

**BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

**In the Matter of the Application of )  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. )  
for a Certificate )  
of Environmental Compatibility and )  
Public Need for Construction of the )  
Groves Road-Shannon 138 kV )  
Transmission Line Project. )**

**Case No. 21-0199-EL-BTX**

---

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. MOTION FOR WAIVER AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RULING**

---

Pursuant to Rules 4906-3-01(B) and 4906-2-27 of the Ohio Administrative Code, AEP Ohio Transmission Company (“AEP Ohio Transco” or the “Company”) respectfully moves for a limited waiver of the public information meeting requirements set forth in Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B). Specifically, given the ongoing health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant, the Company seeks a waiver of the requirement to host an in-person public information meeting in the area of the project and, instead, requests that the Ohio Power Siting Board (the “Board”) grant the Company’s waiver subject to the Company complying with its public engagement plan outlined in the memorandum in support as a substitute for the public information meeting. The grounds for this motion are set forth more fully in the accompanying memorandum in support.

The Company plans on submitting its application for this Project in January 2022 and anticipates hosting its proposed virtual open house in November 2021. As such, the Company requests expedited ruling on this motion pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-12(C).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hector Garcia-Santana  
1 Riverside Plaza, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Telephone: 614-716-3410

E-Mail: hgarcia1@aep.com

(willing to accept service by e-mail)

**Counsel for Applicant**

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.**

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

On March 9, 2020, in Executive Order 2020-01D, Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency for the entire State of Ohio to protect individuals from the dangerous health effects caused by COVID-19. The Executive Order required state agencies to implement certain procedures, including social distancing, face coverings, and other public health precautions.<sup>1</sup> While the state of emergency in Ohio was lifted in June 2021, the Delta variant of the coronavirus has since emerged and poses significant new risks in the ongoing effort to stop and slow the spread of the virus. In September 2021, in response to increasingly high community transmission levels in the City of Columbus and Franklin County, Mayor Andrew Ginther proclaimed a new state of emergency to protect the lives and well-being of citizens who work, attend school, and visit the City of Columbus.

However, as an essential business, the Company must continue to plan and construct necessary electric transmission infrastructure to serve customers throughout the State of Ohio. As part of this function, the Company will file an application for the Groves Road-Shannon 138 kV Transmission Line Project (the “Project”). The Project involves constructing new greenfield or rebuilding part of the existing Refugee-Groves Road and Shannon-Astor transmission lines in Franklin County, Ohio, in order to complete infrastructure improvements in Central Ohio. The Company will file this Project, which involves constructing approximately three to five miles of new greenfield 138 kV transmission line to connect the Groves Road Substation to the Shannon Substation, as a standard certificate application pursuant to the Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Line in Ohio Adm. Code 4906-1-01. As such, pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B), the Company would be required to conduct at least one information

---

<sup>1</sup> See *In the Matter of the Proper Procedures and Process for the Board’s Operations and Proceedings During the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-601-GE-UNC, Entry at 1 (March 20, 2020).

meeting open to the public and held in the area in which the project is located prior to constructing the Project. However, given the ongoing health situation and state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant in Franklin County, the Company cannot host an in-person public information meeting required by the Rules and, therefore, AEP Ohio Transco respectfully requests a waiver of Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B).

Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-01(B) authorizes the Board to waive any requirement of that chapter other than a requirement mandated by statute. Here, there is good cause to grant the Company's requested waiver. First, without the requested waiver, the Company could not construct this Project, which would restrict planned infrastructure improvements. Second, while there would not be a traditional in-person public information meeting, the Company has developed an alternative public engagement plan to inform the affected landowners and adjacent properties of this Project. Given the current health situation, the public engagement plan will be most effective in limiting the spread of the virus while still adhering to the spirit and intent of Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B).

In accordance with the plan, the Company has and will continue to engage with the City of Columbus, other utilities, and other stakeholders regarding the Project. As with all similar projects, stakeholders and property owners will also be able to find information related to the Project on the Company's website and reach out to the Company's public outreach specialist with any comments or questions regarding the proposed Project. The Company will also send letter invitations for its proposed virtual open house and live question and answer sessions to all property owners within the Project corridor and run a public notice of the virtual open house in the Columbus Dispatch. The letter invitations will include a fact sheet, concept map, and the public outreach specialist's dedicated number for the Project, as well as a comment page and a

prepaid envelope that will allow property owners to provide written comments on the proposed Project. The Company will then host a virtual open house through its project website. Stakeholders and property owners will be able to submit comments via email to the Company that will be addressed during the open house, as well as provide comments specific to their property online via the Company's interactive mapping tool. Finally, the Company will conduct at least one live question and answer session via WebEx for interested parties to provide additional information and answer any additional questions about the Project.

Thus, the Company's proposed public engagement plan meets the spirit of Ohio Adm. Code Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B) by providing many opportunities for interested parties to provide feedback and get additional information regarding the Project. Additionally, without the requested waiver, the Company will not be able to comply with the requirements of Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B), thereby preventing the Company from constructing the Project and curbing planned infrastructure improvements in the area. For these reasons, good cause exists to support granting AEP Ohio Transco's requested waiver of Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B). Accordingly, AEP Ohio Transco respectfully requests that the Board waive the requirements of Ohio Adm. Code 4906-3-03(B) in this case. Additionally, given that the Company anticipates filing the application for this Project in January 2022 and holding its virtual open house in November 2021, AEP Ohio Transco requests an expedited ruling on its motion pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-12(C).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hector Garcia-Santana

1 Riverside Plaza, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Telephone: 614-716-3410  
E-Mail: hgarcia1@aep.com  
(willing to accept service by e-mail)  
**Counsel for Applicant**  
**AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

In accordance with Rule 4901-1-05, Ohio Administrative Code, the PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document upon the following parties. In addition, I hereby certify that a service copy of the foregoing Motion for Waiver and Request for Expedited Ruling was sent by, or on behalf of, the undersigned counsel to the following parties of record this 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021, via electronic transmission.

/s/ Hector Garcia-Santana

**EMAIL SERVICE LIST**

jonathan.pawley@puco.ohio.gov

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**9/22/2021 1:27:21 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0199-EL-BTX**

Summary: Motion Motion for Waiver and Request for Expedited Ruling electronically filed by Hector Garcia-Santana on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.