

Construction Notice for the Blendon Extension 138 kV Pole Replacement Project



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

PUCO Case No. 22-0173-EL-BNR

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code
Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

March 11, 2022

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR BLENDON EXTENSION 138 KV POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Ohio Power Company

Blendon Extension 138 kV Pole Replacement Project

4906-6-05 Accelerated Application Requirements

Ohio Power Company (AEP Ohio or the Company) provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in accordance with the accelerated application requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

The name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification.

The Company proposes the Blendon Extension 138 kV Pole Replacement Project (the "Project"), located in the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. The purpose of this Project is to replace an existing, wood 2-pole guyed structure with a single steel monopole structure. The Project was requested by the City of Columbus, in order to accommodate widening East Dublin Granville Road. The Project will remain within road ROW and will not require any additional private easements. Appendix A, Figures 1 and 2 show the location of the Project in relation to the surrounding vicinity.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice (CN) as defined by Item 2 (a) of Appendix A to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

(2) Adding new circuits on existing structures designed for multiple circuit use, replacing conductors on existing structures with larger or bundled conductors, adding structures to an existing transmission line, or replacing structures with a different type of structure, for a distance of:

(a) Two miles or less.

The Project has been assigned Case No. 22-0173-EL-BNR.

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B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed Letter of Notification project is an electric power transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

The Project's primary purpose is to replace an existing 2-pole guyed structure with a single steel monopole structure. The City of Columbus notified the Company of its plans to widen the existing East Dublin Granville Road and the existing 2 pole-guyed structure is currently within the planned road right-of-way expansion. As such, the City requested that the Company move the existing structure to accommodate the expanded public infrastructure. The Blendon Extension 138 kV line, which this pole supports, is the only 138 kV feed into the Blendon Distribution Station. Replacement of this pole is required to maintain the current configuration and service to the approximately 15,400 customers served from Blendon Station.

There is no operation, modeling, or topology change as a result of the Project; therefore, the Project will not be submitted to PJM. The Project is also not reported in the Long-Term Forecast Report because the Project was unknown at the time of filing.

B(3) Project Location

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the Project area.

The location of the Project relative to existing transmission lines and substations is shown on Figure 1, in Appendix A. Figure 2, in Appendix A, identifies the Project components on a 2019 aerial photograph.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

The existing structure will be removed and replaced with a new steel pole dead-end structure located adjacent to the existing structure. The new pole location will remain within road right-of-way and no new or supplemental easement will be required. The resulting alignments represent the most suitable and least impactful pole location alternative as it reduces the need for new ROW, does not have impacts to streams or wetlands, and does not require tree clearing. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered. Socioeconomic, land use, and ecological information is presented in Section B(10).

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B(5) Public Information Program

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The Company maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project. In addition, the Company retains ROW land agents that discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities and convey this information to affected owners and tenants.

B(6) Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in May 2022 with an anticipated in-service date of June 2022.

B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 1, in Appendix A, identifies the location of the Project area on the United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 New Albany Quadrangle map. Appendix A, Figure 2 displays the Project components on a 2019 aerial photograph.

To visit the Project from downtown Columbus, Ohio, take I-70 W/I-71 S toward I-71 S to Cincinnati for 5.5 miles. Take exit 101 for I-270 E and continue for two miles. Then, take exit 52 to merge onto US-23 S/S High Street/Portsmouth-Columbus Road towards Circleville for one mile. Turn left on Rathmell Road and continue for 0.8 mile. Turn right onto Parsons Road for 0.4 mile. The Project is located to the west of Parsons Road.

B(8) Property Agreements

The applicant shall provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

The proposed Project is located within road right-of-way owned by the Ohio Department of Transportation ("ODOT"). The Project will require a utility permit with ODOT. No other property easements, options, or land use agreements are necessary to construct the Project or operate the transmission line.

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B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

The transmission line pole replacement is anticipated to include the following:

Voltage:	138-kV
Conductors:	six (6) 1272 kcmil 45/7 Bittern ASCR
Static Wire:	one (1) 3/8" EHS 7 strand
Insulators:	Polymer
ROW Width:	N/A, by permit only
Structure Types:	one (1) double Circuit, Steel Monopole Dead-End

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line.

B(9)(b)(i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Strength Levels

i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Levels

Not applicable. No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(b)(ii) Design Alternatives

A discussion of the applicant's consideration of design alternatives with respect to electric and magnetic fields and their strength levels, including alternate conductor configuration and phasing, tower height, corridor location, and right-of-way width.

