

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Letter of the Construction Notice of)
Dominion Energy Ohio for the 1250 S. Washington) Case No. 19-1539-GA-BNR
Street Betterment (2019) Pipeline Replacement 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 September 03, 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 September 03, 2019, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



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OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 19-1539-GA-BNR
Project Name: 1250 S. Washington Street Betterment (2019) Replacement
Project Location: City of Van Wert, Van Wert County
Applicant: Dominion Energy Ohio
Application Filing Date: August 9, 2019
Filing Type: Expedited Construction Notice
Inspection Date: August 23, 2019
Report Date: August 27, 2019
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: September 3, 2019
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: E. Morrison

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

The Applicant, Dominion Energy Ohio, proposes to replace 1,200 feet of existing 4-inch steel pipeline with 12-inch standard wall coated steel pipeline. The chosen material would have a rated yield strength of 52,000 pounds per square inch. The replacement pipeline would have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 500 pounds per square inch gauge and would be cathodically protected.

The Applicant would use open cut trenching and directional drilling installation methods to install the proposed gas main in public road right-of-way. The facility to be replaced would be abandoned in place. The open cut method would be used for all but the intersection crossing. The Applicant plans to directional drill the intersection crossing. Construction would occur on the south side of the road right-of-way corridor between the pavement and southern boundary of the road right-of-way. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in the fall of 2019 and to place the line in service by year's end. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project to be approximately \$350,000.

The project corridor would be constrained to the road right-of-way of Lincoln Highway. One terminus of the project would be located at the intersection of John Brown Road and Lincoln Highway, and the other terminus would be located 1,200 feet west of that intersection. The new pipeline would tie into existing 6-inch facilities.

Basis of Need

The Applicant states that the project is needed to adequately serve existing load at the Van Wert medical complex. Sizing the pipeline to 12 inches would also provide additional capacity for future downstream growth. The currently proposed project would eliminate a key bottleneck, thus improving the capacity and reliability of the system. The increased diameter of this portion of the system would also allow for an increase in line pack volume.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The Applicant sent notification about the project to area public officials and affected property owners.

The Applicant states that affected roads would remain open to one lane of traffic in each direction during non-working hours and adhere to the standards of The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. Also, the Applicant would coordinate with and obey the requirements of AWP and the local jurisdictions to maintain traffic during construction.

The Applicant noted that temporary laydown areas have not yet been selected for this project. The Applicant stated that it will submit its proposed laydown areas on the docket of this case and that it will not commence construction until the laydown area plans are approved by Staff.

Agricultural Land

The pipeline is not located within or adjacent to any agricultural land. Therefore, construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline is not expected to impact agricultural district land or agricultural production.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant completed a cultural resources literature review for the area of potential effects for the project. No cultural resources were identified within the area of the proposed project.

Surface Waters

The proposed gas transmission line corridor contains no streams or wetlands. No additional surface water features were identified within the proposed project area by the Applicant. The Applicant concluded that construction of the proposed project would not disturb any jurisdictional surface water features.

The Applicant also states the acreage impacted would amount to less than one acre, thus not triggering any permitting relating to storm water runoff.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The project area is within the range of the state and federal and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and the federal threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). As tree roosting species in the summer months, the habitat of these species may be impacted by the project. In order to avoid impacts to the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommend the seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than or equal to three inches in diameter. The Applicant does not anticipate that any tree clearing would be

necessary for this project. In the event trees three inches in diameter or larger need to be removed, the Applicant would perform the removal between October 1 and March 31.

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 application on September 3, 2019, provided that the following conditions are satisfied. Staff notes that its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery in any ratemaking proceeding.

Conditions

- (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. The Applicant shall provide copies of permits and authorizations, including all supporting documentation, to docket within seven days of issuance or receipt by the Applicant.
- (2) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for removal of any trees greater than three inches in diameter, unless coordination efforts with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action.
- (3) The Applicant shall segregate soils during construction activities that involve the disturbance of top soil and restore any disturbed area to original or better conditions. This condition may be waived with the consent of the property owner.
- (4) Where the installation of the pipeline results in damage to driveways, parking areas, or roads, the impacted areas shall be repaired promptly to their pre-construction state.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 19-1539-GA-BNR

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