Construction Notice for the Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment Project

PUCO Case No. 26-1106-EL-BNR

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code
Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

November 5, 2026

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Ohio Power Company

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

4906-6-05 Accelerated Application Requirements

Ohio Power Company (the "Company") provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") in accordance with the accelerated application requirements of Ohio Administrative Code ("Adm.Code") Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

Provide the name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a letter of notification or construction notice application.

The Company proposes the Point O-Don Marquis 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Adjustment Project ("Project") in Adams, Scioto, and Pike counties, Ohio. The Project crosses Tiffin, Brush Creek, and Meigs townships in Adams County, Scioto and Camp Creek townships in Pike County, and Rarden township in Scioto County. The Project involves adding steel extension sections to 20 existing lattice tower structures to raise the existing conductor. Proposed structure heights will increase by 5 to 25 feet. The structures are located along an approximately 30-mile portion of the existing transmission line, although the affected portion of the line is approximately 1.8 miles. The structures to be raised are within existing right-of-way ("ROW") with no additional land rights required. The location of the Project is shown in **Figures 1A through 1F and 2A through 2L** in **Appendix A**.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice ("CN") as defined by Item 2(a) of Appendix A to Adm.Code 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

> *(2) Adding new circuits on existing structures designed for multiple circuit use, replacing conductors on existing structures with larger or bundled conductors, adding structures to an existing transmission line, or replacing structures with a different type of structure, for a distance of:*
>
> *(a) Two miles or less.*

The Project has been assigned Case No. 26-1106-EL-BNR.

B(2) Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or gas pipeline, the applicant provide a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

The Company conducted a sag clearance study on 157 miles of existing 345 kV transmission lines including Stuart-Beatty, Stuart - Beatty (A), Greene - Beatty, Stuart - Point O, and Point O - Don Marquis. The sag clearance study identified 88 steel lattice towers that require additional reinforcement to keep the conductor clearances consistent with National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and AEP standard load cases. While the overall sag remediation study requires re-enforcement of 88 structures, this Project only pertains to 20 existing structures along the Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV line; the Company will submit additional OPSB filings for the remaining structures. Consistent with the advanced transmission technology requirements of Ohio Substitute House Bill 15, effective in August 2025, this project will utilize advanced transmission technologies by using the AMPJACK lift system, which will remediate clearance concerns, increase capacity, and improve the safety and reliability of the line without the need for an outage or substantial construction activities.

The conductors on these lines were installed in the 1970s and the original conductors are still in-service. The majority of the structures are steel lattice structures and are approximately 50 years old. After the Company acquired these assets upon the dissolution of a partnership between Cincinnati Gas and Electric, Columbus Southern Power, and Dayton Power & Light ("CCD"), the Company performed the sag clearance study mentioned above. To remediate clearance violations and to maintain the Maximum Operating Temperature ("MOT") of the conductor, there are 88 structures that will need to be reinforced to increase the height of the structures. This relates to approximately 10% of the structures across these lines. When the Company acquired these lines from CCD, the lines were already operating at their maximum capability as designed and rated by CCD. In order to maintain these ratings, the clearances and sag mitigations to bring the line back into AEP standards is required, allowing the line to continue to operate at full capability during high loading or emergency scenarios.

Failure to move forward with this project could result in future thermal violations due to the need to reduce the rating of the line if sag clearance concerns are not addressed. Not performing this work would leave the line out of compliance with NESC and AEP standards, limiting the amount of power that can travel through the line.

There is no operation, modeling, or topology change as a result of the Project; therefore, the Project will not be submitted to PJM. The Project is also not reported in the Long-Term Forecast Report because the Project was unknown at the time of filing.

B(3) Project Location

Provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the project area.

The location of the Project in relation to existing transmission lines and substations is shown on **Figures 1A through 1F**, in **Appendix A**.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

Describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility, including but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

The Project installs steel inserts on 20 existing steel lattice tower structures along an existing 345 kV electric transmission line to make them taller and increase the height of conductors where clearance violations have been identified. The Company evaluated alternatives to alleviate the clearance violations, which included raising or replacing the structures. Raising the existing structures is the most suitable solution for the Project, as other alternatives would require additional or more costly structures or relocating the existing transmission line. By raising the existing structures at their current locations, the proposed Project is not anticipated to impact wetlands, streams, or any known cultural resource areas eligible for the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"). Therefore, this alternative represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's needs in the area.

B(5) Public Information Program

Describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and residents of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The Company maintains a website (https://AEPTransmission.com/Ohio/BeattyStuart) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project. The Company also retains land agents who will discuss project timelines, construction and restoration activities with affected owners and tenants.

B(6) Construction Schedule

Provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in February 2027 with an anticipated in-service date of August 2028.

B(7) Area Map

Provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility and proposed limits of disturbance with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figures 1A through 1F in Appendix A, identify the location of the Project area on a United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle map of Lynx, Blue Creek, Rarden, Wakefield, and Piketon, Ohio. **Appendix A, Figures 2A through 2L** display the Project components on a 2022 aerial photograph.

B(8) Property Agreements

Provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

A list of properties required for the Project are provided in **Table 1**, below.

Table 1 – Property Agreements

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	Easement or Option Obtained (Yes/No)
1330000033000	Existing Easement	Yes
1330000001003	Existing Easement	Yes
1060000024000	Existing Easement	Yes
1070000034001	Existing Easement	Yes
1070000029000	Existing Easement	Yes
1070000001000	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000044000	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000045009	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000045015	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000046005	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000046009	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000050000	Existing Easement	Yes
0950000054000	Existing Easement	Yes
18-0089.002	Existing Easement	Yes
040210000000	Existing Easement	Yes
040436010000	Existing Easement	Yes
040436000000	Existing Easement	Yes
040435000000	Existing Easement	Yes
200004030000	Existing Easement	Yes
200000186000	Existing Easement	Yes

B(9) Technical Features

Describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

Transmission Lines

The transmission line is estimated to include the following:

Voltage: 345kV (Existing)
Conductors: 2-bundle 983.1 kcmil ACAR 30/7 (Existing)
Static Wire: (2) 3/8" Steel EHS 7 Strand (Existing)
Insulators: Ceramic (Existing)
ROW Width: 150 feet (Existing)
Structure Type: Four (4) single circuit, steel lattice towers, Type A (Existing)
Fourteen (14) single circuit, steel lattice towers, Type B (Existing)
One (1) double circuit, steel lattice tower, Type B (Existing)
One (1) double circuit, steel lattice tower, Type A2 (Existing)

A summary of the proposed process for extending the steel lattice towers is provided in **Appendix B**.

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line.

No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The cost estimate for the Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately $13,800,000 using a Class 4 estimate. Pursuant to the PJM OATT, the costs for this

Project will be recovered in the Ohio Power Company's FERC formula rate (Attachment H-14 to the PJM OATT) and allocated to the AEP Zone.

B(10) Social and Ecological Impacts

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project:

B(10)(a) Land Use

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

The Project is within existing ROW through rolling forested land, agricultural fields, and pasture areas with scattered residences. Two of the structures are located on the Nature Conservancy's Edge of Appalachia Preserve System properties. A third structure is located on a parcel owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. No additional impacts to these properties are anticipated. An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as **Figures 2A through 2L**. The Project is mapped within Tiffin, Brush Creek, and Meigs townships in Adams County, Scioto and Camp Creek townships in Pike County, and Rarden township in Scioto County. The structures to be raised are within existing ROW. The Project vicinity is currently rural in nature. No tree clearing is anticipated for the Project.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

The Project Area is characterized by existing ROW crossing wooded tracts with agricultural land use and low density residential land uses dispersed throughout. The dominant agricultural use appears to be pastures and row crops (i.e. soybeans and corn). While temporary construction access roads across agricultural fields will be necessary, no permanent impacts to agricultural land are anticipated by raising the existing structures.

Based on data received from the Adams, Scioto, and Pike County Auditors' offices on October 21, 2026, there are no agricultural district parcels within the potential disturbance area of the Project. No Ohio Department of Agriculture easements were identified as affected by the Project.

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archaeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

A cultural resource survey and report were conducted by the Company's consultant for the Project in January 2026. Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") was received in

February 2026, see **Appendix C**. The SHPO stated that that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties and that no further archaeological work is necessary.

B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

A summary of anticipated permits and authorizations for the Project is provided in the **Table 2**, below. There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

Table 2 – Anticipated Permits

Permit/Authorization/Coordination	Agency	Date
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties	March 16, 2026
Notice Criteria	Federal Aviation Administration	Submitted through Criteria Tool on 4/9/2026, no further action required
Clean Water Act Section 404/401	United States Army Corps of Engineers Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Not Required
Archaeology/Architectural	Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Coordination complete 2/12/2026, no additional work required
Threatened and Endangered Species	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultation complete 2/8/2023
Threatened and Endangered Species	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Consultation complete 11/19/2025 and 4/15/2026
Floodplain	Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties	Coordination complete 4/17/2026. Project exempt from local floodplain permitting.

B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

Coordination letters were submitted to the United State Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Ohio Natural Heritage Program ("ONHP") and Division of Wildlife ("DOW"), respectively, seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to state and/or federally protected species. ODNR and USFWS provided responses on June 3, 2022 and November 19, 2025, respectively. The Company's consultant also completed a habitat survey report for the timber rattlesnake indicating no habitat is present. ODNR provided a concurrence with the conclusion of no habitat present on April 15, 2026. Copies of the agencies' responses are presented in **Appendix C**.

Table 2, in **Appendix D** lists the federal and state threatened or endangered species in the Project area.

Based on the nature of the proposed Project activities and habitat characteristics of the surrounding vicinity, construction impacts to protected species are not anticipated.

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

The Company's consultant conducted a wetland and stream delineation survey in the Project study area, which included additional area not included in the Project, in September 2022, February 2023, May 2024, and June 2024. The consultant prepared an Ecological Survey Report and an Ecological Survey Report Addendum, which are provided in **Appendix D**. The survey identified seven wetlands and 14 streams. The Project construction activities are not expected to result in discharge of fill in any of the delineated wetlands or streams as they will be avoided by construction access roads.

Based on a review of the Protected Areas Database of the United States as well as the Conservation Easement Database, there are no state or national parks, forests, wildlife areas or mapped conservation easements in the vicinity of the Project.

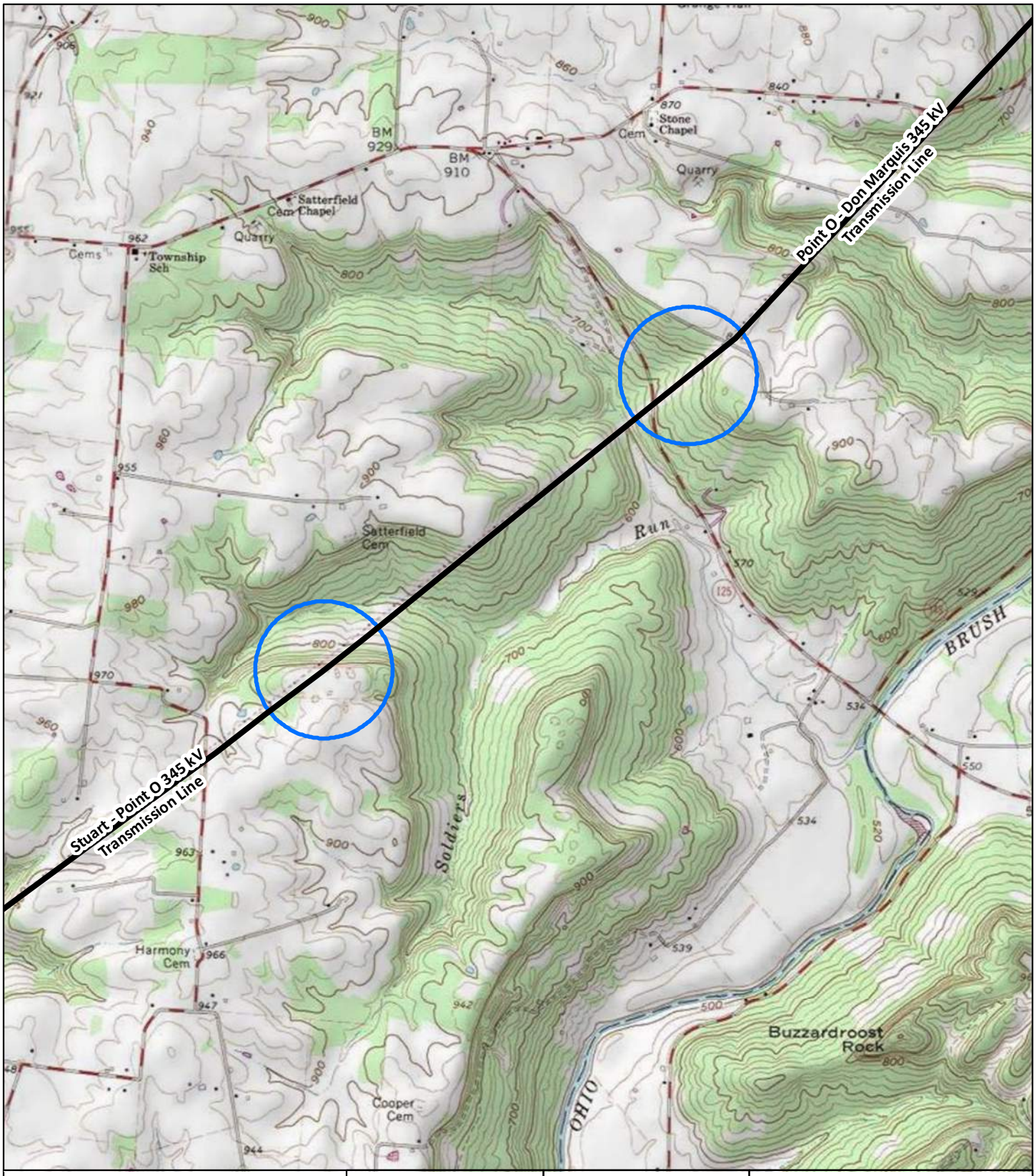
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM") was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map numbers 39001C0275D, 39001C0300D, 39145C0085E, 39145C0105E, 39145C0110E, 39131C0225C). Based on this mapping, one of the structures is located within the FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone associated with Scioto River. However, no change in the flood elevation is anticipated as the existing structure will only be raised with no changes at the base. The Pike County Floodplain Administrator confirmed that the Project is exempt from local floodplain permitting on April 20, 2026 (See **Appendix C**.)

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of the Company's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

Appendix A Project Maps



Project Area

Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

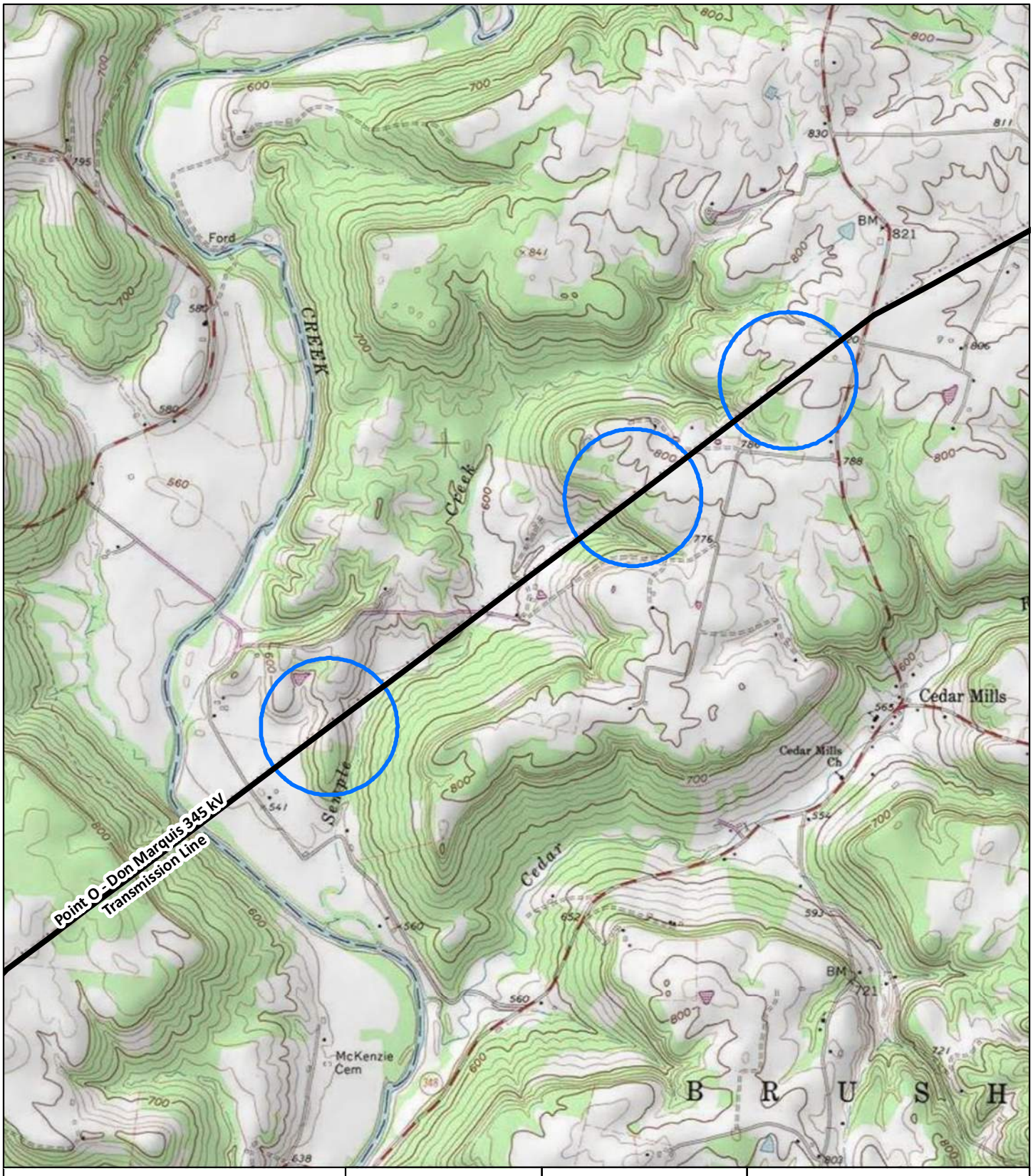
FIGURE 1A
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000

Feet



Project Area
Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



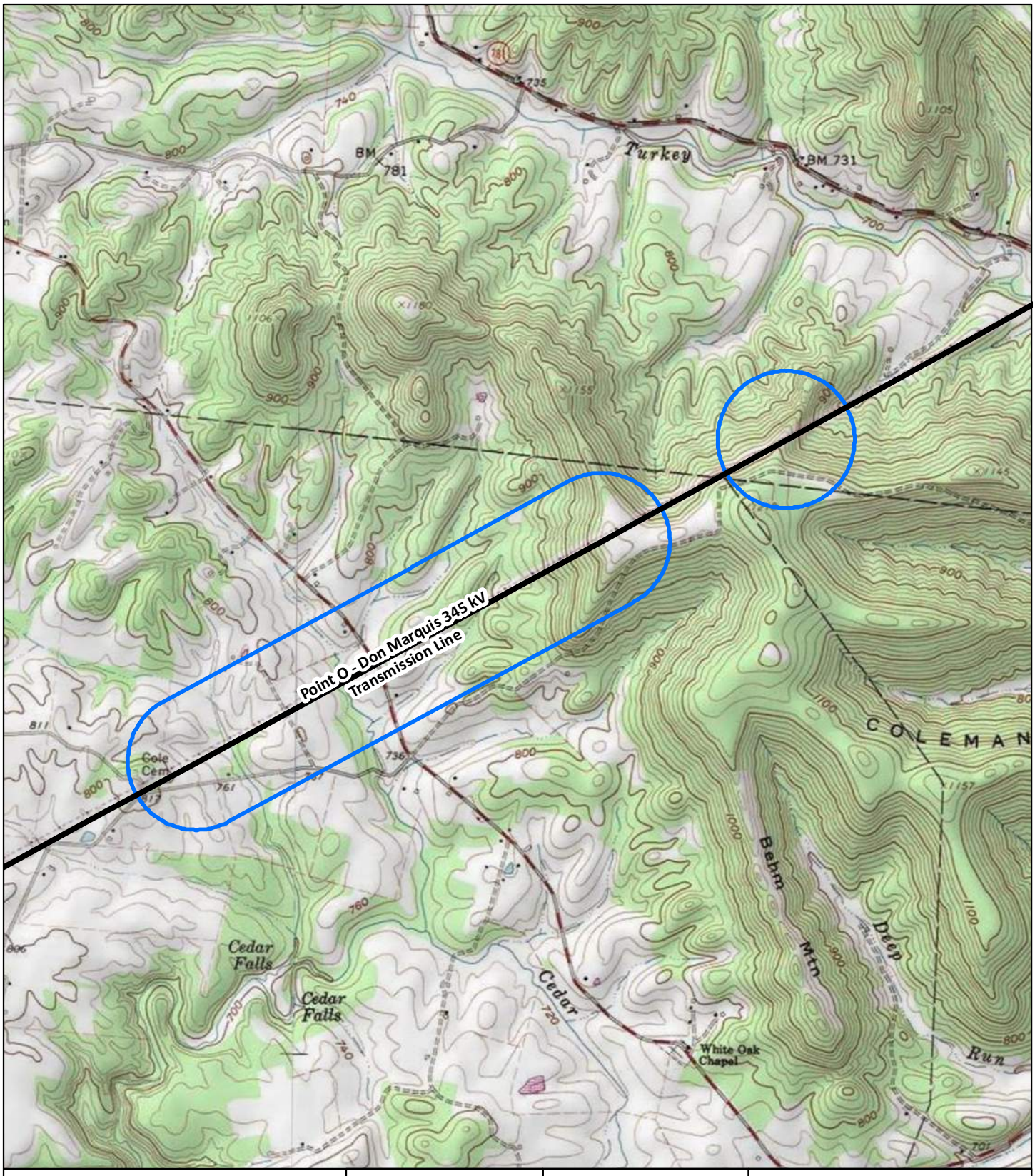
ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 1B
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000
Feet



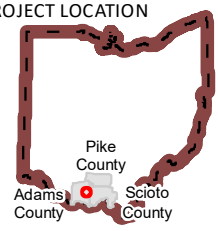
Project Area
Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

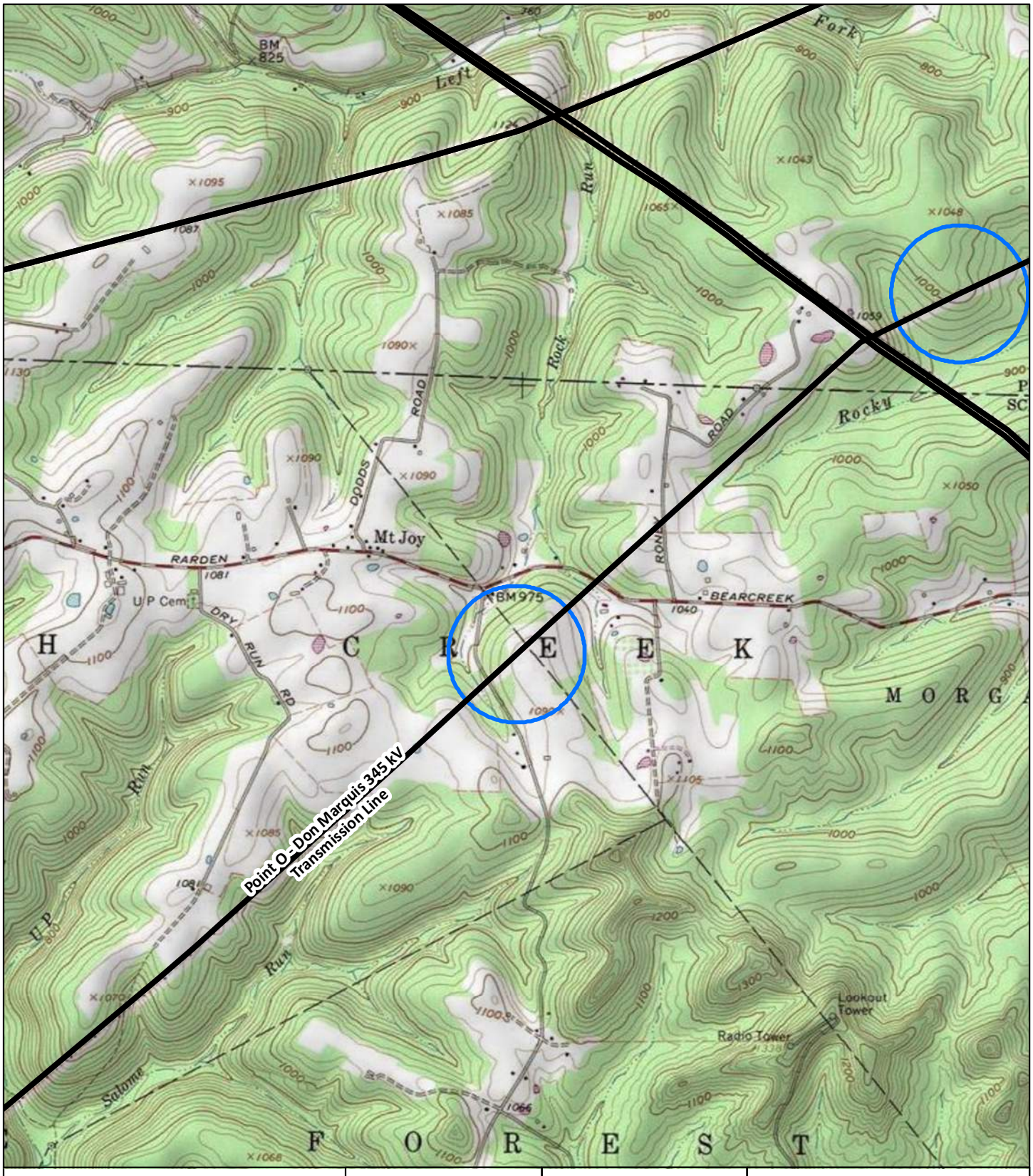
FIGURE 1C
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000

Feet



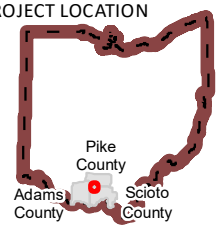
Project Area
Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



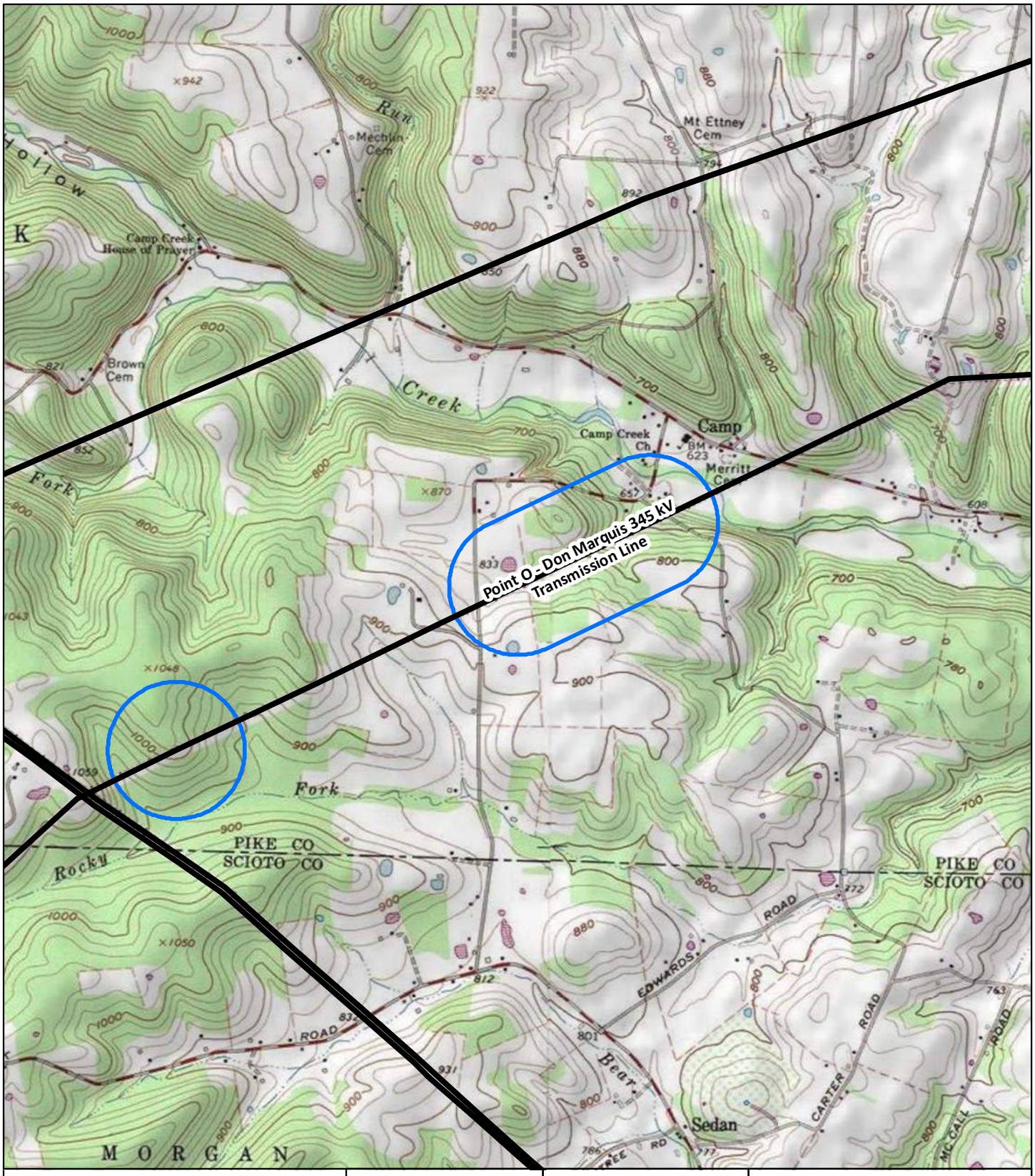
ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 1D
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 1,000 2,000 3,000
Feet



Project Area

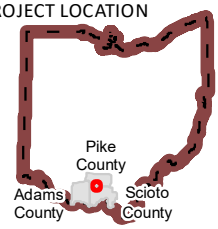
Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

