

**TABLE 2  
VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE SHAWTOWN SWITCH PROJECT SURVEY AREA**

Vegetative Community	Description	Approximate Acreage Within the Project Survey Area	Approximate Percentage within the Project Survey Area
Agricultural Land	Agricultural lands consisting of soybean and corn fields were present along the Project survey area. The agricultural land contained row crops and is not used for pasture or hay fields.	0.10	8%
Landscaped Area	Landscaped area, including residential properties, were observed within the Project area. These areas are frequently mowed grasses and forbs.	0.21	16%
Old Field	Herbaceous cover existed alongside roads, field borders, and abandoned fields within the Project area in the form of successional old-field communities. These communities are the earliest stages of recolonization by plants following disturbance. This community type is typically short-lived, giving way progressively to shrub and forest communities unless periodically re-disturbed, in which case they remain as old fields. The old-field areas within the study areas and adjacent areas are infrequently mowed areas of grasses, forbs, and occasional shrubs.	0.71	54%
Urban	Urban areas are areas developed with residential and commercial land uses, including roads, buildings and parking lots. These areas are generally devoid of significant woody and herbaceous vegetation.	0.30	22%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>1.32</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **3.5 RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AGENCY COORDINATION**

#### ***Protected Species Agency Consultation –***

AECOM conducted a rare, threatened, and endangered species review for areas within the Project survey area. A summary of the agency coordination is provided below. Table 5 provides a list of protected species that may occur within the Project area. Species were identified from the USFWS IPaC review and ODNR county list.

**TABLE 5**  
**ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Habitat Observed in the Project Survey Area	Impact Assessment	Agency Comments
<b>Mammals</b>						
Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	Winter Indiana bat hibernacula include caves and mines, while summer habitat typically includes tree species exhibiting exfoliating bark or cavities that can be used for roosting. The 8- to 10-inch diameter size classes of several species of hickory ( <i>Carya</i> spp.), oak ( <i>Quercus</i> spp.), ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), birch ( <i>Betula</i> spp.), and elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> spp.) have been found to be utilized by the Indiana bat. These tree species and many others may be used when dead, if there are adequately sized patches of loosely-adhering bark or open cavities. The structural configuration of forest stands favored for roosting includes a mixture of loose-barked trees with 60 to 80 percent canopy closure and a low density sub-canopy (less than 30 percent between about 6 feet high and the base canopy). The suitability of roosting habitat for foraging or the proximity to suitable foraging habitat is critical to the evaluation of a particular tree stand. An open subcanopy zone, under a moderately dense canopy, is important to allow maneuvering while catching insect prey.	No	No potentially suitable habitat is present within the Project area (woodlands).	No ODNR-DOW comments at this time. The IPaC states that the Project area is outside of the critical habitat for this species.
Northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Threatened	Threatened	Winter hibernacula include caves and mines, while summer habitat typically includes tree species exhibiting exfoliating bark or cavities that can be used for roosting. The 8- to 10-inch diameter size classes of several species of hickory ( <i>Carya</i> spp.), oak ( <i>Quercus</i> spp.), ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), birch ( <i>Betula</i> spp.), and elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> spp.) have been found to be utilized by northern long-eared bats. These tree species and many others may be used when dead, if there are adequately sized patches of loosely-adhering bark or open cavities. The structural configuration of forest stands favored for roosting includes a mixture of loose-barked trees with 60 to 80 percent canopy closure and a low density sub-canopy (less than 30 percent between about 6 feet high and the base canopy). The suitability of roosting habitat for foraging or the proximity to suitable foraging habitat is critical to the evaluation of a particular tree stand. An open subcanopy zone, under a moderately dense canopy, is important to allow maneuvering while catching insect prey. Northern long-eared bats have also been found, albeit rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds.	No	No potentially suitable habitat is present within the Project area (woodlands).	No ODNR-DOW comments at this time. The IPaC states that there are no critical habitats within the Project area.
<b>Mussels</b>						

TABLE 5  
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Habitat Observed in the Project Survey Area	Impact Assessment	Agency Comments
Clubshell ( <i>Pleurobema clava</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	This mussel species is found in coarse sand and gravel areas of runs and riffles within streams and small rivers	No	No potentially suitable habitat is present within the Project area (Streams).	No ODNR-DOW comments at this time. The IPaC states that there are no critical habitats within the Project area.
Rayed bean ( <i>Villosa fabalis</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	This mussel species is found in smaller, headwater creeks, but are sometimes found in large rivers	No	No potentially suitable habitat is present within the Project area (Streams).	

