

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
Ohio Power Company for a Certificate of)
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the) Case No. 20-0668-EL-BNR
Beatty Station Expansion Project)

Members of the Board:

Chair, 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 (Ohio Adm.Code) 4906-6.

On March 17, 2020, an administrative law judge tolled the time period for automatic approval of this project and other accelerated projects during the state of emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-01D. (See case number 20-601-GE-UNC, the "Tolling Directive.") On May 20, 2020, the administrative law judge modified the Tolling Directive, finding that the tolling provisions should be terminated effective June 1, 2020, thereby again subjecting this matter to an automatic approval, unless suspended.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval August 5, 2020, 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 August 5, 2020, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 20-0668-EL-BNR
Project Name: Beatty Station Expansion Project
Project Location: Franklin County
Applicant: Ohio Power Company
Application Filing Date: April 24, 2020
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Inspection Date: June 12, 2020
Report Date: July 29, 2020
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: August 5, 2020
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: J. Pawley, J. Cross, A. Holderbaum

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions

Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

Project Description and Need

The purpose of this project is to expand the existing Beatty Station fence line to accommodate the addition of sub-transmission equipment and infrastructure within the station. Ohio Power Company (Applicant) states that these sub-transmission upgrades would bring the station up to current company resiliency, operational performance, safety and reliability standards. The existing station would expand to the north by approximately 1.5 acres, or by roughly eight percent.

The Applicant further states that the project need and solution were submitted to the PJM Subregional RTEP Committee in June and September 2019, and that the PJM supplemental number is s2063. This project only pertains to the actual fence expansion, not the sub-transmission equipment and infrastructure upgrades within the station.

The Applicant anticipates that construction of this project would begin in the third quarter of 2020, and that the facility would be placed in service by May 2022. The cost of the overall project is estimated at \$2 million.¹

¹ Applicant indicates that the cost of the fence expansion, the subject of this application, will be approximately \$50,000. This cost will be included in the Applicant's formula rate (i.e. the annual transmission revenue applicable under PJM Interconnection, LLC's (PJM) Open Access Transmission Tariff, Attachment H-14) and would be assessed on all transmission customers within AEP East Operating Companies. The balance of the cost, approximately \$1,950,000 will be borne by AEP Ohio Transmission Co. and included in its formula rates.

Nature of Impacts

Land Use

The existing substation is located in Jackson Township, Franklin County. No residential structures are located within 100 feet of the substation, and no structures would need to be removed to construct this project. The surrounding area is predominately agricultural land use. There are no parks, churches, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, or nature preserves within 1,000 feet of the project.

All work to be performed for this project including the expanded fence line is located on property owned by the Applicant. No additional property easements or approvals from landowners would be needed for the proposed project.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review and Phase I cultural resource management investigation (archaeology and history/architecture) for the station expansion project. The consultant determined that the project would not involve nor impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was necessary. The findings were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO). The OHPO responded to the consultant in concurrence that this station expansion project would not affect historic properties, and that no additional cultural resources studies are needed for the substation project.

Surface Waters

No surface water resources are present within the vicinity of the project. The Applicant would submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit. Staff does not anticipate issues with the procurement of this permit. The project does not cross a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permit would be required.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Impacts to state and federal listed species would not occur due to no proposed in-stream work, tree clearing, or impacts to habitats of threatened or endangered wildlife within the range of the project.

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 on August 5, 2020 subject to the following conditions. 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) 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.

- (2) 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, on the case docket prior to commencement of construction.

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). 20-0668-EL-BNR

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