

Letter of Notification for the Fiesta Station and Fiesta 138 kV Extension Project



PUCO Case No. 26-1046-EL-BLN

Submitted to:
The Ohio Power Siting Board
Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-05

Submitted by:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

October 19, 2026

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR THE FIESTA STATION AND FIESTA 138 kV EXTENSION PROJECT

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

Fiesta Station and Fiesta 138 kV Extension Project

4906-6-05 Accelerated Application Requirements

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the Company) provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in accordance with the accelerated application requirements of Adm.Code 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 is proposing the Fiesta Station and Fiesta 138 kV Extension Project (the "Project"), located in the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio. The purpose of the Project is to provide service to a customer's facility. The Fiesta Station will be approximately 2.3-acres and receive less than 0.2 mile of looped service from the 138 kV circuit of the Jug Street-Corridor 345 kV transmission line. One new cut-in structure will be added to the 138 kV circuit of the Jug Street-Corridor 345 kV transmission line. The Project is located primarily on customer property but will require supplemental easement from an existing property owner. The overall project will require 138 kV tie lines, each less than 0.1 mile, connecting the Fiesta Station to the customer's station and will require a future Badger-Fiesta 138 kV transmission line planned in the vicinity, however, these assets will be submitted to OPSB under separate cover. The location of the customer's property, station area, and line extension (collectively the "Project Area") is shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2 of **Appendix A**.

The Project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification (LON) as defined by Items (1)(d)(ii) and (3) of Appendix A to Adm.Code 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

- (1) *New construction extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:*
 - (d) *Line(s) primarily needed to attract or meet the requirements of a specific customer or customers, as follows:*
 - (ii) *Any portion of the line is on property owned by someone other than the specific customer or the applicant.*

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(3) Construction of a new electric power transmission substation

The Project has been assigned Case No. 26-1046-EL-BLN.

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.

A customer has requested a new 138 kV delivery to serve their facility requiring 100 MW of initial and 315 MW ultimate peak demand in the New Albany, Ohio area. To meet the customer's request, the Company will construct a new 138 kV station, Fiesta Station. To deliver power to the Fiesta Station, the Company will tap the Corridor-Green Chapel 138 kV circuit of the Jug Street-Corridor 345 kV Transmission Line and install approximately 0.2 miles of line extension to Fiesta Station. Both the Fiesta Station and Fiesta 138 kV Extension are the subject of this application. Service to the customer-owned station will be provided via single circuit 138 kV transmission tie lines from the Company's proposed Fiesta Station to the customer's distribution station, to be filed at a later date.

Failure to move forward with the proposed Project will result in the inability to serve the customer's projected 315 MW load expectations and thereby jeopardize the customer's plans in the New Albany area.

Ohio Substitute House Bill 15, effective in August 2025, requires applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction of new transmission lines to submit a summary of studies that have been made by or for the applicant of cost-effective advanced transmission technologies that maximize the value, expand the capacity, or improve the reliability of the facility. R.C. 4906.06(A)(7). The statutory definition of advanced transmission technology includes advanced conductors, defined as "conductor with a direct current electrical resistance that is at least ten per cent lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter on the electric transmission system while simultaneously increasing the energy carrying capacity by at least seventy-five per cent." R.C. 4906.01(N). In subsequent rulemaking, the Ohio Power Siting Board determined that the advanced transmission technology requirements in Substitute House Bill 15 are inapplicable to short, gen-tie lines. In the Matter of the Consideration of Ohio Power Siting Board Rules, as Required by Substitute House Bill Number 15, Case No. 25-757-GE-BRO, Finding and Order, ¶ 9 (Nov. 20, 2025). Due to the short nature of this 0.2-mile extension, the Company determined that no advanced transmission technologies as defined by the Revised Code are required or would be cost-effective to implement.

The need was presented and reviewed with stakeholders at the April 15, 2026, PJM SRRTEP meeting. The solution was presented and reviewed at the May 9, 2023, PJM TEAC meeting, and subsequently assigned a PJM Supplemental number of s3442.11. This Project was included in the Company's 2026 Long Term Forecast Report, and is located on pages 25 and 31 (Table FE-T10) (See **Appendix B**).

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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 **Figure 1**, 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 is located primarily on customer property and based on the customer's proposed development and existing facilities in the area, the proposed location of the station is the most suitable location for the Project. Other alternatives would require impacting neighboring properties, as opposed to remaining predominantly on the customer's property, and would add additional transmission length for the interconnections without any additional benefit. The selected Fiesta Station site and transmission line interconnections are located within or adjacent to the specific customer property on land most recently used for agriculture but has been zoned for industrial use. The proposed Project will result in no impacts to wetlands, streams, or 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 and specific customer'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 will inform adjacent property owners and tenants about this Project through several different mediums. Within seven days of filing this LON, the Company will issue a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Project area. The notice will comply with all requirements of Adm.Code 4906-6-08(A)(1-6). Further, the Company has mailed (or will mail) a letter, via first class mail, to contiguous owners and tenants. The letter will comply with all requirements of Adm.Code 4906-6-08(B). The Company maintains a website (<https://aeptransmission.com/ohio/filings.php>) which provides the public access to an electronic copy of this LON and the public notice for this LON. An electronic copy of the LON will be served to the public library in each political subdivision for this Project. The Company retains ROW land agents that discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities and convey information to affected owners and tenants throughout the Project.

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B(6) Construction Schedule

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

Construction of the Project is planned to begin no sooner than January 18, 2027 with an anticipated in-service date of November 2027.

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.

Figure 1, in Appendix A, identifies the location of the Project area on the United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 map of the New Albany, Ohio quadrangle. **Appendix A, Figure 2** displays the Project components on a 2023 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)
095-112206-00.000	Property Transfer for Station/ New Easement	No
095-111408-00.000	Supplemental Easement	No

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.

The equipment and facilities to be installed for the Project are anticipated to include the following:

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Fiesta Station

1 – 48'x16' Drop In Control Module

15 – 138 kV Circuit Breakers

2 – 138 kV Cap Bank Breakers

2 – 138 kV Cap Banks

Line Asset Name: Fiesta 138 kV Extension
Voltage: 138 kV
Conductors: Double Bundled 1590 KCMIL 54/19 "Falcon" ACSR
Static Wire: (2) 144 ct OPGW 0.646" Dia
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: (2) Two double circuit, steel two-pole dead ends

Line Asset Name: Jug Street-Corridor 345 kV Transmission Line (138 kV Circuit)
Voltage: 138 kV
Conductors: Double Bundled 1590 KCMIL 54/19 "Falcon" ACSR
Static Wire: (1) 144 ct OPGW 0.646" Dia; (1) 96 ct OPGW 0.646" Dia (existing)
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: (1) One double circuit, steel two-pole dead end

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 proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$42.6 million using a Class 4 estimate. The customer will reimburse the Company for \$11 million of the total costs. Pursuant to the PJM OATT, the remaining \$31.6 million cost for this Project will be recovered in the 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:

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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 located within the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio. Field observations indicate the Project area is being developed for commercial/industrial uses with scattered residential and farmland. The Project will require approximately 0.1 acres of tree clearing.

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 majority of the customer property and adjacent properties, including the entirety of the Project, is fallow land, which is currently being developed. On October 7, 2026, the Licking County Auditor indicated that the customer properties, including the Project footprint, are not identified as Agricultural District Land parcels. No Ohio Department of Agriculture easements were identified on the Project parcels.

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.

Cultural resource surveys and reports were conducted by the Company's consultant for the Project in May and June 2024. Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") was received in June and July 2024, see **Appendix C**. The SHPO stated 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 **Table 2**, below. There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

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Table 2 – Anticipated Permits

Permit/Authorization/Coordination	Agency	Date
General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - OHC000006	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Expected December 2026
	Licking County	
Notice Criteria	Federal Aviation Administration	Submitted through Criteria Tool on 9/21/2026, no further action required
Clean Water Act Section 404/401	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Not Applicable
	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	
Archaeology/Architectural	Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Coordination complete 6/25/2024 (Fiesta Extension) and 7/2/2024 (Fiesta Station), no additional work required
Threatened and Endangered Species	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultation complete 8/12/2024
Threatened and Endangered Species	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Consultation complete 6/19/2024

B(10)(c) 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.

On May 16, 2024, 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), seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to state and/or federally protected species. ODNR and USFWS provided responses on August 12, 2024 and June 19, 2024, respectively. Copies of the agencies' responses are presented in **Appendix C**.

Table 7, 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.

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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 in April and May 2024, revisited in February and April 2026, and prepared an Ecological Survey Report, which is provided in **Appendix D**. The survey boundary included previous work covered by the customer's consultant under USACE's Jurisdictional Determinations (JDs), LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek and LRH-2022-557-SCR, respectively. Within the boundaries of the two JDs, there are 12 previously identified wetlands and two streams. One of the streams, Blacklick Creek, will be spanned by the proposed transmission line, and no in-water work is proposed. No impacts to the delineated wetlands confirmed in the JDs will be impacted by the Project. The Company's Project construction activities are not expected to result in discharge of fill in any of the unpermitted delineated streams or wetlands.

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.

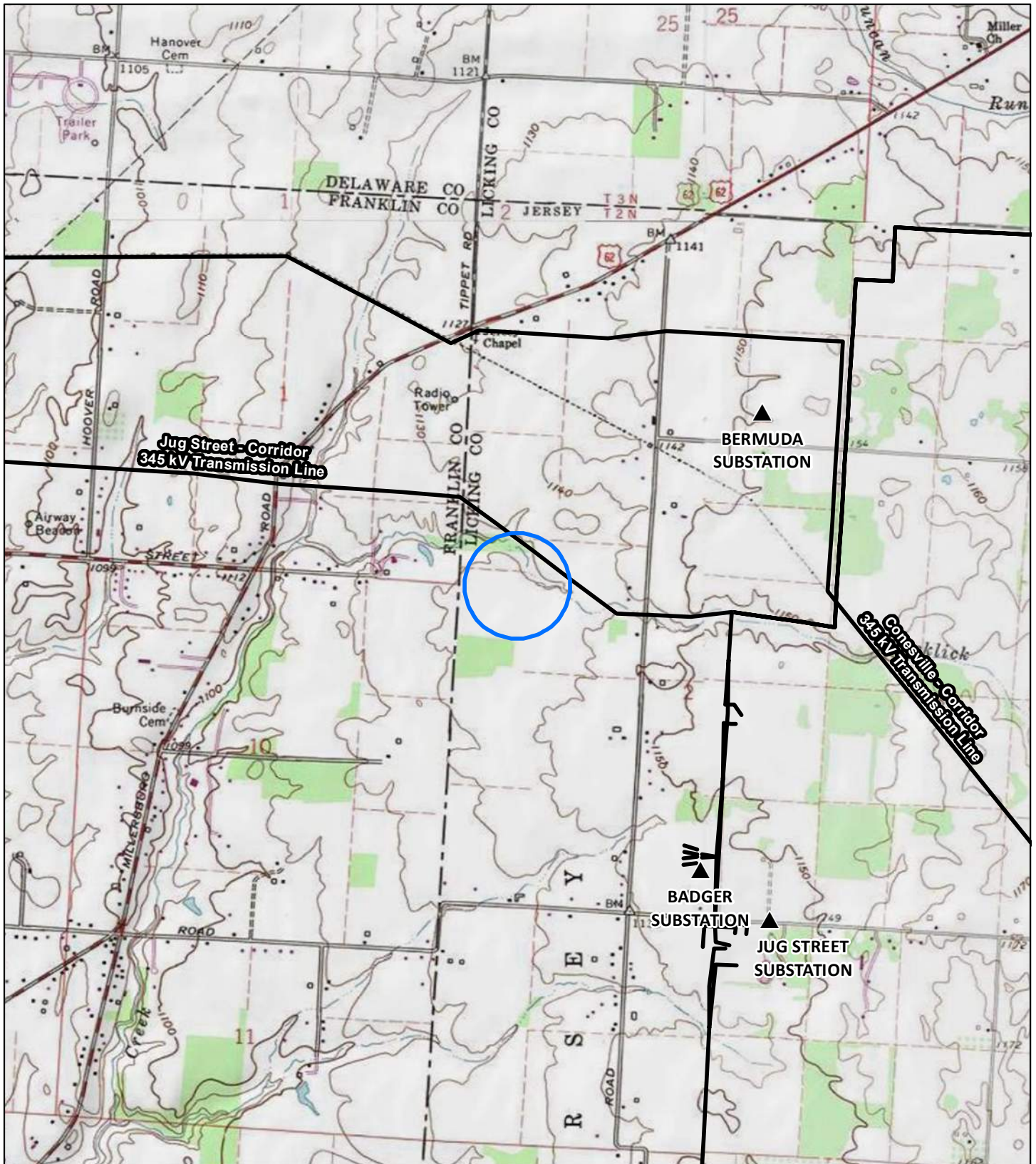
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM") was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map number 39049C0207K). Based on this mapping, FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain associated with Blacklick Creek is crossed by the proposed alignment; however, no proposed structures are planned to be located within the floodplain areas. No local floodplain permitting is necessary.

