Legal Department

American Electric Power
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215-2373
AEP.com

December 7, 2022

Ms. Tanowa Troupe, Secretary
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Hector Garcia-Santana
Senior Counsel –
Regulatory Services
(614) 716-3410 (P)
hgarcia1@aep.com

RE: In the Matter of the Kirk-Union Ridge Solar 138 kV Transmission Line Project
Case No. 22-1067-EL-BLN
Proof of Compliance with O.A.C. 4906-6-07 and 4906-6-08

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Ohio Power Company hereby files this proof of compliance with the notice requirements set forth in Rules 4906-6-07 and 4906-6-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code for the above-referenced project application:

1. In accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-07(A)(1), Ohio Power Company shipped Notification Letters to public officials on December 2, 2022, via USPS First Class Mail.

2. In accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-07(A)(2), Ohio Power Company shipped physical copies of the Notification Letters to public officials and libraries on December 2, 2022, via FedEx.

3. In accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-08(A), Ohio Power Company published a public notices of the Letter of Notification in the Newark Advocate in the project's area on December 6, 2022.

4. In accordance with O.A.C. 4906-6-08(B), Ohio Power Company shipped Notification Letters to property owners and affected tenants on December 2, 2022, via USS First Class Mail.

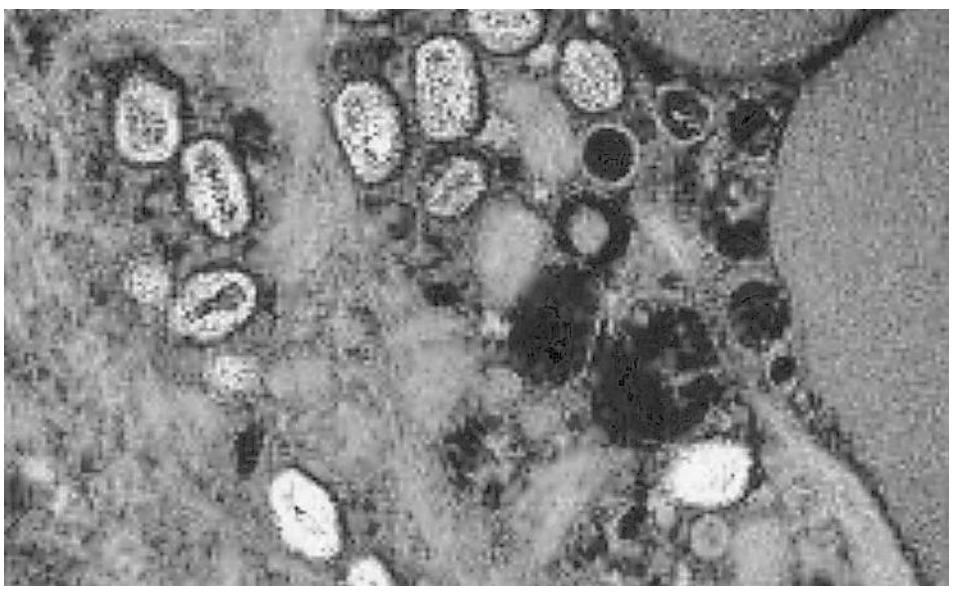
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Hector Garcia-Santana
Hector Garcia (0084517)
Counsel for Ohio Power Company

cc: Jon Pawley

Why mpox cases down in the US

Infections no longer a state of emergency

Karen Weintraub
USA TODAY



An image of monkeypox particles (green) found in an infected cell (pink).
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Biden administration has declared an end to the public health emergency for the disease formerly known as monkeypox, which now accounts for fewer than 10 new cases a day in the United States.

The Department of Health and Human Services announced Friday that it does not expect to need to renew the emergency declaration when it ends on Jan. 31, 2023.

"But we won't take our foot off the gas – we will continue to monitor the case trends closely and encourage all at-risk individuals to get a free vaccine," Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement.

So how did an infectious disease that seemed to be raging out of control this summer become almost irrelevant three months later? It's a combination of luck, good behavior and effective vaccines, experts say.

The World Health Organization recently renamed monkeypox mpox to get rid of the stigma that associated the disease with monkeys. Monkeys don't spread the virus, but it was first identified in them decades ago, hence the original name.

The virus – similar to smallpox but much milder – had been contained to the African continent until last spring, when it suddenly appeared in Europe and then the United States, spreading largely among men who had sex with men.

The first cases were detected in the United States in mid-May. The peak was reached on Aug. 1, when 638 cases were reported. Now, the seven-day rolling average of cases is six.

"The outbreak has been contained, but it's not 'mission accomplished' because the virus is still here," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mpox may never leave the country entirely, said Dr. Daniel Griffin, chief of the division of infectious disease and travel medicine for Optum Health.

The high volume of cases – around 30,000 total, which was probably an undercount – "suggests that mpox is already widely distributed throughout the U.S.," he said via email.

He and Schaffner worry that more cases will be missed as the virus strikes populations that have not seen it before and physicians aren't thinking of the disease.

