



American Transmission Systems, Inc.
a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp

FILE

76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308-1890

Mr. James O'Dell
Siting Specialist, Utilities Department
Facilities, Siting and Environmental Analysis Division
Ohio Power Siting Board
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

September 5, 2002

Subject: Ashtabula East-Ashtabula South 138 kV Transmission Line
Wetland Delineation
Case No. 02-1969-EL-BLN

PUCO

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Dear Mr. O'Dell,

Enclosed are two copies of the Wetland Delineation Report for the Ashtabula East-Ashtabula South 138 kV Transmission Line project that was prepared by URS. The delineation determined that the two potential wetlands in the project area are low quality wetlands. The wetland adjacent to the west side of the Ashtabula South substation is approximately 0.02 acres in size. The wetland along the proposed route of the transmission line is approximately 0.03 acres in size. The wetland next to the substation will be filled as a part of the project. No fill will be placed in the wetland along the proposed route of the transmission line.

Placing fill in the wetland next to the substation is covered under US Army Corp of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 without any pre-notification requirements. Section (ii) of Nationwide Permit 12 provides for "(t)he construction, maintenance, or expansion of a substation facility associated with a power line or utility line in non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the US." Under the notification requirements of Nationwide Permit 12, filling less than 1/10 acre of water of the US does not require notification. In addition, the OEPA limitations to the Nationwide Permits do not place any additional restrictions or requirements on this particular project. Therefore, once the OPSB approves the LON filing, all necessary regulatory approvals will be in place for proceeding with construction of the project.

If there are any questions concerning this information, please call me at (330) 761-4268.

Sincerely,

Ted Krauss, Senior Transmission Engineer
Transmission Business & Policy

attachment

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