**ODNR Coordination –**

On October 11, 2019, AECOM sent a letter to the ODNR Office of Real Estate Environmental Review Section requesting comments on the Project based on an inter-disciplinary review. AECOM also requested comments from the Ohio Natural Heritage Database (ONHD), Division of Wildlife (DOW), and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) regarding their respective regulatory authorities. To date, AECOM has not received a response from the agency.

**USFWS Coordination –**

Coordination with the USFWS was initiated via the IPaC online tool during the planning stages to obtain a list of federally protected species that may occur within the vicinity of the Project. The IPaC indicated that there are four threatened or endangered species that potentially occur within the vicinity of the Project. No critical habitat was identified within the vicinity of the Project.

The IPaC stated that the Project is within the range of two federally listed bat species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), endangered; and the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), threatened.

Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure.

Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of another forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

No trees or caves were identified within the Project area. Therefore, suitable habitat for the listed bat species was not present and the Project will have no effect on the species.

The IPaC stated that the Project is within the range of two federally listed mussel species: clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), endangered; and the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), endangered. No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project survey area during the field survey. Therefore, the Project will have no effect on the species. A copy of the IPaC Official Species list for the Project is provided in Appendix B.

On October 11, 2019, AECOM sent a letter to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Office requesting comments regarding the Project. To date, AECOM has not received a response from the agency.

#### **4.0 SUMMARY**

The ecological survey of the Project area did not identify any wetlands, streams, or ponds. One upland data point was recorded.

Regarding state and/or federally listed threatened and endangered species that may occur within the Project vicinity, four protected species were listed by the ODNR and USFWS including: Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, clubshell, and rayed bean. As the Project area did not contain any trees/caves or streams, no suitable habitat for the listed bat and mussel species, respectively, was observed therefore, the Project will not impact these species.

The reported results of the ecological survey conducted by AECOM on this Project are limited to the areas within the Project survey boundary provided in Figures 1, 2, and 3. Areas that fall outside of the Project survey boundary were not evaluated in the field and are not included in the reporting of this survey.

