

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for the)
Shawtown Switch-Hancock Wood Co-Op 138 kV) Case No. 20-0365-EL-BNR
Transmission Line 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. However, pursuant to the Entry issued on March 17, 2020, in Case No. 20-0601-GE-UNC, such automatic approval has been tolled. Staff recommends the application for approval.

Please present any concerns you or your designee may have with this case to my office.

Sincerely,



Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 20-0365-EL-BNR
Project Name: Shawtown Switch-Hancock Wood Co-Op 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Project Location: Pleasant Township, Hancock County
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Application Filing Date: February 21, 2020
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Report Date: May 15, 2020
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: n/a
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, S. Halter

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

The applicant, AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP Ohio Transco or Applicant), proposes to tap the existing 34.5 kilovolt (kV) Leipsic-McComb line with a new 138 kV switch structure. This tap would connect to a new customer station by installing 0.03 miles of 138 kV transmission line to the new customer substation.

The switch structure would be located within Applicant's current easement at an existing station, and the line would connect to a customer station, so easement rights would need to be acquired by the customer. Construction of the transmission line would occur on property owned by the customer and would cross one roadway. Applicant proposes to begin construction in the second quarter of 2020 and to place the facility in service by September 2020. Applicant estimates the total cost of the project to be approximately \$1.8 million.

Basis of Need

This is a customer-driven project. The customer needs a new delivery point adjacent to the current station because it is currently served off a temporary single switch. Since AEP added a new load in the East Leipsic area of 56 MVA and the load served off the Shawtown delivery point is expected to grow at a rate of 1-2% per year, the temporary structure is no longer sufficient to serve the projected load. The customer is currently operating at 34.5 kV, but this project would update the customer to 138 kV standards in anticipation of full conversion to 138 kV. This conversion is

necessary to facilitate the load served off the Shawtown delivery point. The PJM number for this project is s2162.¹ Its progress can be tracked on PJM's website.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The structure would be located on an existing AEP Ohio Transco station parcel, and the line would be located within existing AEP Ohio Transco right-of-way to a customer's property. The land use within the project vicinity is residential and agricultural. The nearest residence is located approximately 90 feet east of the proposed structure. The applicant states that they have worked closely with surrounding landowners and that no socioeconomic impacts are expected from this project. No residences or structures would need to be removed as a result of this project. Additionally, there are no cemeteries, churches, schools, or parks located within 1,000 feet of the proposed project.

Agricultural Land

The proposed switch pole is not located within any agricultural land. Therefore, construction and operation of the electric transmission line extension is not expected to impact agricultural district land or agricultural production.

Cultural Resources

This extension has been studied for the presence of archaeological resources and historic impacts, and no significant adverse impacts on cultural resources are expected. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office concurs that the project would not be expected to have an adverse effect on cultural resources.

Surface Waters

No structures would be placed within wetlands or streams and no impacts to surface water resources are anticipated.

The project would impact less than 1 acre of land and would not require coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The project would be located outside of 100-year floodplain areas and no floodplain development permitting would be required.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Impacts to state and federal listed species would not occur due to no proposed in-water work, tree clearing, or impacts to unique habitats.

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 approval of this application subject to the following condition. Staff notes that

1. PJM Interconnection, LLC is the regional transmission organization charged with planning for upgrades to the regional transmission system in Ohio. Significant alterations to the transmission system located in the PJM control area are required to submit planned projects for review of system impacts.

its recommendation for approval of this application should not be construed as a recommendation for approval of cost recovery in any ratemaking proceeding.

Condition:

- (1) The certificate authority provided in this case shall not exempt the facility from any other applicable and lawful local, state, or federal rules or regulations nor be used to affect the exercise of discretion of any other local, state, or federal permitting or licensing authority with regard to areas subject to their supervision or control.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

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

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