

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. 19-0149-EL-BNR  
Need for the Mayfield-Eastlake Q-3 & Q-4 138 kV )  
Transmission Line Tap to Nathan Substation 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 April 25, 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 April 25, 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:** 19-0149-EL-BNR  
**Project Name:** Mayfield-Eastlake Q-3 & Q-4 138 kV  
Transmission Line Tap to Nathan Substation  
**Project Location:** Lake County  
**Applicant:** American Transmission Systems, Incorporated  
**Application Filing Date:** April 3, 2019  
**Filing Type:** Expedited Construction Notice  
**Inspection Date:** April 9, 2019  
**Report Date:** April 18, 2019  
**Recommended Automatic  
Approval Date:** April 25, 2019  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** none  
**Staff Assigned:** J. O'Dell and M. Mansour

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

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

### Project Description and Need

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI or Applicant) proposes to install four new taps from the Mayfield-Eastlake Q-3 and Q-4 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to the Nathan Substation. These proposed taps would replace the existing four taps from the Eastlake-Leroy Center Q-15 and Q-16 138 kV transmission lines, which would be removed. The project would require the installation of one new steel tap structure and one new steel dead-end single pole structure. Also, 285 feet of new relocated 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line would be installed.

ATSI identified the need to reduce the risk of a common tower outage on the Eastlake - Leroy Center Q-15 & Q-16 138 kV Transmission Lines (which serve a total load of 286.9 MW and 63,700 customers) and to provide greater operational flexibility to the transmission system, including the flexibility to perform maintenance on the existing Q-15 & Q-16 lines.

The Q-15 and Q-16 circuits associated with the Eastlake-Leroy Center 138 kV Transmission Lines have had six momentary outages and nine sustained outages ranging from 15 to 5,373 minutes spanning the period from 2012 to present. The Mayfield-Eastlake Q-3 & Q-4 138 kV transmission lines currently have no customer load.

During an outage on the Eastlake-Leroy Center Q-15 & Q-16 138 kV transmission lines, the Applicant believes that the current proposal to tap the Q-3 and Q-4 circuits would reduce the total amount of load lost by 52.7 MW (9,040 customers) and would further provide greater operational flexibility. In addition to the current project under review, the Applicant has filed a second proposal with the Board (ref: Case Number 19-0455-EL-BLN) that would also minimize local load loss.

PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) has designated this proposal as a supplemental project, filed as number s1469. This project was also included in the 2018 Long Term Forecast Report (LTFR), filed in Case No. 18-0449-EL-FOR. However, the 2018 LTFR mistakenly identified the PJM number as s1468, which belongs to a different, but related, ATSI project.<sup>1, 2</sup>

The capital costs of this proposed transmission project total approximately \$3,227,100 and those costs would be borne by the Applicant. ATSI would obtain new easements from the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, which is a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corporation, the Applicant's parent company.

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Land Use*

The project area is located in an industrial park in the City of Mentor. The project site is currently a combination of a graveled interior substation and maintained exterior vegetation.

### *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 for construction is available from existing access roads for construction. No removal of any vegetation would be required. No woodlots or ponds are present. One small stream is located in the project area, however no in-stream work is proposed.

The Applicant conducted a wetland delineation study. That study determined that the proposed steel structures would be installed within a low-quality wetland area. However, the Applicant believes that the impact thresholds are below the pre-construction notification requirements for a Nationwide Permit 12 under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If it is determined to be required, ATSI would obtain any wetland permit(s) prior to construction. Timber matting would be used for access and Best Management Practices would be employed to prevent soil erosion.

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1. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," accessed April, 5, 2019, <https://www.pjm.com/planning/rtep-upgrades-status/construct-status.aspx>.

2. Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company and American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 18-449-EL-FOR, April, 16, 2018.

**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 April 25, 2019.

**Condition:**

- (1) Prior to the commencement of construction activities in areas that require permits or authorizations by federal or state laws and regulations, the Applicant shall obtain and comply with such permits or authorizations.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**4/18/2019 11:34:51 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-0149-EL-BNR**

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