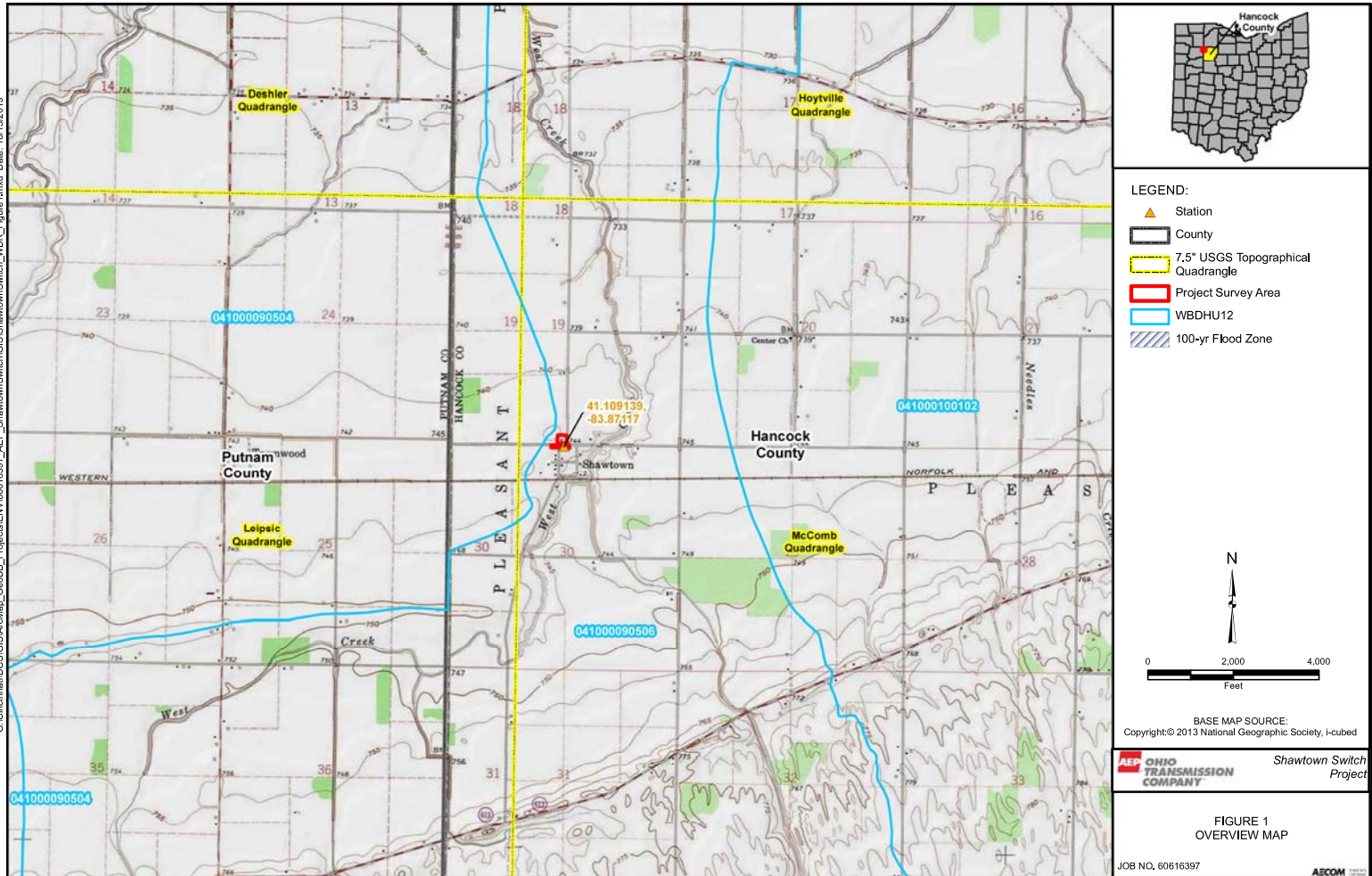
The information contained in this wetland delineation report is for a study area that may be much larger than the actual Project limits-of-disturbance; therefore, lengths and acreages listed in this report may not constitute the actual impacts of the Project defined in subsequent permit applications. If necessary, a separate report that identifies the actual Project impacts will be provided with agency submittals.

The field survey results presented herein apply to the existing and reasonably foreseeable site conditions at the time of our assessment. They cannot apply to site changes of which AECOM is unaware and has not had the opportunity to review. Changes in the condition of a property may occur with time due to natural processes or human impacts at the project site or on adjacent properties. Changes in applicable standards may also occur as a result of legislation or the expansion of knowledge over time. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated, wholly or in part, by changes beyond the control of AECOM.

