

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. 18-1534-EL-BNR  
Public Need for the Conesville-Kirk 138 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 January 22, 2019, 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 January 22, 2019, 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:** 18-1534-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Conesville-Kirk 138 kV Transmission Line Extension Project  
**Project Location:** Licking County  
**Applicant:** American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company  
**Application Filing Date:** October 22, 2018  
**Filing Type:** Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** December 17, 2018  
**Report Date:** January 15, 2019  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** January 22, 2019  
**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 provide 138 kilovolt (kV) service to a new distribution station that is proposed to be located in the village of Hebron, Licking County. The new station would serve current and future load in the area. The proposed extension consists of three new steel structures within the right-of-way of the existing Conesville-Kirk 138 kV transmission line and an approximate 150 foot line extension to the proposed distribution station. The structures would be single circuit steel pole dead-end structures, approximately 85 feet in height.

The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin by the third quarter of 2019, and the facility would be placed in service by December 2019. The cost of the line extension project is estimated at \$600,000.

### Basis of Need

The Ohio Power Company (Ohio Power) requested a line extension to provide a new delivery point to its new distribution substation. The Applicant considered serving the additional load via an existing 69 kV system, but determined that the capacity on the system was not sufficient. Without the proposed 138 kV line extension to the proposed distribution station facility, Ohio Power may not be able to adequately serve future load.

This project was not included in the Applicant's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report filing. The project was submitted to PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) as a supplemental project. PJM

assigned the project upgrade ID No. S1693.1. The construction status of the transmission project can be tracked on PJM's website.<sup>1</sup>

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Land Use*

The transmission line extension is located on 0.5 acre of agricultural row crop land north of the 138 kV Conesville-Kirk transmission lines. The project is located on a parcel that is owned by Ohio Power. All construction would occur on Ohio Power land and within AEP Ohio Transco easement. The Applicant indicates that no other property owners would be directly effected by this project nor would other property easements, options or agreements be necessary in order to construct and operate the extension. The project is not located within any agricultural district lands. Four residences are located within 1,000 feet of the extension, none of which are located within 100 feet. No parks, schools, churches, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, or nature preserves are located within 1,000 feet of the project. No residential structures would need to be removed to construct 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 the project. The consultant determined that the project would 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 responded to the consultant in concurrence that this project would not affect historic properties.

### *Surface Waters*

The project site does not contain any streams or wetlands. The Applicant would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The Applicant would utilize best management practices, as outlined in a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, to minimize erosion and control sedimentation. The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permit would be required.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The state and federal listed species and/or their suitable habitat that may be found in the project area include the state and federal endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant states that no tree clearing would be required for construction of this extension. Additionally, the project would not disturb any hibernacula including caves or abandoned mines.

Due to the project's location, the type of habitat at the project site, the mobility of the species, and the fact that no in-water work is proposed, no impacts to other state and federal listed species are anticipated.

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1. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed January 7, 2019, <http://pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

**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 condition, Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on January 22, 2019.

**Condition:**

- (1) The Applicant shall include this project in its 2019 Long-Term Forecast Report and provide a copy to Staff to ensure compliance with this condition.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**1/15/2019 11:23:00 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 18-1534-EL-BNR**

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