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



Legend:

- Project Area
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Station

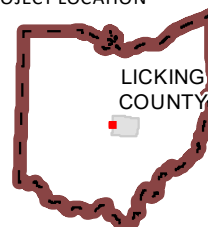
Data Sources:
ESRI USA Topographic Maps
New Albany, Ohio

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983



October 08, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION

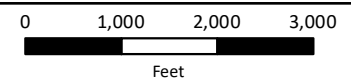


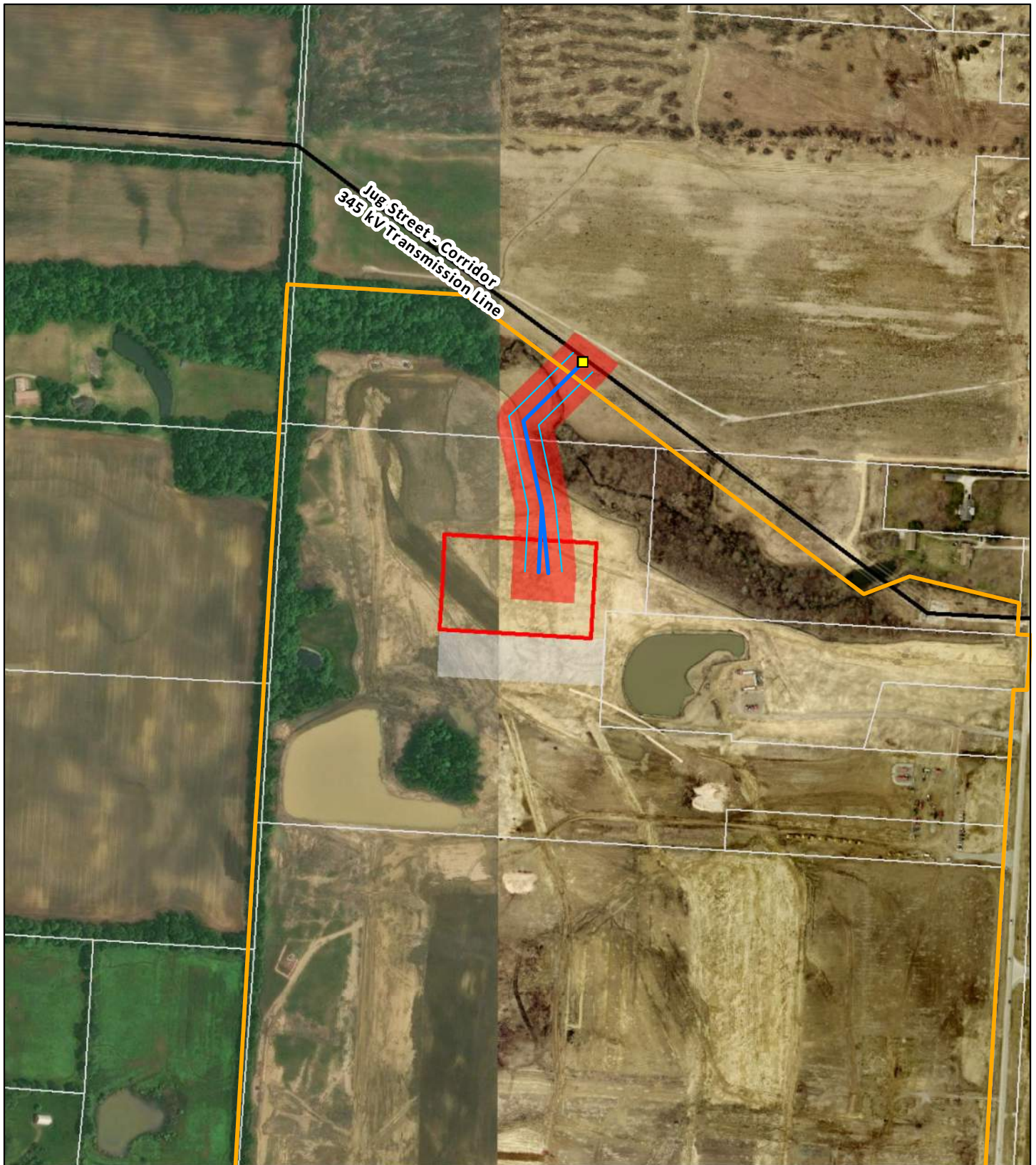
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 1
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**



Fiesta Station and Fiesta
138 kV Extension Project





Legend:

- Proposed Fiesta Station Fence
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Right-of-way
- Proposed Cut-in Structure
- Project Corridor
- Customer Property
- Existing Transmission Line
- Approximate Customer Distribution Station
- Parcel Boundary

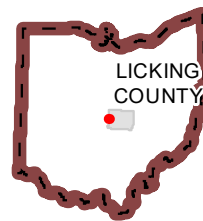
Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery (2025)

Ohio State Plane South
NAD 1983

October 15, 2026



PROJECT LOCATION

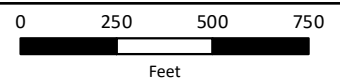


LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 2
PROJECT AERIAL MAP**



**Fiesta Station and Fiesta
138 kV Extension Project**



Appendix B PJM Solution and Long Term Forecast Report

5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2025
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2026
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$2.23 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Tasjan
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Tie new station into Green Capel - Innovation 138 kV line
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Innovation - Tasjan 138 kV (s3442.13 TP2023025)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Innovation - Tasjan INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~0.85 mi / 100 ft / 2 circuit (~0.72 line work)
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2025
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2026
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$2.23 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Tasjan
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Tie new station into Green Capel - Innovation 138 kV line
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Fiesta Extension 138kV (s3442.11 TP2022947)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	1). Corridor - Fiesta 138 kV INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - Souder 2). Fiesta - Green Chapel 138 kV INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~11.73 mi / 100 ft / 2 circuits (~0.15 mi of Line work)
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2025
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$1.99 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Fiesta
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	New 138 kV extension to serve customer
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Badger - Fiesta 138kV (s3442.11 TP2022947)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Badger - Fiesta 138kV INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~0.65 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2025
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$6.45 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Fiesta
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Tie new station (Fiesta) to Badger Station 138 kV
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Carrollton - East Dover 69kV (s2784 TP2021237)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Carrollton - East Dover INTERMEDIATE STATION - Zoarville, Merrick, & Attwood Switch
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	32.3 miles, 60 ft, 1 circuit (~7.0 Miles of greenfield line)
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	Not required
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$16.47 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Rebuild aging infrastructure
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Potential for increased transmission line outages
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Grace - West Watertown 69 kV (s2791 TP2020022)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Grace - West Watertown INTERMEDIATE STATION - Patten Mills Switch
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~10.59 miles / 60 ft / 1 circuit (~ 5.5 miles of greenfield line)
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	Not required
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2026
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$11.81 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Patten Mills Switch & West Watertown
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Service to new customer
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to serve new customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Huntlev Extension 138kV (TP2024128)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Greif - Huntly 138 kV & Busch - Lazelle 69 kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - Scherers Sw, Sancus Sw
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~ 2.56 mi ~1.18 mi single circuit 138kV, ~1.38 mi double circuit 138/69 kV / 60 ft & 100 ft / 1 & 2 circuit
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV & 138 kV / 138 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$15.7 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Rebuild aging infrastructure
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Potential for increased transmission line outages
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Sunnyside - Carrollton 138 kV 138kV (TP2024042)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Sunnyside - Carrollton 138 kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - Krone Sw
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~0.01 mi / 100ft / 1 Circuit
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$ 0.908 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Service to new customer
12	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to serve new customer
13	MISCELLANEOUS:	
14	Advanced Transmission Technologies	Advanced Transmission Technologies do not offer enough benefits in lieu of a traditional/robust solution needed for this specific case.
1	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Helium SW Extension 69 KV (TP2025120)
2	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Upper Sandusky - Forest 69kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~1.0 mi / 60 ft / 1 Circuit
4	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6	CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$2.036 M
8	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Helium SW
9	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A

Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - Kirk 138 kV	P	12
Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - West Hebron 138 kV	P	12
Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - Georgia #1 138 kV	P	12
Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - Georgia #2 138 kV	P	12
Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - Georgia #3 138 kV	P	12
Peach (TP2023504)	138 kV	T	2027	Peach - Georgia #4 138 kV	P	12
Royalton (TP2022021 AF2-371)	138 kV	T	2028	Royalton - Harison 138 kV	P	6
Royalton (TP2022021 AF2-371)	138 kV	T	2028	Royalton - Lemaster138 kV	P	6
Royalton (TP2022021 AF2-371)	138 kV	T	2028	Royalton - Carnation Solar 138 kV	P	6
South Branch (TP2021249 AF2-375)	138 kV	T	2027	South Branch - Ebersole 138 kV	P	3.5
South Branch (TP2021249 AF2-375)	138 kV	T	2027	South Branch - Fostoria Central 138 kV	P	3.5
South Branch (TP2021249 AF2-375)	138 kV	T	2027	South Branch - Sunset Ridge 138 kV	P	3.5
Fremont Center (s2779 TP2021009)	138/69 kV	T	2028	East End Fostoria - Fremont Center 69 kV	E	~6
Fremont Center (s2779 TP2021009)	138/69 kV	T	2028	Fremont - Fremont Center #1 69 kV	E	~6
Fremont Center (s2779 TP2021009)	138/69 kV	T	2028	Fremont - Fremont Center #2 69 kV	E	~6
Fremont Center (s2779 TP2021009)	138/69 kV	T	2028	Fremont Center - Riverview 69 kV	E	~6
Fremont Center (s2779 TP2021009)	138/69 kV	T	2028	Fremont Center - City of Clyde (Cust) 69 kV	E	~6
Tasjan (s3442.13 TP2023025)	138 kV	T	2027	Green Chapel - Tasjan 138 kV	P	~10
Tasjan (s3442.13 TP2023025)	138 kV	T	2027	Innovation - Tasjan 138 kV	P	~10
Tasjan (s3442.13 TP2023025)	138 kV	T	2027	Tasjan - DBT 138 kV #1	P	~10
Tasjan (s3442.13 TP2023025)	138 kV	T	2027	Tasjan - DBT 138 kV #2	P	~10
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Corridor - Fiesta 138 kV	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Fiesta - Green Chapel 138 kV	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Badger - Fiesta 138 kV	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Fiesta - MSFT 138 kV #1	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Fiesta - MSFT 138 kV #2	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Fiesta - MSFT 138 kV #3	P	~6
Fiesta (s3442.11 TP2022947)	138 kV	T	2026-2027	Fiesta - MSFT 138 kV #1	P	~6
Jorden (s3442.5 TP2022083)	138 kV	T	2026	Innovation - Jorden 138 kV	P	~10
Jorden (s3442.5 TP2022083)	138 kV	T	2026	Jorden - Kirk 138 kV	P	~10
Jorden (s3442.5 TP2022083)	138 kV	T	2026	Jorden - Cyrus 138 kV #1	P	~10
Jorden (s3442.5 TP2022083)	138 kV	T	2026	Jorden - Cyrus 138 kV #2	P	~10
Marysville (b4068.9 & b4068.10 TP2025859)	765 KV	T	2030	Marysville - Melissa 765 kV	P	TBD
Conesville (b4068.39 TP2025861)	765/345 KV	T	2030	Conesville - Guernsey 765 kV	P	TBD
Conesville (b4068.39 TP2025861)	765/345 KV	T	2030	Conesville - West Millersport 765 kV	P	TBD
Conesville (b4068.39 TP2025861)	765/345 KV	T	2030	Conesville 345 KV - Conesville 765 kV	P	TBD
West Millersport (b4068.20 TP2025862)	765/345 KV	T	2030	West Millersport 765kV - West Millersport 345 kV	P	TBD
West Millersport (b4068.20 TP2025862)	765/345 KV	T	2030	West Millersport - Conesville 765 kV	P	TBD
West Millersport (b4068.20 TP2025862)	765/345 KV	T	2030	West Millersport - Bixby 345 kV	E	TBD
West Millersport (b4068.20 TP2025862)	765/345 KV	T	2030	West Millersport - Adkins 765kV	P	TBD
Adkins (b4068.45 TP2025863)	765 KV	T	2030	Adkins 765kV - West Millersport 765/345 KV	P	TBD
Adkins (b4068.45 TP2025863)	765 KV	T	2030	Adkins 765 KV - Flatlick 765 KV	E	TBD
Adkins (b4068.45 TP2025863)	765 KV	T	2030	Adkins 765 KV - Marysville 765 KV	P	TBD
Maliszewski (b3919 TP2025133)	345 KV	T	2029	Maliszewski 345 KV - Corridor 345 KV	P	TBD
Maliszewski (b3919 TP2025133)	345 KV	T	2029	Maliszewski 345 KV - Hyatt 345 KV	E	TBD
Maliszewski (b3919 TP2025133)	345 KV	T	2029	Maliszewski 345 KV - Maliszewski 765 KV	P	TBD

AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Jug Street, OH

Need Number: AEP-2026-OH013

Process Stage: Need Meeting 04/15/2026

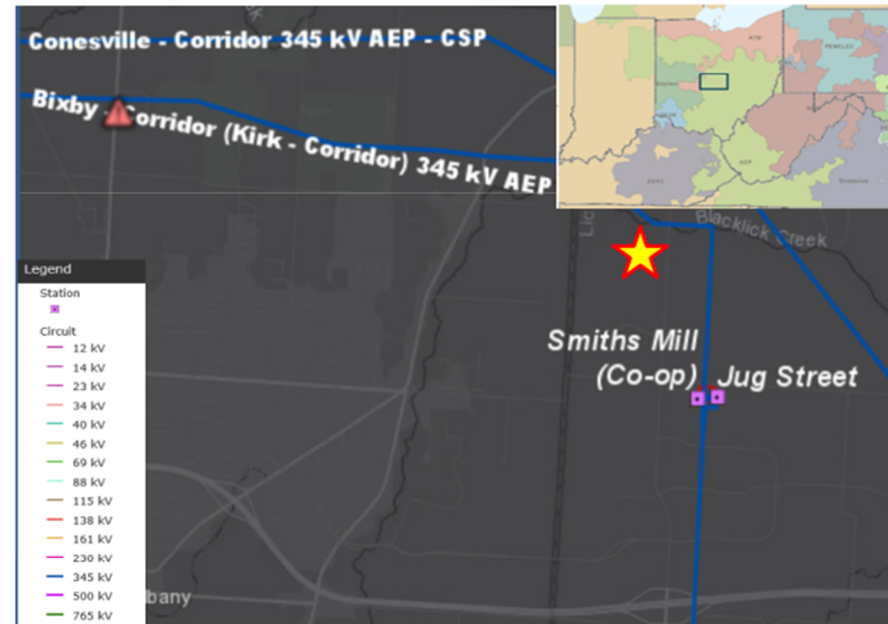
Project Driver: Customer Service

Specific Assumption References:

AEP Connection Requirements for the AEP Transmission System
(AEP Assumptions Slide 12)

Problem Statement:

A customer has requested a 50 MW load increase from their proposed delivery point at Fiesta 138kV substation (S3442.11) located in New Albany, OH.



Appendix C Agency Correspondence



In reply, refer to
2024-LIC-61491

July 2, 2024

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

RE: Fiesta Station Greenfield Project, Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on June 4, 2024, regarding the proposed Fiesta Station Greenfield Project, Jersey Township, Licking County, 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 Cultural Resource Management Investigations for the 29.7 ha (73.3 ac) Fiesta Station Greenfield Project in Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio* by Ryan J. Weller and Scott A. McIntosh (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2024). This project is related to the construction of the proposed Fiesta Station, which is located between Beech Road and the boundary between Franklin and Licking Counties, Ohio.

A literature review, visual inspection, surface collection, shovel probes, and shovel test unit excavation were performed as part of these investigations. A small portion of the project area had been previously investigated for cultural resources. Disturbance was noted in the project area near the former location of a demolished residence. There were no previously recorded archaeological sites located within the project area and these investigations did not identify any new archaeological sites. It is our office's opinion that no additional archaeological survey is needed.

A literature review and field survey for architectural resources were conducted as part of the investigations. One (1) extant resource fifty years of age or older was identified in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). It is Weller's recommendation that this resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Our office agrees with Weller's recommendation of eligibility. Therefore, we agree that there will be no effect on historic resources as a result of the project.

Based on the information provided, we agree the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic

2024-LIC-61491

July 2, 2024

Page 2

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 or Ms. Joy Williams at jwilliams@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: 1103458



In reply, refer to
2024-LIC-61489

June 25, 2024

Mr. Ryan J. Weller
Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 West Fifth Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212

RE: Fiesta Extension TLE TCo Project, City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on June 4, 2024, regarding the proposed Fiesta Extension TLE TCo Project, City of New Albany, Licking County, 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 *Cultural Resources Management Review for the Fiesta Extension TLE TCo Project that is located in the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio (PO 81336132; BPID P22947024; WO T10747185002)* by Ryan J. Weller (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2024). The proposed undertaking involves a rerouted access road easement related to the construction of a transmission line that will connect the proposed Fiesta Station to the Jug-Corridor 345kV transmission line easement. The project corridor is approximately 54.8 m (180 ft) wide and 304.8 m (1,000 ft) long.

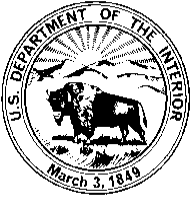
Per the submission, the entirety of the project corridor was previously investigated for cultural resources through two prior surveys (Weller 2017; Weller and McIntosh 2024). The 2017 survey investigated the Jug-Corridor 345kV transmission line corridor, while the 2024 survey investigated the location of the proposed Fiesta Station. There were no archaeological sites identified through either of these prior surveys within the current project corridor; nor were there any architectural resources identified within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for indirect effects. Our office agrees that no additional archaeological survey is needed for this project.

Based on the information provided, our office agrees 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 archaeological 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: 1103456



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



August 12, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0091142

Dear Bridgette Glass:

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, endangered, and proposed 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 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.

Federally Proposed Species: On September 14, 2022, the Service proposed to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) as endangered under the ESA. The bat faces extinction due to the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. During spring, summer, and fall, this species roosts primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead trees, emerging at dusk to hunt for insects over waterways and forest edges. While white-nose syndrome is by far the most serious threat to the tricolored bat, other threats now have an increased significance due to the dramatic decline in the species' population. These threats include disturbance to bats in roosting, foraging, commuting, and over-wintering habitats. Mortality due to collision with wind turbines, especially during migration, has also been documented across their range. Conservation measures for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat will also help to conserve the tricolored bat.

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.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared 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 it is 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, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Knoll".

Erin Knoll
Field Office Supervisor

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



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate

Tara Paciorek, Chief

2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2

Columbus, Ohio 43229

Phone: (614) 265-6661

Fax: (614) 267-4764

June 19, 2024

Bridgette Glass
AECOM
707 Grant Street, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Re: 24-0777_AEP Fiesta Station

Project: The proposed project involves building a new, greenfield Fiesta station and four new parallel single circuit 138kV transmission lines between the new station and a new customer located within a 72.8-acre parcel.

Location: The proposed project is located in Jersey Township, Licking County, 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.

Natural Heritage Database: A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the specified project area. Records searched date from 1980.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area.

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 project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer

may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, 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 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. The DOW recommends tree cutting 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 DBH $\geq$ 20 if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#)." If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza 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.

The project is within the of range the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) a state threatened fish. 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 this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), a state endangered bird. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential of 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.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment.

Water Resources: The Division of Water Resources has the following comment.

The [local floodplain administrator](#) should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project.

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

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator

Appendix D Ecological Survey Report

FIESTA STATION PROJECT

LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

ECOLOGICAL REPORT

Prepared for:

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company
8600 Smiths Mill Road
New Albany, Ohio 43054



Prepared by:

AECOM

525 Vine Street, Suite 1900
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Project #: 60717538

June 2026

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FIGURES**Number**

FIGURE 1	Project Overview
FIGURE 2	Soil Map and National Wetland Inventory Map
FIGURE 3	Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Map
FIGURE 4	Stream Eligibility Map
FIGURE 5	Vegetation Communities Assessment Map
FIGURE 6	Bat Habitat Map

APPENDICES**Number**

APPENDIX A	USACE Jurisdictional Determinations and OEPA Approval (By Others)
APPENDIX B	Olsson's USACE Wetland / Upland Data Forms and Current Wetland Photographic Record
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APPENDIX E	Agency Correspondence
APPENDIX F	2024 Joint Guidance

1.0 INTRODUCTION

American Electric Power, Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is proposing to construct the new, greenfield Fiesta Station, and four parallel single circuit 138 kV lines (Fiesta MSFT) between the new station and a new customer within a 73.4-acre parcel in Licking County, Ohio (OH), identified as the Fiesta Project Survey Area. The Fiesta Project Survey Area associated with this Ecological Report is located on New Albany, OH United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographical quadrangles as displayed on the Project Overview (**Figure 1**).

The Fiesta Project Survey Area associated with Fiesta Station overlaps with surveys completed by Olsson Inc. and EMH&T, that are under United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)'s Jurisdictional Determinations (JDs), LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek and LRH-2022-557-SCR, respectively. Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area, and within the boundaries of the two JDs, there are 12 previously identified wetlands and two streams. Of these identified resources, none are proposed for removal under OEPA permit DSW401249710W (**Appendix A**).

This report reflects the delineation completed by others for only the features that intersect the Fiesta Project Survey Area. The USACE JD letters and OEPA permit approval (if applicable) are provided in **Appendix A**. AECOM did not resurvey any areas that were already covered under these existing JDs and only confirmed and recaptured photographs for resources previously delineated by Olsson Inc. and EMH&T. **Table 1** lists the resources covered by each JD.

Table 1: Jurisdictional Determinations by Others

Feature Name	Habitat Type	Jurisdictional Determination Approval No.	Acreage of Wetland Within Fiesta Project Survey Area
Wetland 1 / Wetland L	PFO	LRH-2022-557-SCR	0.12
Wetland 3 / Wetland I	PEM	LRH-2022-557-SCR	0.16
Wetland 5 / Wetland M	PFO	LRH-2022-557-SCR	0.07
Wetland 7 / Wetland K	PFO	LRH-2022-557-SCR	0.04
Wetland 12	PEM	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.05
Wetland 15	PFO	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.28
Wetland 17	PEM	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.04
Wetland 19 / Pond 1	PSS		0.05

Feature Name	Habitat Type	Jurisdictional Determination Approval No.	Acreage of Wetland Within Fiesta Project Survey Area
	PUB	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.16
Wetland 21	PEM	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.90
	PUB		0.21
Wetland 23	PFO	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.51
Wetland 28	PFO	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	0.90
Open Water 30	PUB	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek	1.71
Channel 5 / Stream 1	PER	LRH-2023-221-Blacklick Creek / LRH-2022-557-SCR	-
Channel 6 / Stream 3	EPH	LRH-2022-557-SCR	-

Note: All identified wetlands and/or streams within the extent of the Fiesta Project Survey Area were included within a Section 401 Isolated Wetland Permit by others (DSW401249710W). None of the wetlands were proposed to be removed by others and will remain on-site.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

A site assessment was completed within the Fiesta Project Survey Area totaling approximately 73.4 acres which is completely contained within the extent of previously approved boundaries under JDs LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek and LRH-2022-557-SCR (**Appendix A**). Due to existing boundaries of wetlands and streams approved by regulatory agencies, AECOM collected photographs, where applicable, of these previously delineated features and did not reassess wetland or stream boundaries, or existing classifications. For these features identified by others, the boundaries, classifications, and methodology are provided within the original delineation reports: CMH-AZ1-NACL Wetland Delineation Report by Olsson and North Beech Corridor 672-Acre Site by EMH&T and can be provided upon request. AECOM has reviewed the content of the original delineation reports by others and included within this report a subset of only those features within the extent of the Fiesta Project Survey boundary.

2.1.1 OEPA 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT ELIGIBILITY

The OEPA has designated each watershed in the state based on whether it may be ineligible for coverage under the OEPA's 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for Nationwide Permits (OEPA, 2017). Mapping provided by the OEPA illustrates the eligibility of streams in the area to fall under a Nationwide Permit for 401 certification or if an individual state WQC needs to be applied for. Impacts to streams within each

watershed would then have eligibility for 401 WQC determined by the watershed category. The three categories are defined as:

Eligible: Streams within the watershed are eligible for coverage under the OEPA's water quality certification for the Nationwide Permits if all other general and regional special terms and conditions are met.

Ineligible: Activities affecting high quality streams and undesignated streams draining directly to high quality streams, as represented in the map, must undergo an individual 401 Water Quality Certification review process.

Possibly Eligible: Additional field screening procedures are required for streams in the watershed to determine appropriate eligibility. Activities affecting undesignated streams within those HUC12 watersheds that do not directly but eventually drain into high quality waters, might be eligible for coverage under the OEPA's 401 Water Quality Certification for Nationwide Permits depending on the results of a field screening assessment. The procedures for determining individual stream eligibility in this scenario are specified in Appendix C "Stream Eligibility Determination Process" of the OEPA Ohio State Water Quality Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permit Reauthorization.

2.2 RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

AECOM conducted a threatened and endangered species review and general field habitat surveys within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. AECOM submitted requests to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Real Estate – Environmental Review Section and the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office soliciting comments on the proposed Project. Agency-identified species of concern and available species-specific information was reviewed to identify the various habitat types that listed species are known to inhabit.

