches with 3000A continuous current units for the new circuit breakers.
- 6) Remove one transmission line 138KV, 3-phase, group-operated disconnect switch.
- 7) Install a Drop-in Control Module with seven sets of 138KV line relaying and eleven 138KV circuit breaker controls.

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line. The discussion shall include:

B(9)(b)(i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Strength Levels

This section is not applicable because this Project is for a station expansion.

B(9)(b)(ii) Design Alternatives

A discussion of the applicant's consideration of design alternatives with respect to electric and magnetic fields and their strength levels, including alternate conductor configuration and phasing, tower height, corridor location, and right-of-way width.

This section is not applicable because this Project is for a station expansion.

B(9)(b)(ii)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$15,000,000, using a Class 4 estimate.

B(10) Social and Economic Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project.

B(10)(a) Operating Characteristics

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is located in the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. The station is in the vicinity of Easton Towne Center and is all commercial land use. Due to the small scope of this Project and the fact that the entirety of the work will be contained to the existing AEP property, no effects are anticipated with respect to land use in the vicinity of the Project.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

No agricultural land will be impacted by this Project since the entirety of the Project is within existing AEP substation property.

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

Figure 3 depicts a cultural resource map of the Project area. On June 28, 2018 the State Historic Preservation Office determined that No Historic Properties relative to archeological resources and historic properties will be affected by the Project. A copy of the coordination letter is attached in Appendix B.

B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

An Ohio EPA Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been submitted for approval for the proposed Project. No other local, state, or federal permits are applicable.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

On behalf of AEP, ms consultants prepared a Wetland and Stream Delineation Report dated August 2018. As part of this study, ms consultants sent an early coordination letter to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to request information on Federally Listed Species. A response from the USFWS was received on July 20, 2018 provided comments and recommendations regarding the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) (see Appendix C). The USFWS concluded the letter stating “Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species.”

On behalf of AEP, ms consultants emailed the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) seeking an environmental review for the Project for potential impacts or information on any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forest, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within a one mile radius of the Project Area. Correspondence from ODNR dated August 29, 2018 indicated the Natural Heritage Database has the following records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area:

- Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), State threatened, and federal species of concern
- Blendon Woods Metro Park – Columbus & Franklin Co. Metro Parks

The Wetland and Stream Delineation Report did not identify any streams within the Project area; therefore there is no suitable habitat for the Paddlefish and it will not be adversely affected by Project activities. Also, Blendon Woods Metro Park is not located within the Project area and will not be adversely effected by the project (see Appendix C, Figure 1).

The ODNR DOW noted the Project is within the range of several listed aquatic threatened or endangered species; however, the ODNR DOW stated “[d]ue to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this project is not likely to impact these species.”

The ODNR DOW noted the Project is within the range of the Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. The DOW stated “[i]f this type of habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.” The Wetland and Stream Delineation Report did not identify any suitable habitat for the Upland Sandpiper. As a result this Project is not likely to impact this species.

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

A review of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory database indicated that no wetlands occur within the Project area. (see Figure 6 in Appendix C).

AEP Ohio Transco's consultants prepared a Wetland and Stream Delineation Report dated August 2018 for the parcel containing the Morse Road Expansion Project. This study identified seven (7) wetlands near the project area but only two (2) within the study area. The proposed expansion is located entirely within a maintained upland lawn area abutting the southern edge of the sub-station. All of the delineated wetlands are located north of the existing sub-station and will not be impacted by the proposed Project (see Figure 4). Due to the nature and location of the Project it is anticipated there will be no significant impact to unique ecological sites. The full Wetland and Stream Delineation Report for the Project is included as Appendix C.

The Project is not located within a mapped FEMA floodplain, and no floodplain permit will be required for this Project.

On behalf of AEP, ms consultants emailed the ODNR seeking an environmental review for the Morse Road Improvement Project for potential impacts or information on any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forest, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within a one mile radius of the Project Area. Correspondence from ODNR dated August 29, 2018 indicated the Natural Heritage Database has the following records at or within a one-mile radius of the Project area:

- Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), State threatened, and federal species of concern
- Blendon Woods Metro Park – Columbus & Franklin Co. Metro Parks

The Wetland and Stream Delineation Report did not identify any streams within the Project area; therefore there is no suitable habitat for the Paddlefish and it will not be adversely affected by Project activities. Also, Blendon Woods Metro Park is not located within the Project area and will not be adversely effected by the project (see Figure 4).

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of AEP Ohio Transco's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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10/3/2018 2:49:34 PM

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Case No(s). 18-1465-EL-BNR

Summary: Notice -Construction Notice for the Morse Road Station Expansion Project (Part 1 of 3) electronically filed by Ms. Christen M. Blend on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Power Company, Inc.