

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Letter of Notification)
Nottingham Solar, LLC for the 138 kV Gen-)
Tie Transmission Line Project, Athens) Case No. No 22-1030-EL-BGA
Township, Harrison County, Ohio)

**NOTTINGHAM SOLAR LLC GEN-TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT RESPONSE
TO OPSB STAFF SECOND DATA REQUEST DATED NOVEMBER 28, 2022**

- 1) Please confirm the only geotechnical borings conducted were at or near the proposed substation and that no borings were collected along the gen-tie corridor route?

RESPONSE: The geotechnical report submitted in this case contains boring information for only the proposed substation, and not the gen-tie corridor route. The Board's accelerated certificate application rules do not require the submittal of a geotechnical report for electric power transmission line applications. However, because Nottingham Solar's substation was not evaluated in the generation case (Case No. 21-270-EL-BGN), Nottingham submitted geotechnical information regarding the substation in this accelerated application gen-tie case for the Board's review. It is Nottingham Solar's understanding that accelerated transmission line applications do not typically require geotechnical boring information for the transmission line corridor route or associated facilities. For example, geotechnical boring information was not required in Case No. 15-1751-EL-BLN, in which the ATSI 138 kV Loop to the Nottingham Switching Station was approved by the Board. Nottingham Solar's proposed transmission lines are within the same area as the ATSI 138 kV Loop Project, and runs parallel to ATSI's line. Also, it does not appear geotechnical reports were required in Case No. 22-0641-EL-BNR (AEP – Nottingham-Nottingham Solar 138 kV Line), Case No. 15-1756-EL-BLN (Nottingham-Freebyrd 138kV Transmission Line Adjustment), or Case No. 14-1818-EL-BLN (Nottingham Substation Project). Each of these cases involved accelerated applications for projects that were within the same area of the proposed Nottingham Solar gen-tie project.

Although the geotechnical report does not contain borings for the corridor route, during initial planning for construction of poles located on AEP's property, Nottingham Solar performed borings at four locations along a potential corridor route. As Nottingham Solar progressed to the final design, pole locations were changed. Therefore, some of the original borings along the transmission line corridor are in locations that are not going to be used by the project. The original borings will be used to inform decisions regarding methods for installing the gen-tie line wooden poles.

- 2) In reviewing ODNr's online mine maps, approximately 50% of the gen-tie corridor proposed is potentially located over abandoned underground mines. Without boring data to confirm otherwise (i.e., mined through), Staff must assume the underground mines mapped by ODNr still exist. Please describe what special consideration the Applicant has given to the potential of ground subsidence in the project area.

RESPONSE: The poles along the gen-tie corridor will be direct embedded wood poles. Nottingham Solar's geotechnical engineer has recommended two options for mitigating soil concerns. The first option is removing the upper three feet of overburden where there are mine spoils, excavating within a 10-foot radius of the pole, and replacing the soil with moisture conditioned, compacted, structural fill where there is lateral resistance. The second option is embedding the poles three feet further into the soil than they would normally be installed. Nottingham Solar will perform geotechnical testing at the highly loaded poles (dead-ends and large angles) to confirm recommendations.

- 3) The geotechnical report's recommendation for access roads in areas that overlie mine spoil includes removal of at least 5 feet of material and replacement by structural fill. Does this recommendation apply to the pole foundations?

RESPONSE: The poles will be direct embedded poles. There will be no pole foundations.