AECOM field ecologists conducted a general habitat survey in conjunction with the stream and wetland field surveys as part of assessing potential impacts to threatened and endangered species. Land uses within the Fiesta Project Survey Area were assigned a general classification based upon the principal land characteristics and vegetative cover as observed during the field surveys.

AECOM conducted a desktop assessment of the Fiesta Project Survey Area and a quarter-mile buffer around it to identify potentially occurring winter bat hibernaculum that may be present near the Project which is in **Figure 6**. This assessment was conducted by reviewing data on mining activity and karst geology from the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources and USGS websites.

3.0 RESULTS

AECOM ecologists walked the Fiesta Project Survey Area to conduct a habitat survey and collect photographs of previously identified Olsson Inc. and EMH&T resources on April 25, 26, and May 20, 2024. Following the initial site investigation activities by others continued to disturb the project area and on, February 2 and April 28, 2026, AECOM re-visited the site to capture current conditions in 2026 as represented in photographic shown in **Appendices B and C**. Based on the delineations by others, 12 wetlands (three PEM, six PFO, one PUB, one PSS/PUB, and one PEM/PUB) and two streams (one PER and one EPH) were identified. Due to existing boundaries of these resources approved under JDs, AECOM collected photographs, where applicable, of previously delineated features and did not assess resource boundaries. The delineated features are discussed in detail in the following section.

3.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

3.1.1 PRELIMINARY SOILS EVALUATION

According to the USDA/NRCS Web Soil Survey, a total of 3 soil map units were identified within the Fiesta Project Survey Area (USDA NRCS, 2023a and 2023b). Of those, one soil map unit was hydric and two contained hydric inclusions. Soils indicated as hydric inclusions are not predominately hydric soils and hydric soils are more likely to be found in topographic settings. **Table 2** below provides a detailed overview of all soil series and soil map units present within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. Soil map units located in the Fiesta Project Survey Area and vicinity are shown on **Figure 2**.

TABLE 2: SOIL MAP UNITS AND DESCRIPTIONS WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Soil Series	Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Description	Topographic Setting	Hydric	Hydric Component (%)
Bennington	BeA	Bennington silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Drainageways, depressions	Yes*	Condit 5% Pewamo 3%
	BeB	Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes		Yes*	Pewamo 3% Condit 3%
Pewamo	Pe	Pewamo silty clay loam, low carbonate till, 0 to 2 percent slopes		Yes	N/A

Yes* = Hydric inclusion present

3.1.2 NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP REVIEW

According to NWI data covering the Project location, the Fiesta Project Survey Area contains five NWI mapped wetlands. The location of NWI mapped features identified within the vicinity of the Project area provided on **Figure 2**. A summary of NWI-mapped wetlands occurring in the Fiesta Project Survey Area and the associated field identified resources is presented in **Table 3**.

TABLE 3: NWI DISPOSITION SUMMARY TABLE WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

NWI Code	NWI Description	Related Field Inventoried Resource (Wetland ID/Stream ID)	Comments
PUBGx	Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, intermittently exposed, excavated	Wetland 21/Wetland 23/Open Water 21	Field verified as a PEM/PUB/PFO Complex
PUBGx	Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, intermittently exposed, excavated	Wetland 19 / Open Water 19	Field verified as a PUB/PSS wetland
R5UBH	Riverine, unknown perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded	Channel 5 / Stream1	Field verified as a perennial stream
PFO1C	Palustrine, forested, broad-leaved deciduous, seasonally flooded	Wetland 12	Field verified as a PEM wetland
PUBGh	Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, intermittently exposed, diked/impounded	Open Water 30	Field verified as a PUB wetland

3.1.3 DELINEATED WETLANDS

The field surveys completed by Olsson Inc. and EMH&T indicated that there were 12 wetlands within the Fiesta Project Survey Area (3 PEM, 6 PFO, 1 PUB, 1 PSS/PUB, and 1 PEM/PUB). Within the Olsson Report, two of these wetlands (Wetland 21 and 23) were preliminarily assigned as ORAM Category 3 but were revised by the OEPA under DSW401249710W as Category 2. As a result, a total of two wetlands were assigned ORAM Category 1 and ten wetlands were assigned Category 2. A summary of the delineated features is provided in **Table 4** and the boundaries are provided on **Figure 3**.

AECOM did not reassess wetland boundaries and only collected photos of Wetland 1/Wetland L, Wetland 3/Wetland I, Wetland 5/Wetland M, Wetland 7/Wetland K, Wetland 15, Wetland 17, Wetland 19/Pond 1 (PUB), Wetland 21, Wetland 28, and Open Water 30. Representative photographs of Wetland 12, Wetland 19/Pond 1 (PSS), and Wetland 23, from the report by Olsson, CMH-AZ1-NACL Wetland Delineation Report, have been reviewed and included in conjunction with the AECOM wetland photographs in **Appendix B**.

The jurisdictional status of each wetland was confirmed in one of the two JDs provided in **Appendix A** and is listed in **Table 4**. The completed Olsson USACE data forms are provided in **Appendix B**.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF DELINEATED WETLANDS WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Wetland ID	Location		Isolated? ¹	Habitat Type	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM		Nearest Structure # (Existing / Proposed)	Existing Structure # in Wetland	Proposed Structure # in Wetland	Structure Installation Method	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude				Score	Category					Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
Wetland 1 / Wetland L	40.112021	-82.762549	No	PFO	0.12	54	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 3 / Wetland I	40.111631	-82.762463	No	PEM	0.16	5	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 5 / Wetland M	40.112147	-82.76159	No	PFO	0.07	54	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 7 / Wetland K	40.112331	-82.761324	No	PFO	0.04	51	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 12	40.110387	-82.758407	No	PEM	0.05	53	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 15	40.110639	-82.757257	No	PFO	0.28	46	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 17	40.109337	-82.756328	No	PEM	0.04	36	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 19	40.10971	-82.755345	No	PSS	0.05	35	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
				PUB	0.16			TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 21	40.109173	-82.762351	Yes	PEM	0.9	60	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
				PUB	0.21			TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 23	40.108381	-82.762364	Yes	PFO	0.51	62	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland 28	40.107717	-82.761107	Yes	PFO	0.9	52	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Open Water 30	40.108654	-82.757894	No	PUB	1.71	-	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total:					5.200							TBD	TBD

¹JD status confirmed under JD LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek or LRH-2022-557-SCR

3.2 STREAM DELINEATION

The field surveys completed by Olsson Inc. and EMH&T indicated that there were two streams within the Fiesta Project Survey Area: one perennial (Blacklick Creek) and one ephemeral tributary to Blacklick Creek. During the field survey, AECOM recaptured photographs of the two streams (**Appendix C**). Of these streams, one was classified using HHEI evaluations that identified it as Modified Class I PHW. The remaining one stream had an existing OEPA Aquatic Life Use Designation of Warmwater Habitat (WWH) under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 3745-1, which takes precedence over any HHEI or QHEI evaluations.

The jurisdictional status of each stream and previous delineation mapping is provided as **Appendix A**. Stream photographs are provided as **Appendix C**. A summary of the features is provided in **Table 5** and the boundaries are provided in **Figure 3**.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF DELINEATED STREAMS WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Stream ID	Location		Stream Type	Stream Name	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Field Evaluation			Ohio EPA 401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing ?	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude						Method	Score	Category / Rating / OAC Designation			Fill Type	Area (acre)
Channel 5 / Stream 1	40.110674	-82.758812	Perennial	Blacklick Creek	3,720	10	6.5	Chapter 3745-1	N/A	Warmwater Habitat	Possibly Eligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
Channel 6 / Stream 3	40.111951	-82.761511	Ephemeral	UNT to Blacklick Creek	130	3.5	1.5	HHEI	22	Modified Class 1 PHW	Possibly Eligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total:					3,850									0

3.2.1 OEPA STREAM ELIGIBILITY

OEPA stream eligibility for 401 WQC mapping was reviewed for the Fiesta Project Survey Area. The Project occurs within one watershed, Blacklick Creek (050600011503), that is designated by 401 WQC eligibility as “possibly eligible”. The OEPA stream eligibility mapping for the Fiesta Project Survey Area is provided on **Figure 4**.

3.3 FEMA 100 YEAR FLOODPLAINS

One regulated FEMA 100-year floodplain is located within the Fiesta Project Survey Area and is displayed on **Figure 2**, but no FEMA regulated floodways are located within the Fiesta Project Survey Area (FEMA, 2011). The mapped 100-year floodplain within the Fiesta Project Survey Area is located West of Beech Rd, along Blacklick Creek, as displayed on **Figure 2**.

3.4 PONDS

Upon the review of the Olsson’s original delineation report, the typical definition of a pond was classified as ‘Open Water’. During the field survey, Olsson identified three open water systems (Open Water 21/Wetland 21 PUB, Open Water 21/Wetland 21 PUB, and Open Water 30), within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. The extent of the Open Water/Ponds are displayed on **Figures 2 and 3**. Photographs of all Open Water features are provided in **Appendix B**.

3.5 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

AECOM ecologists conducted a general habitat survey to identify current land use and habitat types within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. As described in **Table 6** below, the Fiesta Project Survey Area contained Woodlands, Streams/Wetlands, Urban, and Landscaped Areas. Vegetative communities are depicted visually on aerial photography in **Figure 5**. Representative photographs of the vegetative communities in the Fiesta Project Survey Area are provided as **Appendix D**.

TABLE 6 - VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Vegetative Community	Description	Approximate Acreage Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area	Approximate Percentage Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area
Agriculture Row-Crop	Agricultural lands being utilized for row-crop production and associated activities, typically devoid of vegetation outside of the target crop and opportunistic/invasive species.	22.2	30.2
Landscaped Areas	Landscaped areas, including residential properties and commercial properties, were observed within the Project vicinity. These landscaped areas within the Fiesta Project Survey Area and adjacent areas are frequently mowed grasses and forbs.	11.5	15.7

Vegetative Community	Description	Approximate Acreage Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area	Approximate Percentage Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area
Old Field	Herbaceous cover exists alongside roads, field borders, and abandoned fields within the survey area of the Project in the form of successional old-field communities. These communities are the earliest stages of recolonization by plants following disturbance. This community type is typically short-lived, giving way progressively to shrub and forest communities unless periodically re-disturbed, in which case they remain as old fields. The old-field areas within the study corridors and adjacent areas are infrequently mowed areas of grasses, forbs, and occasional shrubs.	1.6	2.2
Streams/Wetlands	Streams and wetlands were observed both within and beyond the survey area for the Project.	5.5	7.5
Woodlands (Deciduous)	Woodlands (floodplain, upland, successional-mixed, etc.) are present along the Fiesta Project Survey Area	32.6	44.4
Totals:		73.4	100

3.6 RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AGENCY COORDINATION

Protected Species Agency Consultation –

On May 16, 2024, coordination letters were sent to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Ohio Natural heritage Program (ONHP) and Division of Wildlife (DOW), seeking an environmental review for the Project for potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Responses were received from the USFWS on August 12, 2024, and from the ODNR on June 19, 2024. According to a response letter received from the USFWS, two federal endangered and one federal proposed bat species was identified within range of the Project Area. Regarding state threatened and endangered species that may occur within the Project vicinity, six species were listed by the ODNR.

Correspondence letters from the USFWS and ODNR for Fiesta Station Project are included as **Appendix E**. **Table 7** provides a list of species of concern identified by the agencies as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the Project. Photographs of the habitat within the Project Area are provided as **Appendix D**.

TABLE 7
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
Mammals							
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	<u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area, trees were identified within the study area that may provide suitable habitat for the species. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project Area based off desktop review. Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project Area (2024 Joint Guidance) *.	April 1 – September 30	<u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30). <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project Area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2024 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project Area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to absence of caves, mines, or portals within 0.25-miles of the Project
Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	<u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area, trees were identified within the study area that may provide suitable habitat for the species. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project Area based off desktop review. Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project Area (2024 Joint Guidance) *.	April 1 – September 30	<u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30). Additionally, the ODNR indicated that there is a known presence of this species within the Project area and summer surveys would not constitute a presence or absence of this species. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project Area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2024 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project Area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended. Additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence within the Project Area for the northern long-eared bat. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to absence of caves, mines, or portals within 0.25-miles of the Project
Little brown bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	Endangered	NA	<u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area, trees were identified within the study area that may provide suitable habitat for the species. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project Area based off desktop review. Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project Area (2024 Joint Guidance) *.	April 1 – September 30	<u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30). <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project Area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2024 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project Area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to absence of caves, mines, or portals within 0.25-miles of the Project

TABLE 7
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Endangered	Proposed	<u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Fiesta Project Survey Area, trees were identified within the study area that may provide suitable habitat for the species. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project Area based off desktop review. Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project Area (2024 Joint Guidance) *.	April 1 – September 30	<u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30). <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project Area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2024 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.	<u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project Area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended. <u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to absence of caves, mines, or portals within 0.25-miles of the Project
Fish							
Lake chubsucker (<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>)	Threatened	None	This species is found mainly in lakes, ponds, swamps, and streams.	Streams and ponds were identified in the Fiesta Project Survey Area.	<u>In-Water Work</u> March 15 – June 30	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 this or other aquatic species	No in-water work is proposed; therefore, no further coordination required.
Birds							
Northern harrier (<i>Circus hudsonis</i>)	Endangered	None	This species hunts over grasslands and nests can be found in large marshes and grasslands of 2-acres or greater in size.	Based on field reviews, the Project Area contains habitat that is fragmented and within close proximity to tree lines; subjected to “edge effect” or increased predation due to proximity of tree lines; surrounding area is urbanized/industrial with a high density of surrounding agricultural land; absence of habitat due to the agricultural activities taking place within the Fiesta Project Survey Area.	April 15 – July 31	Habitat should be avoided during the bird’s nesting period between April 15 through July 31. If habitat will not be impacted, this Project will not likely impact species	No

*2024 Joint Guidance – Refers to the 2024 ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing, a copy of the guidance is provided within **Appendix F** of this memo.