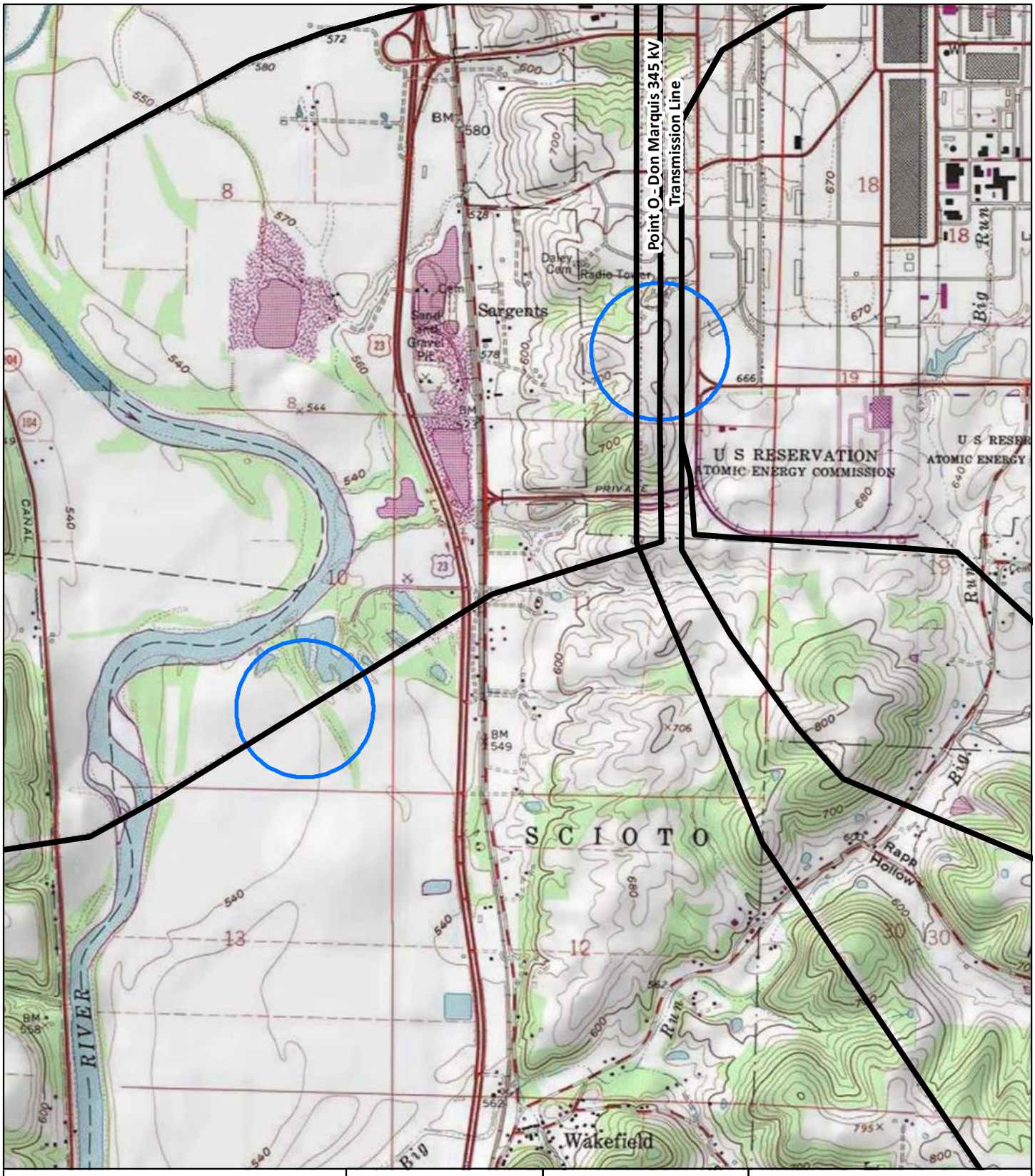
FIGURE 1E
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000

Feet



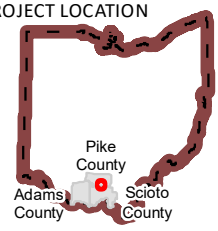
Project Area
Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

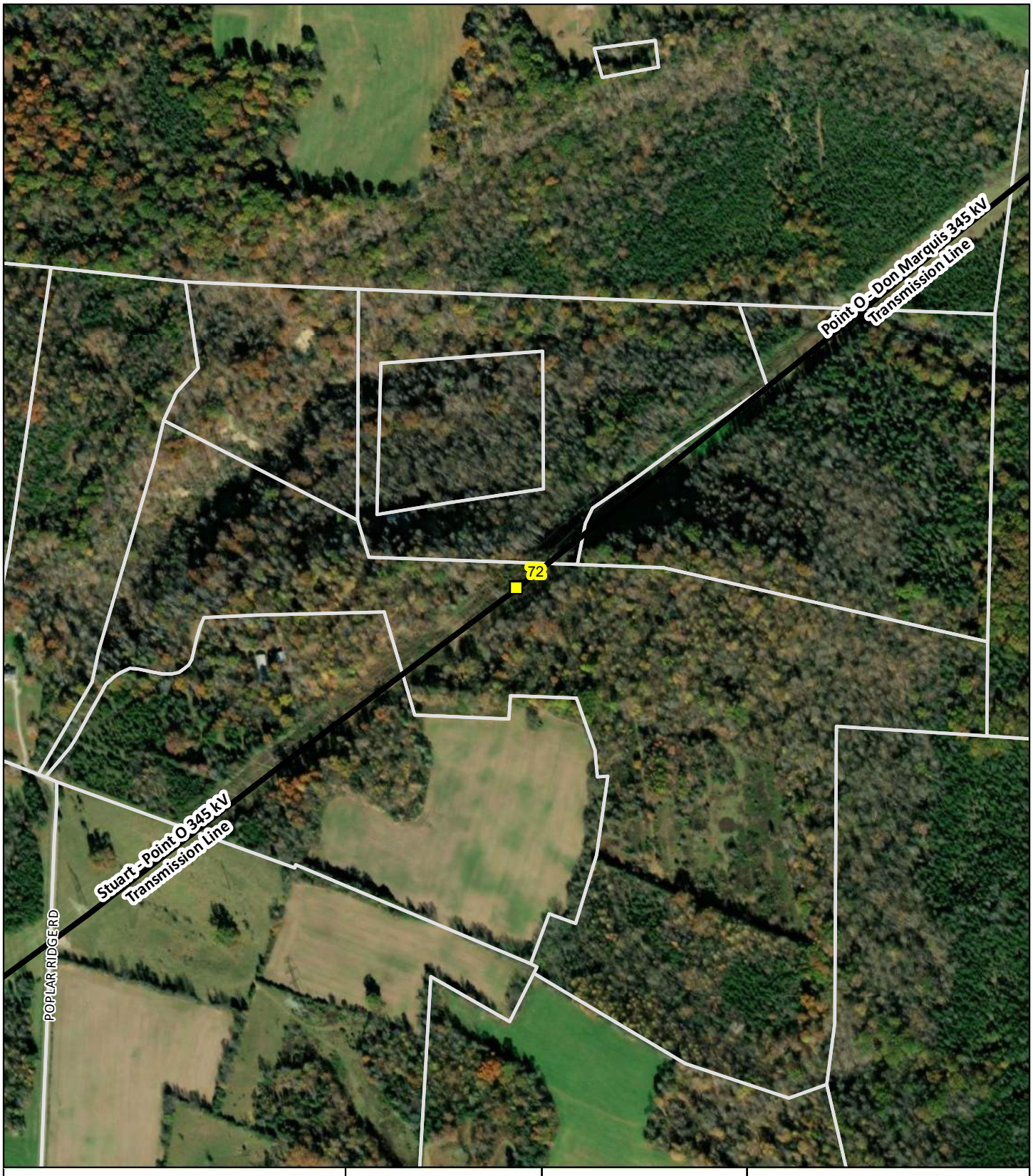
FIGURE 1F
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000

Feet



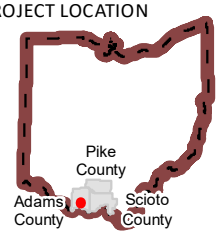
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

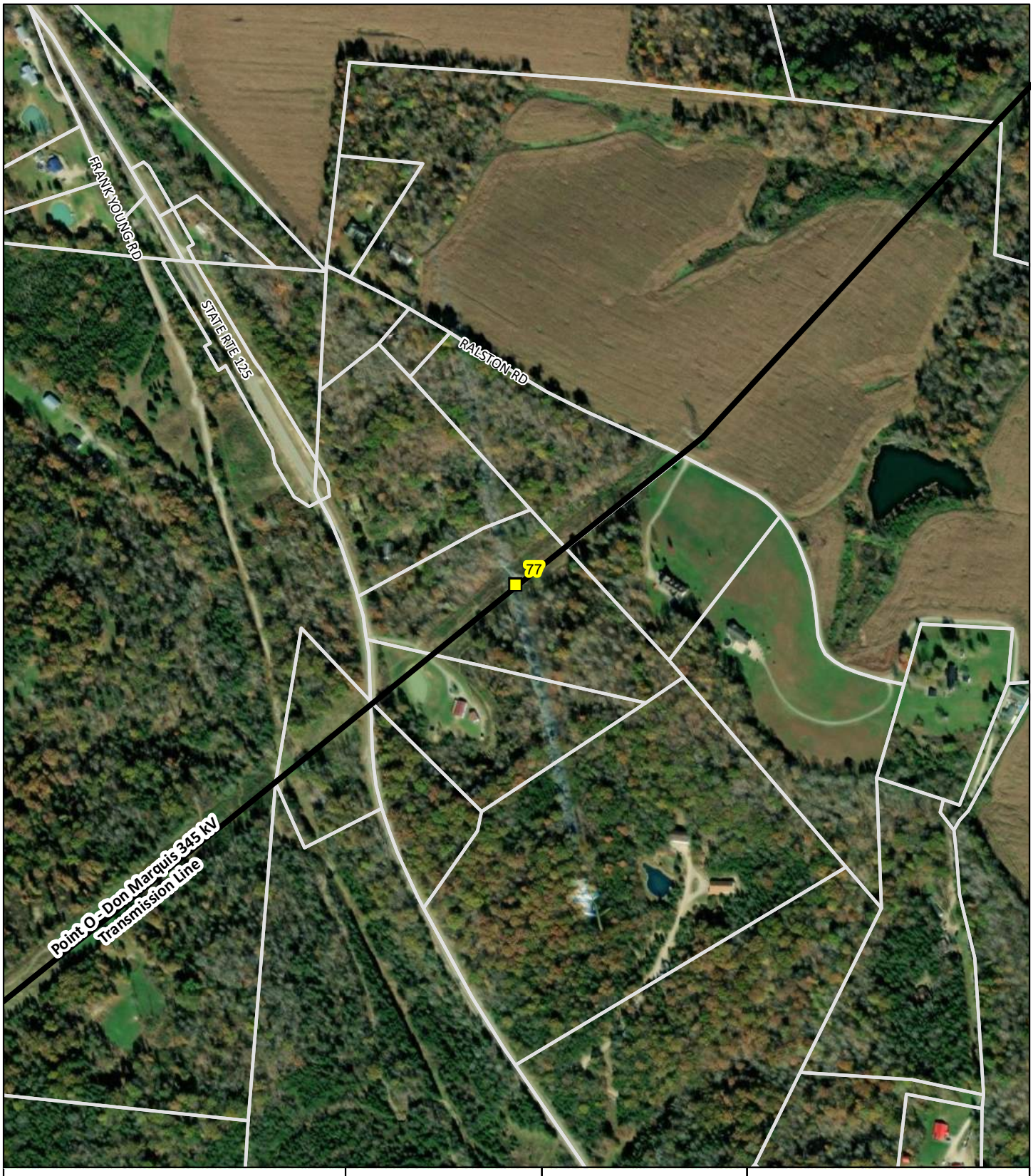
FIGURE 2A
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



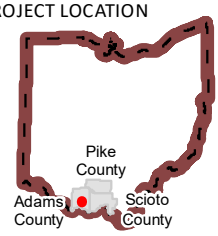
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

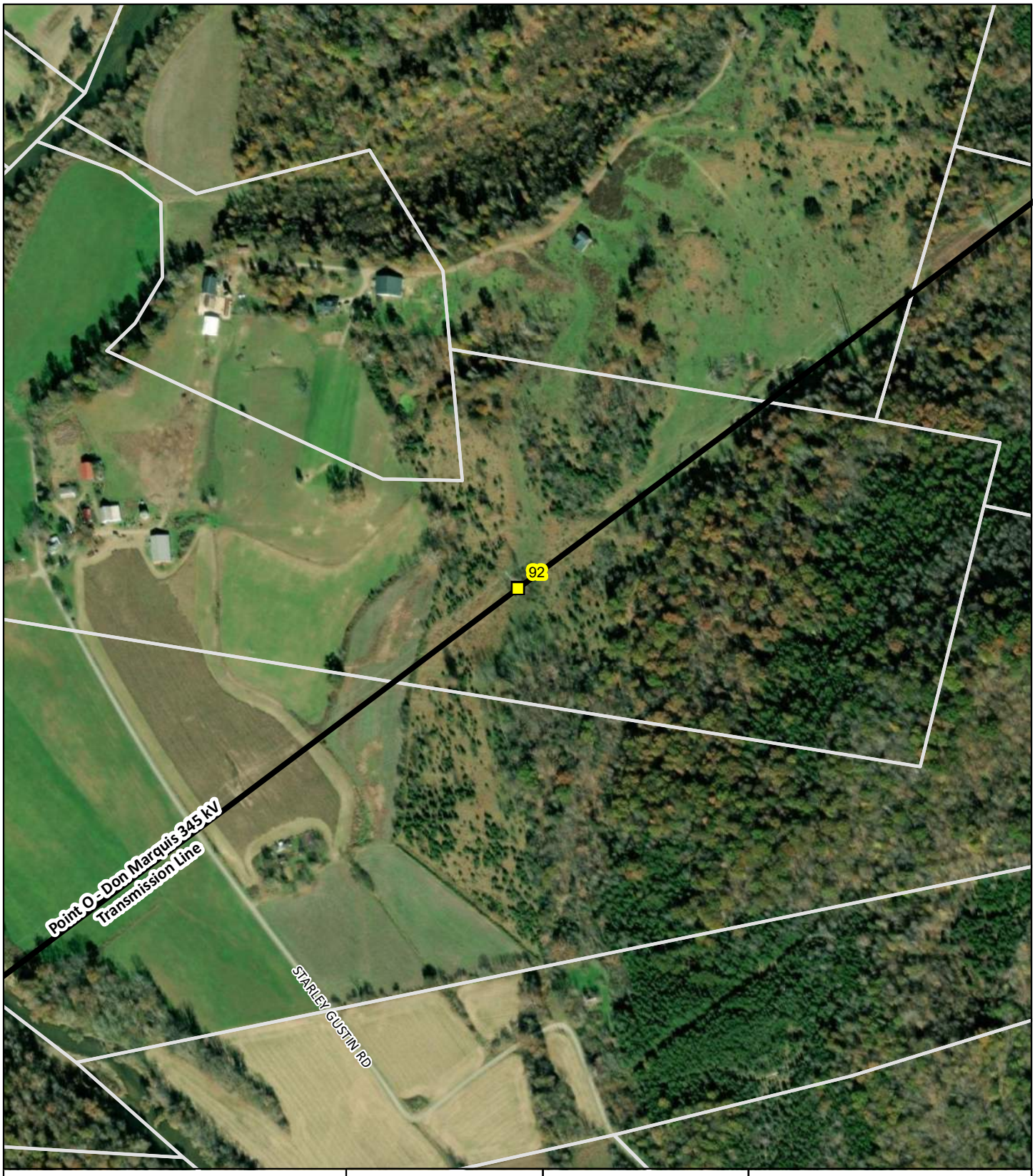
FIGURE 2B
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



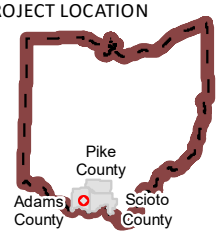
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



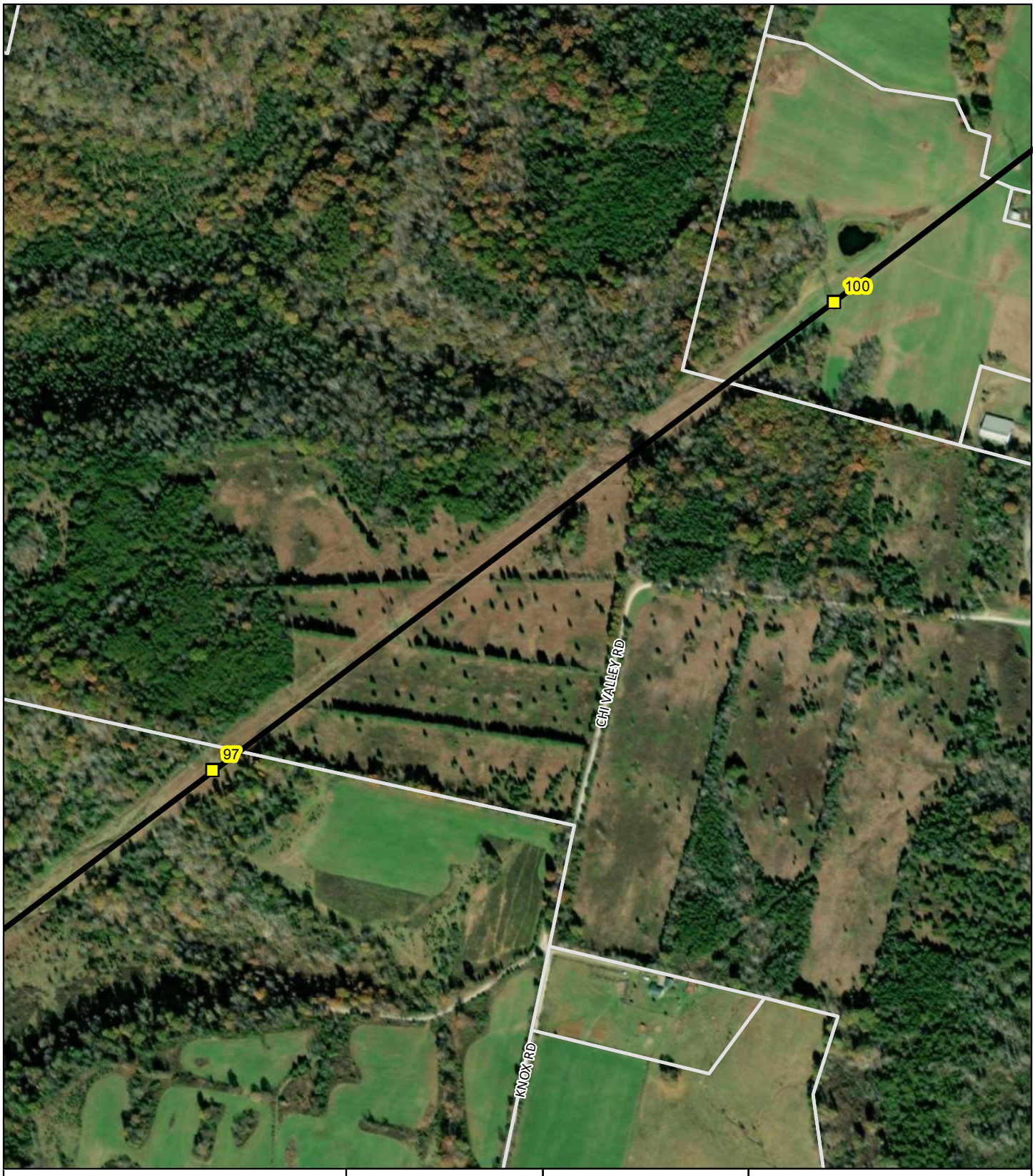
ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 2C
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 250 500 750
Feet



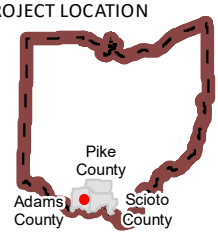
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

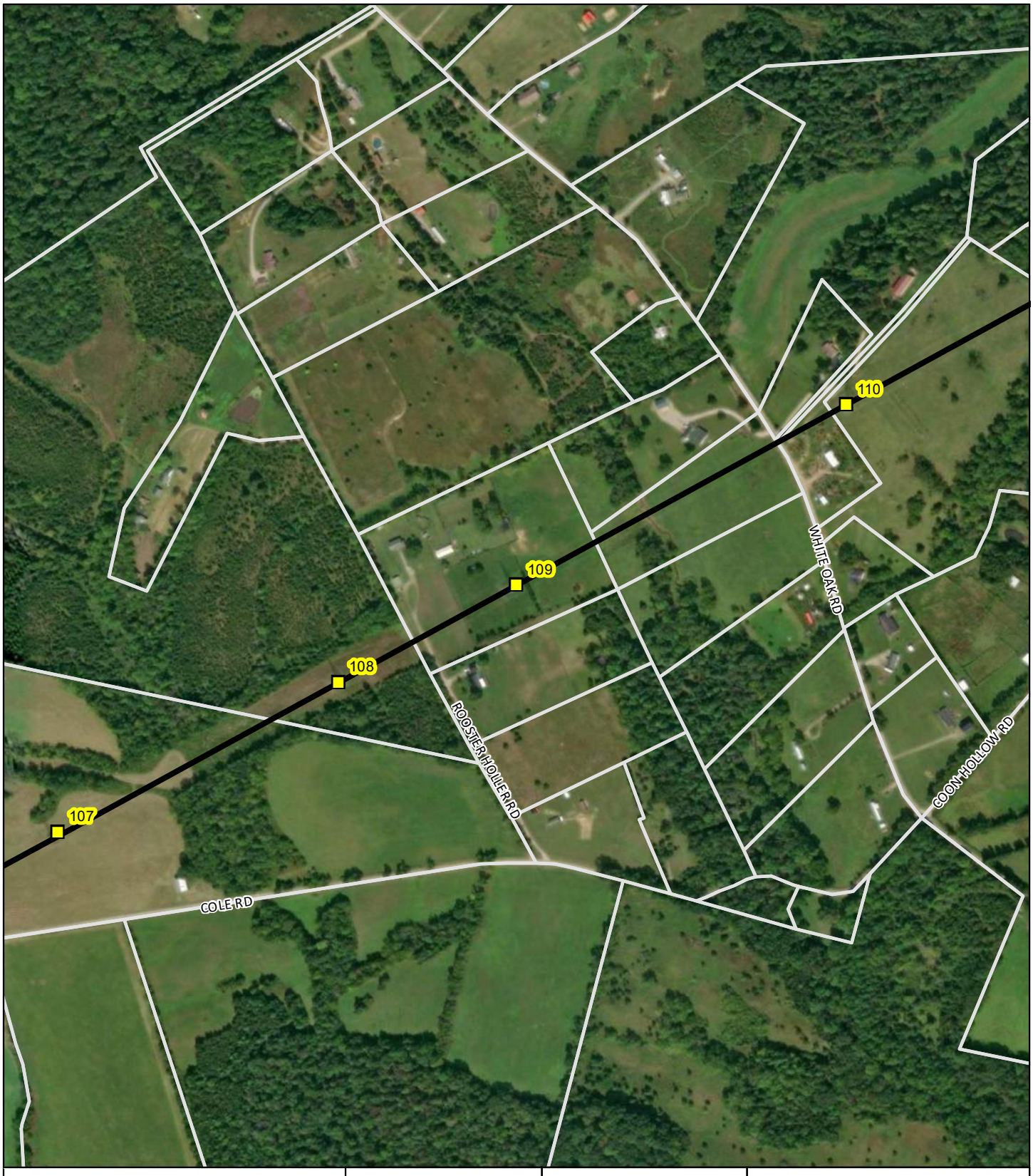
FIGURE 2D
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



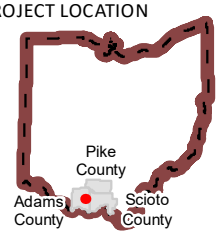
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

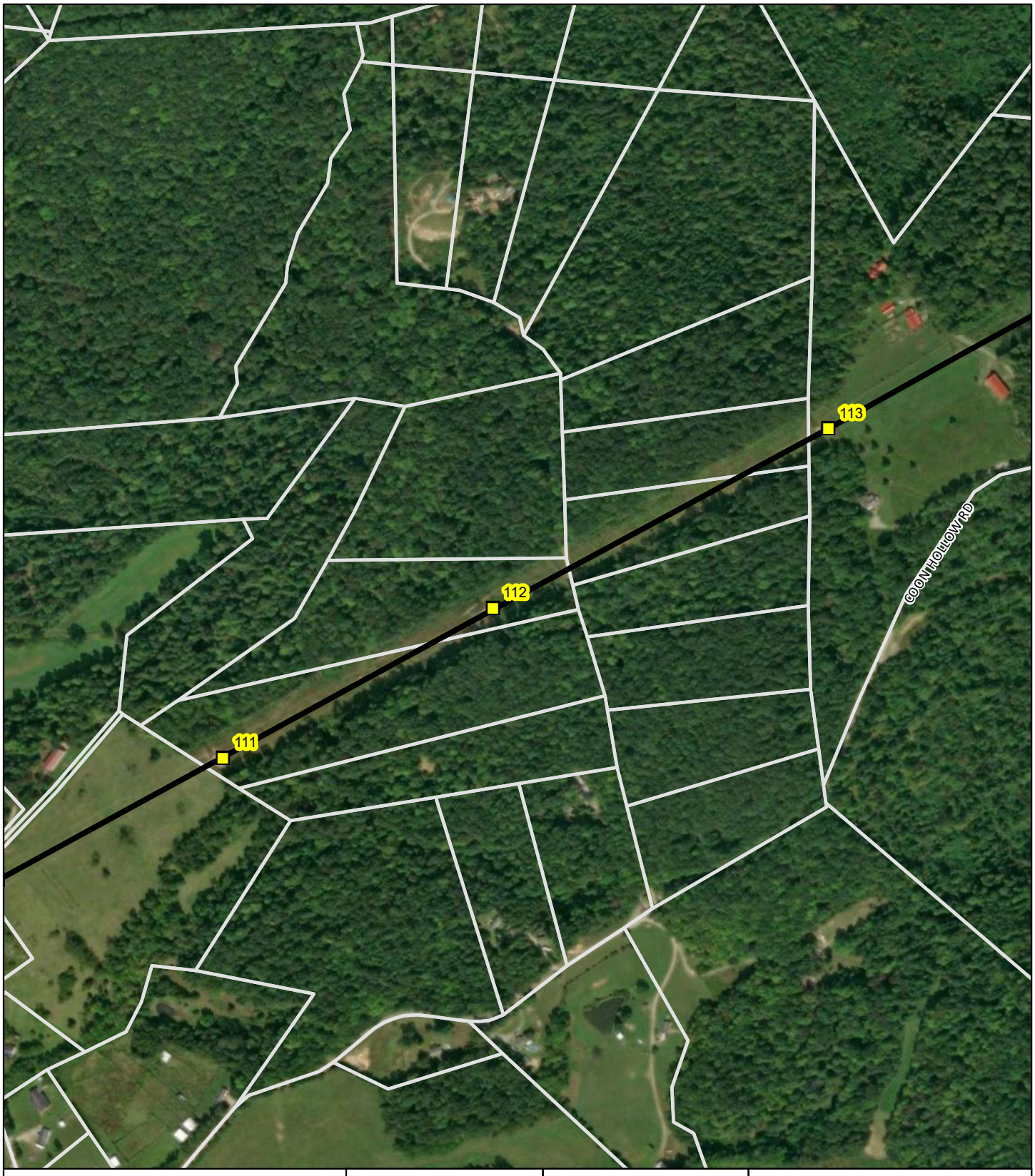
FIGURE 2E
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



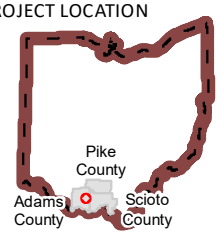
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



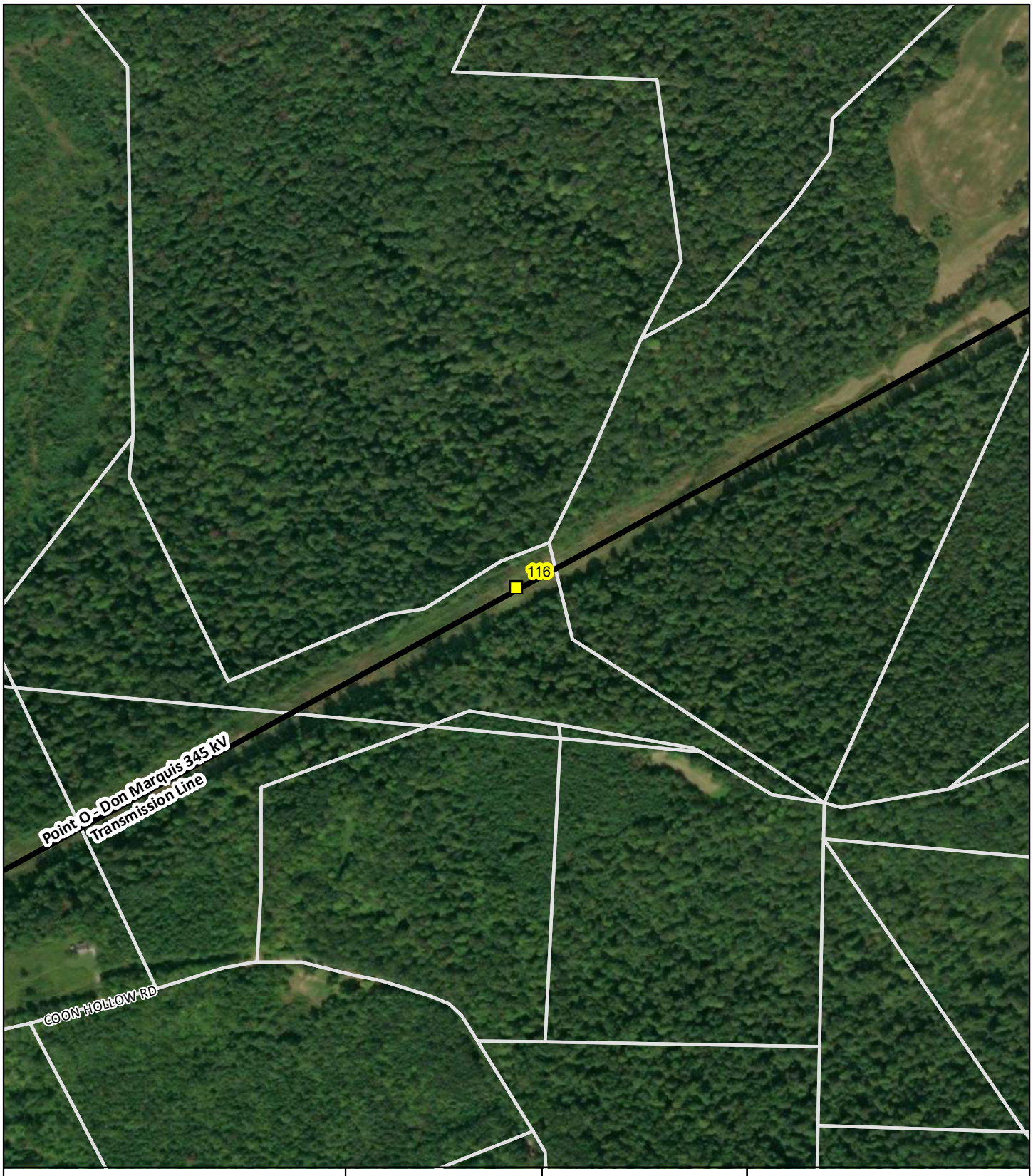
ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 2F
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750
Feet



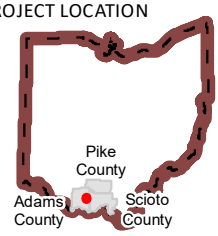
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

