

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Expedited Construction Notice)
Application by Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for a Certificate) Case No. 18-1650-EL-BNR
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for)
the Morgan 1689 Separation 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 November 28, 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 28, 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: 18-1650-EL-BNR
Project Name: Morgan 1689 Separation Project
Project Location: Hamilton County
Applicant: Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.
Application Filing Date: November 6, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: November 8, 2018
Report Date: November 21, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: November 28, 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

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to install a 138 kV ring bus for the existing Morgan Substation and two new distribution feeders. The project includes reconfiguration of the substation exits and separation of the transmission feeds to Circuits 1689 and 5783. The Applicant proposes to install 630 feet of 138 kV single circuit transmission line into the existing Morgan substation. Additionally, the Applicant proposes to install three steel single pole structures with three new spans of conductor on the south end of the substation. The new steel poles would range in height from 77.5 to 95 feet. The proposed project would occur within property owned by the Applicant. The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin late November 2018 and the new facilities would be placed in service by the end of December 2018. The estimated total cost of the project is \$5.5 million.

Basis of Need

The Applicant is constructing a new operations center, which requires an energy source to power the facility. The Applicant requests to separate circuit 1689 and 5783 and install a 138 kV ring bus. The ring bus configuration would provide added reliability in the event of a contingency on the bulk power system. Once the circuits are separated, one circuit would provide a power source to the operation center and the other would allow for additional reliability. Separating the sources would increase reliability and eliminate the risk of losing both feeds during a contingency.

The project for feeder 5783 was included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report (LTFR) filing, Case No. 18-0484-EL-FOR. Feeder 1689 was overlooked and not in the most recent LTFR. In addition, the project was submitted to PJM as a supplemental project. PJM assigned upgrade ID No. S1236 to the project. The construction status of transmission project can be tracked on PJM's website.^{1, 2}

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located northwest Hamilton County, approximately 2 miles southwest of the intersection of interstate 74 and interstate 275. Land use in the project area consists primarily of agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

Surface Waters

The project site does not contain any streams or wetlands. The project does not cross a 100-year floodplain, and no floodplain permit would be required. No surface water impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project area is within the range of state endangered lark sparrow. Lark Sparrow nesting habitat includes grasslands with scattered shrub layers, disturbed open areas, as well as patches of bare soil. Staff recommends that construction be avoided in these habitat types from May 1 through June 30, unless coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources allows a different course of action.

Due to no proposed in-water work in a perennial stream and lack of suitable habitats, impacts to other state and federal listed 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. Staff recommends automatic approval of this case on November 28, 2018, provided that the following condition is satisfied.

Condition:

- (1) Construction in lark sparrow preferred nesting habitat types shall be avoided during the species' nesting period of May 1 through June 30, unless coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources allows a different course of action.

1. Duke Energy Ohio, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 18-0484-EL-FOR, July 29, 2018.

2. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," November 13, 2018, <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 18-1650-EL-BNR

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