Not applicable. No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(b)(ii)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital costs estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$250,000 using a Class 5 estimate. Pursuant to the PJM OATT, the costs for this Project will be recovered in the Ohio Power Company's FERC formula rate (Attachment H-14 to the PJM OATT) and allocated to the AEP Zone.

B(10) Social and Economic Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project:

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B(10)(a) Operating Characteristics

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is located in the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. Land use surrounding the project primarily consists of road right of way, with lesser amounts of industrial and residential development. The State Route 161 (SR-161) corridor bisects the northern portion of the Project area in an east to west direction and East Dublin Granville Road runs parallel to SR-161 in the southern portion of the Project area. No schools or commercial buildings are located within 1,000 feet of the Project. No churches, cemeteries, wildlife management areas, or nature preserve lands are located within 1,000 feet of the centerline of the Project. Residences are located approximately 200 feet south of the Project, on the south side of East Dublin Granville Road. However, no major additional impacts are anticipated to residences as the Project is necessary to replace a structure along an existing transmission line and was requested by the City of Columbus to accommodate the widening of East Dublin Granville Road. Blendon Woods Metro Park is located approximately 700 feet south of the Project area but will not be impacted by the Project.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

The Project area is located within road ROW and therefore, no properties are registered as agricultural district land. Additionally, no agricultural land was identified in the Project area.

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archaeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

A review of the National Register of Historic Places was completed and no previously listed sites were located in the Project area. The Project area has been previously disturbed by the construction of S.R. 161 in the 1990s. An overpass bridge was constructed to enable Ulry Road to cross over the new S.R. 161 which is located below grade at the location of the Project area. No additional studies were recommended based on the literature review and previous construction activities in the area.

B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a

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list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

The Project is below the reporting levels for an OEPA Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

An ODOT utility permit will be obtained for authorization to aerially span SR-161 prior to starting any construction over the highway. There are no other known local, state or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

Coordination letters were submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), Ohio Ecological Services Field Office, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Ohio Natural Heritage Program ("ONHP"), seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. A response from USFWS and ODNR's DOW/OHNP is currently pending. Once a response has been received from USFWS and ODNR, information will be provided to the OPSB.

The USFWS Federally Listed Species located on the USFWS website IPAC (Information for Planning and Consultation) was reviewed in March 2022 (available at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.) to determine the threatened and endangered species currently known to occur in Franklin County and specifically the project area.

The USFWS publication lists the following species as occurring within Franklin County: Indiana bat (E), northern long-eared bat (T), running buffalo clover (E), Scioto madtom (E), clubshell (E), northern riffleshell (E), rayed bean (E), snuffbox (E), rabbitsfoot (T), eastern hellbender (SC), bald eagle (SC). The project area specifically was noted to have the potential to contain the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat and Running Buffalo Clover.

The Project is within the range of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. Due to this potential, the USFWS/ODNR recommends seasonal tree cutting for trees >3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse impacts to this species. However, no tree clearing activities are anticipated to be required for the construction of the Project. Therefore, the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat.

No in water work is proposed as part of the Project. Therefore, there will be no impacts associated with the Scioto madtom, clubshell, northern riffleshell, rayed bean, snuffbox, rabbitsfoot, or eastern hellbender.

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As the Project area is entirely disturbed, and lacking key characteristics required to support the Running Buffalo Clover, AEP determined that there is no suitable habitat for the Running Buffalo Clover in the project area. Therefore, the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Running Buffalo Clover.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Natural Heritage Database was reviewed for the Franklin County. As no work will occur in the water, the following list of species includes, the state endangered and species of concern birds, and mammals.

The species listed for ODNR, Franklin County and not included on the federal threatened and endangered species list include: Upland Sandpiper, American Bittern, Lark Sparrow, Green-winged Teal, Yellow-Crowned Night-heron, Golden-winged Warbler. As the project area was previously disturbed, the area lacks suitable habitat for any of the above listed species.

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) database indicated that there were no NWI-mapped wetlands identified within the Project area. Additionally, as the Project area has been completely disturbed, no wetlands or streams were identified in the Project area.

No properties identified in the National Conservation Easement Database (<http://www.conservationeasement.us>) were identified in the Project vicinity.