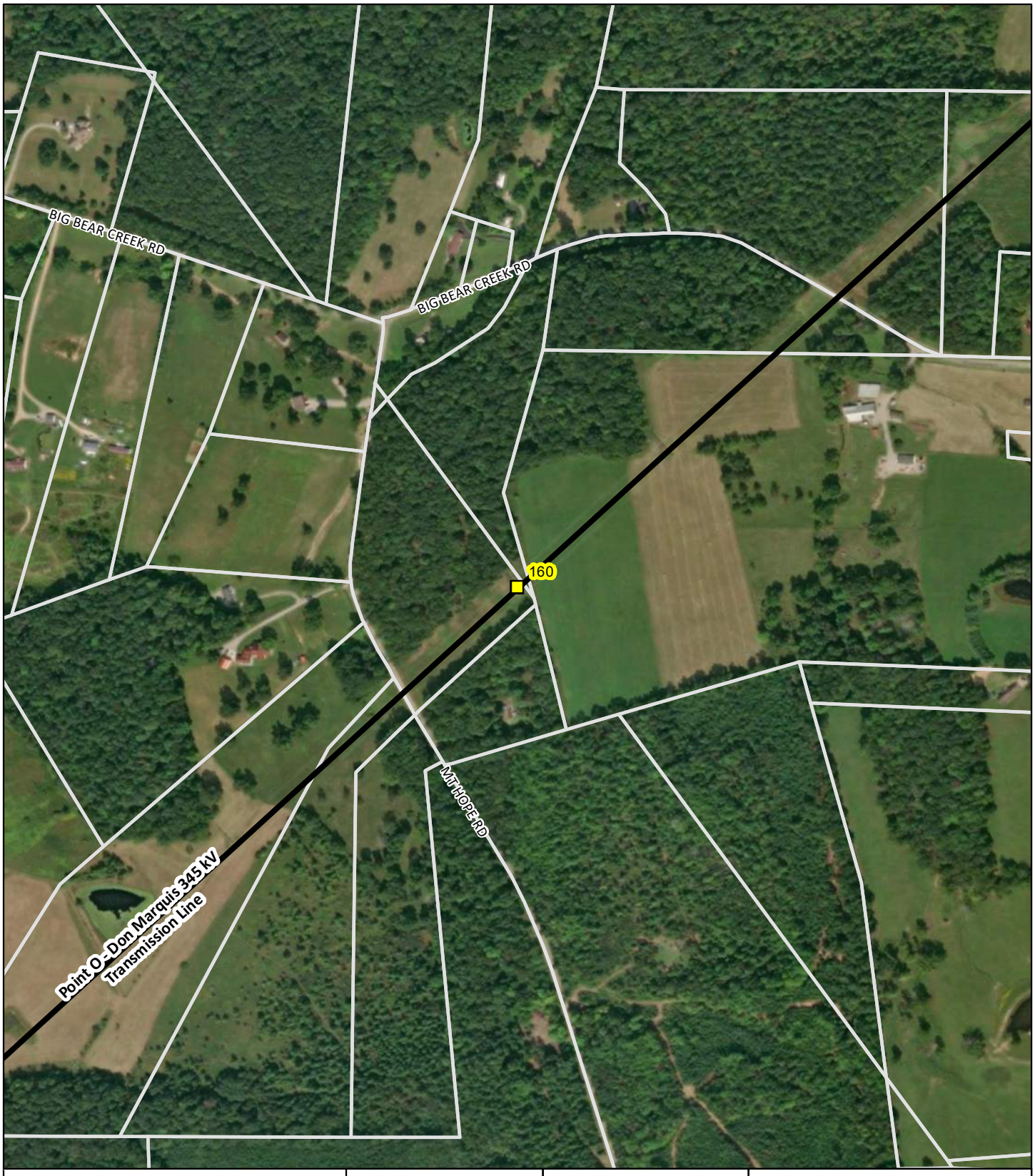
FIGURE 2G
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



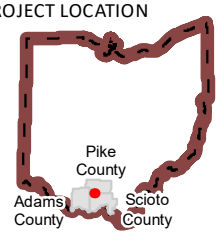
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

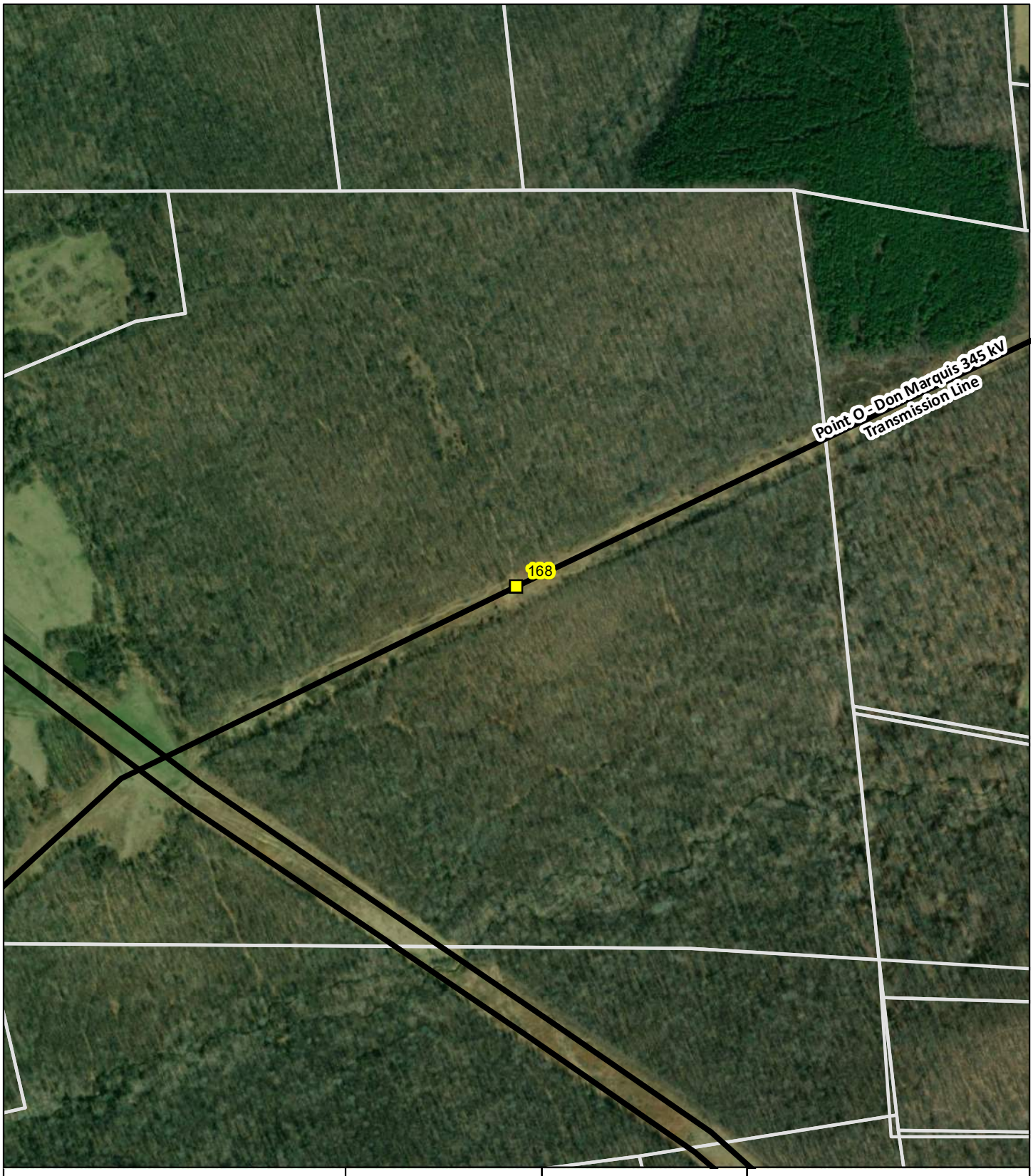
FIGURE 2H
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 250 500 750

Feet



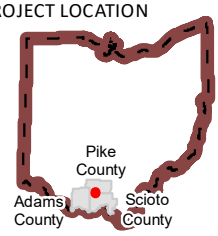
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

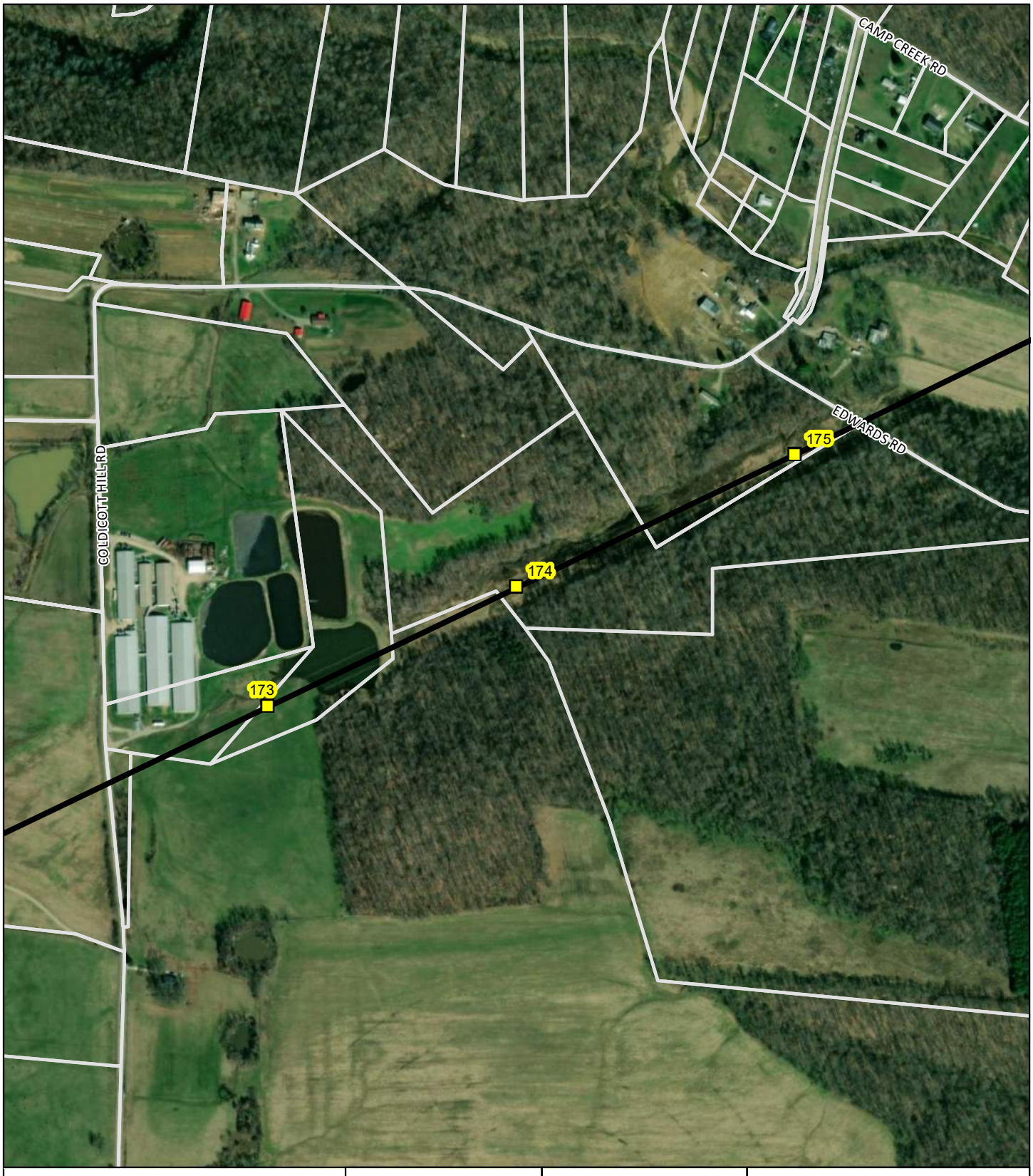
FIGURE 2I
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 250 500 750

Feet



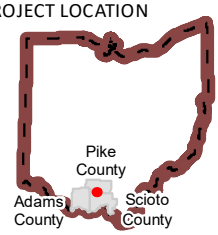
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 2J
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

Point O-Don Marquis 345 kV Transmission Line Adjustment

0 250 500 750

Feet



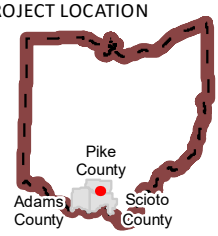
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

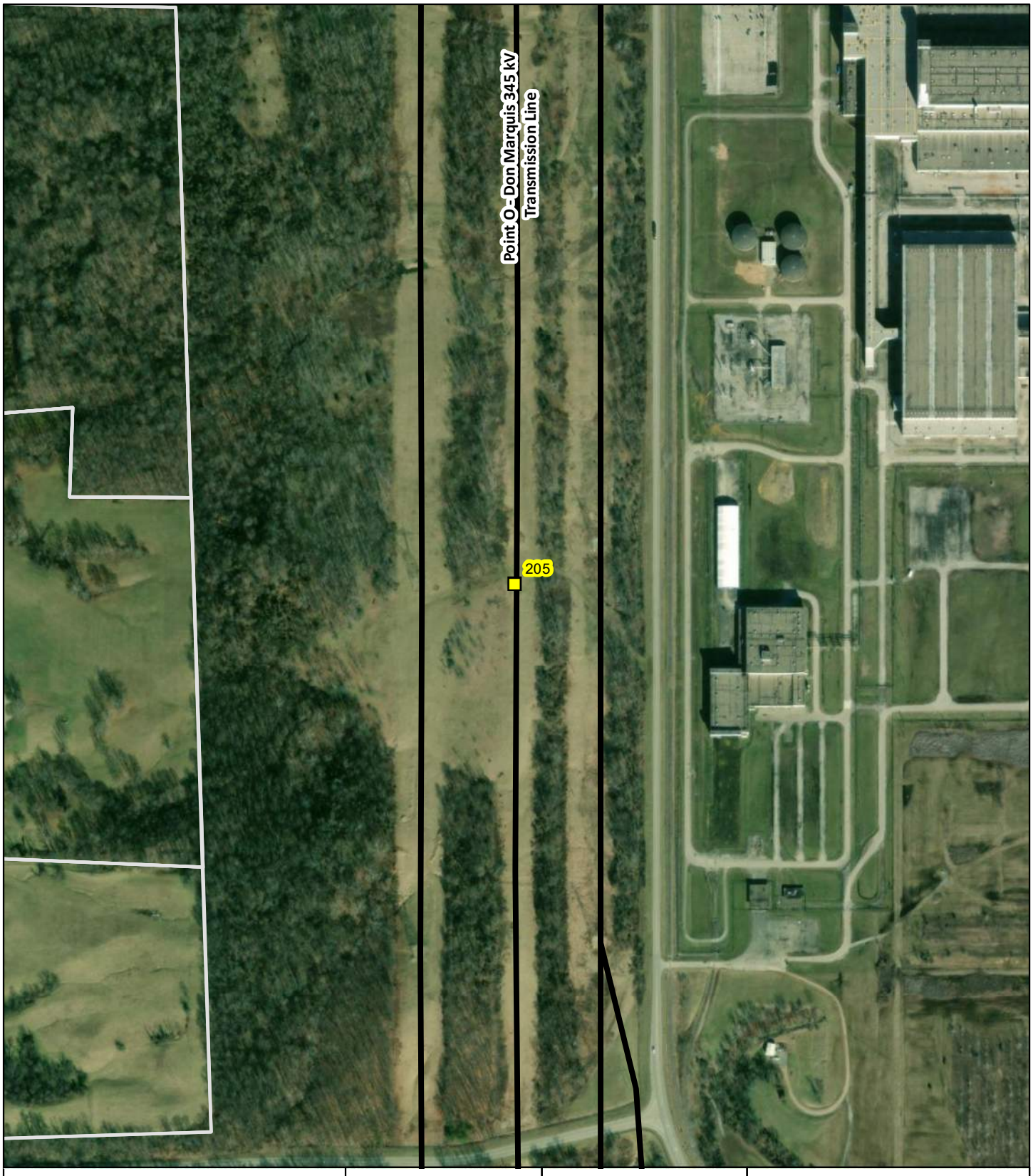
FIGURE 2K
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 250 500 750

Feet



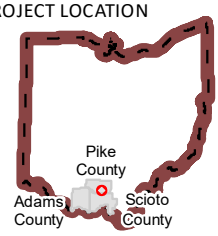
Proposed Structure Raise
Existing Transmission Line
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 28, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



ADAMS, SCIOTO, AND
PIKE COUNTIES, OHIO

FIGURE 2L
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

OHIO POWER COMPANY

**Point O-Don Marquis
345 kV Transmission
Line Adjustment**

0 250 500 750
Feet

Appendix B Tower Raise Process Summary



Transmission Line Clearance Enhancement Using the AMPJACK® Lift System

What is the AMPJACK® Lift System

The **AMPJACK® Lift System** is a hydraulically driven, self-contained “crane in a Box” that can be transported and installed easily with minimal environmental impact.

Implemented to increase the height of existing transmission lines without the need of an **Outage.**



AMPJACK® Construction Method

(No Cranes and Minimal Footprint)



- Positive Control = Live Line & Live Load Capabilities
- Eliminates Suspended Loads
- Handles Overturning Loads Tension/Compression/Shear

AMPJACK® Operational Benefits

- Utilize Existing Structures & Residual Capacity
- Top-Down Engineering
  - Each lift plan evaluates the wire system, structure & foundation
- Increased SAFETY!
  - Tower does not hang from a crane, so there are NO SUSPENDED LOADS!
  - AMPJACK® always maintains positive control of the tower.
- Facilities remain in service, allowing flexibility in scheduling transmission line work.
- Increased productivity—work can be executed at multiple locations in parallel.
- Versatility for efficient integration at tower locations.





Remote Access Capabilities

Helicopter Access into Remote Areas:

All work at this site included:

- Custom scaffolding platform installed for crew & equipment access
- Insulator change-outs
- Conductor re-tensioning
- 15Ft. AMPJACK® tower raise completed by helicopter access only

This work caused very little ground disturbance.



AMPJACK® and the *Environment*

- Minimal environmental impact
- No cranes or large aerial equipment needed
- Minimal matting or new access road work required
- Can be installed with a small crew of 10-14
- Install requires only lightweight equipment





Execution

Construction Timelines

- On average, the AMPJACK® system takes...

- ½ day to 1 ½ days to install – depending on complexity
- Approx. 2 to 4 hours per 5-ft. lift increment
- 1 day to remove, clean up and demobilize to next site



Execution



Appendix C Agency Correspondence

In reply, refer to
2026-ADA-67364

February 12, 2026

Ryan J. Weller
Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212
rweller@wellercrm.com

RE: Point O-Don Marquis 345kV Transmission Line Replacement/Structure Lowering Project, Adams, Pike, and Scioto, Counties, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on January 14, 2026, regarding the proposed Point O-Don Marquis 345kV Transmission Line Replacement/Structure Lowering Project located in Adams, Pike, and Scioto Counties, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4 & 4906-5). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Point O-Don Marquis 345kV Transmission Line Replacement/Structure Lowering Project in Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio* (Weller and & Associates, Inc. 2026). The project involves the replacement of Structures 100, 107, 109, 111, 160, and 174, as well as work near Structures 77, 108, 110, 112, 113, 116, 173, 175, and 205. A literature review, visual inspection, and shovel test unit excavations were conducted for these investigations. Portions of the project corridor had been previously professionally surveyed, while other areas were excessively sloped or disturbed. There were no previously documented archaeological sites located within the project and no new sites were identified during these investigations. No additional archaeological survey is recommended.

Based on the information provided, it is our office's opinion that the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional cultural resources are discovered during the implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at cgullett@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gullett, Project Reviews Coordinator - Archaeology
Resource Protection and Review
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No. 1112444

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / FAX (614) 416-8994

February 8, 2023

Re: Point O – Don Marquis 345kV Structure Replacement Project Code: 2022-0042124

Dear Ms.Speckman:

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. We offer the following comments and recommendations to assist you in minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) occur throughout the State of Ohio. The Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat may be found wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and breed that may also include adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, woodlots, fallow fields, and pastures. Roost trees for both species include live and standing dead trees ≥3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities. These roost trees may be located in forested habitats as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves, rock crevices and abandoned mines.

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, we recommend avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats. If Indiana bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing may occur at any time of the year. Surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office. Surveyors must have a valid federal permit. Please note that in Ohio summer mist net surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15.

Section 7 Coordination: If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), then no tree clearing should occur on any portion of the project area until consultation under section 7 of the ESA, between the Service and the federal action agency, is completed. We recommend the federal action agency submit a determination of effects to this office, relative to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, for our review and concurrence. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document.

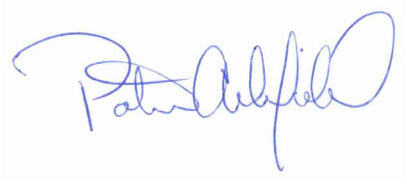
Stream and Wetland Avoidance: Over 90% of the wetlands in Ohio have been drained, filled, or modified by human activities, thus is it important to conserve the functions and values of the remaining wetlands in Ohio (https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/ohio_wetlands.pdf). We recommend avoiding and minimizing project impacts to all wetland habitats (e.g., forests, streams, vernal pools) to the maximum extent possible in order to benefit water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine whether a Clean Water Act section 404 permit is required. Best management practices should be used to minimize erosion, especially on slopes. Disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. In addition, prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or proposed or designated critical habitat. Should the project design change, or additional information on listed or proposed species or their critical habitat become available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, coordination with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

Thank you for your efforts to conserve listed species and sensitive habitats in Ohio. We recommend coordinating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the proposed project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettegrew, Acting Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at mike.pettegrew@dnr.state.oh.us.

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW
Eileen Wyza, ODNR-DOW

Department of Natural Resources
ohiodnr.gov

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Jim Tressel, *Lt. Governor*
Mary Mertz, *Director*

Office of Real Estate & Land Management
Tara Paciorek - Chief
2045 Morse Road – E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

November 19, 2025

Tanner Dickson
V3 Companies
3700 South Boulevard, Suite 200
Charlotte, North Carolina 28209

Re: 25-1615_#210180.066 Stuart Point O Don Marquis 345kV

Project: The proposed project involves raising 20 existing structures with associated access roads along the existing transmission line beginning east of Chestnut Ridge Rd and Poplar Ridge Rd and extending north to a structure southeast of Wakefield Mound Rd and Nursing Home Rd.

Location: The proposed project is located in Pike, Scioto, and Adams counties, Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has completed a review of the above referenced project. These comments were generated by an inter-disciplinary review within the Department. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, Ohio Revised Code and other applicable laws and regulations. These comments are also based on ODNR's experience as the state natural resource management agency and do not supersede or replace the regulatory authority of any local, state, or federal agency nor relieve the applicant of the obligation to comply with any local, state, or federal laws or regulations.

Fish and Wildlife: The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends that impacts to streams, wetlands and other water resources be avoided and minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that Best Management Practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species of bats predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in clusters of dead leaves on tree limbs. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cleared, the DOW recommends tree and/or tree limb clearing only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices,

holes, or cavities, as well as trees with a Diameter Breast Height (DBH) ≥ 20" if possible. If trees are present within the project area, and trees and/or tree limbs must be cleared during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any clearing. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (OH-FIELD OFFICE) JOINT GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS. If state-listed bats are documented, DOW recommends tree clearing only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

For every project, the DOW also recommends that a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if potential hibernacula are present within the project area. This is to limit possible disturbances that seasonal tree clearing and/or subsurface work (e.g., trenching, blasting, etc.) may cause to hibernating bats. Potential hibernacula include rocky outcroppings, caves, and underground mines. Direction on how to conduct winter habitat assessments can be found in the joint guidance linked above. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the following listed mussel species.
Federally Endangered
club shell (*Pleurobema clava*)
rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*)
fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*)
sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphyus*)
pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*)
snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*)

State Endangered
butterfly (Ellipsaria lineolata)
wartyback (*Cyclonaias nodulata*)
ebonyshell (*Fusconaia ebenus*)
washboard (*Megalonaias nervosa*)
long-solid (*Fusconaia subrotunda*)
yellow sandshell (*Lampsilis teres*)

State Threatened
Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*)

This project must not have an impact on native mussels. This applies to both listed and non-listed species, as all species of mussel are protected in Ohio. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2025), all Group 2, 3, and 4 streams (Appendix A) require a mussel survey. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Group 1 streams (Appendix A) and unlisted streams with a watershed of 5 square miles or larger above the point of impact should be assessed using the Reconnaissance Survey for Unionid Mussels (Appendix B) to determine if mussels are present. Mussel surveys may be recommended for these streams as well.

Therefore, if in-water work is planned in any stream that meets any of the above criteria, the DOW recommends the applicant provide information to indicate no mussel impacts will occur. If this is not possible, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist conduct a mussel survey in the project area. If mussels that cannot be avoided are found in the project area, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist collect and relocate the mussels to suitable and similar habitat upstream of the project site. Mussel surveys and any subsequent mussel relocation should be done in accordance with the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol. If there is no in-water work proposed, impacts to mussels are not likely.

The project is within the range of the following listed fish species.
State Endangered
goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*)
shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*)
popeye shiner (*Notropis ariommus*)
shovelnose sturgeon (S*caphirhynchus platorynchus*)

State Threatened
American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)
paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)
river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), a state endangered species, and a federal species of concern. The timber rattlesnake is a woodland species, utilizing dry slopes and rocky outcrops. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices for overwintering. The DOW recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present; the DOW recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist. A list of approved herpetologists has been provided for your convenience.

The project is within the range of the green salamander (*Aneides aeneus*), a state endangered amphibian. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the cave salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*), a state endangered species. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the midland mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus diastictus*), a state threatened species. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*), a state endangered species. The Allegheny woodrat utilizes rocky outcrops such as cliffs and caves in forested areas. To avoid impacts to this species, impacts to cliffs and rocky outcrops should be avoided. In addition, a buffer of 100 feet above and 200 feet below cliffs and rocky outcrops should be maintained.

The project is within the range of the eastern harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys humulis*), a state threatened species. This species relies on early successional habitats dominated by herbaceous vegetation with less than 30% woody material. The DOW recommends that early successional habitats be preserved where possible. If early successional habitats won't be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential for impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state-listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has the following data within one mile of the project area:

Southern Hairy Rock Cress (*Arabis pycnocarpa* var. *adpressipilis*), P
Wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*), T
Prairie Brome (*Bromus kalmii*), P
Carolina Thistle (*Cirsium carolinianum*), T
Spring Coral-root (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), P
Pretty Dodder (*Cuscuta indecora*), E
Tall Larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*), P
Flat-stemmed Spike-rush (*Eleocharis compressa*), P
Golden-star (*Erythronium rostratum*), E
Yellowish Gentian (*Gentiana alba*), T
Crested Coral-root (*Hexalectris spicata*), P
Michaux's Glade-cress (*Leavenworthia uniflora*), T
Three-flowered Melic (*Melica nitens*), E
Spreading Sandwort (*Mononeuria patula*), E
False Garlic (*Nothoscordum bivalve*), T
Black-fruit Mountain-rice (*Patis racemosa*), P
Little Gray Polypody (*Pleopeltis michauxiana*), P
False Melic (*Schizachne purpurascens*), T
Midwest Spike-moss (*Selaginella eclipes*), P
Feather-bells (*Stenanthium gramineum* var. *gramineum*), E
Shale Barren Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*), T
Arbor Vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), P
Three-birds Orchid (*Triphora trianthophoros*), P
Bunchflower (*Veratrum virginicum*), T
Birdfoot Violet (*Viola pedata*), T

Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*), SC
Blue Sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*), T
Tippecanoe Darter (*Etheostoma tippecanoe*), SC
Eastern Black Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis nigra*), SC
Allegheny Woodrat (*Neotoma magister*), E
Woodland Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), SC
Frost Cave Isopod (*Caecidotea rotunda*), T
Threehorn Wartyback (*Obliquaria reflexa*), SC
Ohio Cave Beetle (*Pseudanophthalmus ohioensis*), E
Fawnsfoot (*Truncilla donaciformis*), SC
Deertoe (*Truncilla truncata*), SC
Mussel Bed
Cave or cavern
Cliffs
Waterfall
Appalachian oak forest plant community
Arbor vitae-mixedwood forest plant community
Little bluestem prairie plant community

Conservation status abbreviations are as follows: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; U = state status under review; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federally endangered, and FT = federally threatened. Records for high quality plant communities indicate the presence of sites that are in our inventory of the best remaining examples of Ohio's pre-settlement ecosystems.

The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. Features searched include locations of rare and endangered plants and animals determined to be of value to the conservation of their species, high quality plant communities, animal breeding assemblages, and outstanding geological features.

The species and features listed above are not recorded within the boundaries of the specified project area. Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for an area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has not conducted a project specific review and/or comments, however, the guidance provided below should be reviewed by the Environmental Review applicant for applicability on this project and subsequent compliance.

If the subject project is in a floodplain regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals. The FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NHFL) Viewer website can be utilized to see if the project is in a FEMA regulated floodplain. If the project is not in a FEMA regulated floodplain, then no further action is required.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 1521.16 mandates that any owner of a property or a facility that has the capacity of withdrawing 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water from groundwater, surface water, or

both must register with the Division of Water Resources' Water Withdrawal Facilities Registration (WWFR) Program and report their withdrawals annually.

Additional coordination may be required depending on the location of the withdrawal and consumptive use. Restrictions or permitting may be required for:

- New or increased consumptive use of water averaging 2 million gallons per day (mgd) within 30 days within the Ohio River basin.
- New or increased withdrawal and consumptive water use in the Lake Erie watershed averaging 1 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- New or increased water withdrawal directly from Lake Erie averaging 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- Diversion or movement of water across the Ohio River and Lake Erie basin divide.

If the project does not involve activities that are subject to water withdrawal regulatory requirements as described above, then no further action is required. For more information, visit the Water Inventory & Planning website.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Mike Pettegrew (Environmental Services Administrator) at mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Expiration: *ODNR Environmental Reviews are typically valid for 2 years from the issuance date. If the scope of work, project area, construction limits, and/or anticipated impacts to natural resources have changed significantly from the original project submittal, then a new Environmental Review request should be submitted.*

Olivia Speckman

Subject: RE: ODNR 25-1615

Hello Doug,

Thank you for submitting the habitat assessment report for project 25-1615_V3 - #210180.066 Stuart Point O Don Marquis 345kV. The DOW concurs with your assessment that suitable habitat is not present within the project area. Therefore, the Timber Rattlesnake is not likely to be impacted by this project. No additional coordination is necessary. If there are any questions, please let me know.

-Matt

From: Doug Wynn <sistrurus@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Stooksbury, Matthew <Matthew.Stooksbury@dnr.ohio.gov>
Subject: ODNR 25-1615

Hi Matt - I am attaching a Timber Rattlesnake habitat survey report (ODNR 25-1615) for the AEP Point O- Don Marquis Transmission Line Project. No suitable habitat was identified. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, Doug Wynn

CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to csc@ohio.gov or click the Phish Alert Button if available.

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From: planning commision
To: Olivia Speckman
Subject: RE: AEP - Floodplain Exemption Confirmation Request
Date: Friday, April 17, 2026 12:37:37 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

*** CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER *** STOP. ASSESS. VERIFY!! ***: Were you expecting this email? Is the grammar and spelling correct? Does the content make sense? Can you verify the sender? If suspicious, report this email to Help Desk. Do not click links. Do not open attachments. Do not enter your username or password.

That is correct. The project is exempt from the Pike County Flood Damage Prevention Resolution.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Ally Motz

Pike County Planning Commission
230 Waverly Plaza, Suite #1400
Waverly, OH 45690

740-947-9573

From: Olivia Speckman <ospeckman@v3co.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 10:42 AM
To: planning commision <plan.comm@pikecountyohgov.onmicrosoft.com>
Subject: AEP - Floodplain Exemption Confirmation Request

This is the first time you received an email from this sender (ospeckman@v3co.com). Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Good Morning,

On behalf of American Electric Power, I am reaching out to coordinate a transmission line project located within a floodplain area in Pike County. The portion of the project within the floodplain is located west of US 23, south of the intersection with US 124. This is depicted in the attached plan sheet.

The project falls under Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) jurisdiction and is therefore anticipated to be exempt from local floodplain regulation. In order to complete the OPSB filing, confirmation from Pike County is needed. Please provide a response to

this email with confirmation that the project is exempt from Pike County jurisdiction due to OPSB involvement. If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact me at the number below.