Protected Species Agency Summary

Based on general observations during the ecological field survey, forested areas were identified within the Fiesta Project Survey Area and tree clearing is proposed as part of the Project. The ODNR and the USFWS recommend implementations of seasonal tree clearing between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat. ODNR confirmed a known presence in the vicinity of the Project Area for the northern long-eared bat. If trees must be cut during the summer months, the ODNR recommends that a mist net survey could be completed for the Indiana bat, little brown bat, and the tricolored bat between June 1 and August 15. However, additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence within the Fiesta Project Survey Area for the northern long-eared bat. If summer tree clearing is needed, additional coordination would be completed with ODNR and the USFWS.

Regarding potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project Area, a desktop hibernaculum(a) review was completed in accordance with the 2024 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing within 0.25 miles of the Project survey (**Appendix F**). No karst features, mining activities, and/or sink holes were identified within a 0.25-miles radius of the Project Area that are anticipated to provide suitable hibernacula for cave-dwelling bats. As per the 2024 Joint Guidance, if potential hibernacula are found and it is assumed bats are present, the ODNR/USFWS suggest refraining from clearing of tree between March 15 and November 15. However, if impacts cannot be avoided, further evaluation and coordination with the ODNR and USFWS is warranted.

No impacts are anticipated to occur to any fish species as no in-water work is proposed as part of the Project. Regarding the Northern Harrier, the habitat survey indicated an absence of habitat due to lack of open-field meadows and large continuous herbaceous wetlands greater than 2-acres in size. The existing conditions display fragmented habitat within close proximity to various forested edge habitats that also create opportunities for predation and limit the possibility for nesting on the ground. Lastly, the extent of the Fiesta Project Survey Area is completely contained within the customer disturbance area that will be converted to urban and/or maintained lawn prior to installation of the Fiesta Project. As a result, potential disturbance to Northern Harrier habitat is not anticipated and further coordination with the ODNR is not warranted.

4.0 SUMMARY

AECOM ecologists completed a habitat survey and collected photographs of previously identified Olsson Inc. and EMH&T resources on April 25, 26, and May 20, 2024. Based on the delineations by others, approved under two JDS (LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek and LRH-2022-557-SCR), 12 wetlands (three PEM, six PFO, one PUB, one PSS/PUB, and one PEM/PUB) and two streams (one PER and one EPH) were identified within the extent of the Fiesta Project Survey Area. Of the identified wetlands, two were assigned ORAM

Category 1 and ten were assigned ORAM Category 2. Of the two streams, one was classified as Modified Class 1 PHW and other had an existing OEPA Aquatic Life Use Designation of WWH.

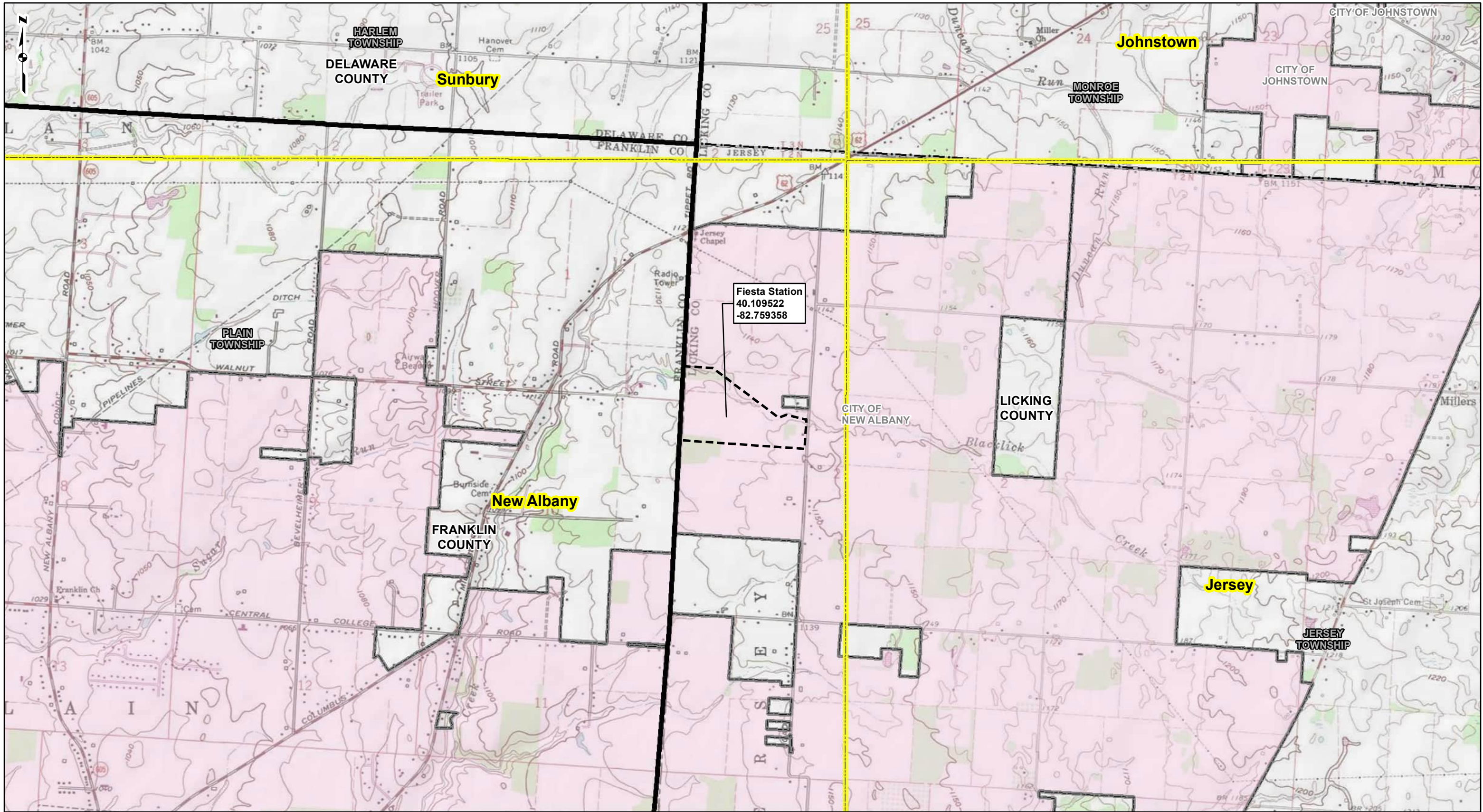
Of the six state and/or federal listed threatened or endangered species within range of the Fiesta Project Survey Area, no habitat for any of the listed aquatic or bird species were identified within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. However, four bat species were identified as having potential summer roosting habitat and no hibernacula within the Fiesta Project Survey Area. If tree clearing cannot be completed during the seasonal tree clearing restriction (October 1 to March 31), further coordination with the ODNR/USFWS is warranted. Additionally, the northern long-eared bat was identified as a known occurrence and additional summary surveys would not constitute a presence/absence for this species.

The field survey results presented herein apply to the existing and reasonably foreseeable site conditions at the time of our assessment. They cannot apply to site changes of which AECOM is unaware and has not had the opportunity to review. Changes in the condition of a property may occur with time due to natural processes or human impacts at the Project site or on adjacent properties. Changes in applicable standards may also occur as a result of legislation or the expansion of knowledge over time. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated, wholly or in part, by changes beyond the control of AECOM.

5.0 REFERENCES

- Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2011. National Flood Hazard Layer, Licking County, Ohio. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal> Published April 18, 2011.
- USDA NRCS, 2023a and 2023b). 19Ohio Division of Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (OH-Field Office). 2024. Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing. Published May 2024.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). 2017. Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the 2017 Nationwide Permits. Appendix C Stream Eligibility Determination Process. Effective March 17, 2017. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water, 401 Water Quality Certification and Isolated Wetland Permitting Section, Columbus, Ohio.
- OEPA. 2017. 401 Water Quality Certification for the Nationwide Permits Stream Eligibility Web Map (2017 Reissuance). <https://data-oeпа.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/401-water-quality-certification-for-nationwide-permits>
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 2023a. National Hydric Soils List. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric/>. Accessed May 2024.
- USDA, NRCS. 2023b. Web Soil Survey (GIS Shapefile). <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. Accessed May 2024.
- USFWS. 2023. National Wetlands Inventory Geodatabase for Ohio. Available online at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>. Accessed May 2024.
- United States Geological Survey. 2016. National Hydrography Dataset, Ohio Statewide Geodatabase. Published August 2016. Earth Science Information Center, USGS, Reston, VA.

FIGURES



PROJECT LOCATION



LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: NEW ALBANY, OHIO, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 10/2024.

10/7/2024

- FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

LEGEND

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- OHIO USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

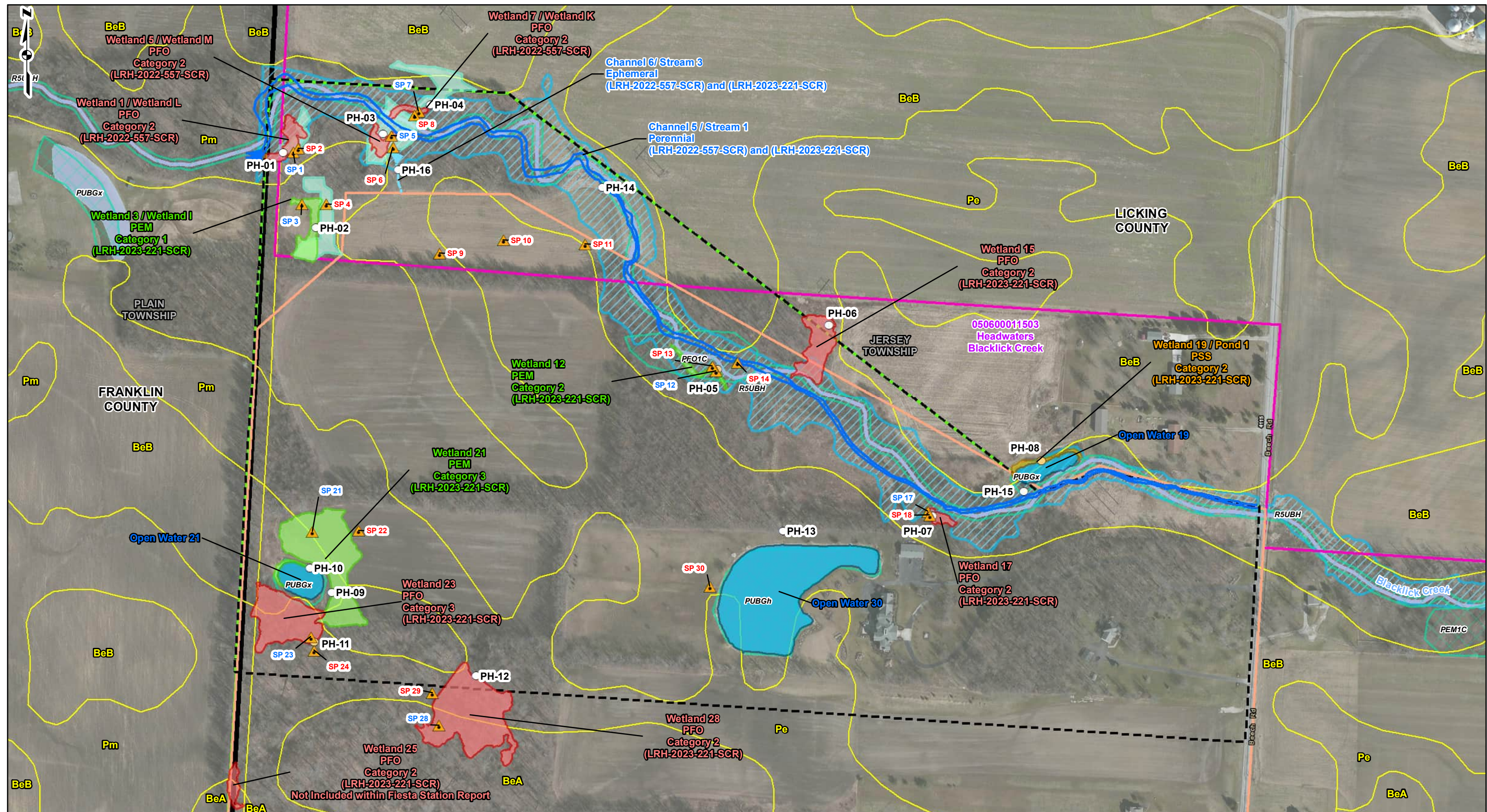
AECOM

FIESTA STATION
PROJECT



DRAWN BY: CJT
CHECKED: BM

DATE: 10/7/2024
APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY),
ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 10/2024.
SOIL SURVEY GEOGRAPHIC (SSURGO),
USDA/NRCS, 2024.