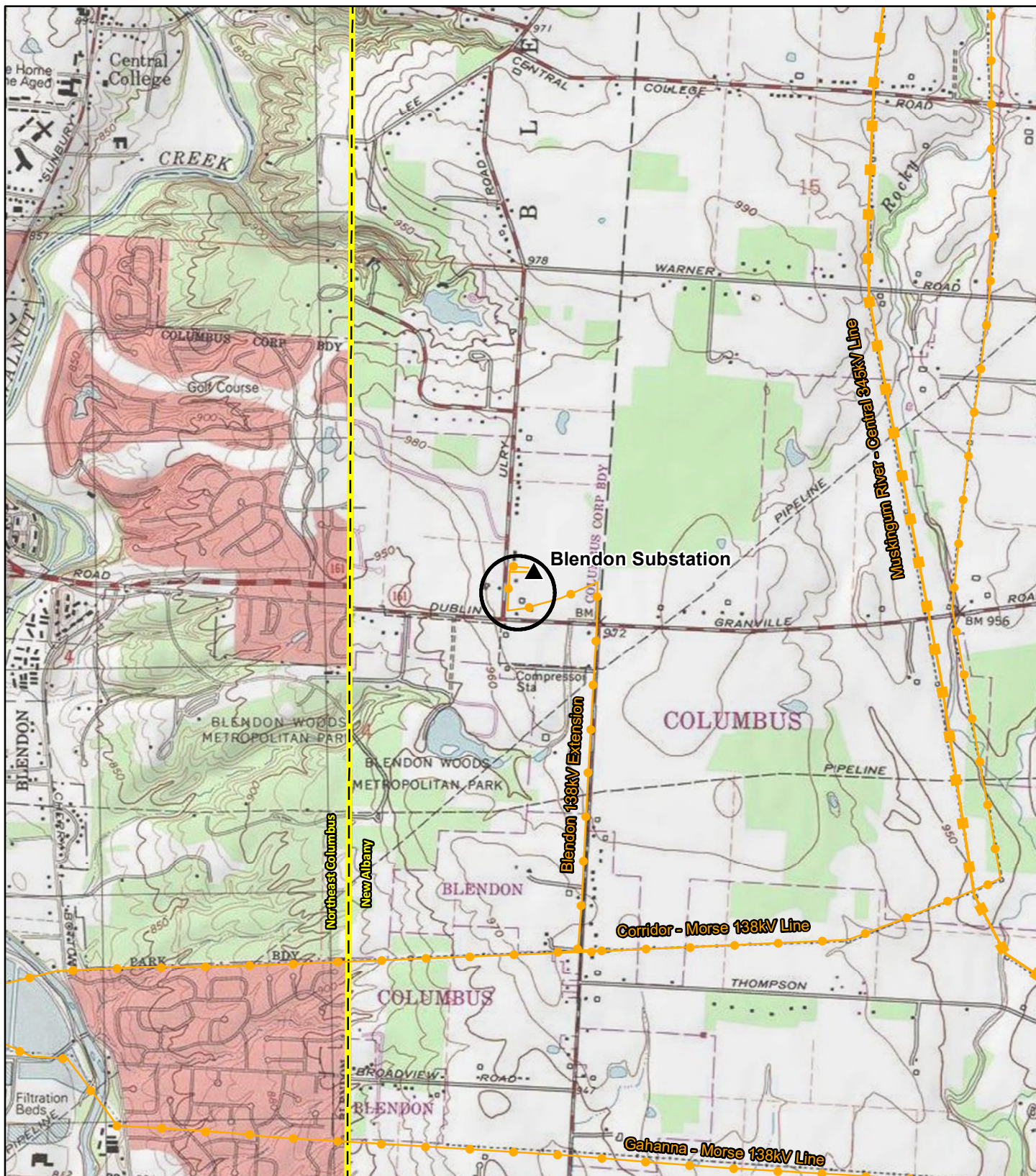
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project area (specifically, map number 39049C0203K). Based on this mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project area.