Thank you,
Olivia

Olivia Speckman
Senior Project Scientist
1060 N Capitol Avenue, Suite 6-301 • Indianapolis, IN 46204
P 317.554.7968 • **E** ospeckman@v3co.com

Go beyond limits

Appendix D Ecological Survey Report

POINT O – DON MARQUIS 345KV

ECOLOGICAL REPORT

PROJECT SITE:

Beginning at Trent Road and Poplar Ridge Road
Extending to U.S. 23 and Perimeter Road
Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio

PREPARED FOR:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
8600 Smiths Mill Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054

AEP OHIO TRANSMISSION COMPANY
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY

PREPARED BY:

V3 Companies, Ltd.
619 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 423-0690

February 2023
Revised March 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

V3 Companies, Ltd. (V3) performed an ecological survey and report for the proposed Point O – Don Marquis 345kV project on 26 and 27 September 2022 and on 2 February 2023. The project consists of 17 existing structures and associated access routes beginning at Trent Road and Poplar Ridge Road and extending to U.S. 23 and Perimeter Road in Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio (SITE). V3 reached the following conclusions based on review of available and reasonably ascertainable federal, state, and local resources, and a SITE inspection conducted on the date referenced above.

- Nine streams, ST-70-EPH, ST-71-EPH, ST-92-EPH, ST-99-EPH, ST-112-EPH, ST-147-EPH, ST-159-EPH, ST-168A-EPH, and ST-168B-EPH, were identified within the SITE area. The streams would likely qualify as a federally jurisdictional "Water of the U.S." subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) authority.
- Six wetlands, WL-77-PEM, WL-98-PEM, WL-173A-PEM, WL-173B-PEM, WL-173C-PEM, and WL-205-PEM were identified within the SITE area. All six wetlands appeared to lack a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." and would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by the OEPA alone.
- An official species list obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. V3 observed potential roost trees on-SITE at the time of the SITE reconnaissance. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species outside the recommended seasonal clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.
- A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared solely in accordance with an agreement between American Electric Power ("CLIENT") and V3 Companies ("V3"), Ltd.

The services performed by V3 have been conducted in a manner consistent with the level of quality and skill generally exercised by members of its profession and consulting practices relating to this type of engagement.

This report is solely for the use of CLIENT and was prepared based upon an understanding of CLIENT's specific objective(s) and based upon information obtained by V3 in furtherance of CLIENT's specific objective(s). Any reliance of this report by third parties shall be at such third party's sole risk as this report may not contain, or be based upon, sufficient information for purposes of other parties, for their objectives, or for other uses. This report shall only be presented in full and may not be used to support any other objectives than those for CLIENT as set out in the report, except where written approval and consent are expressly provided by CLIENT and V3.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this investigation was to conduct an ecological survey and report of the SITE to evaluate potential land development permitting requirements regarding natural resources. In this report, V3 provides a detailed description of the information reviewed and collected as part of the scope of work for this project. V3 summarizes the jurisdictional framework applicable to this project, provides a desktop review of relevant and publicly available documents, and details information collected during the SITE reconnaissance including a wetlands determination, an evaluation of the potential presence of other natural resources within the SITE boundary, and a discussion of endangered, threatened, and rare (ETR) species and habitat. The Conclusions section summarizes V3's findings, addresses potential areas of concern and permitting, regulatory, and other relevant issues.

The SITE begins at Trent Road and Poplar Ridge Road and extends to U.S. 23 and Perimeter Road in Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio (**Figure 1**).

CHAPTER 2 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

2.1 WETLANDS

Wetlands offer a variety of functions and values that may include, but are not limited to, groundwater recharge/discharge, flood flow alteration, sediment/toxicant retention, and fish and wildlife habitat. Because of the perceived functions and values of wetlands, USACE developed the Wetlands Delineation Manual, (*1987 Manual*)[1] to identify wetlands.

Wetlands are defined in the *1987 Manual* as, "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions."[2] The *1987 Manual* outlines the protocol for distinguishing wetland areas from "upland" areas. Wetland areas are delineated according to three primary criteria: vegetation, soil, and hydrology. An area is determined to qualify as a wetland if it meets the following "general diagnostic environmental characteristics:"

- Hydrophytic vegetation
- Hydrology
- Hydric Soil

[1] USACE. Waterways Experiment Station. Wetlands Research Program. "Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual." Vicksburg, MS: Environmental Laboratory, 1987

CHAPTER 3 DESKTOP REVIEW

V3 reviewed applicable, readily available, and accessible historical information for the potential presence of wetlands, "Waters of the U.S.," and other natural resources.

3.1 UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE MAP

A USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle map displays contour lines to portray the shape and elevation of the land surface. Quadrangle maps render the three-dimensional changes in elevation of the terrain on a two-dimensional surface. The maps usually portray both manmade and natural topographic features. Although they show lakes, rivers, various surface water drainage trends, vegetation, etc., they typically do not provide the level of detail needed for accurate evaluation of wetlands. However, the existence of these features may suggest the potential presence of wetlands.

The SITE is situated in Piketon, Wakefield, Rarden, Blue Creek, Lynx, Ohio, USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps. V3 evaluated the topography and concluded that the SITE elevation ranges from approximately 540 to 1,060 feet above mean sea level. No features are mapped within the SITE area (**Figure 1**).

3.2 NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps were developed to meet a USFWS mandate to map the wetland and deepwater habitats of the U.S. These maps were developed using high altitude aerial photographs and USGS Quadrangle maps as a topographic base. Indicators that exhibited pre-determined wetland characteristics, visible in the photographs, were identified according to a detailed classification system. The NWI map retains some of the detail of the Quadrangle map; however, it is used primarily for demonstration of wetland areas identified by the agency. The maps are accurate to a scale of 1:24,000. In general, the NWI information requires field verification.

NWI data is shown projected over the USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map in **Figure 2**. Two NWI features, a riverine, intermittent, streambed, seasonally flooded (R4SBC) and palustrine, emergent, persistent, temporary flooded (PEM1A) polygon is mapped southwest of Structure 92. The presence of NWI features mapped partially or fully within the SITE area suggests the potential presence of wetlands or other regulated aquatic features on-SITE.

3.3 FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was developed in 1979 to reform disaster relief and recovery, civil defense, and to prepare and mitigate for natural hazards. The Mitigation Division of FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program which provides guidance on how to lessen the impact of disasters on communities through flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Proper floodplain management has the ability to minimize the extent of flooding and flood damage and improve stormwater quality by reducing stormwater velocities and erosion. The one percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) boundary must be kept free of encroachment as the national standard for the program.

V3 reviewed National Flood Hazard Zone data for Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio. The area surrounding Structure 198 is situated within an area mapped as Flood Zone A (**Figure 2**).

3.4 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL SURVEY

V3 reviewed the soils mapped on-SITE in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) digital soil survey data for Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio. This data is projected over aerial photography, illustrating distinct soil map unit boundaries, in **Figure 3**. 18 soil units are classified on-SITE in Adams County.

Table 1 : Adams County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Adams County
BnB	Bratton silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	No
BrC2	Bratton-Opequon complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	No
BtD2	Brushcreek-Lawshe complex, 12 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	No
EkB	Elkinsville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	No
LbC	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
LbD2	Latham silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	No
LkC2	Licking silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	No
LkD2	Licking silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	No
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Yes
OpD2	Opequon silty clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	No
OpE2	Opequon silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	No
OsF	Opequon silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, very rocky	No
ShF	Shelocta-Berks association, very steep	No
SmD	Shelota-Muse association, hilly	No
SoE	Shelota-Muse-Colyer association	No
TkA	Tilsit silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	No
TrB	Trappist silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	No
TrC	Trappist silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No

One of the soil units mapped within the SITE area, Nolin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (No), is considered hydric in Adams County, Ohio. Soils are considered hydric if more than 50 percent of the soil contains hydric components according to the NRCS Web Soil Survey. The presence of hydric soil units within the SITE area suggests appropriate wetland soils are located on-SITE.

Six soil units are classified on-SITE in Scioto County.

Table 2 : Scioto County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Adams County
CoB	Coolville silt loam	No
CpC	Coolville-Rarden silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
LhW1D1	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	No
SbB	Shelocta silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	No
SbD	Shelota silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	No
ScF	Shelocta-Brownsburg association, very steep	No

None of the soil units mapped within the SITE area are considered hydric in Adams County, Ohio.

14 soil units are classified on-SITE in Adams County.

Table 3 : Pike County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Adams County
Cf	Clifty silt loam, occasionally flooded	No
CoB	Coolville silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes	No
CpC	Coolville-Blairton association, rolling	No
CtC	Coolville-Rarden silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
Dol1A1	Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	No
Ge	Genesee silt loam, occasionally flooded	No
Hu	Huntington silt loam, occasionally flooded	No
LhW1D1	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	No
Omu1B1	Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	No
RdC	Raeden silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
SnF	Shelocta-Brownsburg association, steep	No
SpF	Shelocta-Latham association, steep	No
St	Stonelick loam, occasionally flooded	No
UoA	Urbanland-Omulga complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	No

None of the soil units mapped within the SITE area are considered hydric in Pike County, Ohio.

3.5 ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES EVALUATION

An official species list obtained from the USFWS IPaC website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species. The USFWS stated that if tree clearing cannot be avoided, then seasonal clearing shall be done to avoid adverse effects to the Indiana bats and the northern long-eared bats. See Table 5 for the recommended clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. (Table 5). The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

Based on the documentation referenced above, additional correspondence with the agencies does not appear to be warranted at this time. If federal permitting or federal financing will be used in future development, additional coordination may be necessary. Copies of agency correspondence can be referenced in Appendix A.

Table 4 : ETR Species Table

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Listed Status	Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comment	Potential Impacts
Mussels								
Cyprogenia stegaria	Fanshell	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fusconaia ebenus	Ebonyshell	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fusconaia maculata maculata	Long-solid	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Ellipsaria lineolata	Butterfly	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Epioblasma triquetra	Snuffbox	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lampsilis orbiculata	Pink mucket (pearlymussel)	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lampsilis teres	Yellow sandshell	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Ligumia recta	Black sandshell	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Megalonaias nervosa	Washboard	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Obliquaria reflexa	Threehorn wartyback	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Plethobasus cyphyus	Sheepnose	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Pleurobema clava	Club shell	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Quadrula nodulata	Wartyback	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No

Truncilla donaciformis	Fawnsfoot	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Villosa fabalis	Rayed bean	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fishes								
Anguilla rostrata	American eel	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Hiodon alosoides	Goldeye	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lepisosteus platostomus	Shortnose gar	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Notropis ariommus	Popeye shiner	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Percina copelandi	Channel darter	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Percina shumardi	River darter	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Polydon spathula	Paddlefish	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Scaphirhynchus platorynchus	Shovelnose sturgeon	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Amphibians								
Aneides aeneus	Green salamander	Endangered	N/A	ODNR - No comment	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Eurycea lucifuga	Cave salamander	Endangered	N/A	ODNR - No comment	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Pseudotriton montanus diastictus	Midland mud salamander	Threatened	N/A	ODNR - No comment	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No

Scaphiopus holbrookii	Eastern spadefoot toad	Endangered	N/A	Areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Reptiles								
Crotalus horridus	Timber rattlesnake	Endangered	Species of Concern	Woodland species, utilizing dry slopes and rocky outcrops. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices for overwintering	No	1 April to 31 October	ODNR - As snakes disperse from their dens in the spring and summer, they will move through areas that do not appear to be suitable habitat. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices as overwintering dens. If work will be conducted between November and March, timber rattlesnakes would be expected to be within their dens, or at least closer to the den entrances, and not likely moving through the project area, and therefore additional considerations for this species would not be necessary. However, if work cannot be committed to during this time frame, the Division of Wildlife (DOW) recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if project activities will impact this species. If it is determined that there is the potential for impacts, the DOW recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implanted by the approved herpetologist.	TBD - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction from 1 April through 31 October. If work will be conducted within this time frame, it is recommended that a suitability survey be conducted by an approved herpetologist.

Birds								
Chondestes grammacus	Lark sparrow	Endangered	N/A	Grassland habitats with scattered shrub layers, disturbed open areas, and patches of bare soil. In Oak Openings area west of Toledo, occupies open grass and shrubby fields along sandy beach ridges	No	1 May to 31 July	ODNR - If habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided within this habitat during the nesting period of 1 May through 31 July. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction in this species' habitat from 1 May through 31 July.
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike	Endangered	N/A	Nests in hedgerows, thickets and fencerows; hunts over hayfields, pastures, and other grasslands	No	1 April to 31 July	ODNR - If habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided within this habitat during the nesting period of 1 April through 31 July. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction in this species' habitat from 1 April through 31 July.

Mammals								
Myotis lucifugus	Little brown bat	Endangered	N/A	During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees	Yes	1 April to 30 September	ODNR/USFWS - Cutting of trees is recommended between 1 October and 31 March. If seasonal tree cutting is not possible, a mist net survey or acoustic survey may be conducted by an approved surveyor between 1 June and 15 August. ODNR - If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 mile of the project area, please send this information to Erin Hazelton for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.	No - Impacts are avoided with winter tree clearing. If winter tree clearing is not feasible, presence/absence surveys may be needed.
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern long-eared bat	Endangered	Threatened		Yes			
Myotis sodalis	Indiana bat	Endangered	Endangered		Yes			
Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored bat	Endangered	N/A		Yes			
Neotoma magister	Allegheny woodrat	Endangered	N/A	Rocky outcrops such as cliffs and caves in forested areas	No	N/A	ODNR - To avoid impacts to this species, impacts to cliffs and rocky outcrops should be avoided. In addition, a buffer of 100 feet above and 200 feet below cliffs and rocky outcrops should be maintained.	No - Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

CHAPTER 4 SITE RECONNAISSANCE

4.1 METHODOLOGY

V3 conducted a field investigation at the SITE on 26 and 27 September 2022 and on 2 February 2023. During this investigation, V3 noted the presumed land use of the SITE and surrounding area and evaluated the SITE for the potential presence of wetlands, "waters of the U.S.," and natural resources using the findings of the desktop review and field observations. Photographs were taken during the field investigation and are provided in **Appendix B**.

V3 used the Routine Determination Method (RDM) with an established baseline and transects as described in the *1987 Manual* for typical sites over five acres. V3 recorded data from a number of data points (DP) along the transect as a function of diversity of vegetation, property size, soil types, habitat variability, and other SITE features as deemed appropriate by V3. Where evidence of a wetland was suspected, three wetland criteria were applied to determine if the area in question was representative of a wetland using the methodology set forth by USACE. More specifically, V3 visually examined and recorded the dominant vegetation, recorded soil properties such as texture and color using the Munsell Soil Color Chart (Munsell Color Chart), excavated soil pits, and evaluated the primary and secondary hydrologic indicators as discussed in **Section 2.1**.

If all three criteria were met, i.e. vegetation, soil properties, and hydrologic indicators, a second DP was established adjacent to the wetland DP in an area outside of the presumed wetland boundary for the purpose of delineating between the wetland and non-wetland areas. Once delineated, V3 continued the RDM to evaluate the remainder of the SITE.

4.2 SITE AND ADJACENT PROPERTY LAND USE

Land use on-SITE is dominated by fallow land and woodland. Adjacent land use consists of woodland, residential areas, and turf.

4.3 WETLAND SUMMARY

Six wetlands were identified during this investigation based upon the methodology set forth in the *1987 Manual* and the *Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Regional Supplement*. Information that V3 collected at each DP on 26 and 27 September 2022 and 2 February 2023 is described in the following section. This information is summarized on the forms provided in **Appendix C**. The Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) form for each of the wetlands is included as **Appendix D.** An overall SITE delineation map showing placement of the DPs is included as **Figure 4**.

4.3.1 Wetland WL-205-PEM – (±0.09-acre PEM, Continues off-SITE)

Wetland WL-205-PEM was situated east of Structure 205 and consisted of approximately 0.09 acres of PEM and continues north off-SITE. Wetland WL-205-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-205-PEM has an ORAM score of 24 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (**Appendix D**).

DP-205-PEM

This DP was collected in the western portion of Wetland WL-205-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*, OBL, 25% cover), common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*, FACW, 20% cover), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*, 20% cover), small carp grass (*Arthaxon hispidus*, FAC, 20%

cover). The soil profile met the redox dark surface (F6) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included saturation (A3) at six inches, geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-205-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-205-PEM. This area did not meet all wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall false rye grass (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*, FACU, 30% cover), garden vetch (*Vicia sativa*, FACU, 30% cover), small carp grass (FAC, 20% cover), and false boneset (*Brickellia eupatorioides*, UPL, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.3.2 Wetland WL-173A-PEM – (±0.033-acre PEM)

Wetland WL-173A-PEM was situated east of Structure 173 and consisted of approximately 0.033 acres of PEM. Wetland WL-173A-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-173A-PEM has an ORAM score of 23 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (Appendix D).

DP-173A-PEM

This DP was collected in the southern portion of Wetland WL-173A-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of lamp rush (*Juncus effusus*, FACW, 25% cover), Frank's sedge (*Carex frankii*, OBL, 25% cover), tall false rye grass (FACU, 25% cover). The soil profile met the depleted matrix (F3) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included saturation (A3) at eight inches, geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-173A-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-173A-PEM. This area did not meet all wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall false rye grass (FACU, 80% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.3.3 Wetland WL-173B-PEM – (±0.033-acre PEM)

Wetland WL-173B-PEM was situated southwest of Structure 173 and consisted of approximately 0.033 acres of PEM. Wetland WL-173B-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-173B-PEM has an ORAM score of 23 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (Appendix D).

DP-173B-PEM

This DP was collected in the eastern portion of Wetland WL-173B-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of crested sedge (*Carex cristatella*, FACW, 30% cover), lamp rush (FACW, 25% cover), and black elder (*Sambucus nigra*, FAC, 20% cover). The soil profile met the depleted matrix (F3) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included saturation (A3) at eight inches, geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-173B-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-173B-PEM. This area did not meet all wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall false rye grass (FACU, 60% cover) and Frank's sedge (OBL, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.3.4 Wetland WL-173C-PEM – (±0.35-acre PEM)

Wetland WL-173C-PEM was situated southeast of Structure 173 and consisted of approximately 0.35 acres of PEM. Wetland WL-173C-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-173C-PEM has an ORAM score of 23 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (Appendix D).

DP-173C-PEM

This DP was collected in the eastern portion of Wetland WL-173C-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of rice cut grass (*Leersia oryzoides*, OBL, 40% cover), lamp rush (FACW, 20% cover), and crested sedge (FACW, 20% cover). The soil profile met the depleted matrix (F3) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included saturation (A3) at eight inches, geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-173C-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-173C-PEM. This area did not meet all wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall false rye grass (FACU, 35% cover) and Japanese bristle grass (*Setaria faberi*, UPL, 35% cover. No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.3.5 Wetland WL-98-PEM – (±0.022-acre PEM)

Wetland WL-98-PEM was situated northeast of Structure 98 and consisted of approximately 0.022 acres of PEM. Wetland WL-98-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-98-PEM has an ORAM score of 23 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (Appendix D).

DP-98-PEM

This DP was collected in the southern portion of Wetland WL-98-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of small carp grass (FAC, 30% cover) and dark-green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*, 20% cover). The soil profile met the depleted matrix (F3) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included geomorphic position (D2) and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-98-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-98-PEM. This area did not meet all wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of yellow Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*, FACU, 20% cover), small carp grass (FAC, 20% cover), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*, FACU, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.3.6 Wetland WL-77-PEM – (±0.026-acre PEM)

Wetland WL-77-PEM was situated southwest of Structure 77 and consisted of approximately 0.026 acres of palustrine, emergent wetland (PEM). Wetland WL-77-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone. WL-77-PEM has an ORAM score of 23 and is classified as a Category 1 wetland (Appendix D).

DP-77-PEM

This DP was collected in the western portion of Wetland WL-77-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of lakebank sedge (*Carex lacustris*, OBL, 30% cover), broad-leaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*, OBL, 20% cover), and dark-green bulrush (OBL, 20% cover). The soil profile met the redox dark surface (F6) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included high water table (A2), saturation (A3), geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-neutral test (D5).

DP-77-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP-77-PEM. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Canadian goldenrod (FACU, 40% cover), Fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*, FACU, 20% cover), and white heath American-aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*, FACU, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

Table 5 : Delineated Wetlands Identified within the Survey Area

Wetland ID	Location		Isolated?	Habitat Type	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM		Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude				Score	Category	Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
WL-205-PEM	39.00195°	-83.01216°	Yes	PEM	±0.09	24	I	TBD	TBD
WL-173A-PEM	38.96897°	-83.12611°	Yes	PEM	±0.033	23	I	TBD	TBD
WL-173B-PEM	38.96881°	-83.12712°	Yes	PEM	±0.033	23	I	TBD	TBD
WL-173C-PEM	38.96854°	-83.12771°	Yes	PEM	±0.35	25	I	TBD	TBD
WL-98-PEM	38.83276°	-83.40448°	Yes	PEM	±0.022	23	I	TBD	TBD
WL-77-PEM	38.79216°	-83.46263°	Yes	PEM	±0.026	23	I	TBD	TBD

4.4 DATA POINT SUMMARY

Following is a description of the information collected at each DP during the 26 and 27 September 2022 and 2 February 2023 field investigation. Information that was collected at each DP is summarized on the forms provided in Appendix C. DP placement is shown in Figure 4.

DP 198

This DP was collected southeast of Structure 198. This area met the vegetation criterion but did not meet soil or hydrology criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of great ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*, FAC, 70% cover) and trumpet-creeper (*Campsis radicans*, FAC, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 178

This DP was collected northeast of Structure 178. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall false rye grass (FACU, 45% cover) and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*, FACU, 40% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 168

This DP was southwest of Structure 168. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Allegheny blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*, FACU, 20% cover), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*, FACU, 5% cover), Chinese bush-clover (*Lespedeza cuneata*, FACU, 30% cover), false boneset (*Brickellia eupatorioides*, UPL, 20% cover), and purple-leaf willowherb (FACW, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 159

This DP was collected northeast of Structure 159. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Allegheny blackberry (FACU, 5% cover), winged sumac (FACU, 5% cover), tall false rye grass (FACU, 30% cover), and English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*, UPL, 30% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 145

This DP was collected southwest of Structure 145. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Allegheny blackberry (FACU, 40% cover), purple-leaf willowherb (*Epilobium coloratum*, FACW, 35% cover), flat-top goldentop (*Euthamia graminifolia*, FAC, 20%) cover, and Johnson grass (FACU, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 113

This DP was collected southeast of Structure 113. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Allegheny blackberry (FACU, 30% cover) and wand panic grass (*Panicum virgatum*, FAC, 40% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 108

This DP was collected northeast of Structure 108. This area met did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of eastern red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*, FACU, 10% cover), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, FACW, 5% cover), shag-bark hickory (*Carya ovata*, FACU, 5% cover), and Canadian goldenrod (FACU, 25% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 92

This DP was collected in the southwest of Structure 92. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*, FACU, 30% cover), tall false rye grass (FACU, 40% cover), common morning-glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*, UPL, 20% cover), and giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*, FAC, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 72

This DP was collected in the southwest of Structure 72. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of winged sumac (FACU, 30% cover), tulip popular (*Liriodendron tulipifera,* FACU, 20% cover), multiflora rose (FACU, 15% cover), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*, FACU, 30% cover), and nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*, FACU, 15% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 71

This DP was collected in the northeast of Structure 71. This area did not meet any criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis,* UPL, 25% cover), bitter-nut hickory (*Carya cordiformis,* FACU, 10% cover), deer-tongue grass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum,* FAC, 50% cover), and greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*, FAC, 10% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.5 DRAINAGE FEATURES, STREAMS, AND OTHER POTENTIAL "WATERS OF THE U.S."

Eight streams and three erosional features were identified during this investigation using the methods described in Chapter 2. Information that V3 collected at each feature on 26 and 27 September 2022 and 2 February 2023 is described in the following section. An overall SITE delineation map is included as Figure 4. The Primary Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) for each of the streams is included as Appendix E.

4.5.1 ST-168A-EPH – (±129-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-168A-EPH is located southwest of structure 168 and consisted of 129 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-168A-EPH consisted of boulders, cobble, bedrock, gravel, and sand. ST-168A-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-168A-EPH has an HHEI score of 65 and is classified as a Class II Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.2 ST-168B-EPH – (±135-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-168B-EPH is located southwest of structure 168 and consisted of 135 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-168B-EPH consisted of cobble, gravel, sand, and clay. ST-168B-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-168B-EPH has an HHEI score of 45 and is classified as a Class II Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.3 ST-159-EPH – (±133-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-159-EPH is located northeast of structure 159 and consisted of 133 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-159-EPH consisted of boulders, cobble, bedrock, gravel, sand, and clay. ST-159-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-159-EPH has an HHEI score of 71 and is classified as a Class III Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.4 ST-145-EPH – (±96-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-145-EPH is located southwest of structure 145 and consisted of 96 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-145-EPH consisted of cobble, gravel, and sand. ST-145-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-145- EPH has an HHEI score of 35 and is classified as a Class II Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.5 ST-112-EPH – (±176-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-112-EPH is located northeast of structure 112 and consisted of 176 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-112-EPH consisted of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. ST-112-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-112- EPH has an HHEI score of 23 and is classified as a Class I Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.6 ST-99-EPH – (±157-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-99-EPH is located southwest of structure 99 and consisted of 157 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-99-EPH consisted of boulders, cobble, gravel, sand, and clay. ST-99-INT exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-99-EPH has an HHEI score of 67 and is classified as a Class II Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.7 ST-92-EPH – (±179-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-92-EPH is located southeast of structure 91 and consisted of 179 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-92-EPH consisted of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. ST-92-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-92- EPH has an HHEI score of 42 and is classified as a Class II Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.8 ST-71-EPH – (±117-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-71-EPH is located southwest of structure 71 and consisted of 117 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE area. The substrate of ST-71-EPH consisted of sand, clay, and silt. ST-71-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-71-EPH has an HHEI score of 16 and is classified as a Class I Stream (Appendix E).

4.5.9 ST-70-EPH – (±178-linear feet Delineated, Ephemeral)

ST-70-EPH is located northeast of structure 70 and consisted of 178 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE area. The substrate of ST-70-EPH consisted of gravel, sand, clay, and silt. ST-70-EPH exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-70-EPH has an HHEI score of 23 and is classified as a Class I Stream (Appendix E).

Table 6 : Delineated Streams Identified within the Survey Area

Feature	Location		Stream Type	Size on-SITE	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Method	Score	Category /Rating / OAC Designation	OEPA 401 Eligibility
	Latitude	Longitude								
ST-168A-EPH	38.96111°	-83.14688°	Ephemeral	±129 lf	±3.5	±2	HHEI	65	Class II	Eligible
ST-168B-EPH	38.96117°	-83.14655°	Ephemeral	±135 lf	±3	±2	HHEI	45	Class II	Eligible
ST-159-EPH	38.94627°	-83.16861°	Ephemeral	±133 lf	±5.5	±4	HHEI	71	Class III	Eligible
ST-145-EPH	38.91277°	-83.21749°	Ephemeral	±96 lf	±2	±1	HHEI	35	Class II	Ineligible
ST-112-EPH	38.85228°	-83.36339°	Ephemeral	±176 lf	±3	±2.5	HHEI	23	Class I	Possibly Eligible
ST-99-EPH	38.40245°	-83.40245°	Ephemeral	±157 lf	±6	±5.5	HHEI	67	Class II	Ineligible
ST-92-EPH	39.81923°	-83.42446°	Ephemeral	±179 lf	±3	±2	HHEI	42	Class II	Ineligible
ST-71-EPH	38.77834°	-83.48449°	Ephemeral	±117 lf	±1.5	±1	HHEI	16	Class I	Ineligible
ST-70-EPH	38.77739°	-83.48586°	Ephemeral	±178 lf	±3	±2.5	HHEI	23	Class I	Ineligible

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

On 26 and 27 September 2022 and on 2 February 2023, V3 performed an ecological survey and report for the SITE situated in Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio.

Six wetlands, WL-77-PEM, WL-98-PEM, WL-173A-PEM, WL-173B-PEM, WL-173C-PEM, and WL-205-PEM were identified within the SITE area. All six wetlands appeared to lack a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." and would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by the OEPA alone.

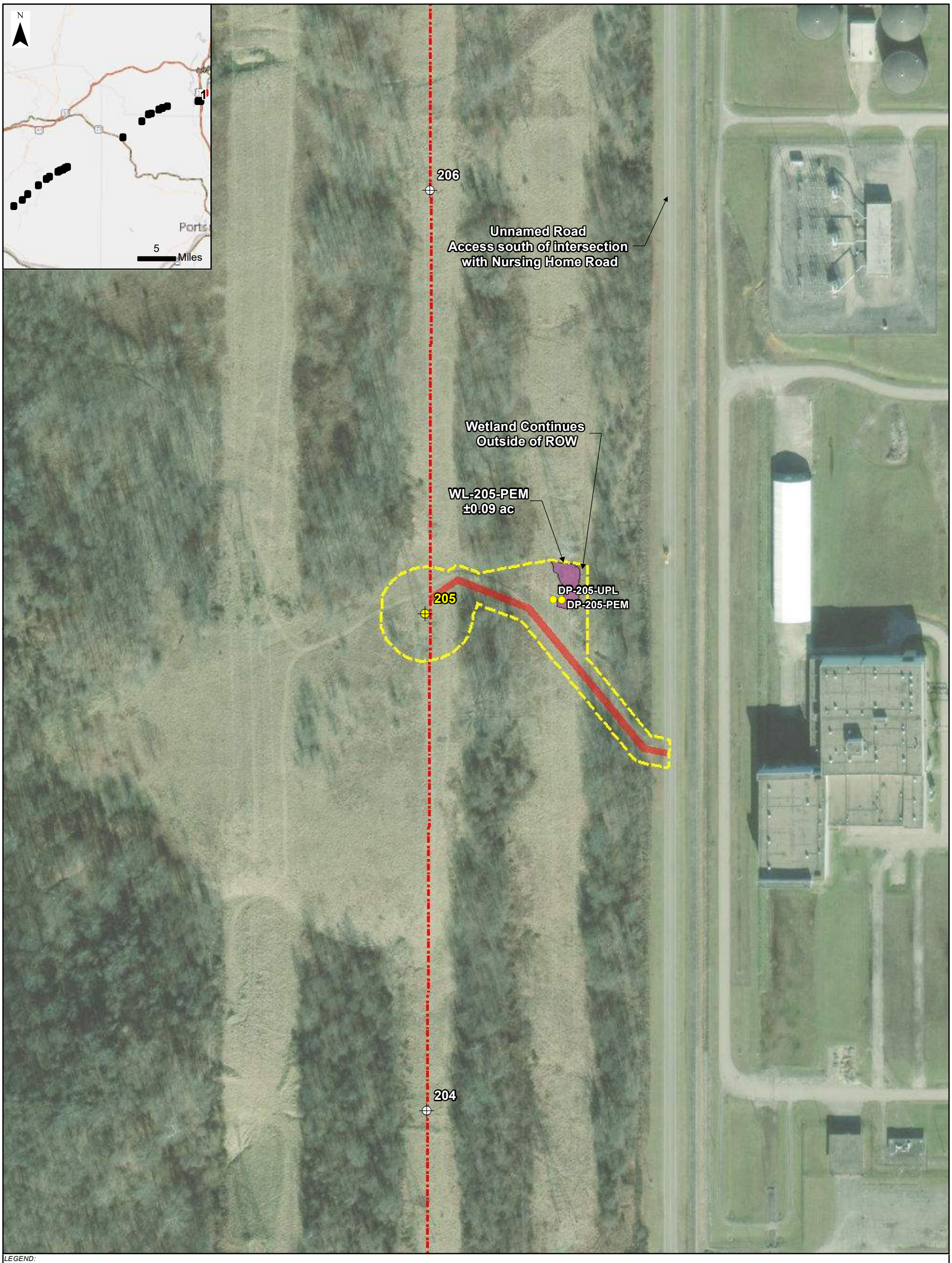
Nine streams, ST-70-EPH, ST-71-EPH, ST-92-EPH, ST-99-EPH, ST-112-EPH, ST-147-EPH, ST-159-EPH, ST-168A-EPH, and ST-168B-EPH, were identified within the SITE area. The streams would likely qualify as a federally jurisdictional "Water of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority.