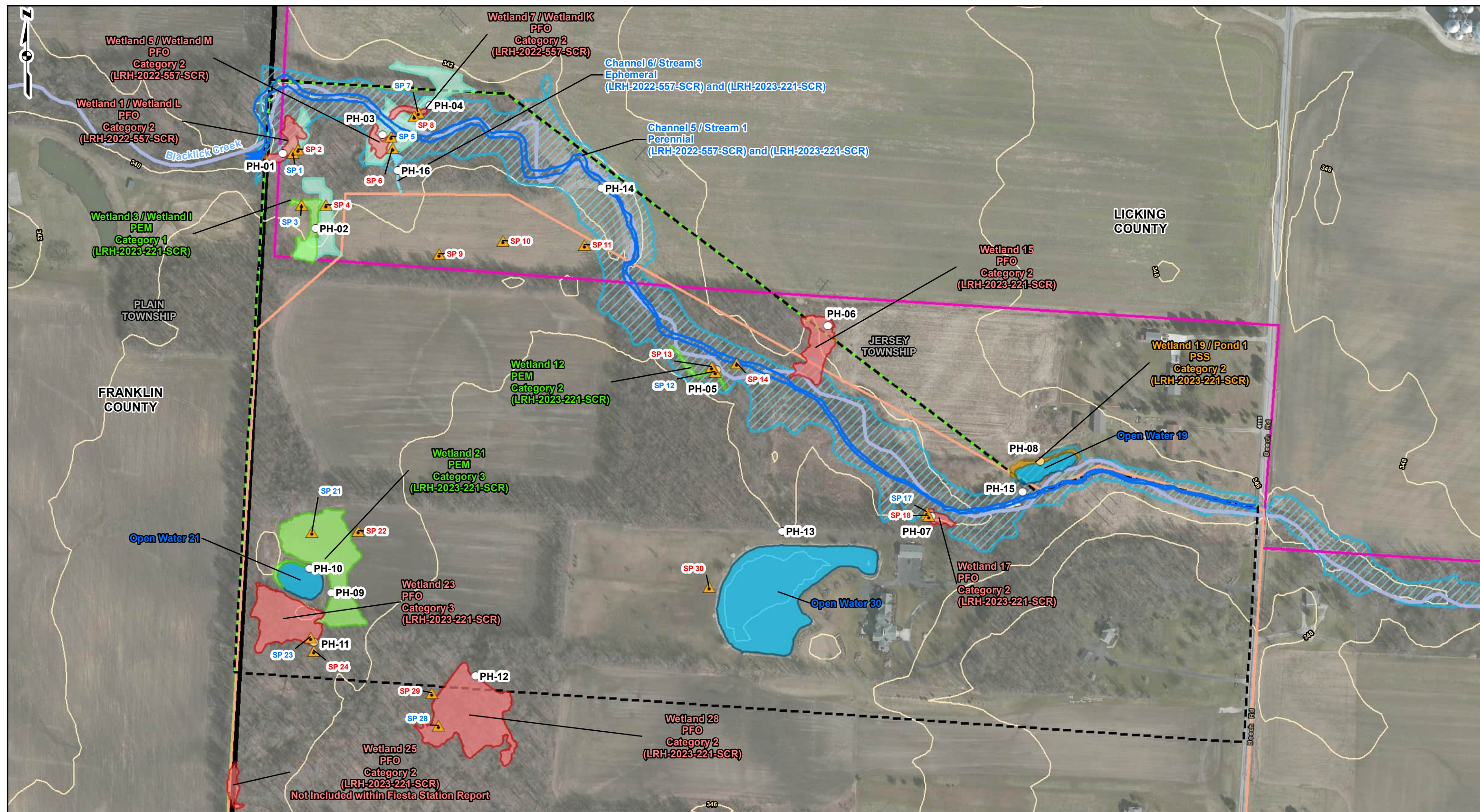
10/7/2024

SAMPLE POINT (SP) BY OTHERS (OLSSON 2022)	DELINEATED PERENNIAL STREAM	EMHT DELINEATED WETLAND	JD BOUNDARY (LRH-2022-557-SCR)	100-YEAR FEMA FLOODPLAIN	HUC 12 WATERSHED BOUNDARY	SOIL MAP UNIT	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION
AECOM PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS OF IDENTIFIED FEATURES	NHD STREAM (USGS)	FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA	100-YEAR FEMA FLOODPLAIN	HUC 12 WATERSHED BOUNDARY	SOIL MAP UNIT	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION
PHOTOGRAPHS BY OTHERS OF IDENTIFIED FEATURES (OLSSON 2022 REPORT)	OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PEM WETLAND	OLSSON'S SURVEY BOUNDARY (2022)	NWI WETLAND (USFWS)	HUC 12 WATERSHED BOUNDARY	SOIL MAP UNIT	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION
DELINEATED EPHEMERAL STREAM	OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PFO WETLAND	NHD WATERBODY (USGS)	JD BOUNDARY (LRH-2023-221-SCR)	HUC 12 WATERSHED BOUNDARY	SOIL MAP UNIT	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION	SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION
	OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PSS WETLAND	JD BOUNDARY (LRH-2023-221-SCR)					
	OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 POND						

BeB: BENNINGTON SILT LOAM, 2 TO 6 PERCENT SLOPES
Pe: PEWAMO SILTY CLAY LOAM, LOW CARBONATE TILL, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES
Pm: PEWAMO SILTY CLAY LOAM, LOW CARBONATE TILL, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES
BeA: BENNINGTON SILT LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES

0 125 250 500 Feet

FIGURE 2 SOIL MAP AND NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP	
AECOM	FIESTA STATION PROJECT
DRAWN BY: CJT CHECKED: BM	DATE: 10/7/2024 APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY),
ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 10/2024.
OGRIP 2FT CONTOURS, ACCESSED 10/2024.
NHS, USGS 2024.

10/7/2024

-  SAMPLE POINT (SP) BY OTHERS (OLSSON 2022)
-  AECOM PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS OF IDENTIFIED FEATURES
-  PHOTOGRAPHS BY OTHERS OF IDENTIFIED FEATURES (OLSSON 2022 REPORT)
-  DELINEATED EPHEMERAL STREAM

 DELINEATED PERENNIAL STREAM
 NHD STREAM (USGS)
 OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PEM WETLAND
 OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PFO WETLAND
 OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 PSS WETLAND

LEGEND

-  OLSSON DELINEATED 2022 POND
-  EMHT DELINEATED WETLAND
-  FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA
-  OLSSON'S SURVEY BOUNDARY (2022)
-  JD BOUNDARY (LRH-2023-221-SCR)

0 125 250

A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 0, 125, 250, and 500 feet. The bar is black with white text and a white line at the 125-foot mark.

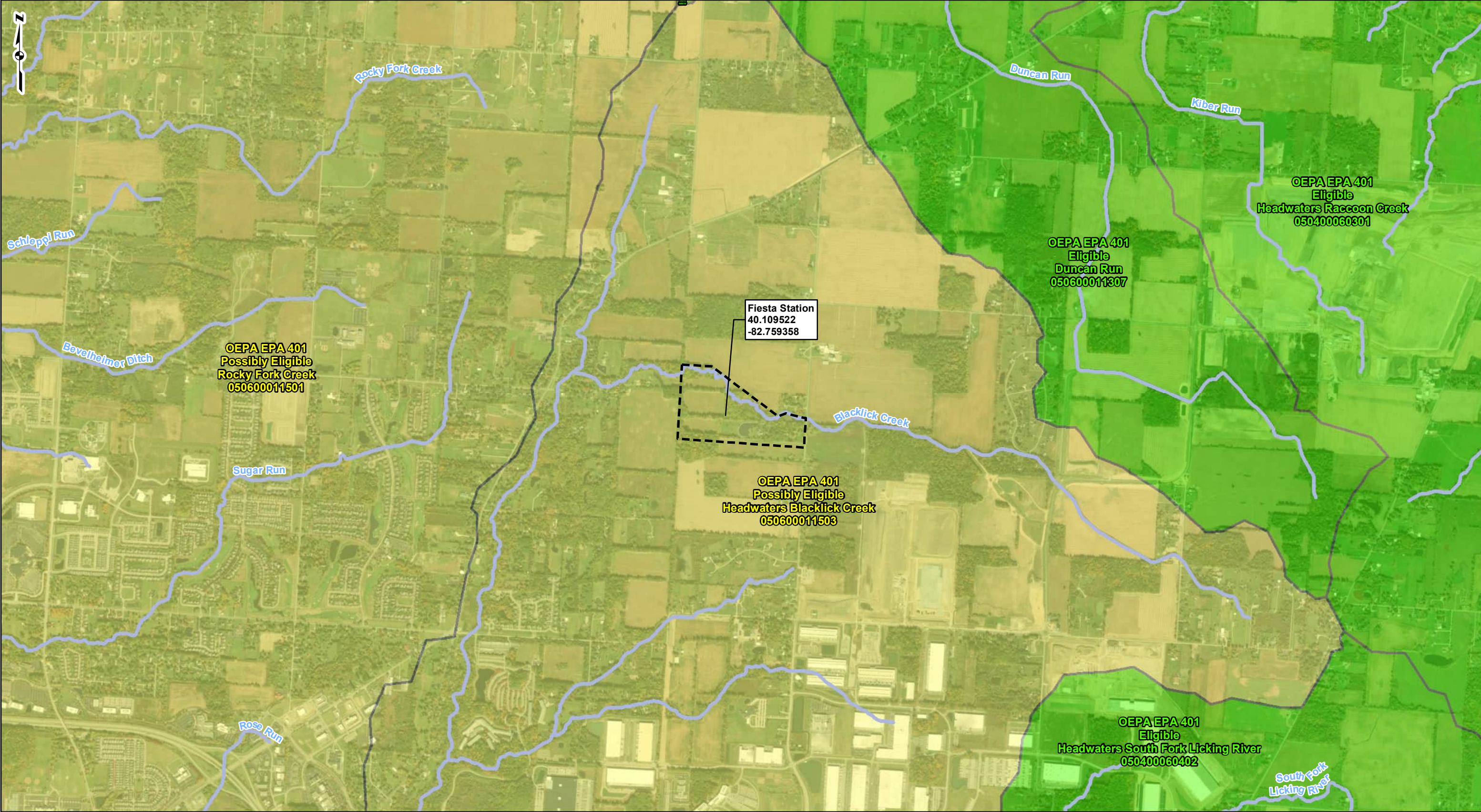
FIGURE 3
WETLAND DELINEATION AND
STREAM ASSESSMENT MAP

FIESTA STATION
PROJECT

AMERICAN
ELECTRIC
POWER

DRAWN BY: CJT
CHECKED: BM

DATE: 10/7/2024
APPROVED:



PROJECT LOCATION



LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

REFERENCE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 10/2024. OEPA ELIGIBLE WATERSHEDS, OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, 2024.

10/7/2024

 FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY

LEGEND

OEPA ELIGIBILITY:

 ELIGIBLE

 INELIGIBLE

 POSSIBLY ELIGIBLE

FIGURE 4
STREAM ELIGIBILT Y MAP

AECOM

FIESTA STATION
PROJECT



DRAWN BY: CJT
CHECKED: BM

DATE: 10/7/2024
APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY),
ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 10/2024.