Plus, people with the virus remain infectious for as long as three weeks, likely too long for someone to remain isolated. With widespread transmission, it could also infect animal carriers – typically rodents – and then jump back into people.

But the fact that caseloads have been brought so low suggests vaccines and treatments are effective, Griffin said.

The mpox virus typically requires significant contact to spread. Unlike COVID-19, which can pass easily through the air, physical contact with open sores or bodily fluids is the most likely route of transmission.

The outbreak was mainly among men who have sex with men, not because mpox is a "gay disease" or an African disease, Griffin said, but because "mpox is an infectious disease." Griffin said the old name had "racial and stigmatizing associations and would have liked this to have been acknowledged and asked on much sooner."

Advocates also supported the name change.

"Public health officials and authorities must remove every barrier to improving understanding about how viruses spread and who is most affected," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization, in a statement.

"Decades of public health research shows stigma slows down testing, treatment, access to care, and vaccine equity, particularly in communities of color, which are often disproportionately impacted by global outbreaks."

Griffin credits behavior changes within the gay community for stopping the virus' spread. "We were fortunate with the mpox spread that the most impacted population does not suffer from widespread embracing of the anti-science misinformation and were quick to embrace vaccines, proactive about getting treated, really did reduce risky behaviors," he said via email.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's initial messaging around mpox frightened many people who were not at any risk for the disease and did not encourage action among those at high risk, said Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious disease specialist and professor at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine.

Once the messaging became more specific, the gay community took action and brought infection rates down, he said. "People were so terrified of the scars and visual look of it that everybody rushed out to get (vaccinated)."

Some people are declaring on dating apps whether they've been vaccinated or recovered from mpox, Chin-Hong said. If another outbreak were to occur, he said, "there'd probably be hopefully a faster calling in the troops and putting in all the interventions."

When the outbreak was at its peak, the CDC decided to conserve vaccines by delivering a smaller dose into the skin rather than underneath it.

The intradermal shot seems to have been effective in the short term, Schaffner said, but now he'd like to see a return to intradermal shots, which are probably more effective and less likely to leave a mark on the skin.

The intradermal shot often leaves a colored circular spot on the forearm, "almost like a scarlet letter," Chin-Hong said.

Having that scar or scars from an mpox infection, he said, "you're kind of declaring yourself as part of the community, which not everybody is necessarily comfortable with."

An intradermal shot doesn't leave a permanent scar.

The real benefit of an intradermal vaccine is the ability to get more doses from the same vial, Chin-Hong said, which means more could be provided to the rest of the world.

The outbreak peaked at a time when there were a lot of social events. With Pride season over, the virus has died down but could flare up again when social activities resume, Chin-Hong said.

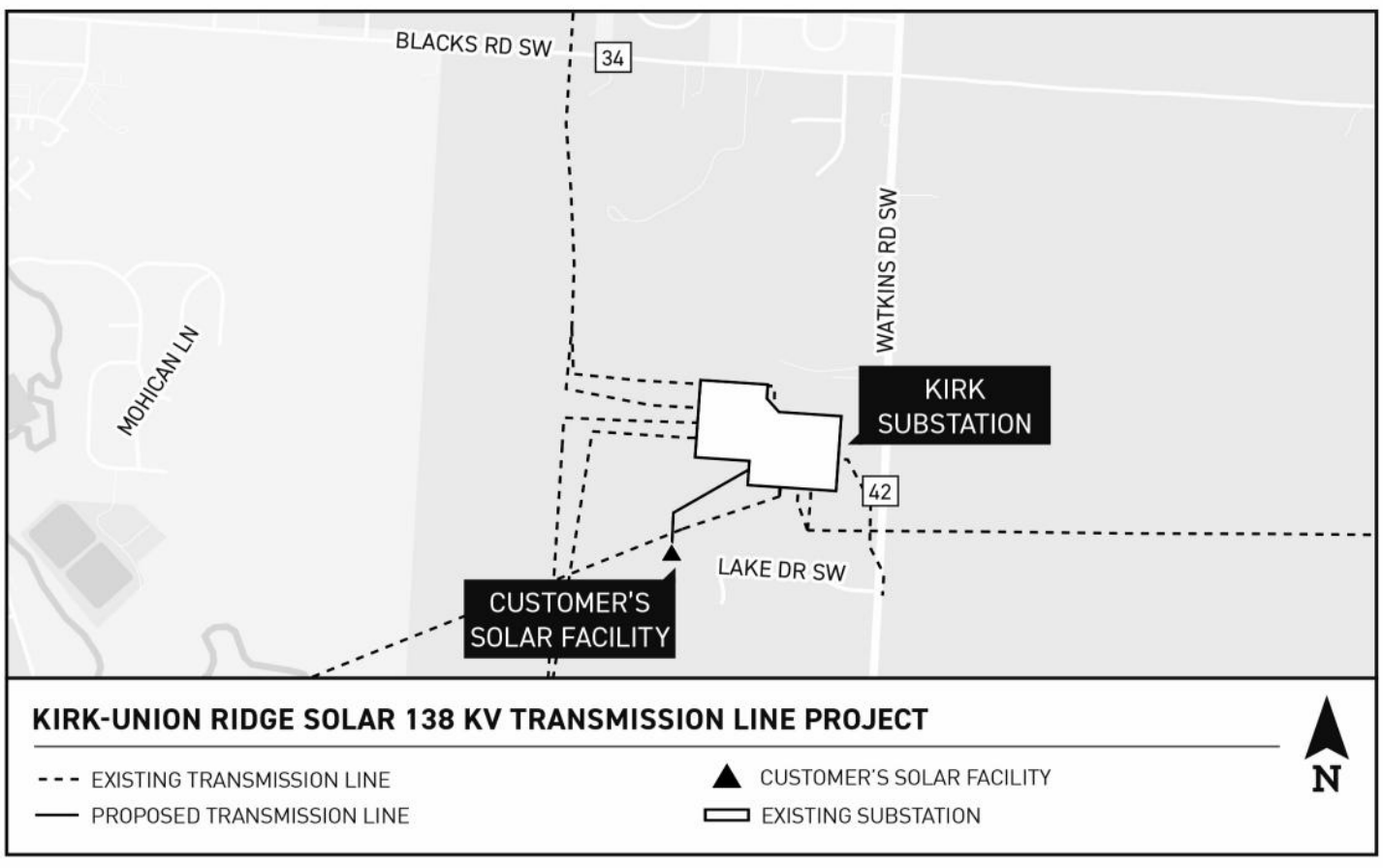
Health and patient safety coverage at USA TODAY is made possible in part by a grant from the Masimo Foundation for Ethics, Innovation and Competition in Healthcare. The Masimo Foundation does not provide editorial input.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MAJOR UTILITY FACILITY