An official species list obtained from the USFWS Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. V3 observes potential roost trees on-SITE at the time of the SITE reconnaissance. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species outside the recommended seasonal clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

FIGURES





LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
- Access Route Provided by AEP
- Investigated Area
- Existing Culvert
- Existing Fence
- Data Point
- Potential Roost Tree
- Emergent Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream
- Erosional Feature

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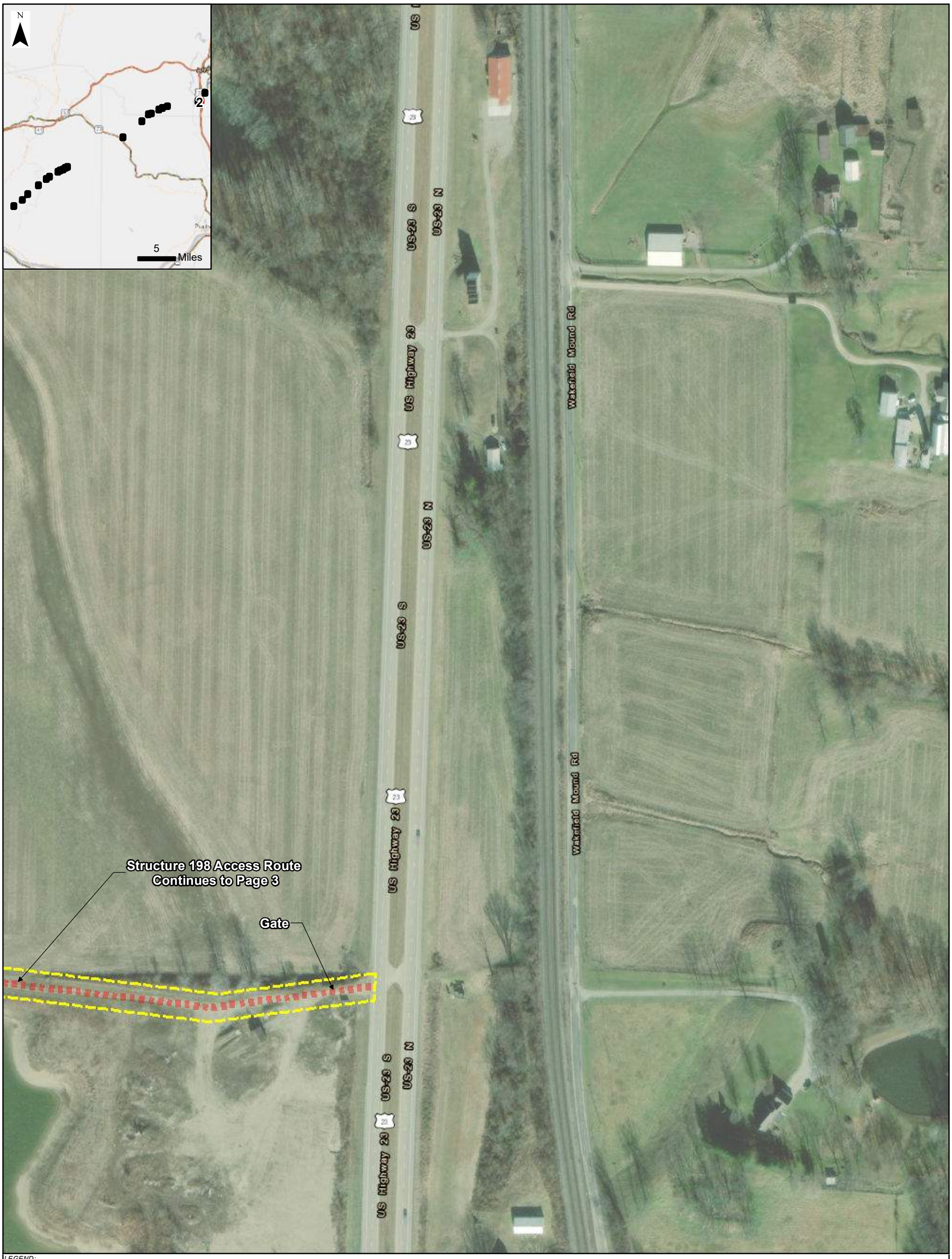
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 1 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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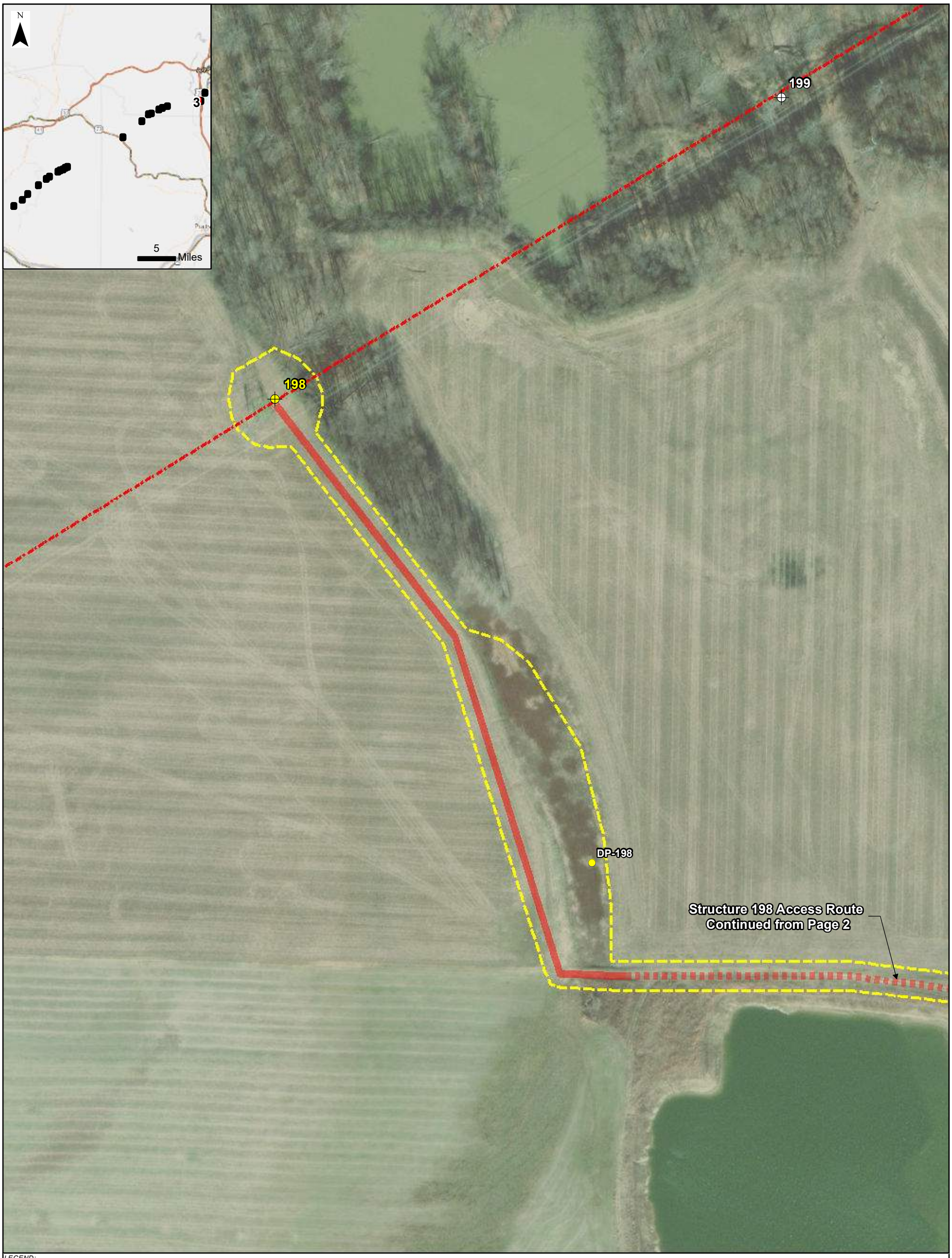
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 2 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

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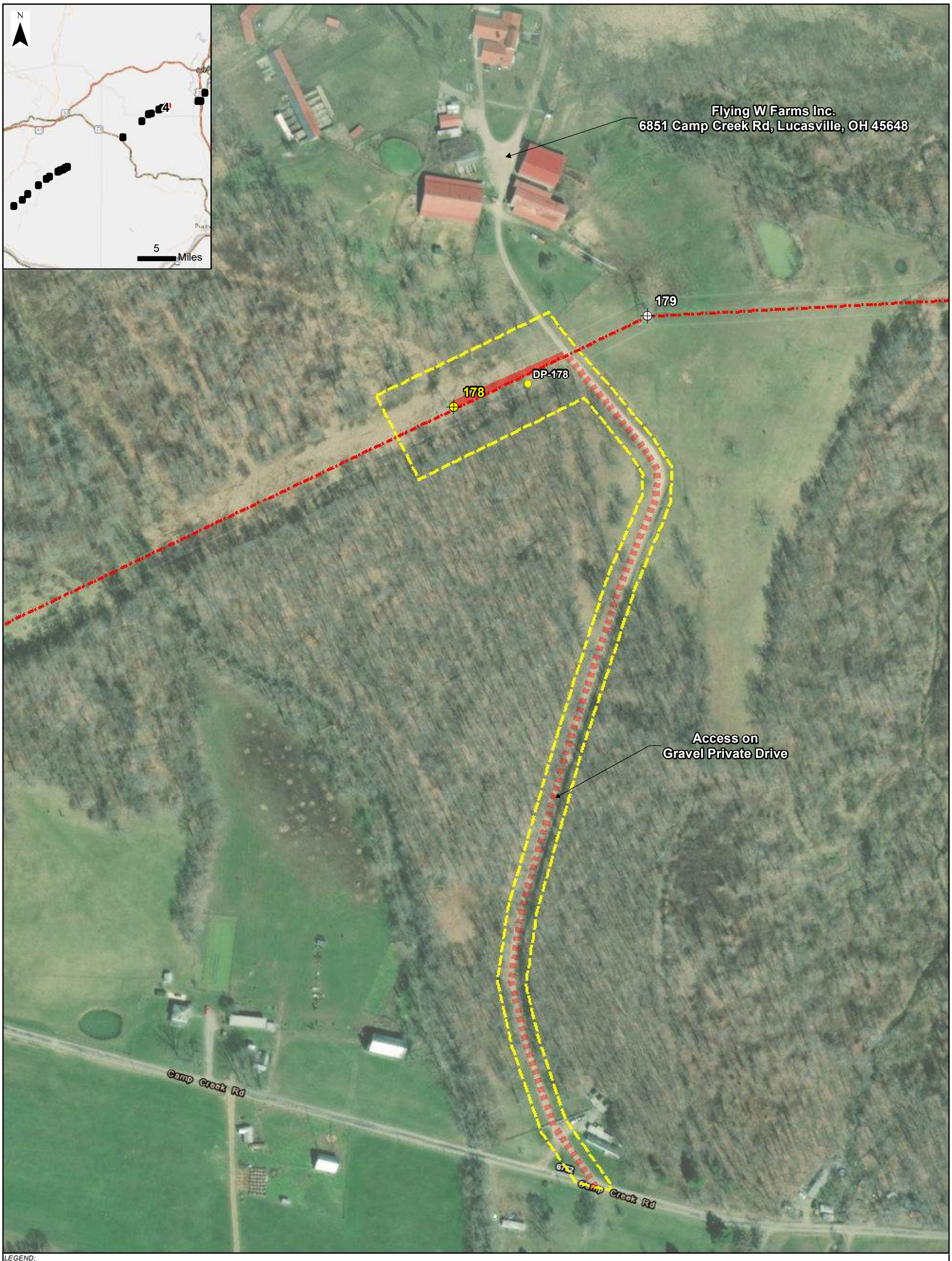
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 3 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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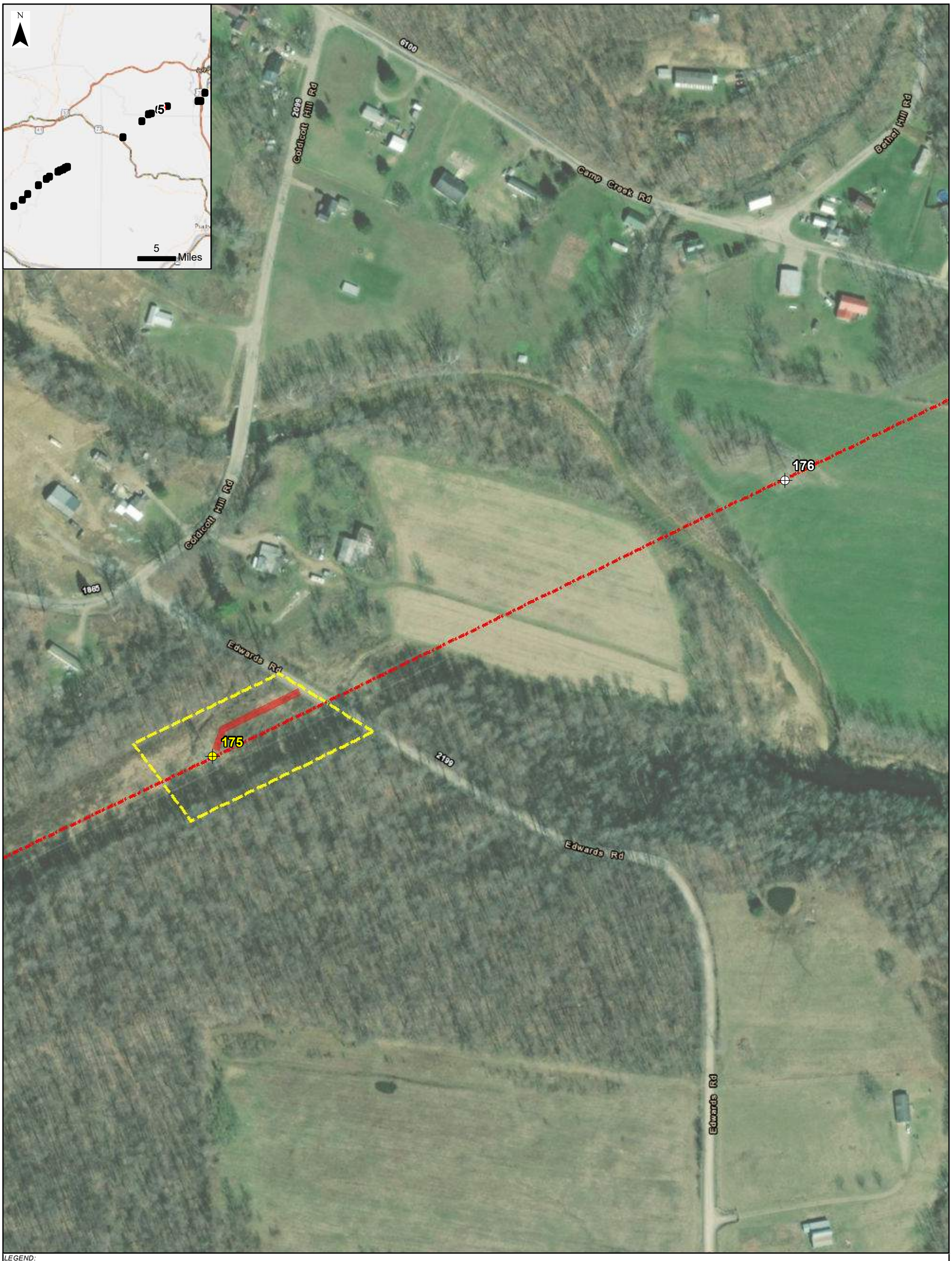
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 4 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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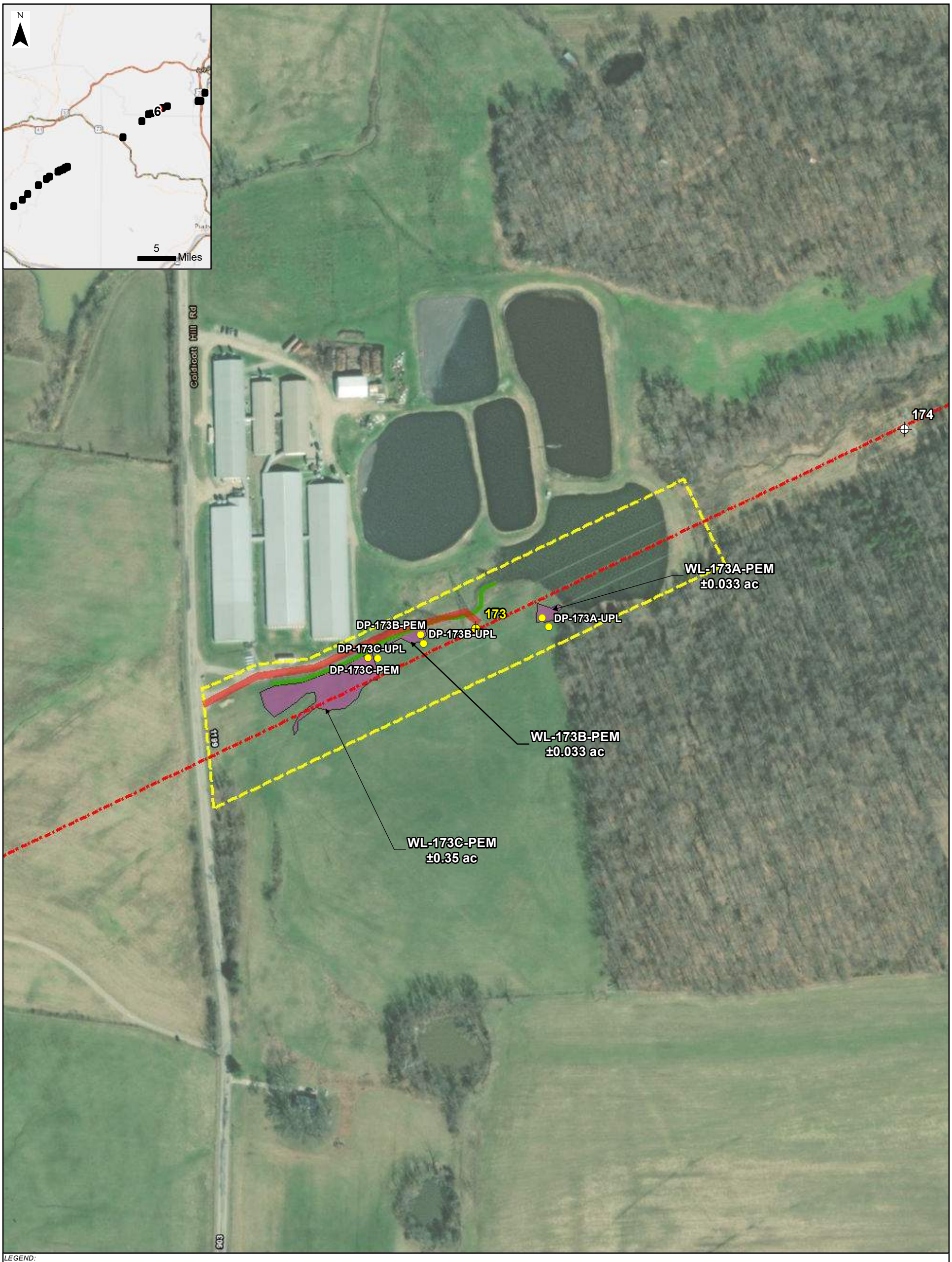
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 5 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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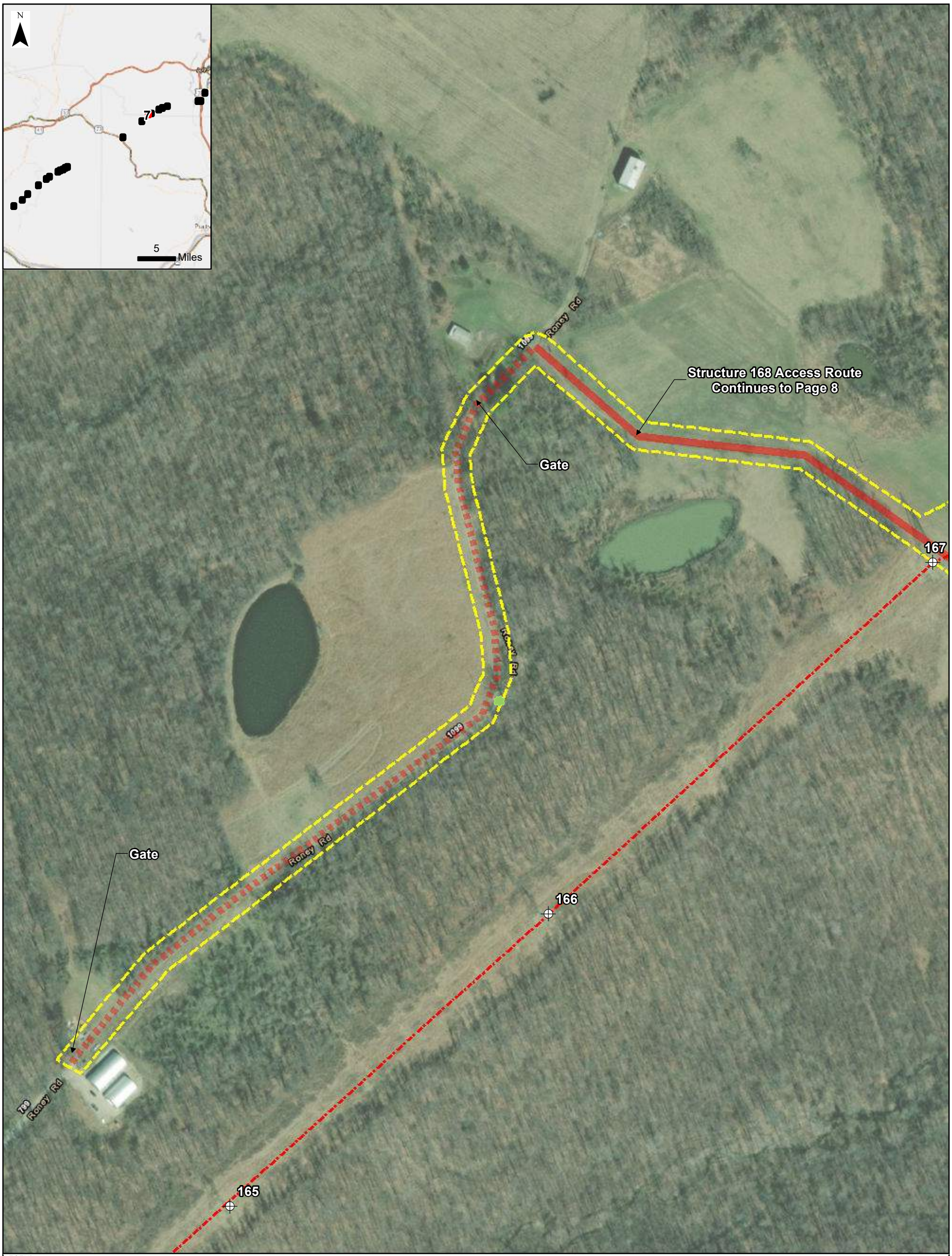
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FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 6 of 21**

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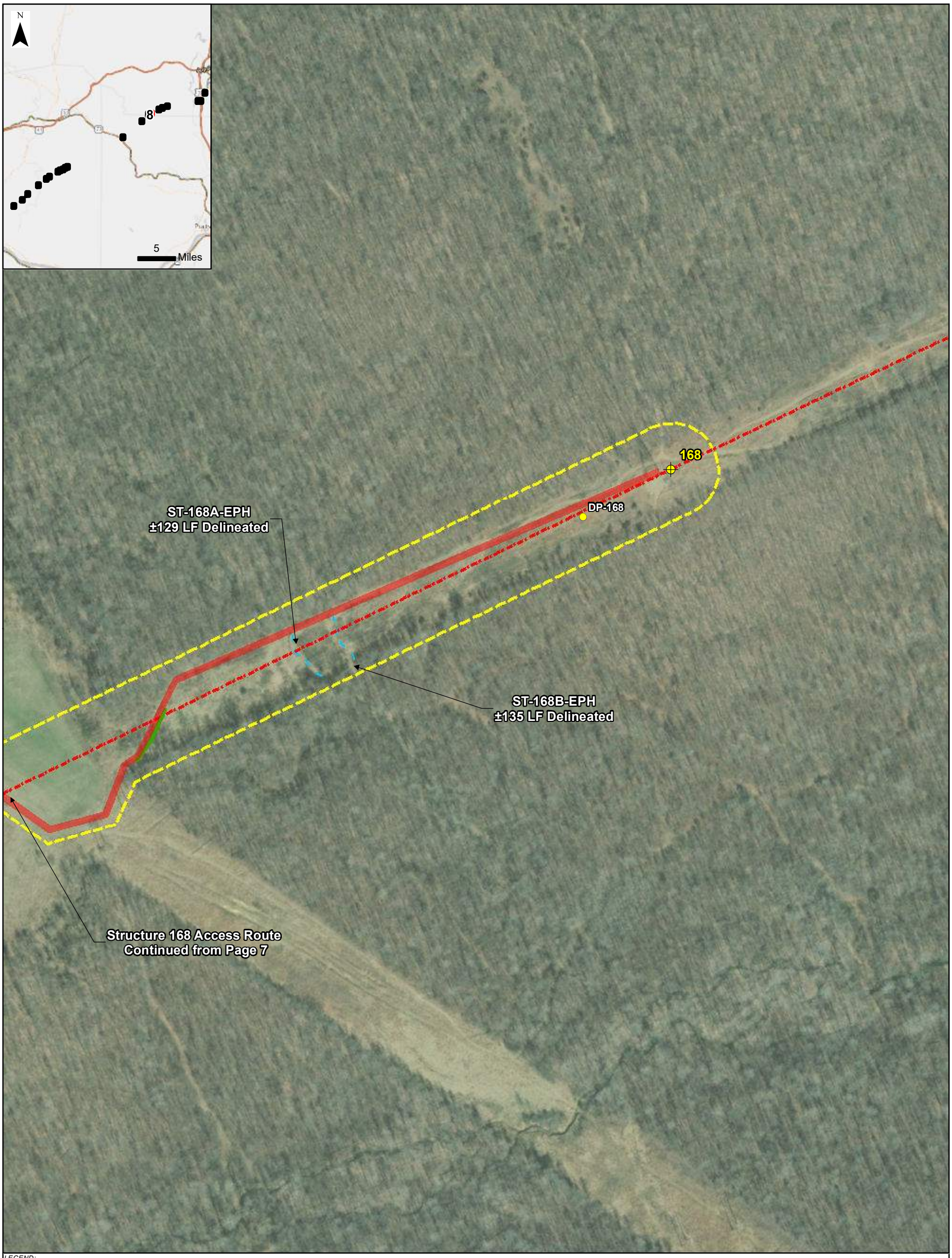
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 7 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
- Access Route Provided by AEP
- Investigated Area
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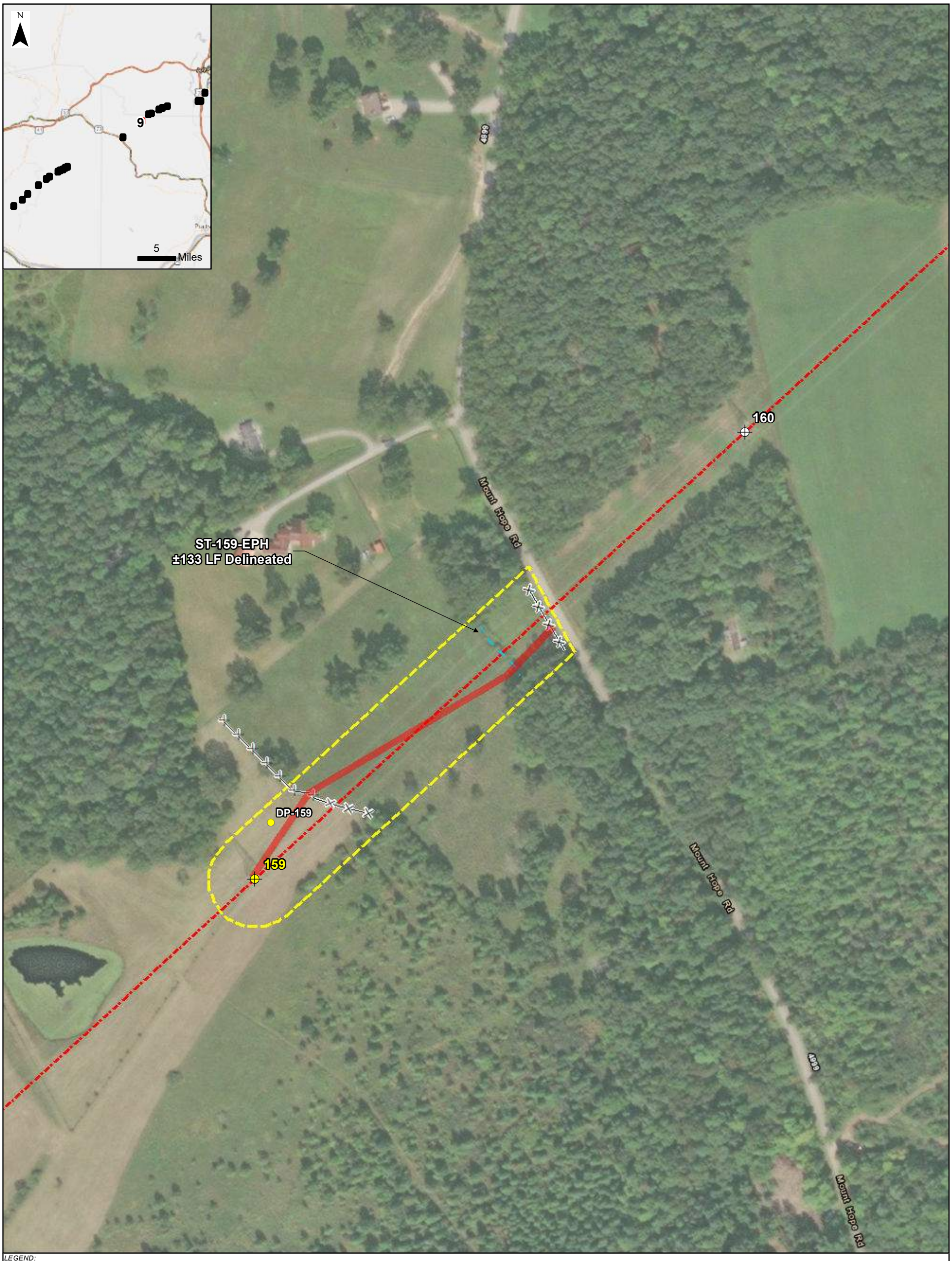
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 8 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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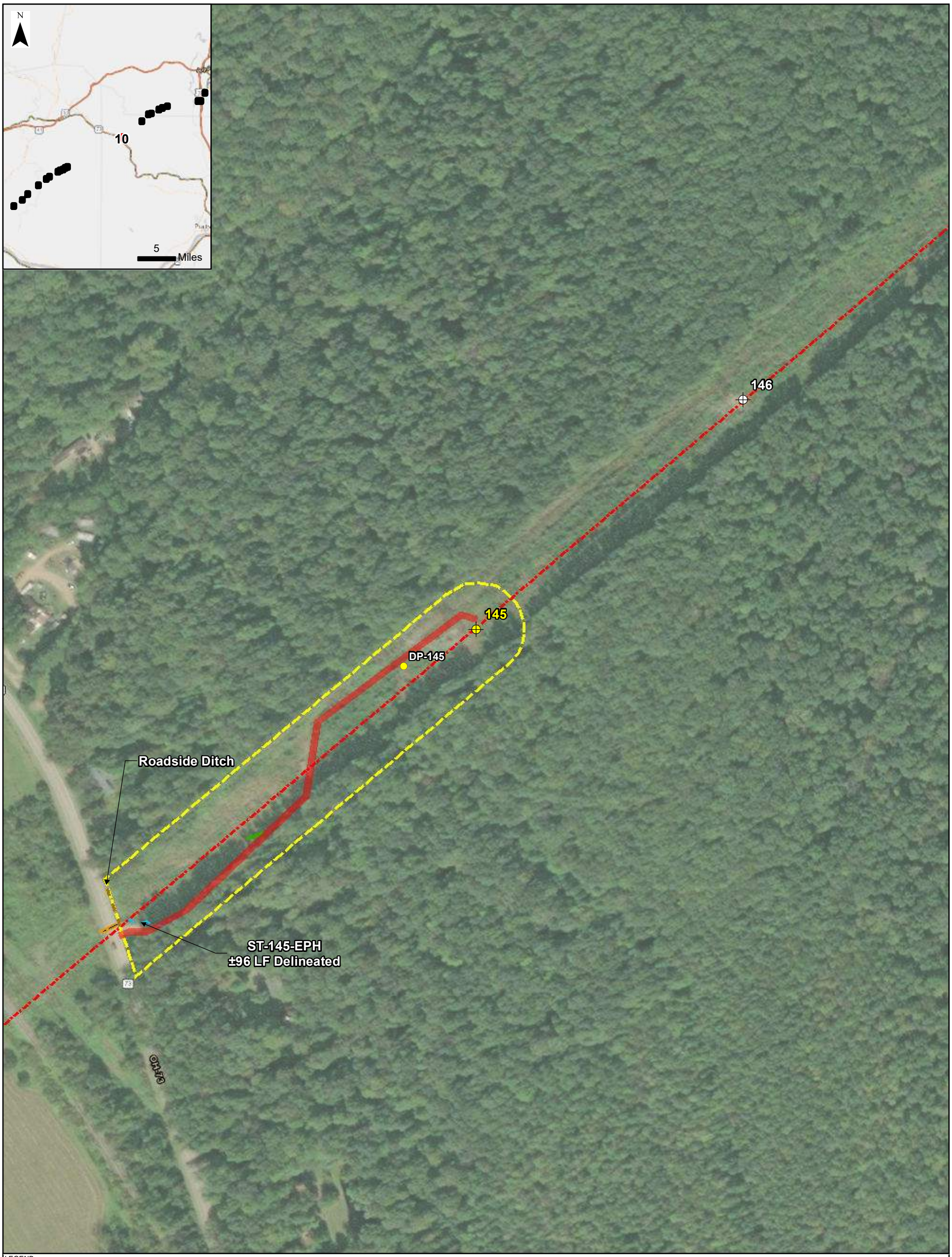
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 9 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