10/7/2024

LEGEND

○ PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION

--- FIESTA PROJECT SURVEY AREA

--- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY

--- COUNTY BOUNDARY

VEGETATIVE COMMUNITY TYPE

AGRICULTURE ROW-CROP

LANDSCAPED

OLD FIELD

STREAM/WETLAND

WOODLAND

0 125 250 500 Feet

FIGURE 5

VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT MAP

AECOM

FIESTA STATION PROJECT

DRAWN BY: CJT

CHECKED: BM

DATE: 10/7/2024

APPROVED:

APPENDIX A**USACE JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS AND OEPA APPROVAL (BY OTHERS)**



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
502 EIGHTH STREET
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

August 8, 2022

Regulatory Division
North Branch
LRH-2022-557-SCR

APPROVED AND PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS

Mr. Dick Roggenkamp
The New Albany Company
8000 Walton Parkway, Suite 120
New Albany, Ohio 43054

Dear Mr. Roggenkamp:

I refer to the *Investigation of Waters of the United States, North Beech Corridor, Plain/Jersey Townships, Franklin/Licking Counties, Ohio*, completed by EMH&T and submitted to this office on July 1, 2022 with additional information received on July 11, 2022. You have requested a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) for the potential jurisdictional aquatic resources and an approved jurisdictional determination for the non-jurisdictional features on the approximate 672-acre site. The JD review area is located east and west of Beech Road, north and south of Miller Road, and south and east of U.S. 62 (Johnstown Road) Plain/Jersey Townships, Franklin and Licking Counties, Ohio at approximately 40.11512 latitude, -82.75260 longitude. On-site waters flow to Blacklick Creek, an indirect tributary of the Scioto River, a traditional navigable water of the United States. We have assigned the following file number to your PCN: LRH-2022-557-SCR. Please reference this file number on all future correspondence related to this subject proposal.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) authority to regulate waters of the United States is based on the definitions and limits of jurisdiction contained in 33 CFR 328 and 33 CFR 329. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) requires a DA permit be obtained prior to discharging dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) requires a DA permit be obtained for any work in, on, over or under a navigable water.

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination

Based upon a review of the information provided, this office has determined 5.78 acres of nine (9) wetlands (Wetland H, I, K, L, M, S, T, U, and V) and 6,276 linear feet (0.805 acre) of five (5) streams (Streams 1-5) are located within the preliminary JD boundary. The aquatic resources identified above and on the enclosed preliminary JD form may be waters of the United States in accordance with the Regulatory Guidance Letter for JDs issued by the Corps on October 31, 2016 (Regulatory Guidance Letter No. 16-01). As indicated in the guidance, this

preliminary JD is non-binding and cannot be appealed (33 CFR 331.2), and only provides a written indication that waters of the United States, including wetlands, may be present on-site.

You have declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time for the above aquatic resources. However, for the purposes of the determination of impacts, compensatory mitigation, and other resource protection measures for activities that require authorization from this office, the above aquatic resources will be evaluated as if they are waters of the United States.

Enclosed please find a copy of the preliminary JD form. If you agree with the findings of this preliminary JD and understand your options regarding the same, please sign and date the preliminary JD form and return it to this office within 30 days of receipt of this letter. You should submit the signed copy to Cecil Cox of the North Branch at cecil.m.cox@usace.army.mil or to the following address:

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Attn: North Branch
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Approved Jurisdictional Determination

Our December 2, 2008 headquarters guidance entitled *Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* was followed in the final verification of Section 404 jurisdiction. Based on a review of the information provided and other information available to us, the 672-acre site contains one (1) Grass Swale (1,883 linear feet), five (5) Ponds (totaling 0.66 acre), and 14 Wetlands (totaling 29.37 acres). Grass Swale 1 does not carry a relatively permanent flow of water, lacks consistent ordinary high-water marks, sediment sorting, defined bed and banks, or wetland characteristics. Ponds 1-5 have been constructed entirely in uplands, are not impoundments of a jurisdictional stream, and have no connection to a water of the United States. Wetlands A-G, J, N-R, and Pond Fringe are surrounded by uplands and do not exhibit a distinct surface water connection to a water of the United States. Wetlands A-G, J, N-R, and Pond Fringe would not support interstate or foreign commerce interests, nor do they contain any rare, threatened, or endangered species. Therefore, Grass Swale, Ponds 1-5, and Wetlands A-G, J, N-R, and Pond Fringe are not jurisdictional waters of the United States. However, you should contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water, at (614) 664-2001 to determine state permit requirements.

In accordance with the June 5, 2007 Joint Memorandum between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Corps and the January 28, 2008 Corps Memorandum regarding coordination on jurisdictional determinations, this isolated water determination was coordinated with the USEPA Region 5 and the Corps Headquarters, with coordination completed on July 22, 2022 and August 4, 2022, respectively.

This jurisdictional verification is valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the delineation prior to the expiration date. This letter contains an approved JD for the subject site within the approved JD boundary. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Office at the following address:

Regulatory Administrative Appeals Officer
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
550 Main Street, Room 10780
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222
Phone: (513) 684-2699
Fax: (513) 684-2460

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

This determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the Corps' Section 404 jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact Cecil Cox of the North Branch at 304-399-5274, by mail at the above address, or by email at cecil.m.cox@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Wendt
Regulatory Project Manager
North Branch

Enclosures

cc:

Bryan Lombard via email



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HUNTINGTON DISTRICT
502 8TH STREET
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701-2018

May 8, 2023

Regulatory Division
North Branch
LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek

PRELIMINARY AND APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS

Caleb Pharris
Olsson, Inc.
2111 S. 67th Street, Suite 200
Omaha, Nebraska 68106

Dear Caleb Pharris:

I refer to the *CMH-AZI-NACL Wetland Delineation Report* dated February 2023 and revised on April 19, 2023. You have requested an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (JD) for Open Water 21 and Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35 and a Preliminary JD for Wetlands 12, 15, 17, 19, Open Water 19, 30, and Blacklick Creek located within the JD review area. The JD review area is located east of Beech Road Northwest and north of Fitzwilliam Road in the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio (40.106783 latitude, -82.758259 longitude). Your request has been assigned the following file number: LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek. Please reference this file number on all future correspondence related to this JD request.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) authority to regulate waters of the United States is based on the definitions and limits of jurisdiction contained in 33 CFR 328 and 33 CFR 329. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) requires a DA permit be obtained prior to discharging dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) requires a DA permit be obtained for any work in, on, over or under a navigable water.

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination

Based upon a review of the submitted report, this office has determined that 2,086 linear feet of one (1) stream (Blacklick Creek), 0.17 acre of four (4) wetlands (Wetlands 12, 15, 17, 19), and 1.72 acres of two (2) open water features (Open Water 19 and 30) are located within the jurisdictional determination (JD) review area and may be waters of the United States in accordance with the Regulatory Guidance Letter for JDs issued by the Corps on October 31, 2016 (Regulatory Guidance Letter No. 16-01). As indicated in the guidance, this preliminary JD is non-binding and cannot be appealed (33 CFR 331.2) and only provides a written indication that waters of the United States, including wetlands, may be present on-site.

You have declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time for these aquatic resources. However, for the purposes of the determination of impacts,

compensatory mitigation, and other resource protection measures for activities that require authorization from this office, the above aquatic resources will be evaluated as if they are waters of the United States.

Enclosed please find a copy of the preliminary JD form (Enclosure 1). If you agree with the findings of this preliminary JD and understand your options regarding the same, please sign and date a copy of the preliminary JD form and return it to this office within 30 days of receipt of this letter. You should submit the signed copy via email or to the following address:

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District Attn: North Branch
LRH-2023-221-SCR-Blacklick Creek
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Approved Jurisdictional Determination

Our December 2, 2008 headquarters guidance entitled *Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* was followed in the final verification of Section 404 jurisdiction. Based on a review of the information provided, you have requested an Approved JD for 4.35 acres of seven (7) wetlands (Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35) and 0.21 acre of one (1) open water feature (Open Water 21) located within the JD review area. These resources are also listed in the enclosed approved JD Form (Enclosure 2).

Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35 and Open Water 21 are not adjacent to a traditionally navigable water (TNW), are not adjacent and do not directly abut a relatively permanent water (RPW) and are not adjacent to a non-RPW. Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35 and Open Water 21 are surrounded by uplands and do not exhibit a direct surface water connection to a water of the United States. In addition, Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35 and Open Water 21 would not support interstate or foreign commerce interests, nor do they contain any rare, threatened, or endangered species. Therefore, Wetlands 21, 23, 25, 28, 31, 33, 35 and Open Water 21 are not considered jurisdictional waters of the United States and are not subject to regulation under Section 404; however, you should contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water, at (614) 644-2001 to determine permit requirements.

In accordance with the June 5, 2007 Joint Memorandum between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Corps and the January 28, 2008 Corps Memorandum regarding coordination on jurisdictional determinations, this isolated wetland determination was coordinated with the USEPA Region 5 and the Corps Headquarters, with coordination completed on April 26, 2023.

This jurisdictional verification is valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the delineation prior to the expiration date. If

you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form (Enclosure 3). If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Office at the following address:

Appeal Review Officer
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
550 Main Street, Room 10780
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3222
Phone: (513) 684-2699
Fax: (513) 684-2460

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by July 7, 2023. **It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.**

This determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the Corps' Section 404 jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

If you have any questions concerning the above information, please contact Ms. Katie Samples of the North Branch at 304-399-6933, by mail at the above address or by email at katie.e.samples@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Laurie A. Moore
Regulatory Project Manager
North Branch

Enclosures



August 16, 2024

TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Lexi Jones
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052
lexijones@microsoft.com

**Re: NACL
Permit - Intermediate
Approval
401 Wetlands
Licking
DSW401249710W**

Subject: NACL
Licking / Johnstown
Grant of a Level Two Isolated Wetland Permit
Ohio EPA ID No. 249710W

Dear Stakeholders:

I hereby authorize the above referenced project under the following authorities, and it is subject to the following modifications and/or conditions:

Ohio Isolated Wetland Permit

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111, I hereby conclude that the above-referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of Ohio Revised Code Sections 6111.02 through 6111.028. This authorization is specifically limited to an Ohio Isolated Wetlands Permit (here after referred to as "permit") with respect to water pollution and does not relieve the Permittee of further Certifications or Permits as may be necessary under the law. I have determined that a lowering of water quality in the Upper Scioto watershed (HUC 05060001) as authorized by this permit is necessary. I have made this determination based upon the consideration of all public comments, if submitted, and the requirements set forth in Ohio Revised Code Sections 6111.02 through 6111.028. In accordance with ORC Section 6111.021(C), this permit shall serve as the state's 401 water quality certification to the extent that any of these waters are deemed jurisdictional under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

PART I ON-SITE WATER RESOURCES AND IMPACTS

A. Watershed Setting

The watershed in which the project is located, Headwaters Blacklick Creek (HUC 05060001-15-03), has an area of 48.9 square miles. Blacklick Creek is a warmwater

50 W. Town Street
Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614 | 644 3020
epa.ohio.gov

U.S.A.

habitat (WWH) stream and primary contact recreation water. Other Ohio EPA Aquatic Life Use Designations located in this watershed, as found in OAC rule 3745-1-09, include WWH and exceptional warmwater habitat (EWH).

B. Project Description

The proposed project is the construction of a new data center facility accompanied by a new electric substation.

C. Impacts

Impacts to isolated wetlands are as follows:

0.37 acre of two (2) non-forested category 2 wetlands and 0.52 acre of one (1) non-forested category 1 wetland will be filled/graded to accommodate the project footprint.

Wetland ID	Isolated or Non-isolated?	Forested or Non-Forested	Category	Total Acreage on Site	Total Acreage Impacted	Percent Avoided
Wetland 31	Isolated	Non-Forested	2	0.33	0.33	0%
Wetland 33	Isolated	Non-Forested	2	0.04	0.04	0%
Wetland 35	Isolated	Non-Forested	1	1.61	0.52	68%
Totals				1.98	0.89	55%

PART II TERMS & CONDITIONS

- A. Terms and conditions outlined in this section apply to project and mitigation construction as described in this permit.
- B. This permit shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance.
- C. The Permittee shall notify Ohio EPA, in writing, and in accordance with *Part IV (NOTIFICATIONS TO OHIO EPA)* of this permit, upon the start and completion of site development and mitigation construction.
- D. A copy of this permit shall remain on-site for the duration of the project and mitigation construction activities.
- E. In the event of an inadvertent spill, the Permittee must immediately call the Ohio EPA Spill Hotline at 1-800-282-9378, as well as the Ohio EPA Section 401 Manager (614-644-2001).

