

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Construction Notice Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for the Richland Reserve) **Case No. 21-0243-GA-BNR**
Relocation 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 16, 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 16, 2021, which is the recommended automatic approval date.

Sincerely,



Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: 21-0243-GA-BNR
Project Name: Richland Reserve Relocation Project
Project Location: Columbus, Ohio
Applicant: Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.
Application Filing Date: March 17, 2021
Filing Type: Construction Notice
Report Date: June 9, 2021
Recommended Automatic Approval Date: June 16, 2021
Applicant's Waiver Requests: None
Staff Assigned: E. Morrison, T. November

Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

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

Project Description

Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to relocate a natural gas main to accommodate the construction of an apartment complex. Approximately 625 linear feet of new epoxy-coated steel main would be installed. The pipeline would be qualified for 160 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) maximum allowable operating pressure and typically operate at 140 psig. The new pipeline would tie into existing 12-inch pipe to the west and six-inch pipe to the east.

The new line would lay in public road right-of-way. The Applicant proposes to begin construction in June 2021 and place the facility in service by July 2021. The Applicant estimates the total cost of the project to be approximately \$207,000.

Basis of Need

The existing 625 feet of natural gas pipeline is located in the vicinity of a new construction project. Specifically, the grading to construct the entrances to the apartment project necessitates this relocation. Additionally, the pipe to be replaced is vintage and of a non-typical diameter. The replacement of the 5 and 3/16 inch pipe with 12-inch pipe would update this section of the Applicant's system.

Nature of Impacts

Socioeconomic Impacts

The structure would be located on public road right-of-way. The land use within the project vicinity is residential and commercial. 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 gas line is not expected to impact agricultural district land or agricultural production.

Cultural Resources

This project area is entirely contained within the road right-of-way of Broad Street in Columbus. The Applicant does not expect to affect any cultural resources with this project, as the project would be located underground and in previously disturbed land for prior infrastructure development. Staff concurs with this assessment.

Surface Waters

No surface water streams, or wetlands are present within the vicinity of the project. The project is located within the City of Columbus in the existing public right-of-way of Broad Street. Due to the location and the nature of the project, no surface water permitting (floodplain, wetlands, etc.) is required for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Impacts to state and federally listed species would not occur due to no proposed work in or around any habitat associated with listed threatened or endangered species. The land associated within the project area consists of moderately populated property in a municipality within the existing public right-of-way of Broad Street. The project is not within any agricultural district, nor is there any other type of agricultural land, wetlands, grasslands, or wooded areas within the project area.

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.

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). 21-0243-GA-BNR

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