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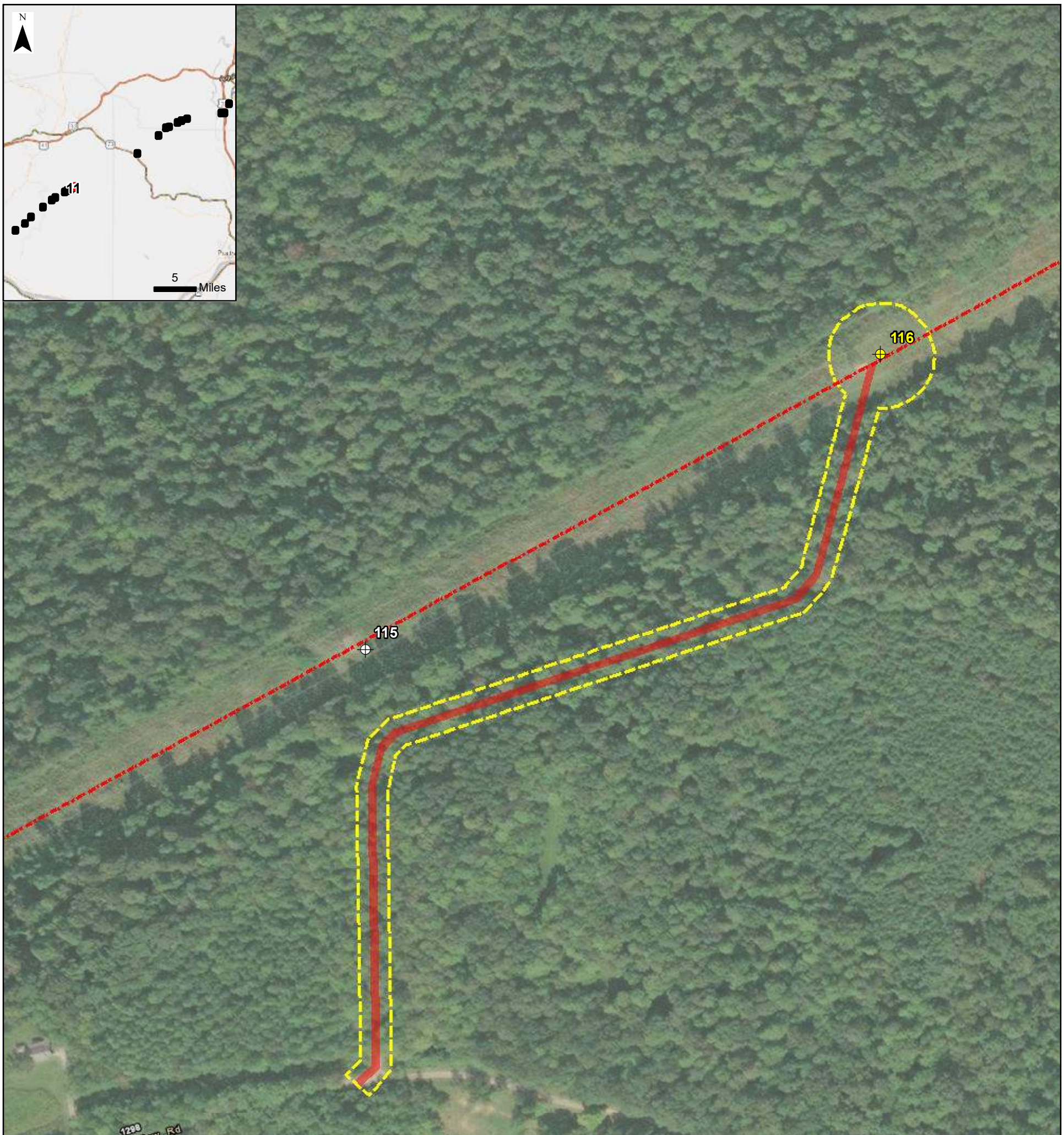
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 10 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

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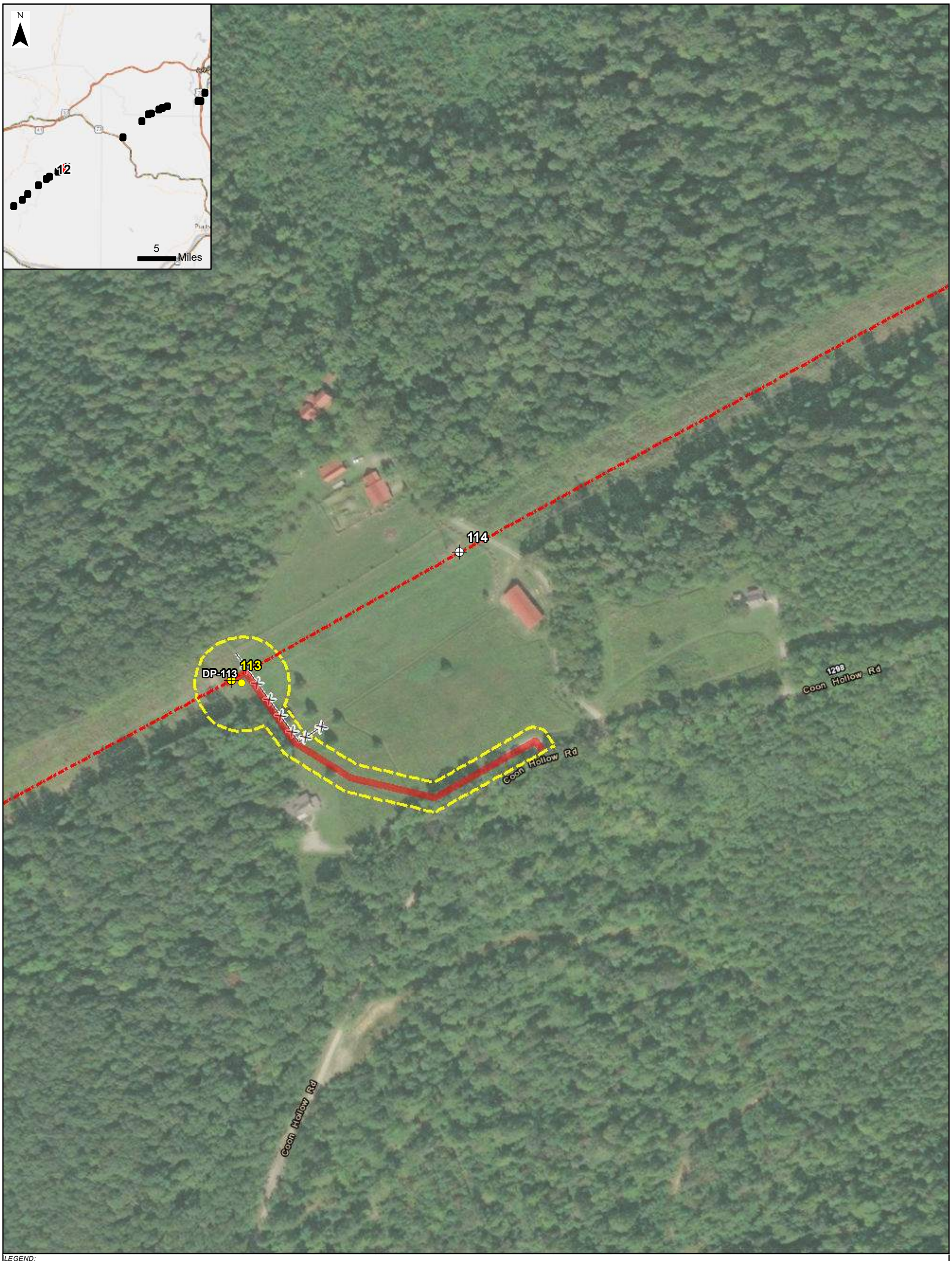
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 11 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

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TITLE: **WETLAND DELINEATION MAP**

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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 12 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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- Investigated Area
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- Existing Fence
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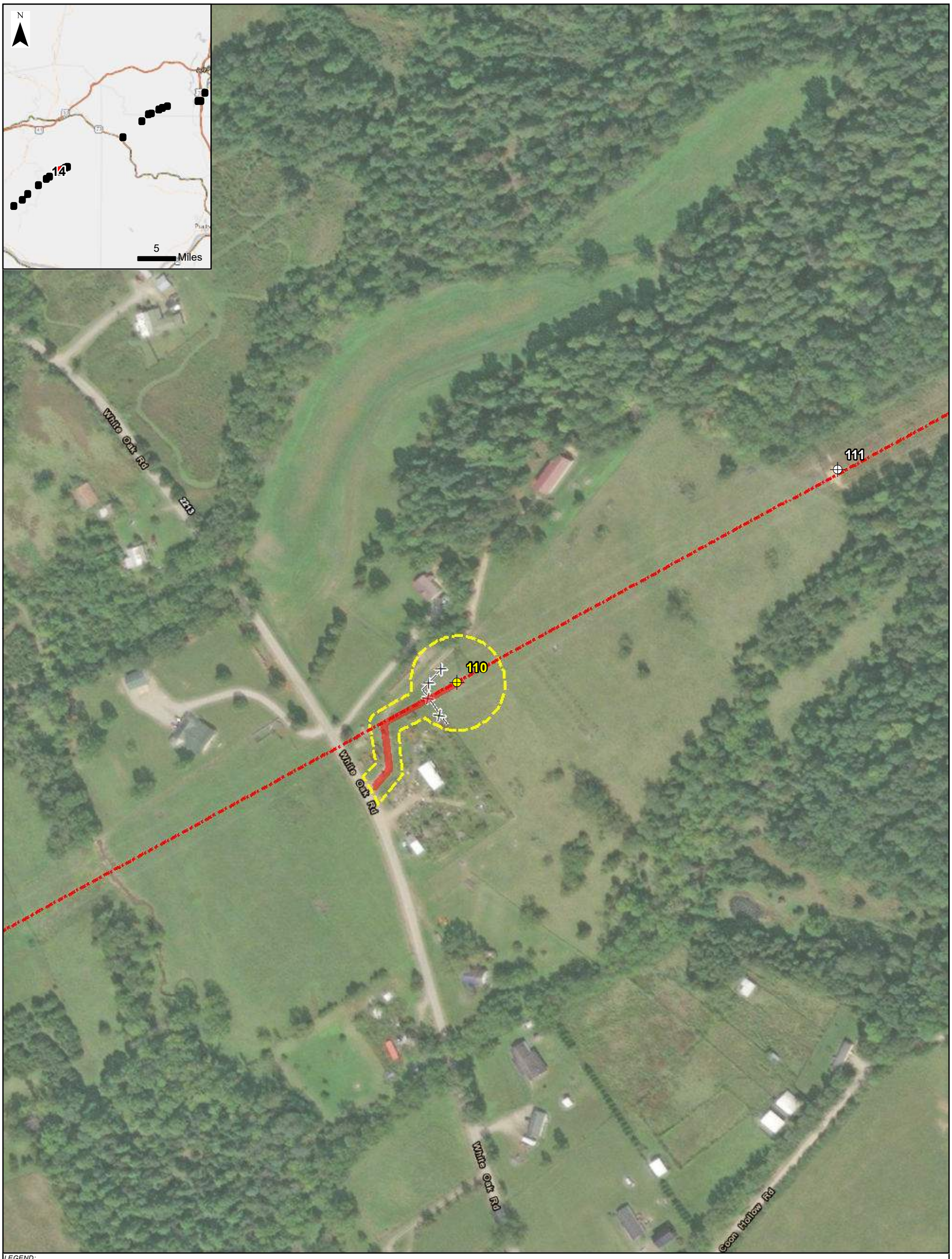
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 13 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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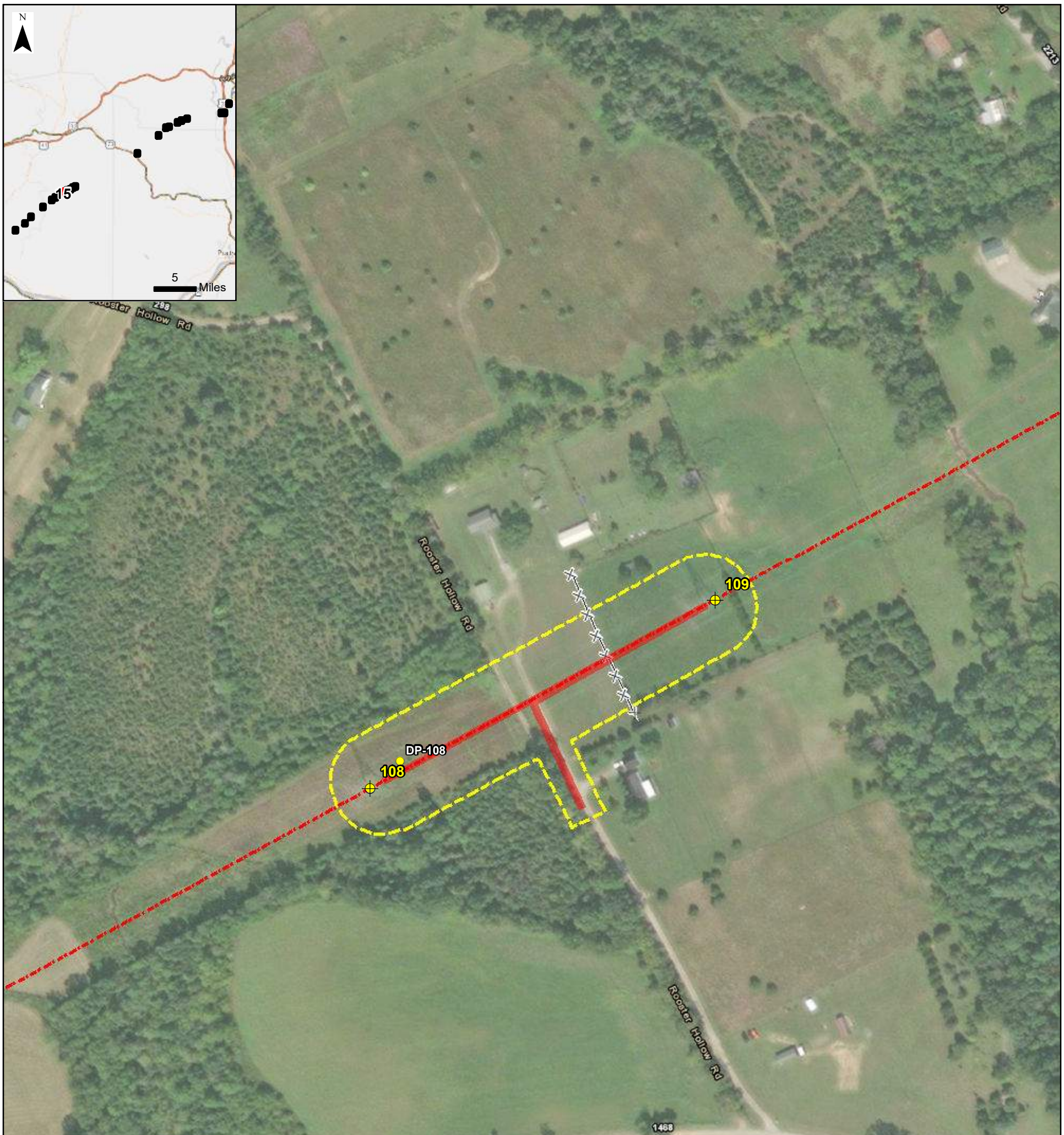
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0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 14 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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- Investigated Area
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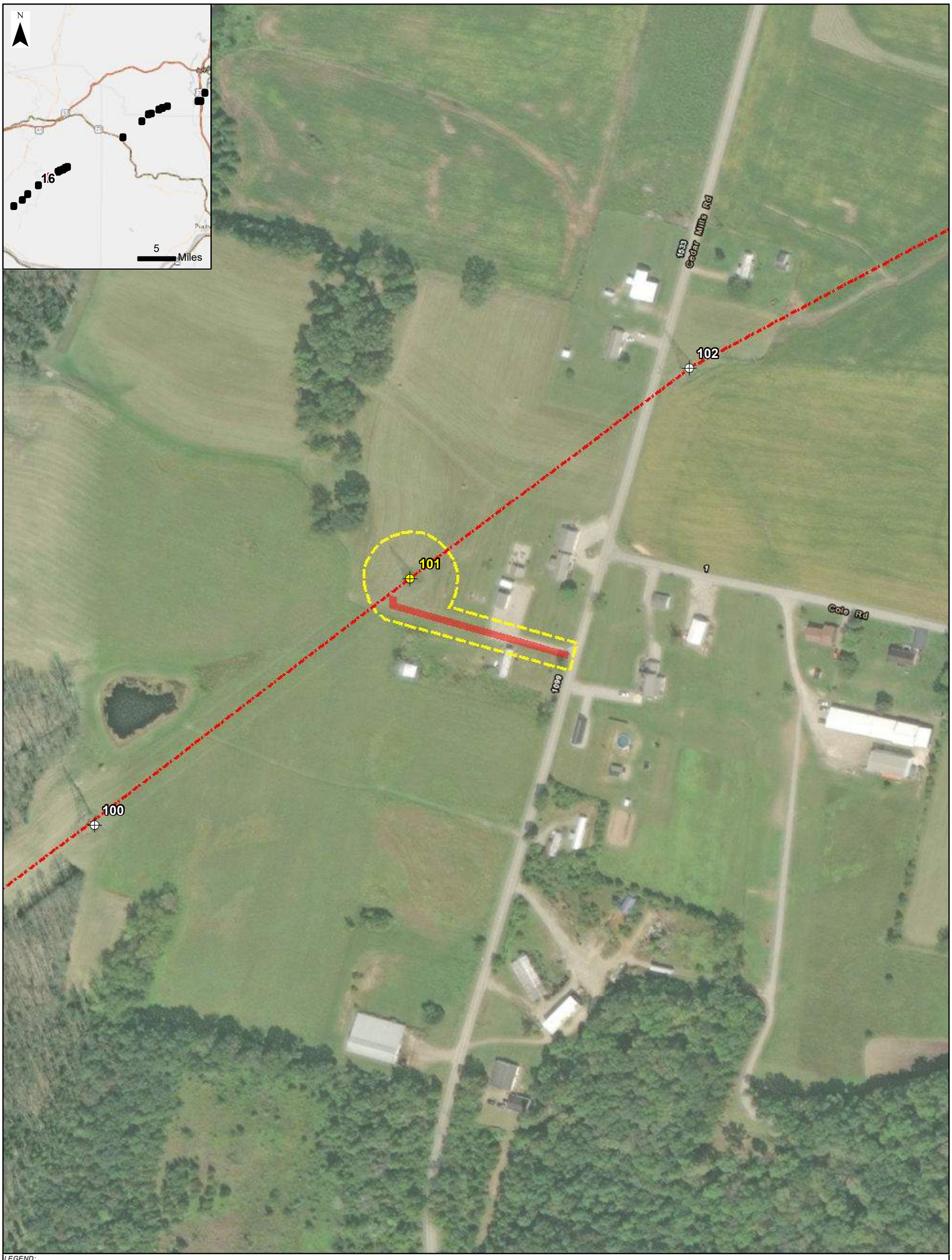
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 15 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

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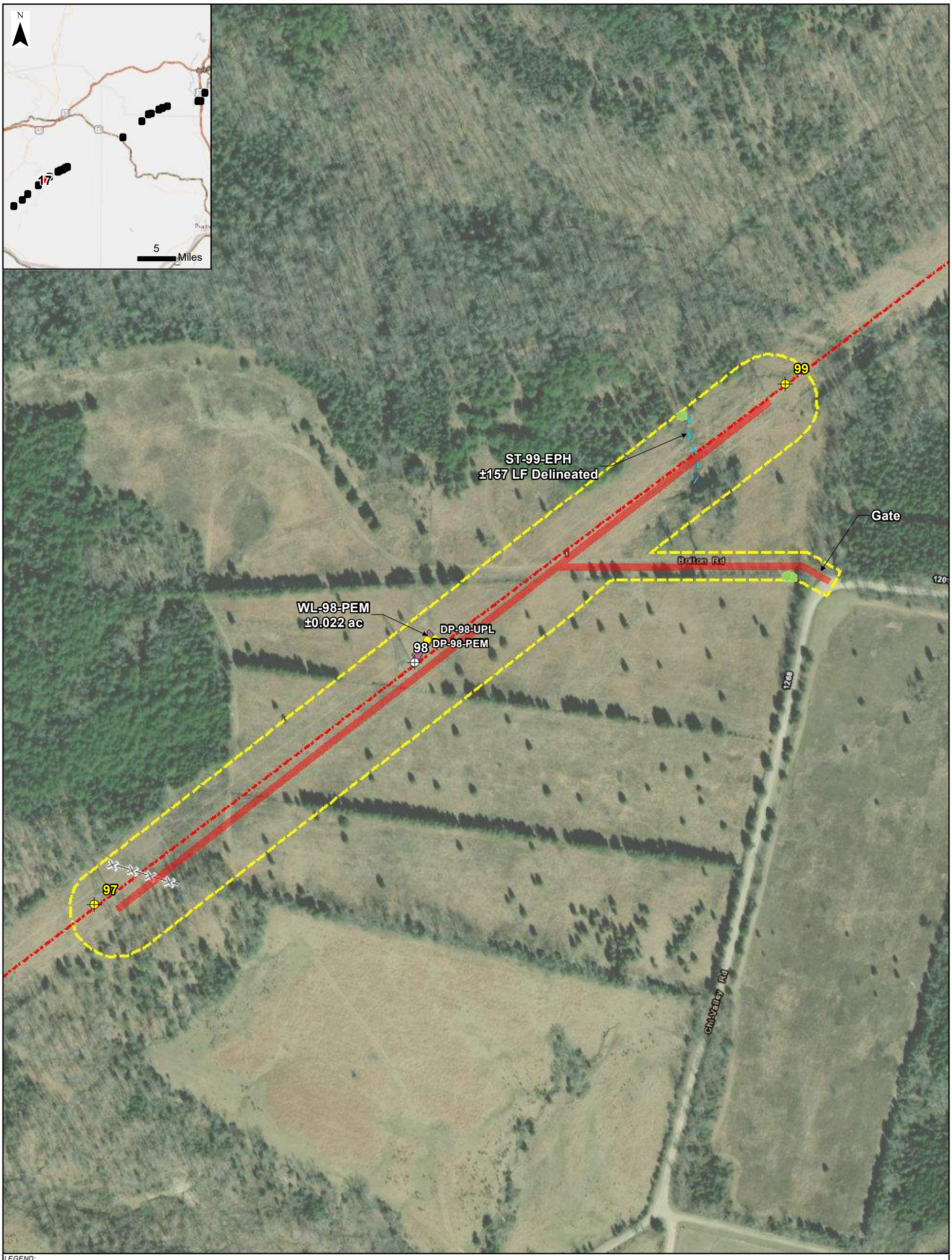
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 16 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
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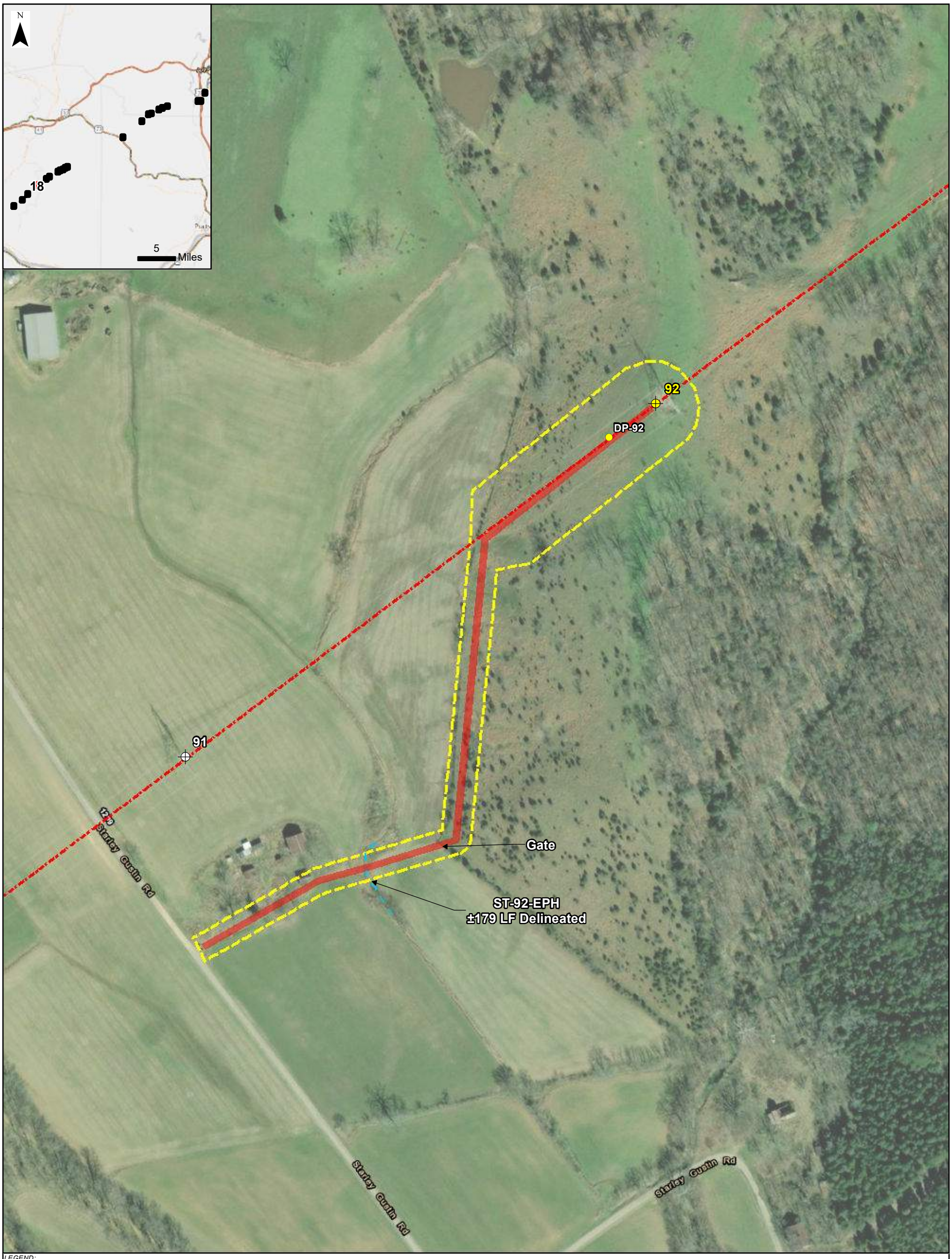
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Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 17 of 21**

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LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
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PROJECT NO.: 210180.066
CREATED BY: NDH
DATE: 02/08/2023
BASE LAYER: Aerial Imagery (2021)

TITLE: **WETLAND DELINEATION MAP**

SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet
SCALE: 1:2,400
FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 18 of 21**

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LEGEND:

Existing Structure	Existing Culvert	Ephemeral Stream
Project Structure	Existing Fence	Erosional Feature
Transmission Line	Data Point	
Access Route Provided by AEP	Potential Roost Tree	
Investigated Area	Emergent Wetland	

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER
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Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 19 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
- Access Route Provided by AEP
- Investigated Area
- Existing Culvert
- Existing Fence
- Data Point
- Potential Roost Tree
- Emergent Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream
- Erosional Feature

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TITLE: **WETLAND DELINEATION MAP**

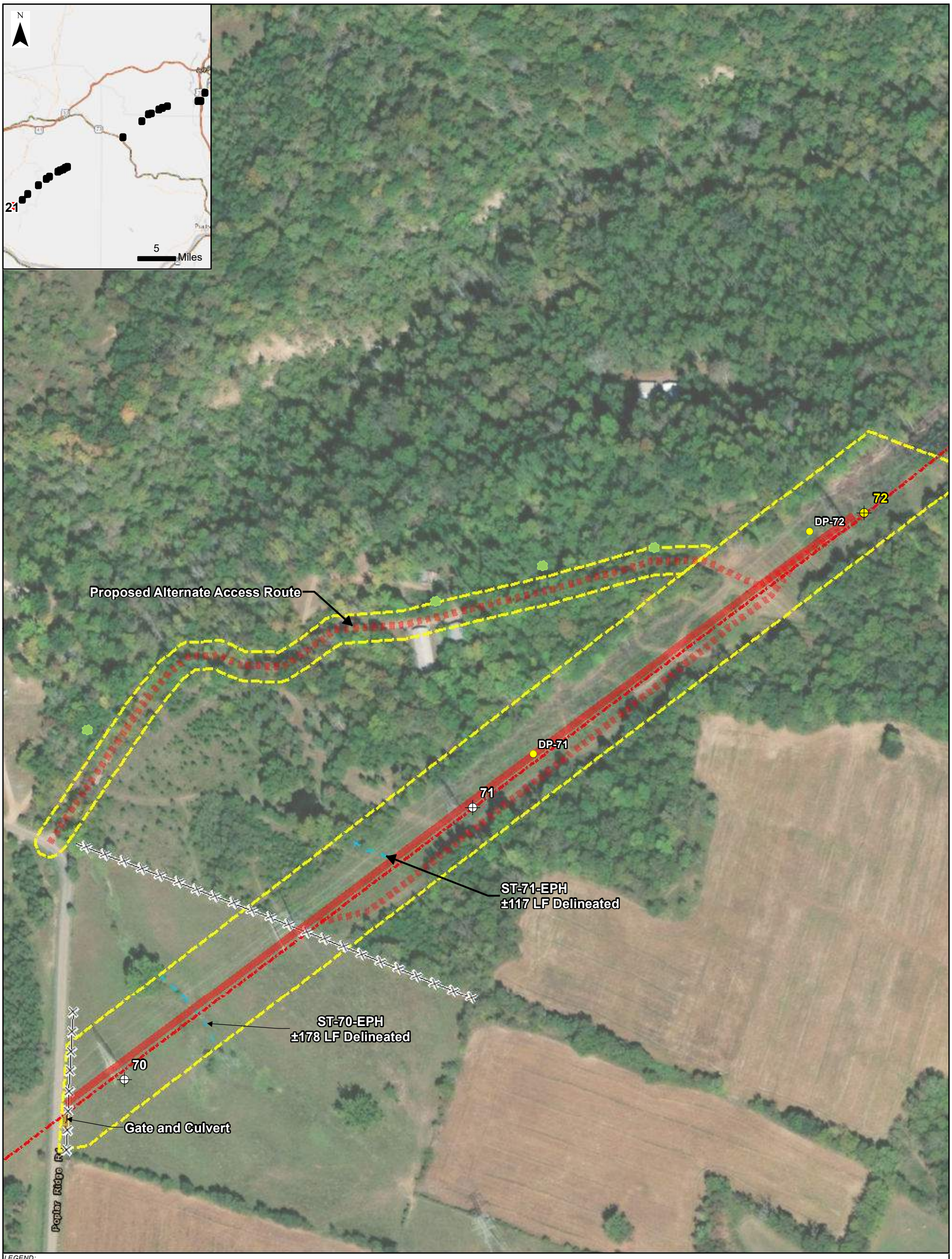
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV
Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 20 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd



LEGEND:

- Existing Structure
- Project Structure
- Transmission Line
- Access Route Provided by AEP
- Investigated Area
- Existing Culvert
- Existing Fence
- Data Point
- Potential Roost Tree
- Emergent Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream
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Transmission Line Structure Replacement
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4 Page 21 of 21**

J:\2021\210180\210180_066_PointO\NR\FIG6delin210180066.mxd

Point O – Don Marquis 345kV Transmission Line

Ecological Report Addendum

PROJECT SITE:

Beginning at Coldicott Hill Rd and Edwards Rd
Extending to Chi-Valley Rd
Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio

PREPARED FOR:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
8600 Smiths Mill Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054

AEP OHIO TRANSMISSION COMPANY
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY

PREPARED BY:

V3 Companies, Ltd.
619 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 423-0690

July 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

V3 Companies, Ltd. (V3) performed an ecological survey and report for the proposed Point O – Don Marquis 345kV project on 26 and 27 September 2022 and on 2 February 2023. The project initially consisted of 17 existing structures and associated access routes beginning at Trent Road and Poplar Ridge Road and extending to U.S. 23 and Perimeter Road in Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

Subsequent to the completion of the ecological report, six additional structures have been added to the project. V3 performed an ecological survey for the additional structures along the proposed Point O-Don Marquis 345kV project on May 21, 2024 and June 13, 2024. The additional structures begin at the southwest of Coldicott Hill Rd and Edwards Rd intersection and extend south of Chi-Valley Rd in Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio (SITE). This Ecological Report Addendum for the project describes the findings for these additional structures based on review of available and reasonably ascertainable federal, state, and local resources, and a SITE inspection conducted on the date referenced above.