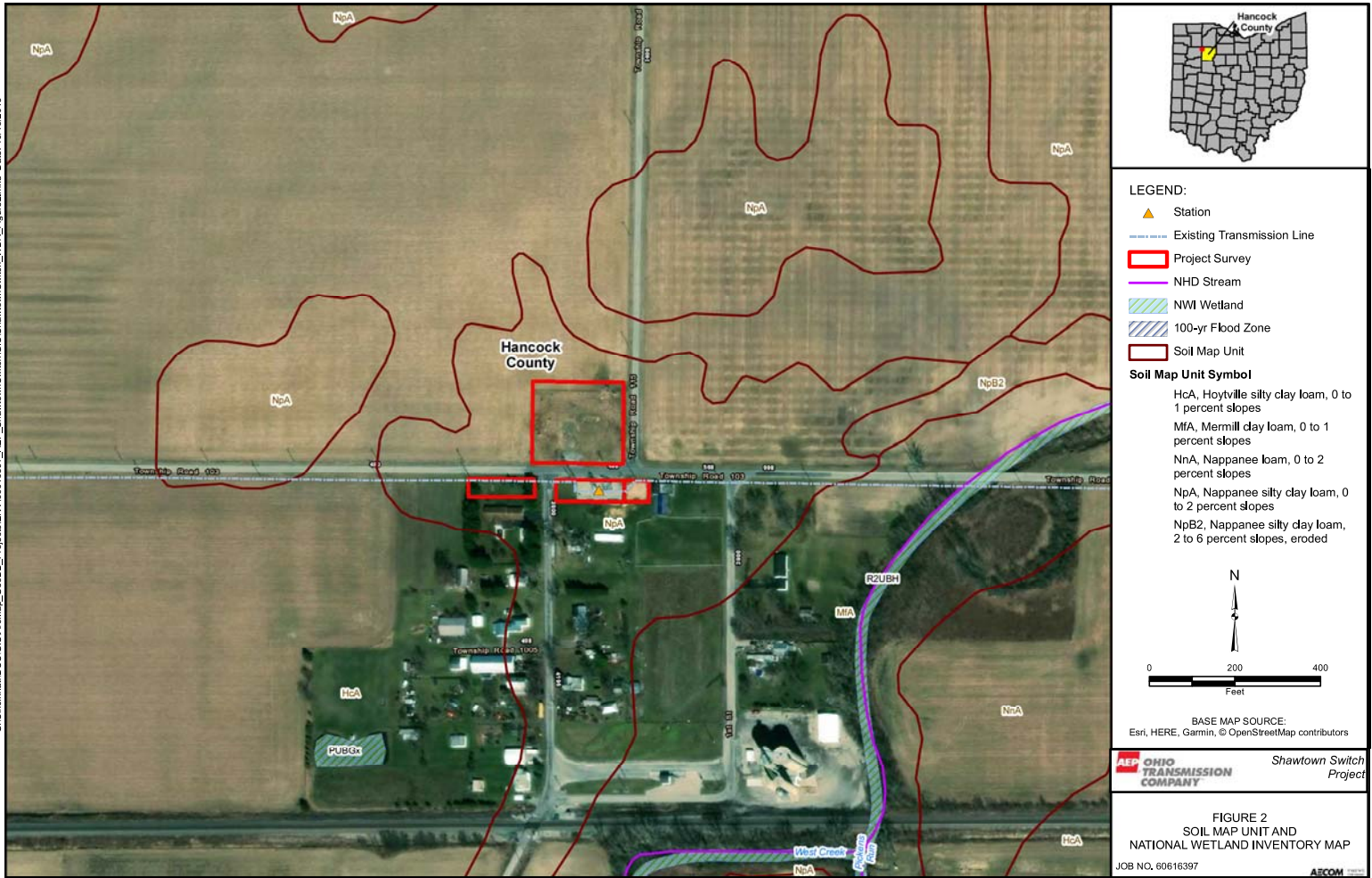
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LEGEND:

- ▲ Station
- Existing Transmission Line
- - - 5-ft Contour
- ▭ Project Survey
- ▲ Upland Data Point



