

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application by)
American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a)
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public) Case No. 18-1396-EL-BNR
Need for the Brookside-Leaside 138 kV Transmission)
Line Switch Structure Addition)**

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 February 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 February 22, 2019, 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: 18-1396-EL-BNR
Project Name: Brookside-Leaside 138 kV Transmission
Line Switch Structure Addition
Project Location: Richland County
Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
Application Filing Date: January 22, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: February 8, 2019
Report Date: February 13, 2019
**Recommended Automatic
Approval Date:** February 22, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: none
Staff Assigned: J. O'Dell and J. Cross

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (Applicant or ATSI) proposes to add two new switch structures to the Brookside-Leaside 138 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line. The switches would be installed onto single wood pole structures located along the current transmission line alignment. One temporary wood pole structure and approximately 280 feet of 138 kV conductors would be required as well. The project is needed to replace an inoperable switch. The installation of two new switches will permit ATSI to sectionalize the transmission line feed in an emergency and enable the Applicant to meet current switch replacement standards.

The estimated capital costs of this proposed transmission project total \$185,000 and those costs would be borne by the Applicant. This project was not included in FirstEnergy Corporation's most recent Long-Term Forecast Report (LTFR) filing, as the current switch failure was not confirmed at the time the LTFR filing.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The project area is located in Jackson Township, Richland County. The proposed switch additions and supporting wood pole structures would be installed within the existing transmission line right-of-way. No new easements would be required. The surrounding land use is industrial.

Cultural Resources

ATSI conducted a cultural resource survey to ascertain potential impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites. The survey determined that adverse impacts to historical properties and archaeological sites are not expected.

Ecological Impacts

The Applicant's investigation concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a significant adverse impact on ecological resources. Adequate ingress and egress are available from adjacent roadways and existing industrial facilities for construction. No woodlots, wetlands, or ponds are present within the limits of construction. Best management practices would be employed to prevent soil erosion.

Conclusion

Staff's review of the application included consideration of the requirements listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the application meets the necessary criteria for granting a certificate. Staff recommends automatic approval of this application on February 22, 2019.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

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in

Case No(s). 18-1396-EL-BNR

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