

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of )  
American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company )  
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and ) Case No. 18-1333-EL-BNR  
Public Need for the Southwest Lima 345 kV )  
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 November 30, 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 30, 2018, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Raymond W. Strom  
Chief of Siting, Efficiency and Renewables Division  
Rates and Analysis Department  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
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## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 18-1333-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Southwest Lima 345 kV Transmission Line Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Allen County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** August 31, 2018  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** November 9, 2018  
**Report Date:** November 20, 2018  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** November 30, 2018  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. Pawley, J. Cross

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to add one wood support structure at the Southwest Lima 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission substation, in order to address a clearance violation with the station and the existing Marysville-Southwest Lima 345 kV circuit. The new pole would be located approximately 100 feet southwest of the existing steel pole structure within existing right-of-way. The purpose of the project is to move the Marysville-Southwest Lima 345 kV conductors away from station equipment to provide required clearance between them. The project is located in Shawnee Township, Allen County.

The Southwest Lima substation fenceline was previously expanded under OPSB Case No. 12-1026-EL-BNR in order to accommodate station equipment replacement and upgrade work.

The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin by the fourth quarter of 2018, and the facility would be placed in service by February 2019. The cost of the project is estimated at \$200,000.

## **Basis of Need**

The Applicant states there is a clearance violation existing between the Southwest Lima 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Station and the Marysville-Southwest Lima 345 kV circuit. The clearance issue violates the National Electric Safety Code.<sup>1</sup>

This project was not included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report. In addition, the project was not submitted to PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM). The Applicant explained that it did not submit the project to PJM because there will not be an impact on the transmission system or its topology.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Land Use*

The new transmission line pole would be east of and adjacent to the existing Southwest Lima substation, and would be on property owned by Ohio Power Company. No other property owners would be affected by this project. The project is not located within any agricultural district lands. No residences are located within 1,000 feet of the project. There would be no impact to sensitive land uses as a result of this project.

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review and Phase I cultural resource management investigation (archaeology and history/architecture) for this site as part of the substation fenceline expansion project. The consultant determined that the addition of this single pole would still not involve or impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was considered to be necessary. The findings were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO). The OHPO has responded to the consultant in concurrence that this project would not affect historic properties.

### *Surface Waters*

The project area does not contain any streams, and there is one Category 1 wetland northwest of the proposed pole location. No structures would be located in this resource. To ensure no impacts would occur to this wetland, Staff recommends the Applicant install highly visible fencing between the project and the adjacent wetland in order to provide a demarcation to prevent construction vehicles from inadvertently entering the wetland area.

The Applicant stated that it will submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit to the Ohio EPA prior to construction.

Additionally, the Applicant states that no structures would be located within a 100-year floodplain area.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Federal and state listed species and/or suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The

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1. IEEE, "National Electric Safety Code (NESC) C2-2017" Section 23. Clearances, 234. Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and equipment from buildings, bridges, rail cars, swimming pools, and other installations, pgs. 126-157.

Applicant stated that it intends to adhere to the seasonal tree clearing restriction dates between October 1 and March 31 for any necessary tree clearing.

The project lies within the range of several federal and state endangered mussels and fish species. Due to the fact that there is no in-water work planned for the project, no impacts to these species are anticipated.

The project lies within the range of the state endangered upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Due to the lack of suitable habitat in the project area, no impacts to this species are 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 conditions, Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on November 30, 2018.

### **Conditions:**

- (1) Staff recommends the Applicant install highly visible fencing between the project and adjacent wetland prior to construction in order to prevent construction vehicles from inadvertently entering the wetland area.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/20/2018 3:17:40 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 18-1333-EL-BNR**

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