- F. Unpermitted impacts to surface water resources and/or their buffers occurring as a result of this project must be reported within 24 hours of occurrence to Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Section 401 Manager (614-644-2001), for further evaluation.
- G. Pesticide application(s) for the control of plants and animals shall be applied in accordance with the NPDES General Permit to Discharge Pesticides In, Over or Near Waters of the State available at: https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/35/permits/OHG870002_FINAL_PERMIT.pdf and may require a pesticide applicator license from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- H. Any authorized representative of the director shall be allowed to inspect the authorized activity at reasonable times to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- I. In the event that there is a conflict between the permit application, including the mitigation plan, and the conditions within this permit, the condition shall prevail unless Ohio EPA agrees, in writing, that the permit application or other provision prevails.
- J. The Permittee shall provide electronic maps of the development area and the mitigation area to Ohio EPA 401 WQC and Isolated Wetland Permitting Section within 30 days of the date of this permit. When sending the electronic files, include the Ohio EPA ID Number and the Army Corps of Engineers Number (if applicable). If possible, these electronic maps shall be GIS shape files or Geodatabase files. If this is not possible, the electronic maps shall be in another electronic format readable in GIS (GIF, TIF, etc). The electronic files shall be sent to the following e-mail address: EPA.401Webmail@epa.ohio.gov. If the files are too large to send by e-mail (over 25 MB), they shall be sent using the following file share link: <https://fileshare.epa.ohio.gov/filedrop/401Wetlands>.
- K. This proposal may require other permits from Ohio EPA. For information concerning application procedures, contact the Ohio EPA District Office as follows:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Central District Office
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049
614-728-3778

Additional information regarding environmental permitting assistance at Ohio EPA can be found at <https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/stay-compliant/get-help/permit-assistance>

L. Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1. All water resources and their buffers which are to be avoided shall be clearly indicated on site drawings, demarcated in the field and protected with suitable materials (e.g., silt fencing) prior to site disturbance. These materials shall remain in place and be maintained throughout the construction process.
2. All BMPs for stormwater management shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the most current edition of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Rainwater and Land Development Manual, unless otherwise required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities (construction general permit), if required.

A copy of the Rainwater and Land Development Manual is available at:
<https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/guides-manuals/rainwater-and-land-development>

A copy of the NPDES construction general permit is available at:
<https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/35/permits/OHC000005.pdf>

3. Straw bales shall not be used as a form of erosion/sediment control.
4. Fill material shall consist of suitable non-erodible material and shall be stabilized to prevent erosion.
5. Materials used for fill or bank protection shall consist of suitable material free from toxic contaminants in other than trace quantities. Broken asphalt is specifically excluded from use as fill or bank protection.
6. Concrete rubble used for fill or bank stabilization shall be in accordance with ODOT specifications; free of exposed re-bar; and, free of all debris, soil and fines.
7. Chemically treated lumber which may include, but is not limited to, chromated copper arsenate (CCA) and creosote treated lumber shall not be used in structures that come into contact with waters of the state.
8. Trees removed from temporary impact areas to facilitate construction shall be replaced with appropriate tree species native to Ohio.
9. Upon completion of construction of the substation, an approximate 80-foot vegetated buffer will be established around Wetland 21.

10. Construction will avoid and maintain any existing vegetation within the 20-foot buffers surrounding all other wetlands on-site that are not proposed to be impacted during construction and throughout the lifespan of the project.

M. Wildlife Protection

1. In the event that an eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) is encountered during construction of the project, work should immediately cease and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife contacted. Caution should be employed during construction and during the snakes' active season (March 15 - November 15).

PART III MITIGATION

A. Description of Required Mitigation

As mitigation for impacts to 0.37 acre of two (2) non-forested category 2 wetlands and 0.52 acre of one (1) non-forested category 1 wetland, the permittee has purchased 0.2 forested credits and 1.6 non-forested credits from the Hellbranch Run Phase 3 mitigation bank located in Franklin County within the Upper Scioto watershed (HUC 05060001).

B. Timing of Mitigation Requirements

1. A copy of the fully executed mitigation bank agreement with Stream + Wetlands Foundation was provided to Ohio EPA on August 13, 2024.

C. Reporting

1. Annual Update Reports

A project construction update report shall be submitted to Ohio EPA by December 31 of each year following the date of this permit and until project construction is complete. Each update report shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. The status of the filling activities at the development site including dates filling was started and completed or are expected to be started and completed. If filling activities have not been completed, a drawing shall be provided, which shows the locations and acreage/feet of wetlands/streams that have not yet been filled. If filling activities have been completed, then as-built drawings shall be submitted, which show where fill was placed.

- b. Current contact information for all responsible parties including phone number, e-mail, and mailing addresses. For the purposes of this condition, responsible parties include, but may not be limited to the Permittee, consultant, and project construction manager.
- c. As-built drawings sized 11" by 17" (to scale) of each of the construction areas, once construction is complete.

PART IV NOTIFICATIONS TO OHIO EPA

All notifications and reports regarding this permit shall be uploaded using the "View Compliance" action for the corresponding certification and/or permit through the 401 service in the Ohio EPA eBusiness Center.

You are hereby notified that this action of the director is final and may be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission pursuant to Section 3745.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The appeal must be in writing and set forth the action complained of and the grounds upon which the appeal is based. The appeal must be filed with the Commission within 30 days after notice of the director's action. The appeal must be accompanied by a filing fee of \$70.00, made payable to "Treasurer, State of Ohio," which the Commission, in its discretion, may reduce if by affidavit you demonstrate that payment of the full amount of the fee would cause extreme hardship. Notice of the filing of the appeal shall be filed with the director within three days of filing with the Commission. Ohio EPA requests that a copy of the appeal be served upon the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Environmental Enforcement Section. An appeal may be filed with the Environmental Review Appeals Commission at the following address:

Environmental Review Appeals Commission
30 East Broad Street, 4th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Sincerely,

Anne M. Vogel
Director

ec: Katie Samples, katie.e.samples@usace.army.mil, Department of the Army,
Huntington District, Corps of Engineers
Wes Barnett, wes.barnett@usace.army.mil, Department of the Army, Huntington
District, Corps of Engineers
U.S. EPA, Region 5, R5Wetlands@epa.gov
Patrice Ashfield, Ohio@fws.gov, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mike Pettegrew, Mike.Pettegrew@dnr.state.oh.us, ODNR, Office of Real Estate
Diana Welling, section106@ohiohistory.org, Ohio Historical Preservation Office
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Michelle Kearns, michelle.kearns@stantec.com, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Attachments: Project Impact Map
 Site Location Map (project)

Ohio EPA has developed a customer service survey to get feedback from regulated entities that have contacted Ohio EPA for regulatory assistance, or worked with the Agency to obtain a permit, license or other authorization. Ohio EPA's goal is to provide our customers with the best possible customer service, and your feedback is important to us in meeting this goal. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and share your experience with us at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ohioepacustomersurvey>.

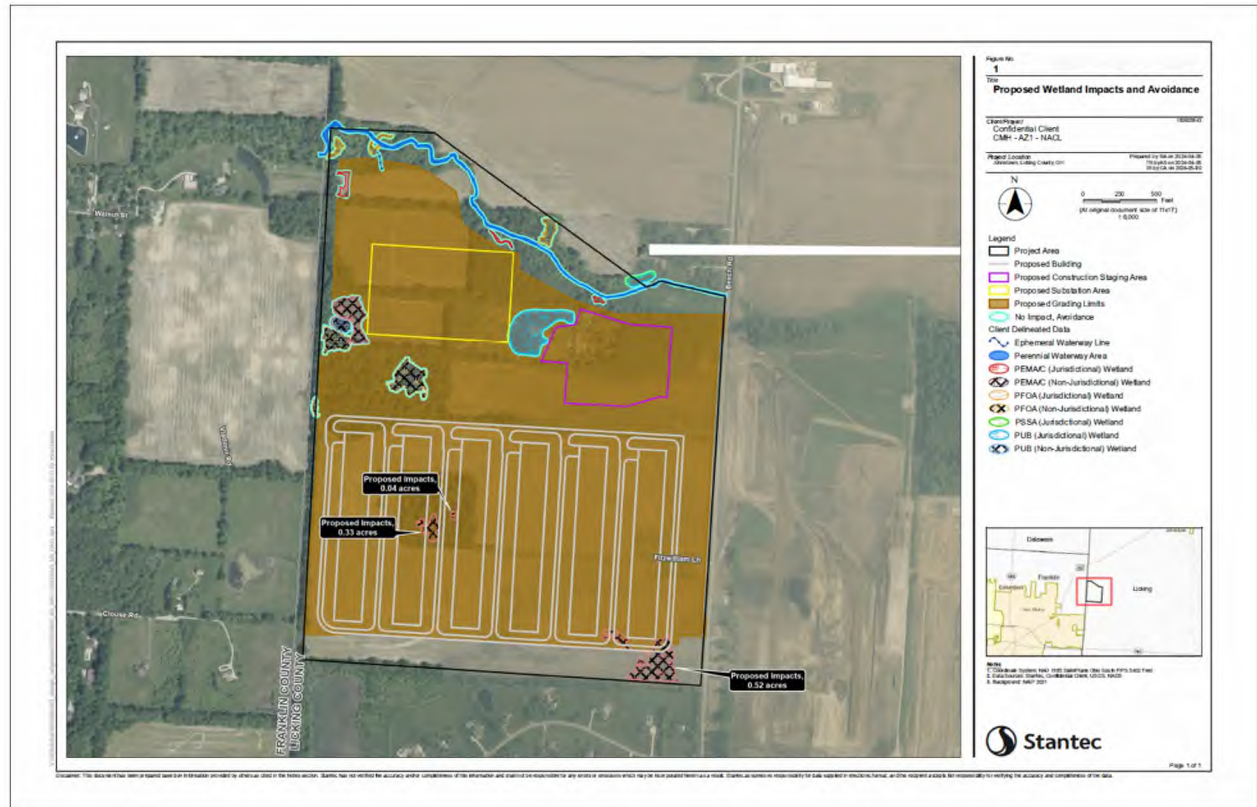


Figure 1: Project Impact Map

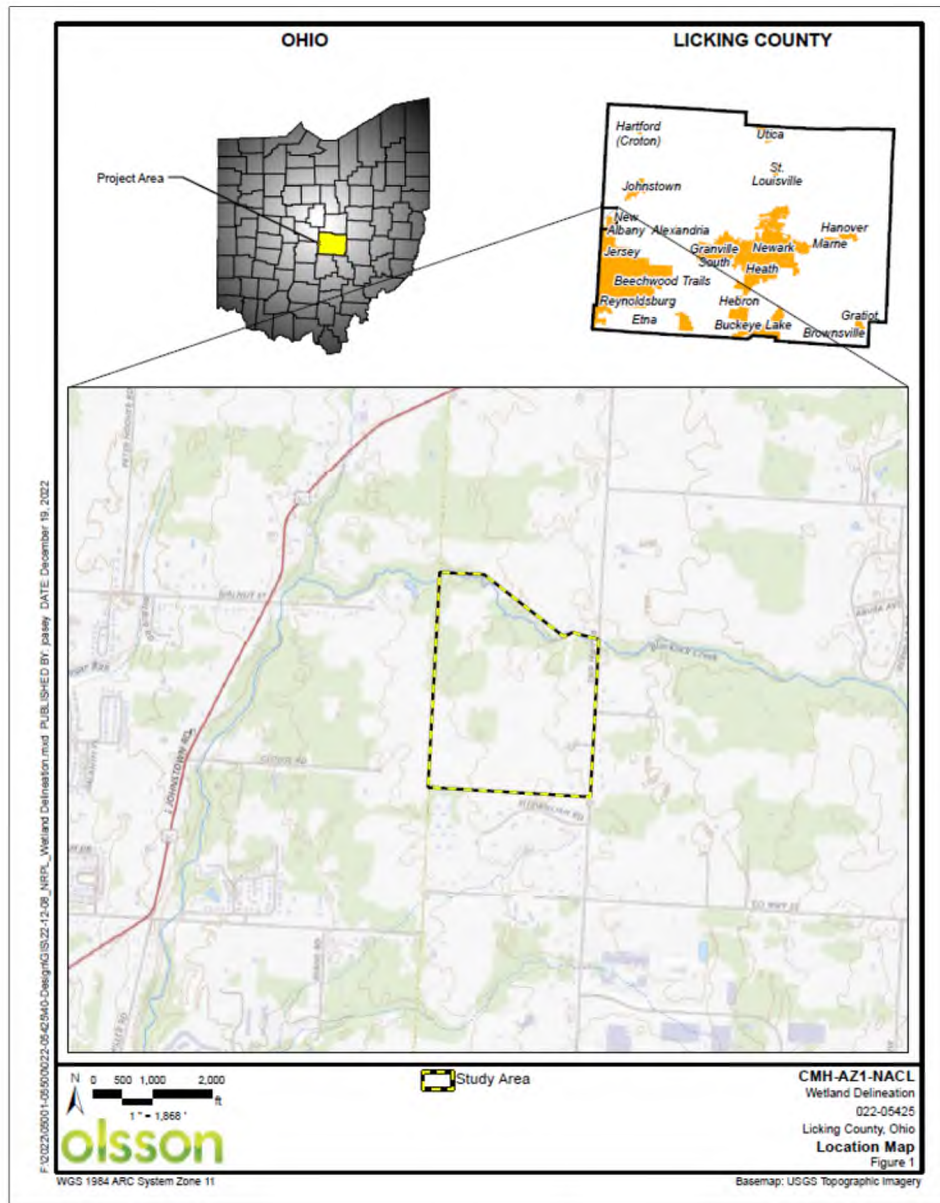


Figure 2: Site Location Map (project)