

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Letter of Notification Application     )**  
**of The Dayton Power and Light Company Hutchings     )** **Case No. 21-0152-EL-BLN**  
**138kV Reactor 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 4906-6.

Staff recommends the application for automatic approval June 07, 2021, 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 June 07, 2021, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Theresa White  
Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Case Number:** 21-0152-EL-BLN  
**Project Name:** Hutchings 138kV Reactor Project  
**Project Location:** Montgomery County  
**Applicant:** The Dayton Power and Light Company  
**Application Filing Date:** March 08, 2021  
**Filing Type:** Letter of Notification  
**Report Date:** May 28, 2021  
**Recommended Automatic Approval Date:** June 07, 2021  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** E. Morrison, J. Cross, T. November

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

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

### Project Description

The Dayton Power and Light Company (DP&L or Applicant) proposes a 26,911 square foot expansion (26 percent) of the existing Hutchings Substation and the installation of a 100MVA<sub>r</sub> shunt reactor and associated breakers and switches.<sup>1</sup>

The expansion would be located on the Applicant's property. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in August 2021 and place the facility in service by December 2021. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project to be approximately \$5,000,000. After a data request by Board staff ("Staff"), the capital and total costs have since been reduced to \$2,200,000.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Shunt reactors are used to increase power and energy system efficiency while reducing wear on downstream electrical components. MVA<sub>r</sub> stands for mega volt ampier (reactive), and is the metric used to rate a shunt reactor.

2. As stated in the Staff Report of Investigation for Applicant's most recent accelerated application, 20-0845-EL-BNR, the Applicant was in the process of modifying PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Attachment H-15 by referencing a transmission formula rate instead of a stated rate. *In re Construction Notice Application of Dayton Power and Light Co. for the Millcreek 138 kV Extension Project*, 20-0845-EL-BNR (Staff Report, 08/21/20). After this project is placed in service, the costs would be assessed on all users of the of Applicant's transmission system and recovered through the Transmission Cost Rate Rider.

## **Basis of Need**

Pursuant to R.C. 4906.10(A)(1), Staff evaluated information related to the basis of need for the project.<sup>3</sup> The Applicant states that its electric system has experienced high voltages during times of light system loads. The Applicant proposes to install a shunt reactor at DP&L's existing Hutchings Substation. The shunt reactor would allow the Applicant to control the increased voltages during light load periods.

Upgrades to the transmission system are part of PJM Interconnection, LLC's (PJM) Regional Transmission Expansion Planning process.<sup>4</sup> Staff verified the need for this project through consultation of PJM's baseline projects. Baseline projects include projects planned for reliability, operational performance, FERC Form No. 715 criteria, economic planning, and public policy planning (State Agreement Approach).<sup>5</sup>

This project was presented to PJM stakeholders at the Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting on March 7, 2019.<sup>6</sup> The project was issued baseline PJM upgrade ID b3108.3, whereby the project status can be tracked on PJM's website.<sup>7</sup> The project was included in the Applicant's 2021 Long Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, filed in Case No. 21-0505-EL-FOR.<sup>8</sup>

## **Nature of Impacts**

### *Socioeconomic Impacts*

The structure would be located on private property owned by the Applicant. The land use within the project vicinity is already devoted for utility infrastructure. No residences or structures would need to be removed because of this project.

### *Agricultural Land*

The proposed project is not located within or adjacent to any agricultural land. Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed substation expansion is not expected to impact agricultural district land or agricultural production.

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3. Ohio Adm.Code 4906-1-01, Appendix A, Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines, states at (4)(b) that a letter of notification is the proper application type for "constructing additions to existing power transmission stations \* \* \* where there is a greater than twenty percent expansion of the fenced area." As a transmission line facility, Staff determined a basis of need review was applicable to this filing, pursuant to R.C. 4906.10(A)(1), Ohio Adm.Code 4906-1-01, and Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-05(B)(2).

4. 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.

5. PJM Manual 14B: PJM Region Transmission Planning Process.

6. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee," March 7, 2019, Dayton High Voltage Issues During Light Load, available at: <https://pjm.com/-/media/committees-groups/committees/teac/20190307/20190307-reliability-analysis-update.ashx> (Accessed May 3, 2021).

7. PJM Interconnection, "Transmission Construction Status," November 23, 2020, <https://pjm.com/planning/project-construction.aspx>.

8. Dayton Power and Light Company, "Long-Term Forecast Report to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Case No. 21-0505-EL-FOR, April 14, 2021.

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant's cultural resources consultant performed a literature review of previously identified cultural resources in the vicinity of the project. The consultant determined that the project would neither involve nor impact any significant cultural resources or landmarks, and that no further cultural resource management work was considered to be necessary unless cultural resources were discovered during construction, due to the site's location near the Great Miami River. Staff recommends that construction of this project not commence until such time that the Applicant coordinates these findings with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) to ensure no adverse impacts to cultural resources.

### *Surface Waters*

No surface water streams, or wetlands were identified within the vicinity of the project. The total area of disturbance for the proposed project is less than one acre, therefore, construction Stormwater Permitting and a Notice of Intent for coverage under the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit is not required for this project. The project is not within a 100-year floodplain and no floodplain permitting would be required.

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Consultation with the ODNR and the USFWS did not identify any concerns regarding impacts to listed plant or animal species due to a lack of suitable habitat within the project area. Impacts to state and federally listed mussel and fish species would not occur due to no proposed in-water work. No impacts to listed bat species are anticipated as no tree removal is proposed for the project. Staff recommends that if at any time trees are deemed necessary for clearing, the applicant adheres to the ODNR and USFWS recommended seasonal tree cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for all trees three inches or greater in diameter unless further coordination efforts with the ODNR and USFWS reflects a different course of action. The project would not impact any bat hibernacula.

### **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 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.

- (3) Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall obtain a coordination letter from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) regarding potential impacts to cultural resources and shall coordinate with the OHPO and with Staff regarding compliance (if any) with the coordination letter.
- (4) The Applicant shall adhere to seasonal cutting dates of October 1 through March 31 for the removal of trees three inches or greater in diameter to avoid impacts to listed bat species, unless coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows a different course of action. If coordination with these agencies allows clearing between April 1 and September 30, the Applicant shall docket proof of completed coordination on the case docket prior to clearing trees.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/28/2021 2:13:35 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0152-EL-BLN**

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