0 100 200  
Feet

BASE MAP SOURCE:  
Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors

**AEP OHIO**  
TRANSMISSION  
COMPANY

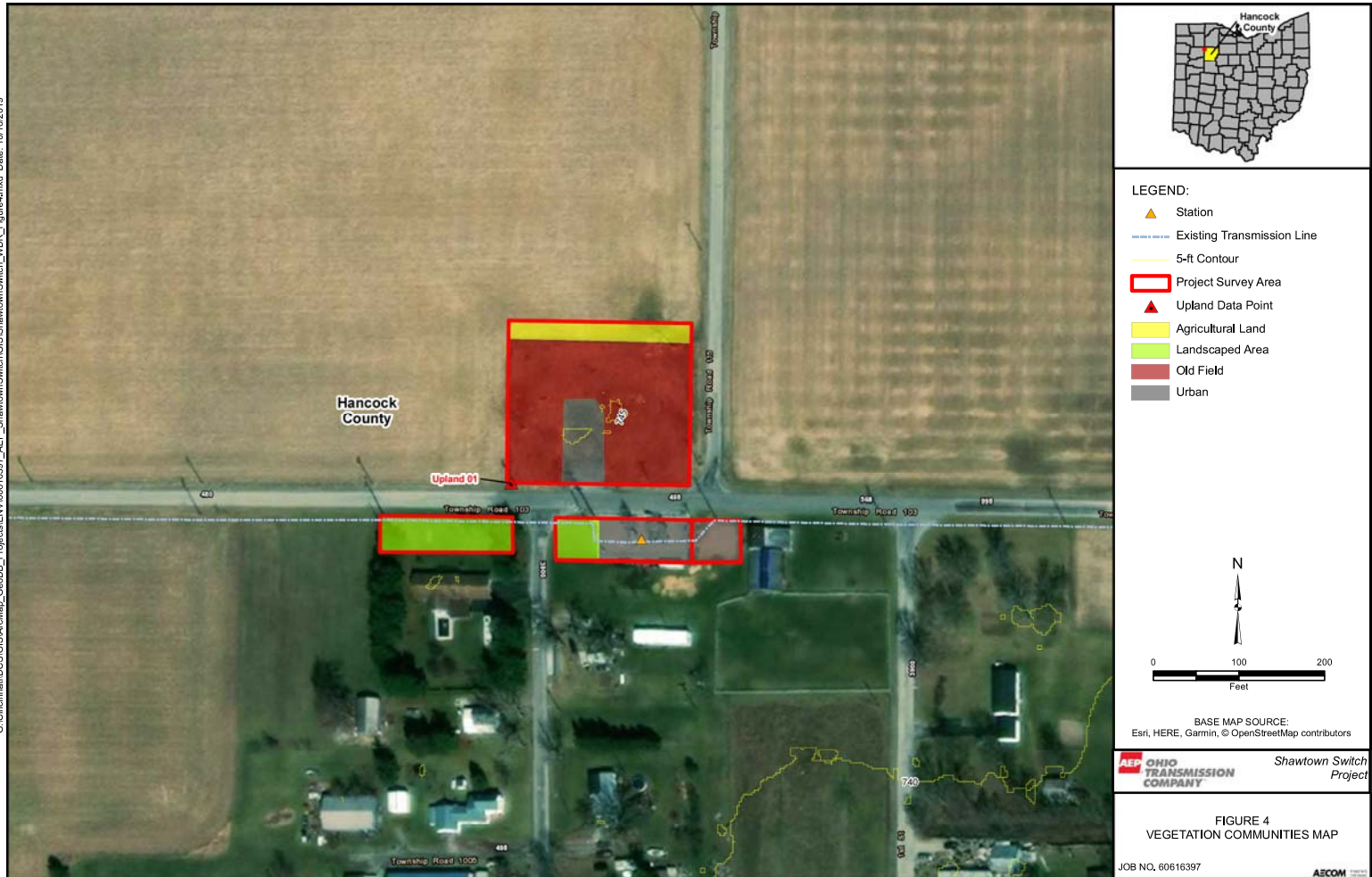
Shawtown Switch  
Project

FIGURE 3  
WETLAND DELINEATION AND  
STREAM ASSESSMENT MAP

JOB NO. 60616397

**ARCOM**





**APPENDIX A****U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS UPLAND FORM**

## WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Northcentral and Northeast Region

**Project/Site:** Shawtown Switch **City/County:** Hancock County **Sampling Date:** 11-Oct-19

**Applicant/Owner:** AEP Ohio Transmission Company **State:** OH **Sampling Point:** UPL-MRK-001

**Investigator(s):** M.R.Kline, T.Ciskowski **Section, Township, Range:** S. 19 T. 2N R. 9E

**Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):** Flat **Local relief (concave, convex, none):** flat **Slope:** 0.5 % / 0.3 °

**Subregion (LRR or MLRA):** MLRA 99 **Lat.:** 41.109314 **Long.:** -83.871726 **Datum:** Nad83

**Soil Map Unit Name:** NpA; Nappanee silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes **NWI classification:** NA

**Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year?** Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

**Are Vegetation** ☒ **, Soil** ☒ **, or Hydrology** ☐ **significantly disturbed?** **Are "Normal Circumstances" present?** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Are Vegetation** ☐ **, Soil** ☐ **, or Hydrology** ☐ **naturally problematic?** (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**Summary of Findings - Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>Hydric Soil Present?</b> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	

**Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)**

Upland data point collected for site characterization. Surrounding land use is residential, agriculture, and active sub station construction. Area is significantly disturbed by active construction within the study area and plowed corn fields at the edge of the study area.