AEP Ohio officials have proposed an electric transmission project in Harrison Township, Licking County, Ohio

AEP Ohio representatives plan to build approximately .2 miles of 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission, extending southwest out of Kirk Substation off Watkins Road Southwest in Harrison Township, Licking County. The new line provides power between the Union Ridge Solar Facility and the Kirk Substation to provide a connection for the generation facility's power delivery.

AEP Ohio Power Company filed a Letter of Notification for this project with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) as the Kirk-Union Ridge Solar 138-kV Transmission Line Project, Case. No. 22-1067-EL-BLN. The Letter of Notification to construct, operate and maintain this facility awaits OPSB review. If approved, company representatives expect construction to begin spring 2023 and conclude summer 2023. The OPSB accepts motions to intervene in the Letter of Notification up to 10 days following the publication date of this notice. The requirements to intervene are included in Rule 4906-2-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Please address motions to Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, 43215-3793 and cite Case No. 22-1067-EL-BLN.



The accompanying map shows the project area. Please use this map only as a general guide due to its reduced scale and limited detail. Copies of the Letter of Notification, including specific details about the location and construction, are available for public inspection at the following locations:

Pataskala Public Library - 101 South Vine Street, Ohio, 43062

Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-3793, (866) 270-6772, contactopsb@puc.state.oh.us

Electronic versions of the Letter of Notification are available at AEPTransmission.com and at the OPSB website at http://opsb.ohio.gov. Search under current cases for Case No. 22-1067-EL-BLN.

The following local city and county government officials have been served with a copy of the application as required by OPSB regulations:

Licking County Commissioner, President, Mr. Rick Black
Licking County Commissioner, Mr. Duane Flowers
Licking County Planning & Development Department, Mr. Chris Harkness
Licking County Public Library, Director, Ms. Susanne Simpson
Harrison Township Trustee, Mr. Ray Foor
Harrison Township Fiscal Officer, Ms. Carolyn Elder
Licking County Commissioner, Vice President, Mr. Timothy Bubb
Licking County Engineer, Mr. Jared Knerr
Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District, Administrator, Ms. Kristy Hawthorne
Harrison Township Trustee, Mr. Mark Van Buren
Harrison Township Trustee, Mr. Eric Smith

If you are a local city or county government official and would like an electronic or hard copy of the Letter of Notification, please contact Meghan Blankenship at the information listed below. To ask a question or make a comment about the project, please call (304) 784-0556 or send an email inquiry to the following address:

AEP Ohio
Attention Meghan Blankenship
8500 Smiths Mill Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054

AEP OHIO
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY

Affidavit Proof of Publication

I, Walt Dozier, do herby attest that the AEP Legal Notices did appear in the following newspaper(s) as ordered:

Newark Advocate December 6 2022

Walt Dozier 12/7/22

Walt Dozier Date

State of Ohio
County of Franklin

On this day, the 7 day of December 2022 before me, Chana L Powell ,the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Walt Dozier, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name was subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed it.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Chana L Powell

Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF OHIO

CHANA L POWELL
Notary Public
State of Ohio
My Comm. Expires
November 25, 2025

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

12/7/2022 5:30:15 PM

in

Case No(s). 22-1067-EL-BLN

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