

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)
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for) Case No. 18-1523-EL-BNR
the F1286/1263-138 kV Cummins ville (I-75))
Improvement 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 December 19, 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 December 19, 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
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-7707
ContactOPSB@puc.state.oh.us

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 18-1523-EL-BNR
Project Name: F1286/F1263-138kV/69kV Cumminsville Improvement
Project Location: Hamilton County
Applicant: Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.
Application Filing Date: November 27, 2018
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: December 5, 2018
Report Date: December 12, 2018
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: December 19, 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 approximately 950 feet of new 138 kilovolt (kV)/69kV transmission line connecting structure M11-X1-31 across the Interstate 75/74 interchange to structure M11-X11-30. The construction includes removing one lattice tower and installing four new single steel monopoles. The average height of the new steel poles would be approximately 195 feet. The proposed facility would be placed within the Applicant's existing right-of-way. The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin mid January 2019 and the new facilities would be placed in service by February 2019. The estimated total cost of the project is \$3.2 million.

Need

The Applicant states that the Ohio Department Transportation is planning to rebuild a bridge on Interstate 75. The extended height of the transmission line would eliminate clearance issues during construction and provide ongoing safe clearance, as the rebuilt bridge will be constructed at a higher elevation.

The project was not included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report (LTFR) filing. The project was not required to be submitted to PJM.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Hamilton County, approximately 400 feet southwest to 400 feet northeast of Interstate 74, just north of its intersection with Interstate 75. Land use in the project area consists primarily of industrial properties.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant's consultant performed a literature review and found that three archaeological sites, 122 historic structures, and seven cemeteries have recorded within a mile of the project area. None of these resources are located within or adjacent to the project area. The consultant recommended that no further work is necessary.

Surface Waters

The project area does not contain any surface water. No surface water impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

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 impacts to such species would be unlikely to 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 December 19, 2018.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

12/12/2018 2:59:58 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-1523-EL-BNR

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