**Hydrology**

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b>		<b>Secondary Indicators (minimum of 2 required)</b>	
<b>Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Fauna (B13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Marl Deposits (B15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moss Trim Lines (B16)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Season Water Table (C2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift deposits (B3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Deposits (B5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphic Position (D2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)		<input type="checkbox"/> Microtopographic Relief (D4)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> FAC-neutral Test (D5)	

<b>Field Observations:</b>			
Surface Water Present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Depth (inches):	
Water Table Present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Depth (inches):	
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe)	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Depth (inches):	
		<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b>	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:			
NA			
Remarks:			
No source of hydrology observed.			

**VEGETATION - Use scientific names of plants**Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-001

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>None</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>None</u> )				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>5' radius</u> )				
1. <u>Zea mays</u>	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UPL	
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>100</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>None</u> )				
1. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. _____	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				

**Dominance Test worksheet:**

Number of Dominant Species That are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0.0% (A/B)

**Prevalence Index worksheet:**

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>
FACW species	<u>0</u>	x 2 =	<u>0</u>
FAC species	<u>0</u>	x 3 =	<u>0</u>
FACU species	<u>0</u>	x 4 =	<u>0</u>
UPL species	<u>100</u>	x 5 =	<u>500</u>
Column Totals:	<u>100</u> (A)		<u>500</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =		<u>5.000</u>	

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:**

☐ Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

☐ Dominance Test is > 50%

☐ Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 <sup>1</sup>

☐ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

☐ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)

<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Definitions of Vegetation Strata:**

Tree - Woody plants, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1m) tall..

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vine - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)**

No vegetation within study are where active construction is taking place. Planted corn fields surround the edge of the study area.

\*Indicator suffix = National status or professional decision assigned because Regional status not defined by FWS.

[illegible]

- ☐ 2 cm Muck (A10) (LRR K, L, MLRA 149B)
- ☐ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) (LRR K, L, R)
- ☐ 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3) (LRR K, L, R)
- ☐ Dark Surface (S7) (LRR K, L, M)
- ☐ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) (LRR K, L)
- ☐ Thin Dark Surface (S9) (LRR K, L)
- ☐ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) (LRR K, L, R)
- ☐ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) (MLRA 149B)
- ☐ Mesic Spodic (TA6) (MLRA 144A, 145, 149B)
- ☐ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ☐ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)

**Hydric Soil Present?** Yes ☐ No ☒

Soils are significantly disturbed and mixed by plowing and active sub station construction. Area has been graded for sub station construction.



**APPENDIX B**  
**IPaC SPECIES LIST**



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ohio Ecological Services Field Office

4625 Morse Road, Suite 104

Columbus, OH 43230-8355

Phone: (614) 416-8993 Fax: (614) 416-8994



In Reply Refer To:

October 15, 2019

Consultation Code: 03E15000-2020-SLI-0071

Event Code: 03E15000-2020-E-00086

Project Name: Shawtown Switch

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsandPolicies.html>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/BirdHazards.html>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/AboutUS.html>.

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We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

# Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Ohio Ecological Services Field Office**

4625 Morse Road, Suite 104

Columbus, OH 43230-8355

(614) 416-8993

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 03E15000-2020-SLI-0071

Event Code: 03E15000-2020-E-00086

Project Name: Shawtown Switch

Project Type: POWER GENERATION

Project Description: AEP is proposing to install a new 138 kV switch and approximately 0.1 mile of new 138 kV transmission tie line in Hancock County, Ohio. The switch will be installed at the existing AEP facility with the tie line extending across Township Road 103 to a recently constructed customer station.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.10913749515107N83.87114141385263W>



Counties: Hancock, OH

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## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Incidental take of the northern long-eared bat is not prohibited at this location. Federal action agencies may conclude consultation using the streamlined process described at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/s7.html">https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/s7.html</a></li></ul> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened

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## Clams

NAME	STATUS
<b>Clubshell <i>Pleurobema clava</i></b> Population: Wherever found; Except where listed as Experimental Populations No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3789">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3789</a>	<b>Endangered</b>
<b>Rayed Bean <i>Villosa fabalis</i></b> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5862">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5862</a>	<b>Endangered</b>

## Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

## Appendix C      Agency Coordination Letters



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

## Office of Real Estate

*John Kessler, Chief*  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, OH 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6621  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

