

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of AEP Ohio :
Transmission Company, :
Inc., for a Certificate of:
Environmental :
Compatibility and Public : Case No. 21-199-EL-BTX
Need for the Construction :
of the Groves Road-Shannon:
138 kV Transmission Line :
Project in Franklin :
County, Ohio. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jesse Davis, Administrative Law Judge, at
the Ohio Historical Center, 800 East 17th Avenue,
Columbus, Ohio, called at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
October 18, 2022.

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ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
222 East Town Street, Second Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 American Electric Power Service Corporation
3 By Ms. Shelby Mann
4 and Mr. Hector Garcia
5 1 Riverside Plaza
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215

7 On behalf of the Applicant.

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Tuesday Evening Session,
October 18, 2022.

- - -

ALJ DAVIS: Okay. We are on the record.

The Ohio Power Siting Board has scheduled
for public hearing at this time and place Case No.
21-199-EL-BTX which is captioned in the Matter of the
Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company,
Incorporated, for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need to Construct the Groves
Road-Shannon Transmission Line Project in Franklin
County, Ohio.

My name is Jesse Davis. I am the
Administrative Law Judge with the Board assigned to
hear this case and conduct tonight's hearing. There
are other Board Staff members here in the back there
towards the desk and there is another gentleman with
the Board who should be in here shortly.

If you have questions about the Board's
process or the application process, you can feel free
to talk to them or any other kind of questions
concerning what's upcoming in the case in terms of
how the hearings go or things like that, you can feel
free to talk to them. Or if you have written
comments you would like to file in the docket, they

1 can answer those questions.

2 At this time I think what I would like to
3 do is take appearance of counsel for the parties. So
4 if we have counsel for the Applicant.

5 MR. MCKENZIE: Yeah. Shelby Mann with
6 AEP Ohio Transco. Also with me is Hector
7 Garcia-Santana.

8 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. I don't have
9 counsel for anyone else. Okay. So thank you very
10 much.

11 So with that said, the subject of today's
12 hearing is an application filed by AEP Ohio
13 Transmission Company, Incorporated, hereafter
14 referred to as AEP, for the purpose of constructing a
15 new approximately 5 to 7 mile long 138 kilovolt
16 transmission line through Blacklick Estates, the City
17 of Columbus, Village of Brice, and Truro and Madison
18 Townships in Franklin County, Ohio.

19 The proposed transmission line will
20 connect the Groves Road Station to the Shannon
21 Station. The applicant -- application was filed on
22 March 8, 2022. AEP contends the project, if approved
23 and completed, aims to improve the reliability of the
24 electric transmission grid in Franklin County, Ohio,
25 and is part of the overall southeast Columbus area

1 improvements project.

2 Board Staff filed its Report of
3 Investigation on October 3, 2022. The Staff Report
4 is a recommendation and does not necessarily reflect
5 the Board's final determination in this case. I
6 would note that if anyone would like to read the
7 Staff Report, it is available in the docket, and if
8 you have questions about how to access that, you can
9 certainly ask Mr. Butler in the back there or the
10 other Board member staff -- Board Staff member is
11 Andrew Conway. He was also the Staff lead on this
12 project, so if you have particular questions about
13 something in the report, you can ask him.

14 With that said, the purpose of this
15 evening's public hearing is to get -- solicit
16 feedback from the public about the proposed project.
17 So, you know, if you just have opinions or thoughts
18 or any kind of concerns you want to voice, tonight is
19 the time to come up here and testify about those
20 things.

21 This is only one aspect of the case. The
22 public hearing is just one step in our process. An
23 in-person evidentiary hearing is scheduled in this
24 case, and it will occur in November and that will be
25 at the Board's offices in Columbus. The purpose of

1 that is for the parties in the case and for Board
2 Staff to provide testimony and other evidence about
3 the project. And that will be what the Board
4 considers in totality when it makes its decision on
5 the approval of the application.

6 Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by
7 our court reporter, and I would just ask that if you
8 do plan to testify, that you speak kind of loudly and
9 clearly. You know, we are relatively close together
10 but just to make sure she can hear you clearly and
11 get everything transcribed properly.

