

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

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

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF**

Andrew Conway

**ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO,
POWER SITING DEPARTMENT**

STAFF EX. ____

November 10, 2022

1 1. Q. Please state your name and business address.

2 A. My name is Andrew Conway, and my business address is 180 East Broad
3 Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
4

5 2. Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

6 A. I am employed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) as a
7 Utility Specialist II within the Power Siting Department.
8

9 3. Q. Please describe your job title and duties.

10 A. As a Utility Specialist II focusing on engineering in the Power Siting
11 Department, I review technical issues associated with energy infrastructure
12 design, construction, and operation. I work as a case lead or as a specialist
13 in assigned technical areas of Applications for a Certificate of
14 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct major utility
15 facilities and economically significant wind farms. I also perform other
16 duties as assigned.
17

18 I have provided analysis on multiple projects, including wind farms, solar
19 farms, natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines and substations, and
20 natural gas combined cycle power plants submitted to the Ohio Power
21 Siting Board (Board). I have also inspected and visited numerous power
22 plants in various stages of design, construction, and operation.

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4. Q. Would you please summarize your educational background and work experience?

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and minor in Chemistry from the University of Toledo. I am also a registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio. I attended a Solar Photovoltaic Project Design and Development training workshop in August 2016. I successfully completed the Electronics Technicians Association (ETA) certified 5-day Photovoltaic Level 1 Design/Installation Course in January 2017. I also attended the Battery Storage Workshop offered by Ascend Analytics, Inc. I also took training courses specific to geotechnical exploration, renewable energy installation, and safety.

From 2001 to 2009, I was employed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as an environmental specialist. From 2009 to present, I have been employed in my current position at the PUCO.

5. Q. Have you testified in prior proceedings before the Ohio Power Siting Board?

A. Yes.

1 6. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

2 A. I am sponsoring the Staff Report of Investigation (Staff Report) that was
3 filed in the docket of this case on October 3, 2022. I managed the Staff
4 investigation and preparation of the Staff Report in this case.

5

6 7. Q. What kind of case is this?

7 A. In this case, the AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (Applicant)
8 proposes to construct, own, operate, and maintain the Groves Road-
9 Shannon 138 kV electric transmission line facility located in Blacklick
10 Estates, the City of Columbus, the Village of Brice, Madison township, and
11 Truro township in southeast Franklin County, Ohio. The total length of the
12 project is approximately five to 6.6 miles, depending upon the route
13 selected.

14

15 8. Q. Please summarize Staff's investigation that was conducted in this case.

16 A. Staff's investigation included reviewing the application, conducting site
17 visits to the proposed facility location, acquiring additional information
18 from the Applicant, obtaining input from state agencies that compose the
19 Board along with other relevant state and federal agencies, and preparing
20 the Staff Report that presents Staff's analysis, conclusions, and
21 recommendations. As a result of Staff's investigation, Staff recommends

1 that the Board approve the Preferred Route as presented in the application,
2 subject to the 22 conditions that are presented in the Staff Report.
3

4 9. Q. What impacts did Staff review for the project in arriving at this conclusion?

5 A. Staff reviewed various types of land use impacts including residential,
6 recreational, institutional, ecological, cultural resources, agricultural,
7 transportation, and overall geological suitability. Staff also reviewed the
8 financial, environmental and ecological impacts, noise impacts, safety,
9 basis of need for the project, and aesthetic impacts of the project. Staff also
10 analyzed whether the proposed electric transmission line is consistent with
11 regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid serving this state and
12 that this facility would serve the interests of electric system economy and
13 reliability.
14

15 10. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

16 A. Yes, it does. However, I reserve the right to submit supplemental testimony
17 as new information subsequently becomes available or in response to
18 positions taken by other parties.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Prefiled Testimony of Andrew Conway**, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Power Siting Department, was served via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 10th day of November 2022.

/s/Robert Eubanks

Robert Eubanks

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Summary: Testimony of Andrew Conway electronically filed by Ms. Tonnetta Y.
Scott on behalf of OPSB