November 25, 2019

Jason Tucker  
AECOM  
525 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**Re:** 19-886; Shawtown Switch Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves installing a new 138 kV switch and approximately 0.1 mile of new 138 kV transmission tie line all of which are located within previously disturbed areas

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

**Natural Heritage Database:** The Natural Heritage Database has no records at or within a one-mile radius of the project area.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no other records of state endangered or threatened plants or animals within the project area. There are also no records of state potentially threatened plants, special interest or species of concern animals, or any federally listed species. In addition, we are unaware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within the project area. The review was performed on the project area you specified in your request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

**Fish and Wildlife:** The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees to include: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat roost trees consists of trees that include dead and dying trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. However, Indiana bats are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area, the DOW recommends trees be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs within the project area and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. Net surveys should incorporate either nine net nights per square 0.5 kilometer of project area, or four net nights per kilometer for linear projects. If no tree removal is proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state and federally endangered mussel, the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federal endangered mussel species, the purple lilliput (*Toxolasma lividus*), a state endangered mussel, the pondhorn (*Unio merus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel, and the black sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), a state threatened mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanus menona*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Water Resources:** The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

[http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List\\_8\\_16.pdf](http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf)

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Sarah Tebbe, Environmental Specialist, at (614) 265-6397 or [Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Sarah.Tebbe@dnr.state.oh.us) if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Mike Pettegrew  
Environmental Services Administrator (Acting)



In reply, refer to  
2019-HAN-46559

November 5, 2019

Mr. Ryan J. Weller  
Weller & Associates, Inc.  
1395 West Fifth Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43212

**RE: Shawtown Switch Project, Pleasant Township, Hancock County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on October 11, 2019 regarding the proposed Shawtown Switch Project, Pleasant Township, Hancock County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Approximately .5 ha (1.2 ac) Shawtown Switch Project in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, Ohio* by Weller & Associates, Inc. (2019).

A literature review, visual inspection, shovel probe, and shovel test unit excavation was completed as part of the investigations. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project area. No archaeological sites were identified during this survey. Based on the information provided, our office agrees with your determination and no further archaeological work is necessary.

The following comments pertain to the *History/Architecture Investigations for the Approximately .5 ha (1.2 ac) Shawtown Switch Project in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, Ohio* by Weller & Associates, Inc. (2019).

A literature review and field survey were completed as part of the investigations. Five properties fifty years of age or older were identified within the project area and/or 1,000' study area that may have a direct line of sight to the project. It is Weller's recommendation that the identified properties are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to historical and architectural insignificance. Our office agrees with Weller's recommendations of eligibility.

Based on the information provided, we agree the project will not affect historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional historic properties are discovered during implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2022, or by e-mail at [khorricks@ohiohistory.org](mailto:khorricks@ohiohistory.org), or Joy Williams at [jwilliams@ohiohistory.org](mailto:jwilliams@ohiohistory.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Krista Horrocks, Project Reviews Manager  
Resource Protection and Review

cc: Pattarin Jarupan, AEP ([pjarupan@aep.com](mailto:pjarupan@aep.com))

RPR Serial No: 1081092-1081093



**Tucker, Jason**

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**From:** susan\_zimmermann@fws.gov on behalf of Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2019 11:54 AM  
**To:** Tucker, Jason  
**Subject:** AEP Shawtown Switch, 138 kV Line Replacement, Hancock Co.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Office  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, Ohio 43230  
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2020-TA-0071

Dear Mr. Tucker,

We have received your recent correspondence regarding potential impacts to federally listed species in the vicinity of the above referenced project. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. We recommend that proposed activities minimize water quality impacts, including fill in streams and wetlands. Best management practices should be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

**FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES COMMENTS:** Due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to the federally listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), we do not anticipate adverse effects to any federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend that the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), ESA, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Service's Mitigation Policy. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact John Kessler, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6621 or at [john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:john.kessler@dnr.state.oh.us).

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or [ohio@fws.gov](mailto:ohio@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Patrice M. Ashfield,  
Field Office Supervisor

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**2/21/2020 12:35:19 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0365-EL-BNR**

Summary: Notice Construction Notice for the Shawtown Switch-Hancock Wood Co-Op 138 kV Transmission Line Project- PART 1 electronically filed by Tanner Wolfram on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.