12 Also if you have prepared a written
13 statement or have any sort of testimony that's
14 written down and you brought it with you, you can
15 certainly give it to me, and I will make sure it gets
16 to the docket. That would be helpful for ensuring
17 everything's accurate.

18 After I finish kind of introducing things
19 here, I will begin by inviting individuals on the
20 sign-up sheet here to testify about the proposed
21 project, and each person who signed up will be
22 permitted to speak once about the project. And
23 before you speak, you will be asked to take an oath
24 or affirmation what you state is the truth. And I
25 will ask you to state and spell your name and address

1 for the record and indicate if you work or reside
2 within the project area, and then you are able to
3 provide your thoughts.

4 Counsel for the -- for the parties in the
5 case, if they wish, could ask a question about
6 something that you say, and I am also permitted to do
7 so, but you will know. It would certainly be
8 something I would indicate.

9 And then there will be a final transcript
10 of this hearing that will be transcribed and put into
11 the docket in the case, so anybody can access the
12 docket on our website and go and read that.

13 And again, if you wish, you can also
14 change your mind and file written comments. That's
15 perfectly fine. I know some folks would rather do
16 that.

17 And again, once you finish testifying,
18 you are certainly welcome to stick around for anybody
19 else that's going to speak; or you can, of course,
20 leave at any time. We just ask that you do so
21 quietly.

22 That's pretty much all I have in terms of
23 an introduction. So at this time we will begin with
24 testifying, and it looks like the only person who
25 signed up is Ron Benit.

1 MR. BENIT: That's me but I need to find
2 out a little bit more about the project because I got
3 some notice about it but I don't know exactly what's
4 going on and I am only interested in how it affects
5 my property.

6 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. Do you have any
7 thoughts that you would like to get out beforehand,
8 or would you feel like you are just not prepared to
9 provide that without kind of learning more?

10 MR. BENIT: Well, we did receive some
11 kind of inquiry regarding -- from AEP asking to -- to
12 run lines over our property and take down some
13 structures, and we are not interested in that. So
14 that's all I have to say.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Would you like to get that
16 into the record or?

17 MR. BENIT: Sure.

18 ALJ DAVIS: Okay. So I would ask you to
19 raise your right hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ DAVIS: Could you please state and
22 spell your name for the record.

23 MR. BENIT: Ron Benit, B-E-N-I-T.

24 ALJ DAVIS: And your address.

25 MR. BENIT: So the property that we're

1 talking about is at 2440 Brice Road.

2 ALJ DAVIS: And is that within the
3 project area?

4 MR. BENIT: I don't know. We got notice
5 regarding that, so I would imagine that they are
6 related. The inquiry was related to this project.

7 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you. And you can go
8 ahead and say whatever it is.

9 MR. BENIT: So we received an inquiry
10 from AEP that they wanted to run some lines over --
11 over our property and take down an existing
12 structure. And, you know, we have plans for that
13 property, and we don't want any high voltage lines
14 running through the property.

15 ALJ DAVIS: Thank you for your testimony.

16 MR. BENIT: That's it.

17 ALJ DAVIS: And does anyone else wish to
18 speak?

19 Going once? Going twice? Sold.

20 Well, that's everyone who signed up to
21 testify this evening, so without anyone else who
22 wishes to testify or speak tonight, that would
23 conclude our hearing.

24 We would like to thank the Ohio
25 Historical Society for allowing us to use this room

1 and facility and thank all of you for showing up and
2 attending tonight. I know it was a bit of a short
3 affair.

4 This hearing is now concluded. There
5 will be a transcript submitted to the docket and I
6 wish I could tell you specifics but sometimes it
7 takes a week, sometimes a couple weeks. It just
8 depends. This was a pretty short one so I expect you
9 will be able to keep an eye on the docket and see it
10 soon.

11 Again, thank you all for being here. We
12 are now adjourned.

13 (Thereupon, at 6:10 p.m., the hearing was
14 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, October 18,
2022, and carefully compared with my original
stenographic notes.

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-7352)

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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 21-0199-EL-BTX

Summary: Transcript October 18th 2022 In the Matter of the Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction of the Groves Road-Shannon 138 kV Transmission Line Project in Franklin County, Ohio. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.