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of the Company's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

Appendix A Project Maps



Existing Transmission Line

- 138kV
- 345kV and Above
- US Topographic Lines
- Project Area

Data Sources: AEP, USGS 7.5'
Topographic Quadrangles
(New Albany)

Coordinate System
and Datum:
NAD 83 State Plane
Ohio South, Feet

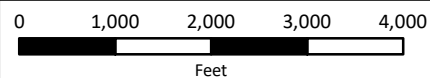
February 22, 2022

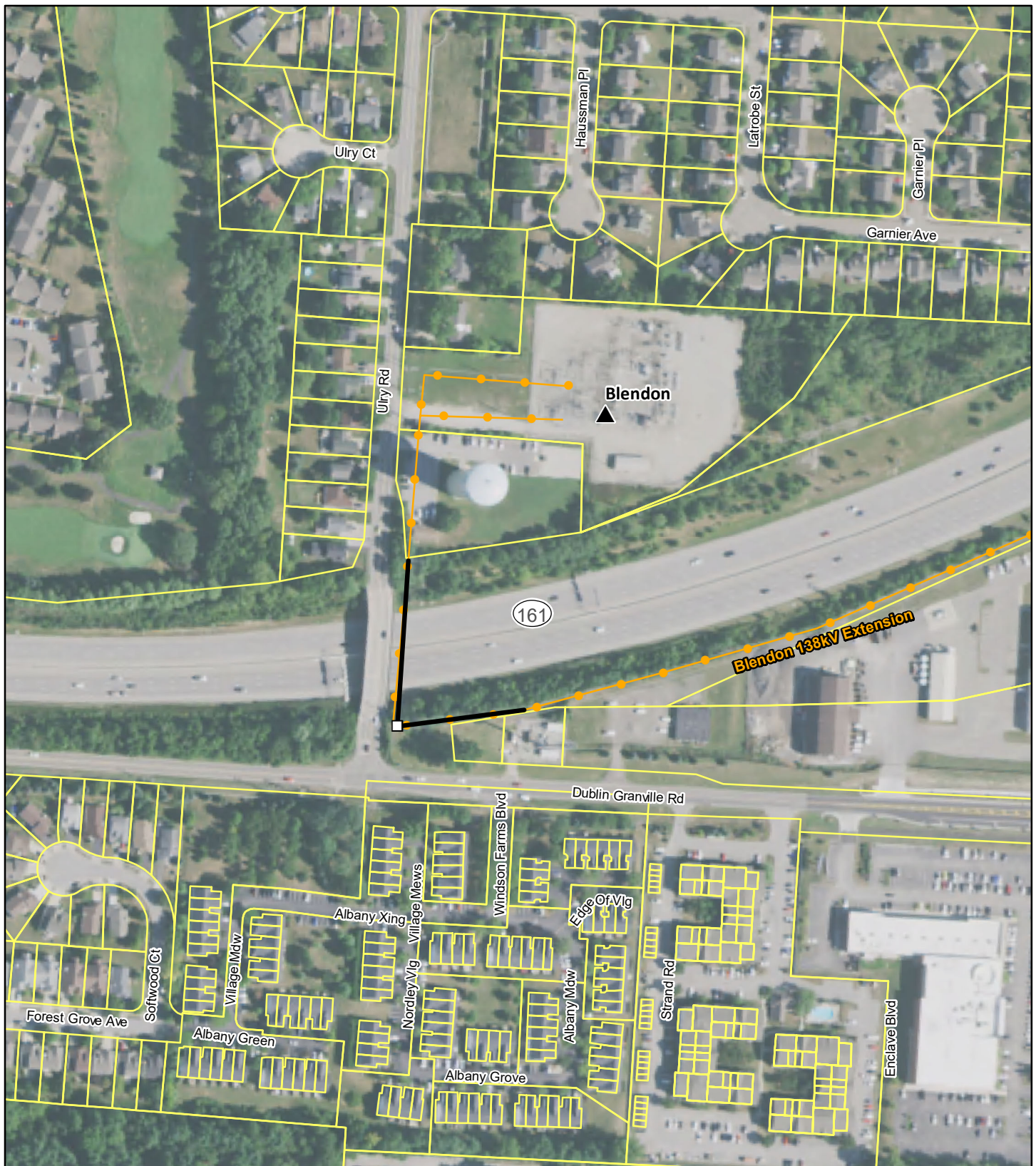


FIGURE 1 TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW



Blendon 138kV Extension
Realignment Project





- ▲ Existing Substation
- Proposed Structure
- Proposed Centerline
- Existing 138kV Transmission Line
- Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
Corelogic &
NAIP Imagery, 2019

Coordinate System
and Datum:
NAD 83 State Plane
Ohio South, Feet



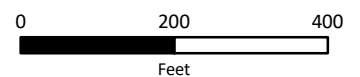
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FIGURE 2 AERIAL MAP



Blendon 138kV Extension
Realignment Project



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 22-0173-EL-BNR

Summary: Notice Construction Notice electronically filed by Hector Garcia-Santana
on behalf of Ohio Power Company