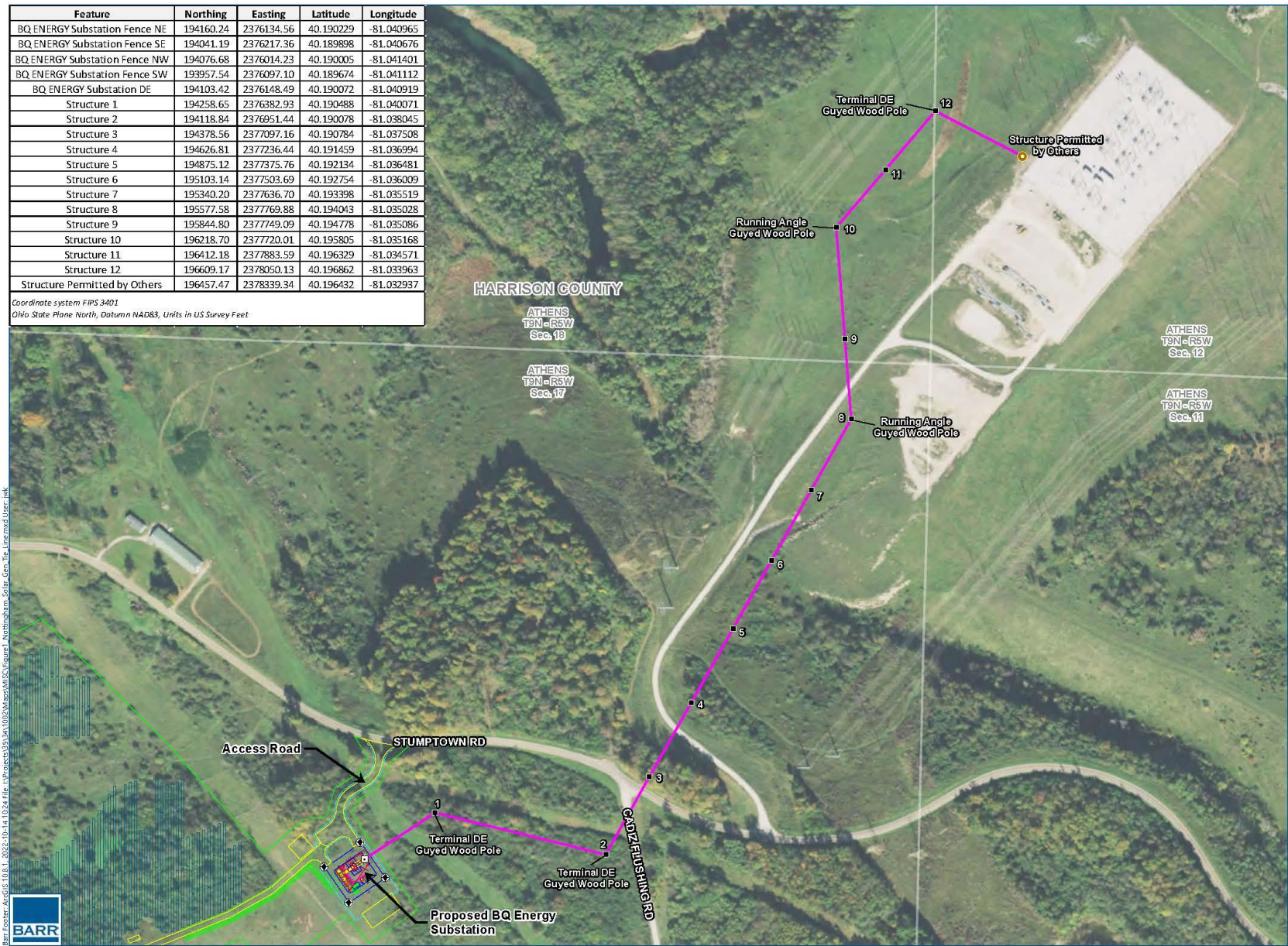
- 4) Please provide Staff with a figure/diagram of pole locations and pole foundations.

RESPONSE: Please see Figure 1 below. The coordinates for the pole locations are provided in the table. All poles will be direct embedded wood poles; therefore, there are no foundations.

- 5) Page 4 of the report speaks to 12 wooden poles whereas page 7 speaks to 14 steel monopoles. Please clarify.

RESPONSE: Page 4 of the report accurately states that there are 12 wooden poles for the gen tie line. Within the Nottingham Solar's substation, there will be one H-frame terminal dead-end steel structure founded on a drilled pier and one steel static mast founded on a drilled pier. The H-frame is technically two towers on two piers with a cross bar between them. The statement on page 7 regarding 14 steel monopoles is a mistake.

Figure 1



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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Case No(s). 22-1030-EL-BLN

Summary: Response to Staff Second Data Requests Dated November 28, 2022
electronically filed by Teresa Orahoad on behalf of Devin D. Parram