

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application)
by AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 18-1182-EL-BLN
Need for the Gay-McComb 138kV Transmission Line)
Extension 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 (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval on November 27, 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 November 27, 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: 18-1182-EL-BLN
Project Name: Gay-McComb 138 kV Transmission Line Extension
Project Location: Franklin County
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Application Filing Date: August 28, 2018
Filing Type: Letter of Notification
Inspection Date: November 6, 2018
Report Date: November 20, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: November 27, 2018
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. Whitis, J. Cross, G. Zeto

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to construct two 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line extensions from the existing Gay-McComb 138kV transmission line to energize a new distribution substation. The eastern and western transmission line extensions are approximately 686 feet and 739 feet in length respectively just west of Harrisburg Pike, approximately 0.6 mile south of Mound Street. The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin during the first quarter of 2019, and the facilities would be placed in service by June 2019. The estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$1.3 million.

The project would include the construction of four new steel pole structures; two single circuit monopole dead end structures and two single circuit monopole tangent structures. The construction would occur within the existing right-of-way and on property owned by the Applicant. The new structure heights would be approximately 92 feet.

Basis of Need

The proposed project is needed to energize a new Ohio Power Company distribution substation.

This project was included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing, Case No. 18-1501-EL-FOR, and was submitted to PJM as a supplemental project. PJM assigned the

project upgrade ID No. S1606.4. The construction status of transmission project can be tracked on PJM's website.^{1, 2}

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic

The project is located in the city of Columbus, in Franklin County. There are no parks, churches, cemeteries within 1,000 feet of the project. There are no residences within 100 feet of the project. The project area predominately consists of an open field.

Surface Waters

The project area does not contain any surface water resources, so impacts to these resources are not anticipated.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project area is currently disturbed by construction activities associated with the distribution substation. According to coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project is within the range of several state listed species. However, the project area does not contain habitats of federal or state listed species, and no impacts would occur.

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 case on November 27, 2018.

1. AEP Ohio Transmission Company, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 18-1501-EL-FOR, May 31, 2018.

2. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed November 7, 2018, <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

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Case No(s). 18-1182-EL-BLN

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