- Five streams were identified on-SITE. ST-174A-INT, ST-161-INT, and ST-93-INT are likely to be considered "Waters of the U.S." and subject to regulation by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). ST-174A-EPH and ST-100-EPH do not appear to be relatively permanent waters and therefore, would not likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.".
- One wetland was identified on-SITE.
    - The on-SITE wetland did not appear to exhibit a hydrologic connection to any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." As such, the wetland would likely be subject to regulation by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) alone.
- One pond was identified on-SITE. OW-174 appears to be man-made and is not anticipated to be regulated.
- An official species list obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. V3 observed potential roost trees on-SITE at the time of the SITE reconnaissance. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species outside the recommended seasonal clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.
- A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared solely in accordance with an agreement between American Electric Power ("CLIENT") and V3 Companies ("V3"), Ltd.

The services performed by V3 have been conducted in a manner consistent with the level of quality and skill generally exercised by members of its profession and consulting practices relating to this type of engagement.

This report is solely for the use of CLIENT and was prepared based upon an understanding of CLIENT's specific objective(s) and based upon information obtained by V3 in furtherance of CLIENT's specific objective(s). Any reliance of this report by third parties shall be at such third party's sole risk as this report may not contain, or be based upon, sufficient information for purposes of other parties, for their objectives, or for other uses. This report shall only be presented in full and may not be used to support any other objectives than those for CLIENT as set out in the report, except where written approval and consent are expressly provided by CLIENT and V3.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this investigation was to conduct an ecological survey and report of the SITE to evaluate potential land development permitting requirements regarding natural resources. In this report, V3 provides a detailed description of the information reviewed and collected as part of the scope of work for this project. V3 summarizes the jurisdictional framework applicable to this project, provides a desktop review of relevant and publicly available documents, and details information collected during the SITE reconnaissance including a wetlands determination, an evaluation of the potential presence of other natural resources within the SITE boundary, and a discussion of endangered, threatened, and rare (ETR) species and habitat. The Conclusions section summarizes V3's findings, addresses potential areas of concern and permitting, regulatory, and other relevant issues.

The additional structures begin at the southwest of Coldicott Hill Rd and Edwards Rd intersection and extend south of Chi-Valley Rd in Adams, Scioto and Pike Counties, Ohio (Figure 1).

CHAPTER 2 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

2.1 WETLANDS

Wetlands offer a variety of functions and values that may include, but are not limited to, groundwater recharge/discharge, flood flow alteration, sediment/toxicant retention, and fish and wildlife habitat. Because of the perceived functions and values of wetlands, USACE developed the Wetlands Delineation Manual, (*1987 Manual*)[1] to identify wetlands.

Wetlands are defined in the *1987 Manual* as, "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions."[2] The *1987 Manual* outlines the protocol for distinguishing wetland areas from "upland" areas. Wetland areas are delineated according to three primary criteria: vegetation, soil, and hydrology. An area is determined to qualify as a wetland if it meets the following "general diagnostic environmental characteristics:"

- Hydrophytic vegetation
- Hydrology
- Hydric Soil

[1] USACE. Waterways Experiment Station. Wetlands Research Program. "Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual." Vicksburg, MS: Environmental Laboratory, 1987

CHAPTER 3 DESKTOP REVIEW

V3 reviewed applicable, readily available, and accessible historical information for the potential presence of wetlands, "Waters of the U.S.," and other natural resources.

3.1 UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE MAP

A USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle map displays contour lines to portray the shape and elevation of the land surface. Quadrangle maps render the three-dimensional changes in elevation of the terrain on a two-dimensional surface. The maps usually portray both manmade and natural topographic features. Although they show lakes, rivers, various surface water drainage trends, vegetation, etc., they typically do not provide the level of detail needed for accurate evaluation of wetlands. However, the existence of these features may suggest the potential presence of wetlands.

The SITE is situated in the Wakefield, Rarden, Blue Creek, and Lynx, Ohio USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map. V3 evaluated the topography and concluded that the SITE elevation ranges from approximately 800 to 1090 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). An intermittent stream, Semple Creek, is mapped within the SITE area, near Structure 93 (**Figure 1**).

3.2 NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps were developed to meet a USFWS mandate to map the wetland and deepwater habitats of the U.S. These maps were developed using high altitude aerial photographs and USGS Quadrangle maps as a topographic base. Indicators that exhibited pre-determined wetland characteristics, visible in the photographs, were identified according to a detailed classification system. The NWI map retains some of the detail of the Quadrangle map; however, it is used primarily for demonstration of wetland areas identified by the agency. The maps are accurate to a scale of 1:24,000. In general, the NWI information requires field verification.

NWI data is shown projected over aerial imagery in **Figure 2**. Three NWI features, riverine, intermittent, streambed, seasonally flooded (R4SBC), are mapped within the SITE area near Structure 160, 111, and 93, (**Table 3-1**). The presence of NWI features mapped partially or fully within the SITE area suggests the potential presence of wetlands or other regulated aquatic features on-SITE.

Table 3-1: NWI Classification Description

Symbol	Description	Count
R4SBC	Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed, Seasonally Flooded	3

3.3 FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was developed in 1979 to reform disaster relief and recovery, civil defense, and to prepare and mitigate for natural hazards. The Mitigation Division of FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program which provides guidance on how to lessen the impact of disasters on communities through flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Proper floodplain management has the ability to minimize the extent of flooding and flood damage and improve stormwater quality by reducing stormwater velocities and erosion. The one percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) boundary must be kept free of encroachment as the national standard for the program.

V3 reviewed digital National Flood Hazard Zone data for Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio. No portion of the SITE is mapped within the 100-year floodway or a flood zone (**Figure 2**).

3.4 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL SURVEY

V3 reviewed the soils mapped on-SITE in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) digital soil survey data for Adams, Scioto, and Pike Counties, Ohio. This data is projected over aerial photography, illustrating distinct soil map unit boundaries, in Figure 3. There are 11 soil units are classified on-SITE in Adams County (Table 3-2).

Table 3-2 : Adams County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Adams County
BnB	Bratton silt loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes	No
BrC2	Bratton-Opequon complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	No
LbC	Latham silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
LkC2	Licking silt loam, 6 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	No
LkD2	Licking silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	No
No	Nolin silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	No
OpE2	Opequon silty clay loam, 25 to 40 percent slopes, eroded	No
OsF	Opequon silty clay loam, 40 to 60 percent slopes, very rocky	No
SoE	Shelota-Muse-Colyer association	No
TrB	Trappist silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	No
TrC	Trappist silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No

None of the soil units mapped within the SITE area are considered hydric in Adams County, Ohio.

Four soil units are classified on-SITE in Scioto County (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3 : Scioto County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Scioto County
CoB	Coolville silt loam	No
CpC	Coolville-Rarden silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes	No
LhW1D1	Latham-Wharton silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	No
SbB	Shelocta silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	No

None of the soil units mapped within the SITE area are considered hydric in Scioto County, Ohio.

Three soil units are classified on-SITE in Pike County (Table 3-4).

Table 2-4 : Pike County Soil Units On-SITE

Map Soil Symbol	Description	Hydric Soil In Pike County
Dol1A1	Doles silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	No
Omu1B1	Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	No
SpF	Shelocta-Latham association, steep	No

None of the soil units mapped within the SITE area are considered hydric in Pike County, Ohio.

3.5 ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES EVALUATION

An official species list obtained from the USFWS IPaC website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), northern

riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), pink mucket (pearlymussel) (*Lampsilis abrupta*), rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), and snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species. The USFWS stated that if tree clearing cannot be avoided, then seasonal clearing shall be done to avoid adverse effects to the Indiana bats and the northern long-eared bats. See Table 5 for the recommended clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the ODNR indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. (Table 3-5). The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

Based on the documentation referenced above, additional correspondence with the agencies does not appear to be warranted at this time. If federal permitting or federal financing will be used in future development, additional coordination may be necessary. Copies of agency correspondence can be referenced in Appendix A.

Table 3-5 : ETR Species Table

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Listed Status	Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comment	Potential Impacts
Mussels								
Cyprogenia stegaria	Fanshell	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fusconaia ebenus	Ebonyshell	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fusconaia maculata maculata	Long-solid	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Ellipsaria lineolata	Butterfly	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Epioblasma triquetra	Snuffbox	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lampsilis orbiculata	Pink mucket (pearlymussel)	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lampsilis teres	Yellow sandshell	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Ligumia recta	Black sandshell	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Megalonaias nervosa	Washboard	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Obliquaria reflexa	Threehorn wartyback	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Plethobasus cyphyus	Sheepnose	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Pleurobema clava	Club shell	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Quadrula nodulata	Wartyback	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No

Truncilla donaciformis	Fawnsfoot	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Villosa fabalis	Rayed bean	Endangered	Endangered	Perennial streams	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Fishes								
Anguilla rostrata	American eel	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Hiodon alosoides	Goldeye	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Lepisosteus platostomus	Shortnose gar	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Notropis ariommus	Popeye shiner	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Percina copelandi	Channel darter	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Percina shumardi	River darter	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Polydon spathula	Paddlefish	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Scaphirhynchus platorynchus	Shovelnose sturgeon	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Amphibians								
Aneides aeneus	Green salamander	Endangered	N/A	Forested rock outcrops and cliff faces within the crevices of rock structures[2]	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Eurycea lucifuga	Cave salamander	Endangered	N/A	Limestone caves; Caves, under rocks, logs, and plant debris in woodlands near	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No

[2] Fish & Wildlife. "Green Salamander." Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Accessed June 2024. https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/green-salamander/.

				caves, and around spring-fed swamps[3]				
Pseudotriton montanus diastictus	Midland mud salamander	Threatened	N/A	Most of life burrowed underground and in springs, seeps, and creeks[4]	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No
Scaphiopus holbrookii	Eastern spadefoot toad	Endangered	N/A	Areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions	No	N/A	ODNR - Proposed project not likely to impact this species.	No

[3] Cave Salamander." INHS Herpetology Collection. Accessed June 2024. https://herpetology.inhs.illinois.edu/species-lists/ilspecies/cave-salamander/.
[4] Snyder, Mara, ed. "Midland Mud Salamander." Virginia DWR, August 18, 2023. https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/information/midland-mud-salamander/.

Reptiles								
Crotalus horridus	Timber rattlesnake	Endangered	Species of Concern	Woodland species, utilizing dry slopes and rocky outcrops. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices for overwintering	No	1 April to 31 October	ODNR - As snakes disperse from their dens in the spring and summer, they will move through areas that do not appear to be suitable habitat. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices as overwintering dens. If work will be conducted between November and March, timber rattlesnakes would be expected to be within their dens, or at least closer to the den entrances, and not likely moving through the project area, and therefore additional considerations for this species would not be necessary. However, if work cannot be committed to during this time frame, the Division of Wildlife (DOW) recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if project activities will impact this species. If it is determined that there is the potential for impacts, the DOW recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implanted by the approved herpetologist.	TBD - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction from 1 April through 31 October. If work will be conducted within this time frame, it is recommended that a suitability survey be conducted by an approved herpetologist.

Birds								
Chondestes grammacus	Lark sparrow	Endangered	N/A	Grassland habitats with scattered shrub layers, disturbed open areas, and patches of bare soil. In Oak Openings area west of Toledo, occupies open grass and shrubby fields along sandy beach ridges	No	1 May to 31 July	ODNR - If habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided within this habitat during the nesting period of 1 May through 31 July. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction in this species' habitat from 1 May through 31 July.
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike	Endangered	N/A	Nests in hedgerows, thickets and fencerows; hunts over hayfields, pastures, and other grasslands	No	1 April to 31 July	ODNR - If habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided within this habitat during the nesting period of 1 April through 31 July. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No - Impacts are avoided by avoiding construction in this species' habitat from 1 April through 31 July.
Mammals								
Myotis lucifugus	Little brown bat	Endangered	N/A	During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However,	Yes	1 April to 30 September	ODNR/USFWS - Cutting of trees is recommended between 1 October and 31 March. If seasonal tree cutting is not possible, a mist net survey or acoustic survey may be conducted by an approved surveyor between 1 June and 15 August. ODNR - If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 mile of the project area, please send this information to Erin Hazelton for project recommendations. If a potential or known	No - Impacts are avoided with winter tree clearing. If winter tree clearing is not feasible, presence/absence surveys may be needed.
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern long-eared bat	Endangered	Threatened		Yes			
Myotis sodalis	Indiana bat	Endangered	Endangered		Yes			

Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored bat	Endangered	N/A	these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees	Yes		hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.	
Neotoma magister	Allegheny woodrat	Endangered	N/A	Rocky outcrops such as cliffs and caves in forested areas	No	N/A	ODNR - To avoid impacts to this species, impacts to cliffs and rocky outcrops should be avoided. In addition, a buffer of 100 feet above and 200 feet below cliffs and rocky outcrops should be maintained.	No - Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

CHAPTER 4 SITE RECONNAISSANCE

4.1 METHODOLOGY

V3 conducted a field investigation at the SITE on May 21, 2024 and June 13, 2024. During this investigation, V3 noted the presumed land use of the SITE and surrounding area, and evaluated the SITE for the potential presence of wetlands, "Waters of the U.S.," and natural resources using the findings of the desktop review and field observations. Photographs were taken during the field investigation and are provided in Appendix B.

V3 used the Routine Determination Method (RDM) with an established baseline and transects as described in the *1987 Manual* for typical sites over five acres. V3 recorded data from a number of data points (DP) along the transect as a function of diversity of vegetation, property size, soil types, habitat variability, and other SITE features as deemed appropriate by V3. Where evidence of a wetland was suspected, three wetland criteria were applied to determine if the area in question was representative of a wetland using the methodology set forth by USACE. More specifically, V3 visually examined and recorded the dominant vegetation, recorded soil properties such as texture and color using the Munsell Soil Color Chart (Munsell Color Chart), excavated soil pits, and evaluated the primary and secondary hydrologic indicators.

If all three criteria were met, i.e. vegetation, soil properties, and hydrologic indicators, a second DP was established adjacent to the wetland DP in an area outside of the presumed wetland boundary for the purpose of delineating between the wetland and non-wetland areas. Once delineated, V3 continued the RDM to evaluate the remainder of the SITE.

4.2 SITE AND ADJACENT PROPERTY LAND USE

The 43.8-acre study area consists of woodland, fallow land, agricultural land and residential areas. Adjacent land use consists of woodland, fallow land, agricultural land, and residential areas.

4.3 WETLAND SUMMARY

One wetland was identified during this investigation based upon the methodology set forth in the *1987 Manual* and the *Midwest Regional Supplement*. Information that V3 collected at each DP on May 21, 2024, is described in the following section. This information is summarized on the forms provided in Appendix C. An overall SITE delineation map showing placement of the DPs is included as Figure 4.

4.3.1 Wetland WL-174-PEM – (0.16-acre PEM on-SITE)

Wetland WL-174-PEM was situated in the north portion of the SITE, southwest of Structure 174, and consisted of 0.16 acres of palustrine, emergent wetland. Wetland WL-174-PEM did not appear to have a hydrologic connection with any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such would likely be considered isolated and subject to regulation by OEPA alone.

DP 174-WL

This DP was collected in the west portion of Wetland WL-174-PEM. All three criteria were met which qualifies this area as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of rice cut grass (*Leersia oryzoides*, OBL, 95%). The soil profile met the depleted matrix (F3) indicator for hydric soil. Evidence of wetland hydrology included high water table (A2), saturation (A3), geomorphic position (D2), and FAC-Neutral test (D5).

DP 174-UPL

This DP was collected in the upland area adjacent to DP 174-PEM. This area met hydrophytic vegetation criteria but did not meet any other criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of deer tongue grass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*, FACW, 50%) and tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*, FACU, 35%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

4.4 DATA POINT SUMMARY

Below is a description of the information collected at each additional DP during the May 21, 2024, and June 13, 2024 field investigation that was not associated with an identified wetland area. The purpose of collecting these DPs was to describe the remaining characteristics of the SITE. Information that was collected at each DP is summarized on the forms provided in Appendix C. Their placement is depicted in Figure 4.

DP 161

This DP was collected northeast of Structure 160. This area met no wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall fescue (FACU, 55%) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*, FACU, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 160

This DP was collected southwest of Structure 160. This area met no wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*, FACU, 45%), and wintercress (*Barbarea vulgaris*, FAC, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 111

This DP was collected west of Structure 111. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*, FACU, 10%) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*, FACU, 5%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 107

This DP was collected southwest of Structure 107. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall fescue (FACU, 40%), hemp dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*, FAC, 30%), and red clover (FACU, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 100

This DP was collected east of Structure 100. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of tall fescue (FACU, 60%) and red clover (FACU, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 93

This DP was collected southwest of Structure 93. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted tall fescue (FACU, 50%) and red clover (FACU, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

Table 3-1: Delineated Wetlands Identified within the Survey Area

Wetland ID	Location		Isolated?	Habitat Type	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM		Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude				Score	Category	Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
WL-174-PEM	38.96967°	-83.12479°	Yes	PEM	±0.16	31	I	TBD	TBD

4.5 DRAINAGE FEATURES, STREAMS, AND OTHER POTENTIAL "WATERS OF THE U.S."

Five streams and one pond were identified during this investigation using the methods described in Chapter 2. Information that V3 collected at each feature on May 21, 2024, and June 13, 2024, is described in the following section. An overall SITE delineation map is included as Figure 4.

4.5.1 ST-174A-INT – (181-linear feet, Intermittent)

ST-174A-INT is located northeastof Structure 174 and consisted of 181 linear feet of intermittent stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-174A-INT consisted of clay, gravel, silt, and sand. ST-174A-INT has an average width at the OHWM of 3 feet within the SITE. ST-174A-INT exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority.

4.5.2 ST-174-EPH – (431-linear feet, Ephemeral)

ST-174-EPH is located southwest of Structure 174 and consisted of 431 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-174-EPH consisted of cobble, sand, and gravel. ST-174-EPH has an average width at the OHWM of 3 feet within the SITE. ST-174-EPH did not appear to be relatively permanent water and therefore, would not likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.".

4.5.3 ST-161-INT – (165-linear feet, Intermittent)

ST-161-INT is located northeast of Structure 161 and consisted of 165 linear feet of intermittent stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-161-INT consisted of boulders, cobble, gravel, and sand. ST-161-INT has an average width at the OHWM of 3 feet within the SITE. ST-161-INT exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority.

4.5.4 ST-100-EPH – (245-linear feet, Ephemeral)

ST-100-EPH is located in the portion of the SITE southwest of Structure 100 and consisted of 245 linear feet of ephemeral stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-100-EPH consisted of clay, sand, cobble, gravel, and bedrock. ST-100-EPH has an average width at the OHWM of 4 within the SITE. ST-100-EPH did not appear to be relatively permanent water and therefore, would not likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.".

4.5.5 ST-93-INT – (944-linear feet, Intermittent)

ST-93-INT is located in the portion of the SITE southwest of Structure 93 and consisted of 944 linear feet of intermittent stream within the SITE. The substrate of ST-93-INT consisted of cobble, gravel, sand, and silt. ST-93-INT has an average width at the OHWM of 12 within the SITE. ST-93-INT exhibited an OHWM and will likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority.

4.5.5 OW-174 – (1.21 ac, Pond)

OW-174 is located in the portion of the SITE southwest of Structure 174 and consisted of 1.21 ac of open water within the SITE. OW-174 appears to be manmade and is not anticipated to be regulated.

Table 4-2: Delineated Stream Identified Within the Survey Area

Feature	Location		Stream Type	Delineated Length (LF)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Field Evaluation			OEPA 401 Eligibility
	Latitude	Longitude					Method	Score	Category / Rating / OAC Designation	
ST-174A-INT	38.970801°	-83.121495°	Intermittent	±181	4	3	HHEI	43	II	Eligible
ST-174-EPH	38.969876°	-83.124132°	Ephemeral	±431	3	3	HHEI	44	II	Eligible
ST-161-INT	38.950318°	-83.163086°	Intermittent	±165	3	3	HHEI	55	II	Eligible
ST-100-EPH	38.834599°	-83.401331°	Ephemeral	±244	5	4	HHEI	41	II	Not Eligible
ST-93-INT	38.823666°	-83.419384°	Intermittent	±943	12	12	QHEI	59	Fair	Not Eligible

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

On May 21, 2024, and June 13, 2024, V3 performed a wetland delineation of the SITE located in the Rarden, Wakefield, Lynx, and Blue Creek, Ohio USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps.

Table 5-1 Aquatic Features Identified On-SITE

Feature	Feature Type	Size On-SITE	Anticipated Regulatory Status
WL-174-PEM	Palustrine Emergent	± 0.16 ac	Not Eligible
ST-174A-INT	Intermittent	± 181 LF	Eligible
ST-174-EPH	Ephemeral	± 431 LF	Eligible
ST-161-INT	Intermittent	± 165 LF	Eligible
ST-100-EPH	Ephemeral	± 244 LF	Not Eligible
ST-93-INT	Intermittent	± 943 LF	Not Eligible
OW-174	Pond	± 1.21 ac	Not Eligible

Five streams were identified on-SITE. ST-174A-INT, ST-161-INT, and ST-93-INT are likely to be considered "Waters of the U.S." and subject to regulation by the OEPA and USACE. ST-174A-EPH and ST-100-EPH do not appear to be relatively permanent waters and therefore, would not likely qualify as federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.".

One wetland was identified on-SITE. The on-SITE wetland did not appear to exhibit a hydrologic connection to any federally jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.," and as such, all wetlands would likely be subject to regulation by the OEPA alone.

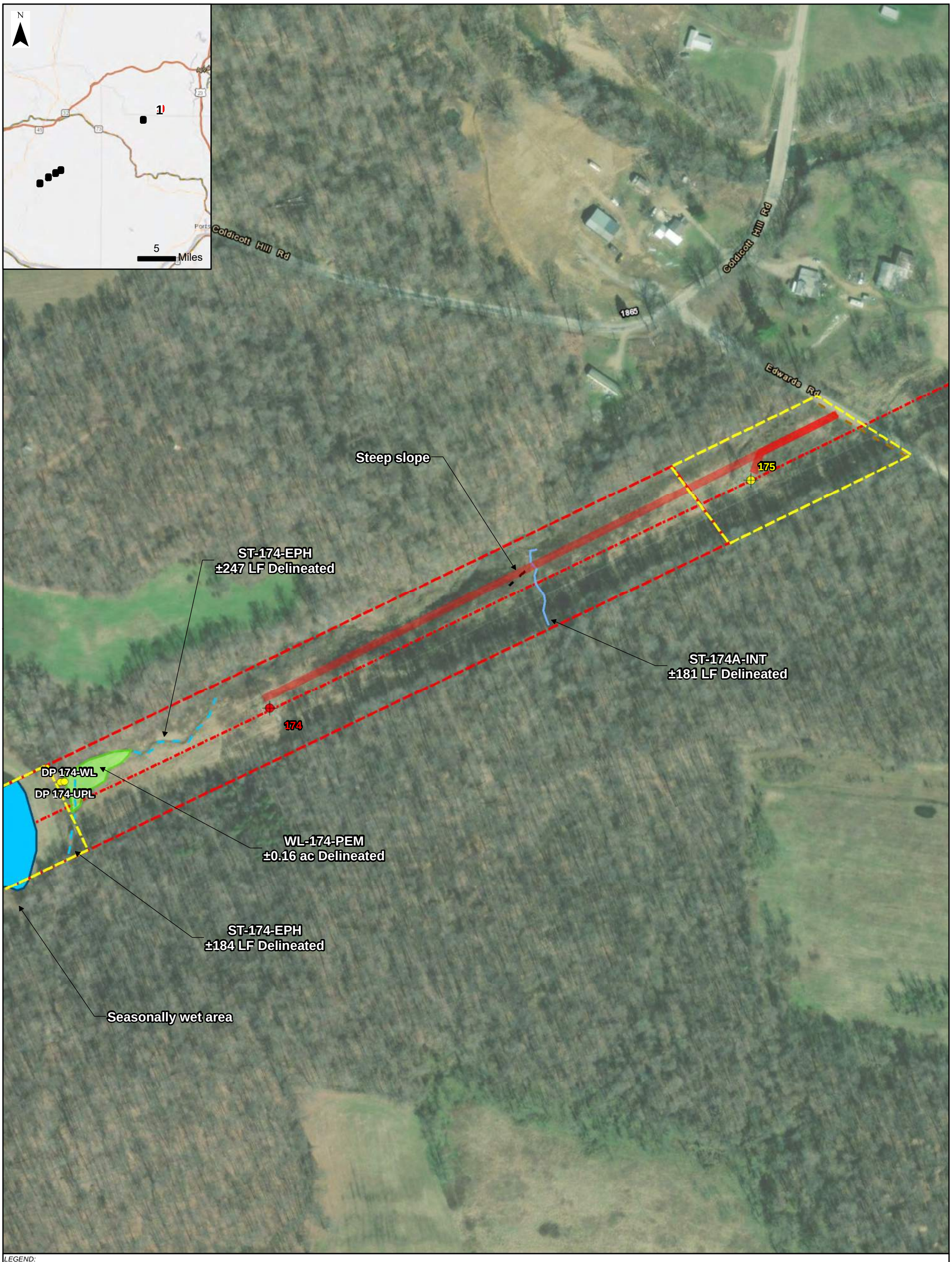
One pond was identified on-SITE. OW-174 appears to be man-made and is not anticipated to be regulated.

An official species list obtained from the USFWS IPaC website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the federally endangered Indiana bat, clubshell, northern riffleshell, pink mucket, rayed bean, and snuffbox mussel, the federally threatened northern long-eared bat, small whorled pogonia, and Virginia spiraea, and the monarch butterfly, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. V3 observed potential roost trees on-SITE at the time of the SITE reconnaissance. The USFWS made recommendations to avoid impacts to on-SITE streams and wetlands, and to avoid clearing potential roost trees for the federally listed bat species outside the recommended seasonal clearing dates. The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the ODNR indicates records of the five state endangered species, 13 state threatened species, nine state potentially threatened species, four state species of concern, one state special interest species, one plant community, and four natural features, within one mile of the specified project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the project is within range of 23 threatened or endangered species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impact to these species and their habitats.

Figures





LEGEND:

Additional Project Structure	Access Route Provided by AEP	Existing Fence	Pond
Additional Investigated Area	Data Point	Existing Culvert	
Project Structure	Existing Utility	Ephemeral Stream	
Investigated Area	Erosional Feature	Intermittent Stream	
Transmission Line	Roadside Ditch	Emergent Wetland	

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PROJECT NO.: 210180.066
CREATED BY: ESH
DATE: 06/24/2024
BASE LAYER: Aerial Imagery (2021)

TITLE: **WETLAND DELINEATION MAP**

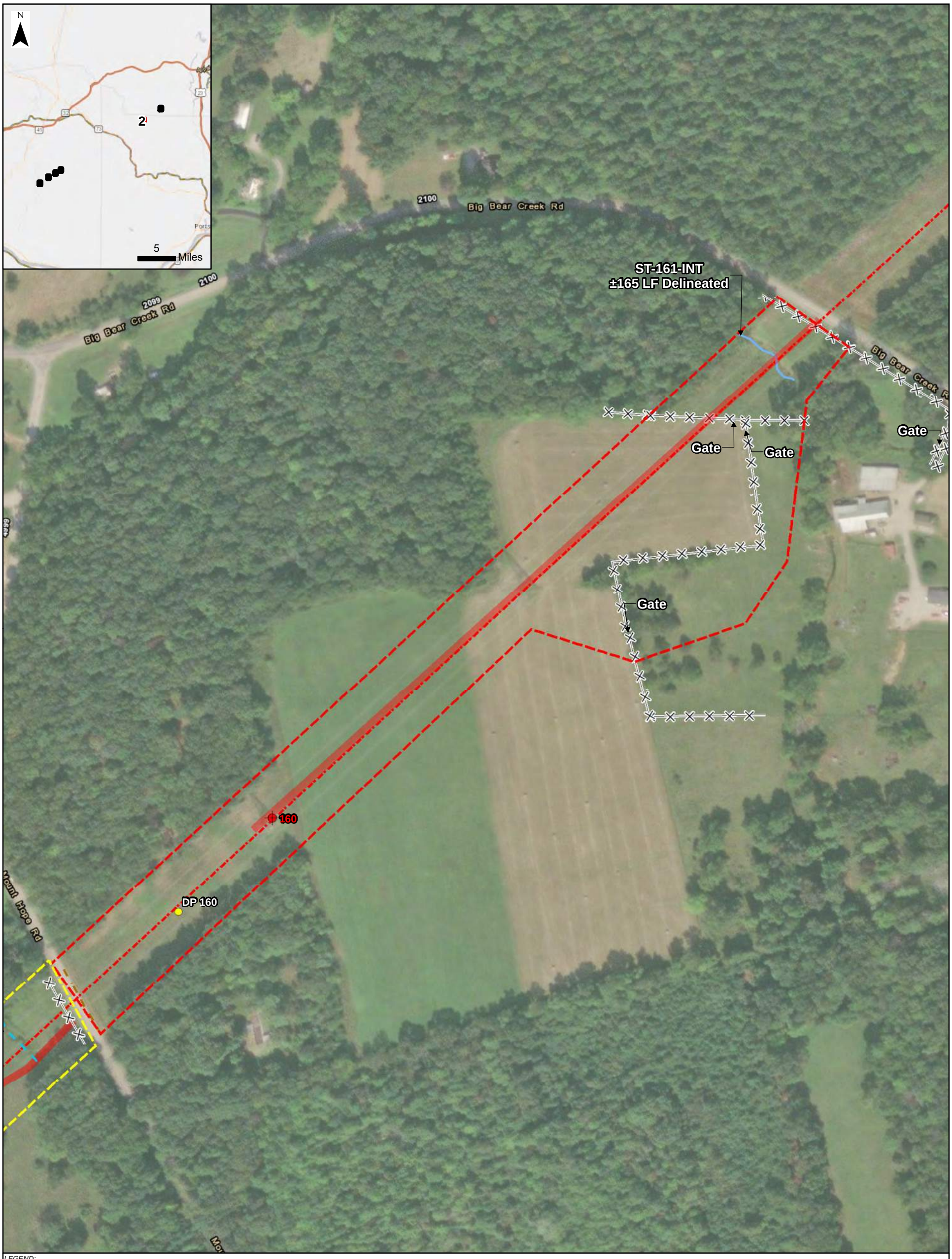
SITE: Point O–Don Marquis 345kV Transmission Line
Structure Replacement - Addendum
Adams, Scioto, and Pike County, Ohio

0 100 200 Feet

SCALE: 1:2,400

FIGURE: **Figure 4**
Page 1 of 6

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LEGEND:

- Additional Project Structure
- Additional Investigated Area
- Project Structure
- Investigated Area
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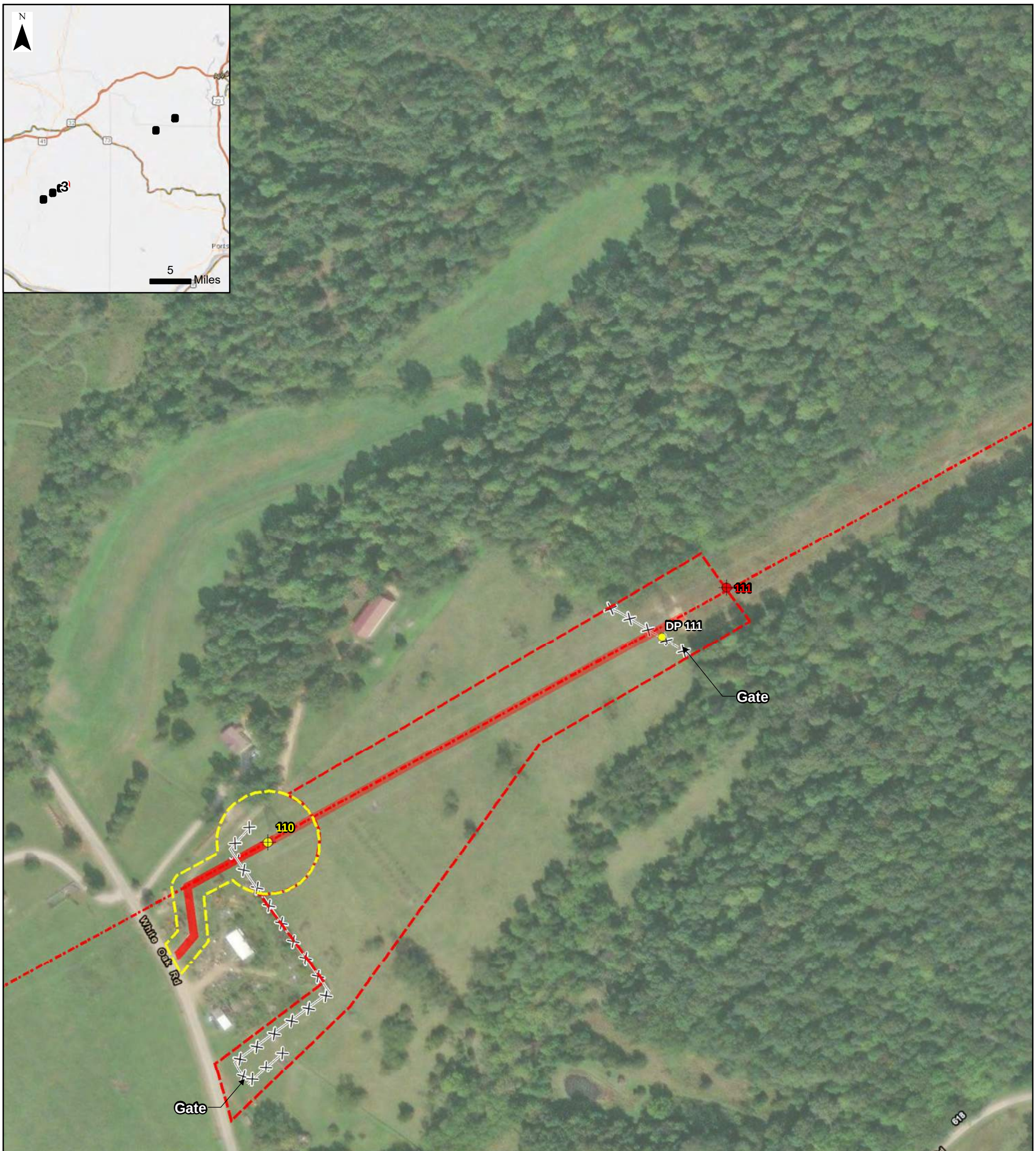
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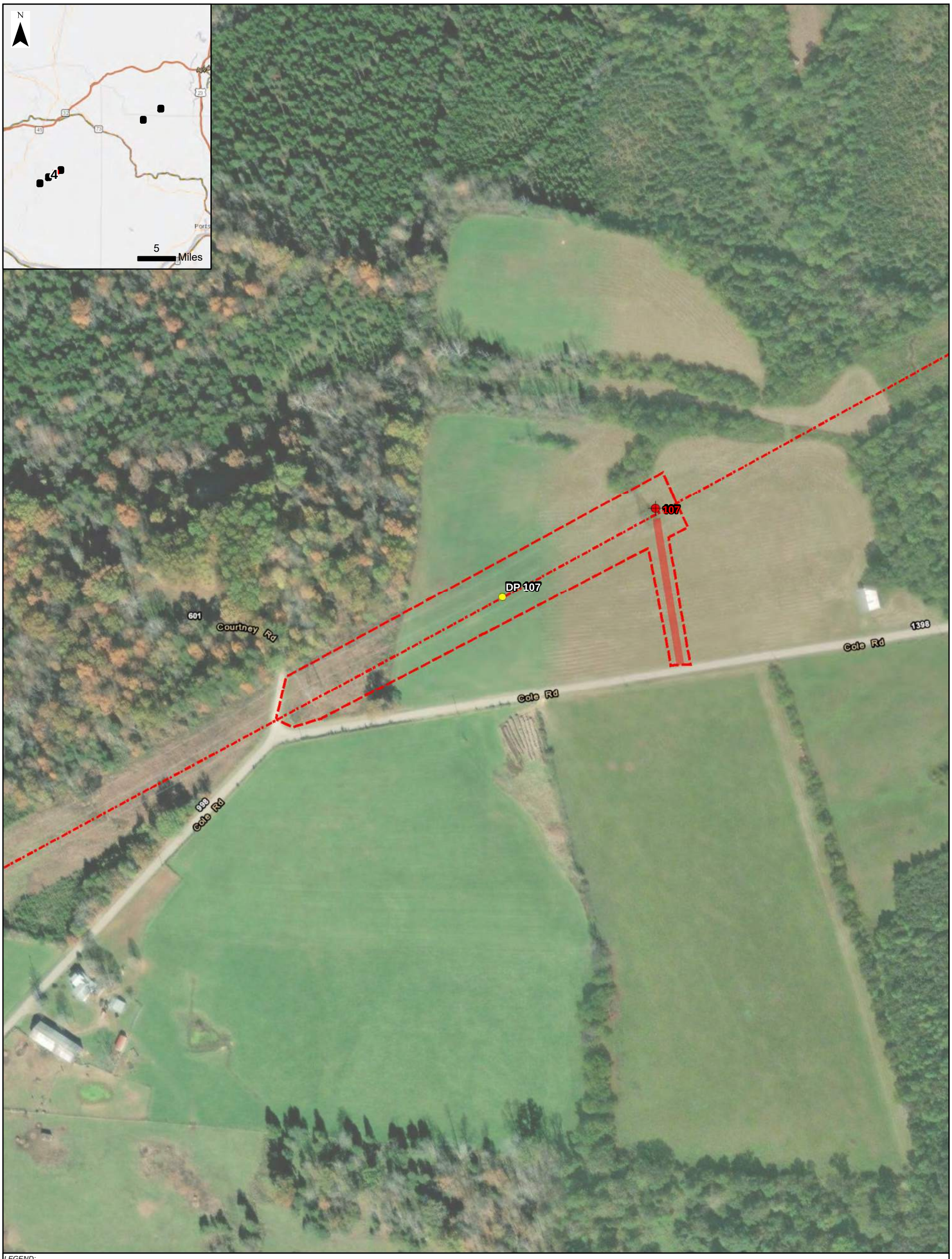
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FIGURE: **Figure 4**

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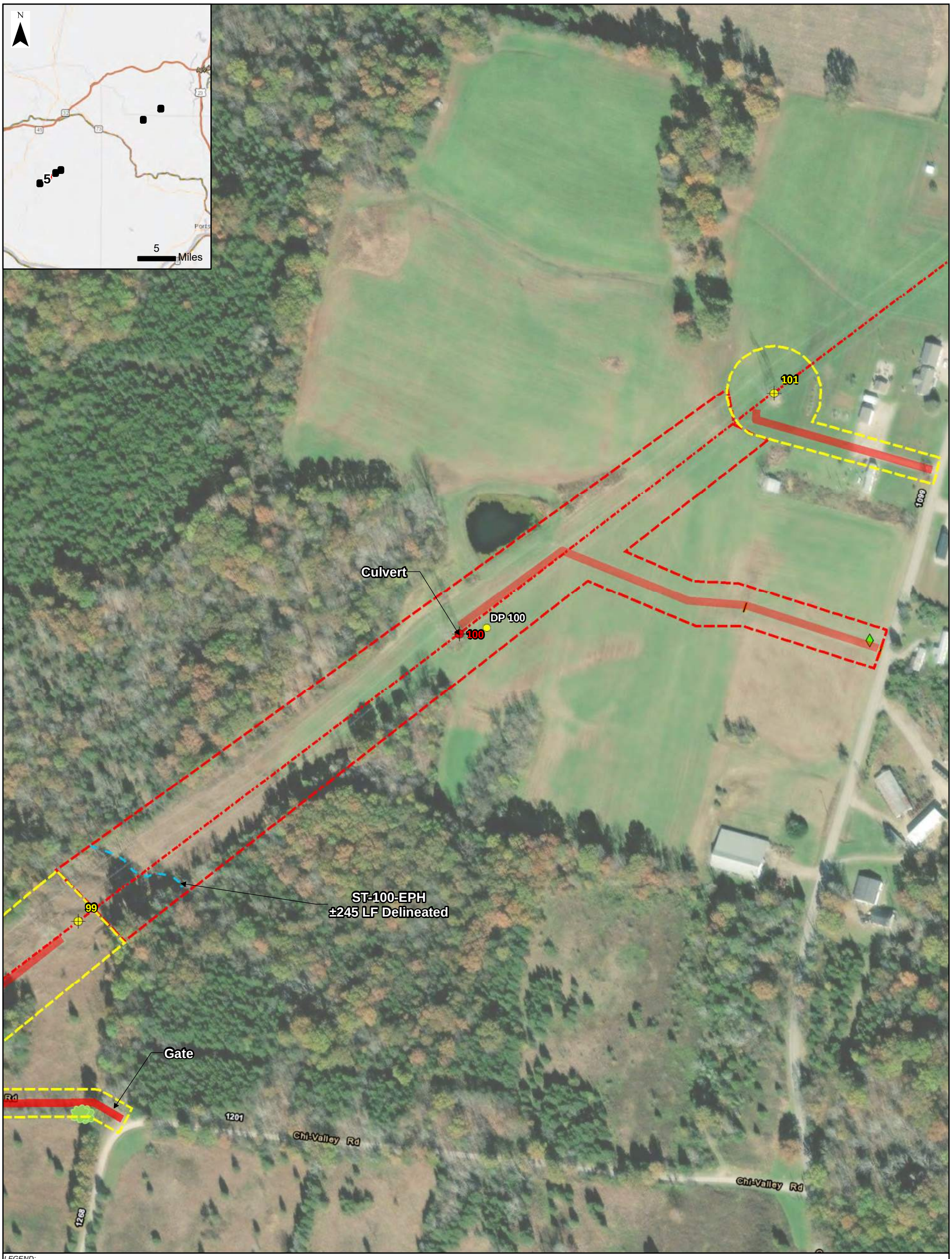
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FIGURE: **Figure 4**
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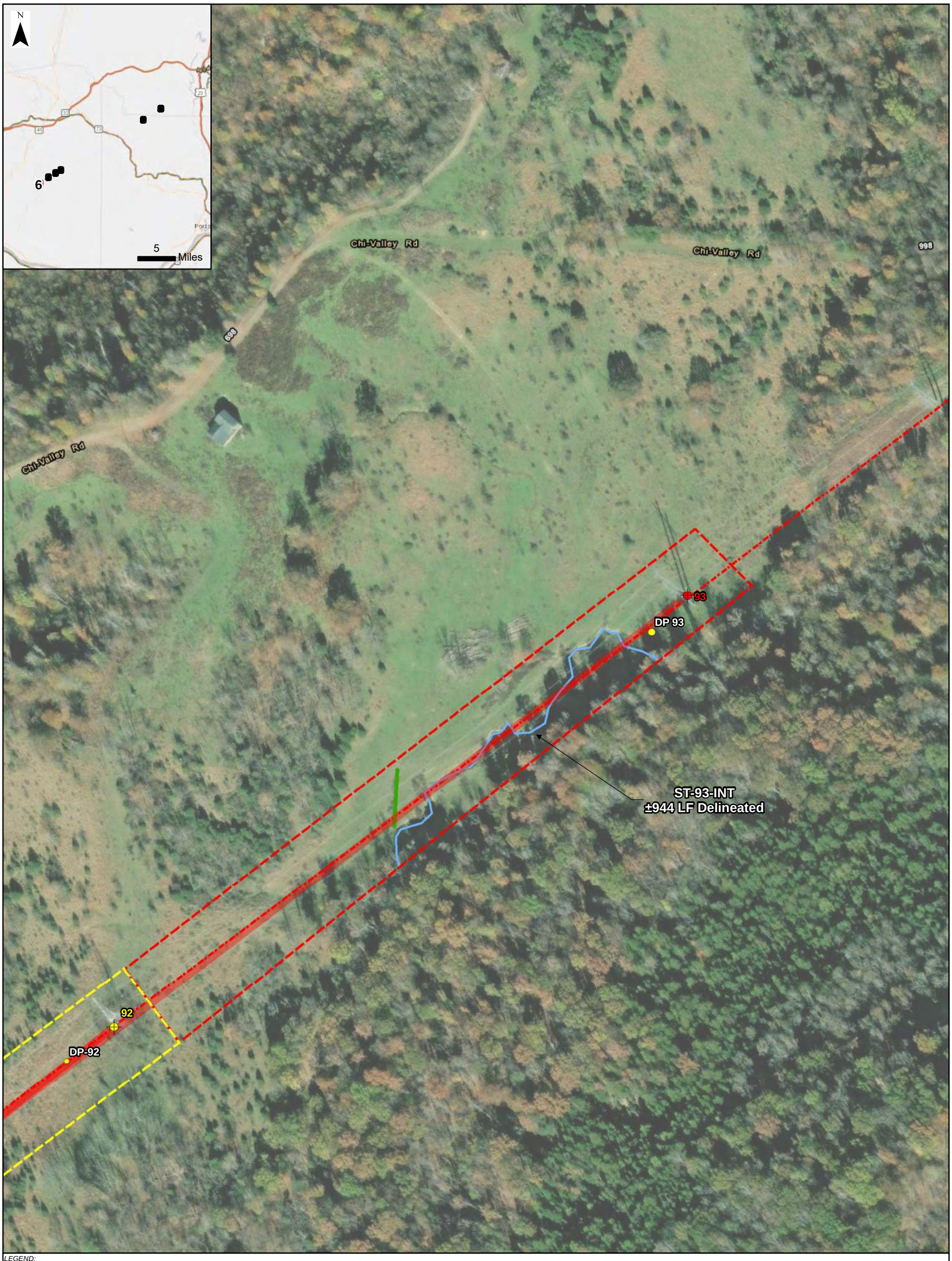
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FIGURE: **Figure 4**
Page 6 of 6

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10 March 2026

Mr. Jonathon Rose
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
8600 Smiths Mill Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054

RE: Point O - Don Marquis345kV | Ecological Report Addendum

Dear Mr. Rose,

V3 Companies, Ltd. (V3), has prepared an addendum for the Point O - Don Marquis 345kv Transmission Line Raise Project ecological report. The additional project areas begin at Structure 160 east of Mt Hope Road, Otway, OH, and extends approximately 16 miles south to Structure 97 west of Chi Valley Road, Blue Creek, in Adams and Scioto Counties, Ohio.

The initial ecological survey was conducted on 26 and 27 September 2022, 2 February 2023 and included the structures along the existing transmission line with a 100-foot right-of-way corridor. An additional survey was conducted on 21 May 2024 and 13 June 2024 to include additional structures and areas that were not accessible during the initial surveys.

Additional surveys were conducted on 3 November 2025 and 18 December 2025 and 25 February 2026 to review alternate access to multiple structures along the transmission line. This memo has been prepared as an addendum to the ecological report for the project.

Limitation of Liability

This report has been prepared solely in accordance with an agreement between American Electric Power ("CLIENT") and V3 Companies, Ltd (V3).

The services performed by V3 have been conducted in a manner consistent with the level of quality and skill generally exercised by members of its profession and consulting practices relating to this type of engagement.

This report is solely for the use of CLIENT, and was prepared based upon an understanding of CLIENT's specific objective(s), and based upon information obtained by V3 in furtherance of CLIENT's specific objective(s). Any reliance of this report by third parties shall be at such third party's sole risk as this report may not contain, or be based upon, sufficient information for purposes of other parties, for their objectives, or for other uses. This report shall only be presented in full and may not be used to support any other objectives than those for CLIENT as set out in the report, except where written approval and consent are expressly provided by CLIENT and V3.

Definitions

A "Water of the U.S." can be described as any waterway that appears to have a "clear, natural line impressed on the bank"[1] that is caused by variations in water levels over a period. The USACE is the final authority on the determination of whether a waterway qualifies for jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, but can include intermittent streams and drainage ditches, as well as large rivers. Several indicators that may be considered in determining an ordinary high-water mark include, but are not limited to,

[1] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Regulatory Guidance Letter*, No. 05-05, date 7-12-05

changes in soil character, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, historical or recorded data, presence of litter and/or debris, scour, and water staining.

Wetlands are defined in the 1987 Manual as, “Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.” [2] The 1987 Manual outlines the protocol for distinguishing wetland areas from "upland" areas. Wetland areas are delineated according to three primary criteria: vegetation, soil, and hydrology. An area is determined to qualify as a wetland if it meets the following “general diagnostic environmental characteristics:”

- Hydrophytic vegetation
- Hydrology
- Hydric Soil

Field Reconnaissance Summary

V3 staff scientists conducted a SITE investigation on 3 November, 18 December 2025, and 25 February 2026 to identify areas that met the definition of a wetland or a “Water of the US.” An area qualified as a wetland when the dominant hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and hydrology criteria were all met.

Natural Resource Features

No wetland areas were identified within the inspection limits. No other drainage features, streams, or other potential “Waters of the U.S.” were observed.

Below is a description of the information collected at each additional DP during the 3 November and 18 December 2025 field investigations that was not associated with an identified wetland area. The purpose of collecting these DPs was to describe the remaining characteristics of the SITE. Information that was collected at each DP is summarized on the enclosed forms. Their placement is depicted in the enclosed figure.

DP 160

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 160. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*, FACU, 60% cover), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*, FACU, 15% cover), stout wood reed (*Cinna arundinacea*, FACW, 20% cover), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*, FACU, 15% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 112

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 112 to 113. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*, UPL, 10% cover), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*, FACU, 40% cover), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*, FAC, 25% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

[2] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, (1987 Manual).

DP 111

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 111. This area did meet the hydrophytic vegetation and hydrology criteria but did not meet the hydric soils criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, it does not qualify as a wetland. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of deer tongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*, FACW, 55% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 111A

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 111 to 112. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of switch birch (*Betula lenta*, FACU, 5% cover) and deer tongue (FACW, 50% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 110

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 110. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*, FACU, 80% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 109

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 109. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of cat grass (*Dactylis glomerata*, FACU, 30% cover) and Kentucky blue grass (*Poa pratensis*, FAC, 30% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

DP 97

This DP was collected along the additional proposed access route for Structure 97. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*, FACU, 30% cover), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*, FAC, 20% cover), multiflora rose (FACU, 25% cover), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*, FACU, 15% cover), northern seas oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*, FACU, 30% cover), eastern woodland sedge (*Carex blanda*, FAC, 30% cover), white snake root (*Ageratina altissima*, FACU, 20% cover), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*, FACU, 20% cover). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

<u>Streams, Drainage Features, and Other Potential "Waters of the U.S."</u>

Two streams and four upland drainage features were identified during this investigation.

ST-111-EPH *(± 66 linear feet, Ephemeral)*

ST-111-EPH is located along the additional proposed access route to Structures 110 and 111 and consisted of 66 LF of ephemeral stream within the additional study area. The substrate of ST-111-EPH consisted of gravel, sand, and silt. ST-111-EPH did not exhibit an OHWM and will most likely not qualify as a federal

jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-111-EPH received an HHEI score of 17.

ST-109-EPH *(± 145 linear feet, Intermittent)*

ST-109-INT is located along the additional proposed access route to Structure 109 and consisted of 145 LF of intermittent stream within the additional study area. The substrate of ST-109-INT consisted of gravel, sand, and silt. ST-109-INT did exhibit an OHWM and will most likely qualify as a federal jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S." subject to USACE and OEPA authority. ST-109-INT received an QHEI score of 44.

Conclusions

V3 staff scientists identified two streams during field investigations. No wetlands or other potential "Waters of the U.S." were observed during the 3 November, 18 December 2025, and 25 February 2026 investigations.

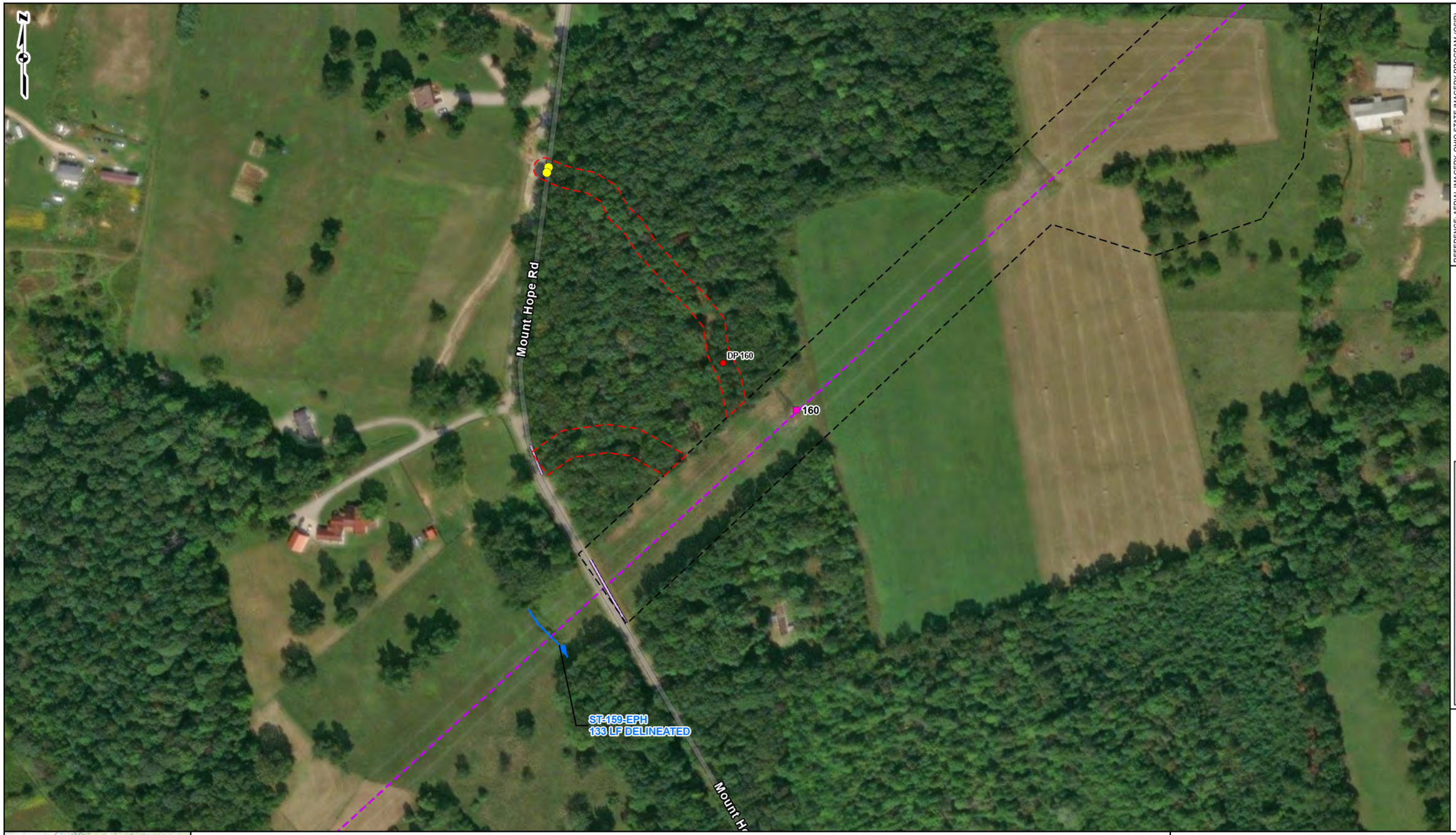
V3 appreciates the opportunity to be of service to American Electric Power and looks forward to working together in the future. If you have any questions or comments concerning the Ecological Report Addendum, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Olivia D. Speckman

Olivia D. Speckman
Senior Project Scientist
V3 Companies

Enclosures:
Site Photographs
Data Forms
Delineation Map

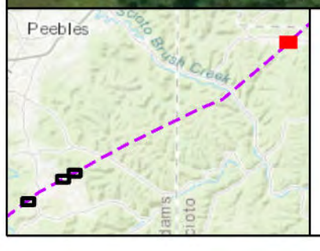


REFERENCE: AERIAL IMAGERY: OHIO STATE IMAGERY PROGRAM (OSIP), 2019; 2-FT CONTOURS DEVELOPED USING DEMs DOWNLOADED FROM OSIP (OHIO STATEWIDE IMAGERY PROGRAM), 2006-2010, NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), OHIO, 2022.

T= Timber Mat
G= Gravel
D= Dirt
V= Vegetation

Access Road Labeling
Constructed Width → V-14'-T ← Installed Material
Existing Material →

3/5/2026



LEGEND

- EXISTING STRUCTURE
- EXISTING GATE
- DATA POINT
- EXISTING CULVERT
- EXISTING UTILITY
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURE
- STREAM
- ADDITIONAL STUDY AREA
- ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA
- POND
- EMERGENT WETLAND

0 50 100 200 Feet

FIGURE 1
DELINEATION MAP
SHEET 1 OF 4

POINT O - DON MARQUIS 345kV
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: TFD
CHECKED: ODS
DATE: 3/5/2026
APPROVED: JVR

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REFERENCE: AERIAL IMAGERY: OHIO STATE IMAGERY PROGRAM (OSIP), 2019; 2-FT CONTOURS DEVELOPED USING DEMs DOWNLOADED FROM OSIP (OHIO STATEWIDE IMAGERY PROGRAM), 2006-2010. NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), OHIO, 2022.

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0 50 100 200 Feet

FIGURE 1
DELINEATION MAP
SHEET 2 OF 4

POINT O - DON MARQUIS 345kV
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: TFD
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DATE: 3/5/2026
APPROVED: JVR

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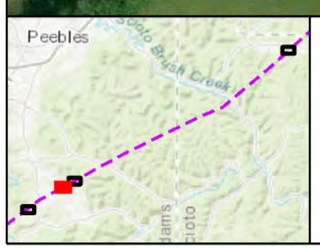
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Access Road Labeling
Constructed Width
Existing Material
V-14'-T
← Installed Material

3/5/2026



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- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURE
- STREAM
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- ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA
- POND
- EMERGENT WETLAND

0 50 100 200 Feet

FIGURE 1
DELINEATION MAP
SHEET 3 OF 4

POINT O - DON MARQUIS 345kV
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

DRAWN BY: TFD
CHECKED: ODS
DATE: 3/5/2026
APPROVED: JVR

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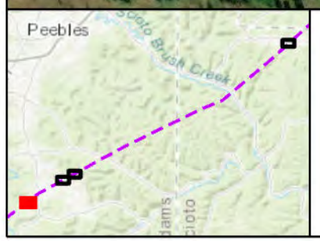
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Access Road Labeling
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Existing Material →

3/5/2026



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0 50 100 200 Feet

FIGURE 1
DELINEATION MAP
SHEET 4 OF 4

POINT O - DON MARQUIS 345kV
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

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CHECKED: ODS
DATE: 3/5/2026
APPROVED: JVR

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