

Construction Notice for the South Kenton- Scioto Solar 138 kV Generation Tie Line Project



PUCO Case No. 26-0566-EL-BNR

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

Submitted by:
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

May 20, 2026

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE SOUTH KENTON-SCIOTY SOLAR 138 KV GENERATION TIE LINE PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

South Kenton – Scioty Solar 138 kV Generation Tie Line

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 Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

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

The Company proposes to construct the South Kenton–Scioty Solar 138 kV Generation Tie Line Project (the “Project”), in Buck Township, Hardin County, Ohio. The purpose of the Project is to provide a 138 kV interconnection to the Scioty Solar facility proposed by Heelstone Renewable Energy, an Independent Power Producer (IPP). The PJM Queue Position is AG1-554. Less than 0.1 mile of 138 kV transmission line will be constructed between the Company’s South Kenton Station to a point of interconnection with the IPP transmission line located just south of the substation fence. The Project will be built entirely on land owned by the Company or under option by the IPP. The location of the Project is shown on **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** in **Appendix A**.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice (CN) as defined by Item 1 (d)(i) of Appendix A to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-05, *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:*
 - (i) *The line is completely on property owned by the specific customer or the applicant.*

The Project has been assigned Case No. 26-0566-EL-BNR.

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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.

Heelstone Renewable Energy plans to build a 49.9 MW Maximum Facility Output (MFO) (32.7 MW Capacity) solar generating facility in Hardin County, Ohio. As a part of the AG1-554 IPP Interconnection Service Agreement, the Company will be required to construct a 138kV generation tie line from the Company's South Kenton station to the point of interconnection for the solar facility. Advanced transmission technologies were not considered for this gen-tie line project.

Failure to move forward with the proposed Project will result in the Company's inability to serve the customer's generation interconnection request, thereby jeopardizing the customer's required in-service date per the FERC approved Interconnection Service Agreement.

A PJM network number was assigned to the Project, n8999. The Board has approved the generating facility (Case # 20-1814-EL-BGN). The Project was identified in the Company's 2026 Long Term Forecast Report on page 28 (See **Appendix B**).

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 provides interconnection with an IPP solar facility. Due to the location of the existing station and IPP point of interconnection, short transmission line length, and minimal land use impacts in the Project area, no other alternatives were considered for the Project. Any other alternative would add additional length to the Project without any additional benefit. This alternative is located within agricultural land and the existing substation with no impacts to wetlands, streams, or known cultural resource areas. Therefore, this Project represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's needs in the area.

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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 Project will be located entirely within properties owned by the Company or under option by the IPP, with no additional property owners or tenants affected. The Company maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project.

B(6) Construction Schedule

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

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in January 2027 with an anticipated in-service date of April 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 a United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle maps of Mount Victory and Kenton, Ohio. **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)
041200300000	Company Affiliate Owned	N/A
041200200000	Easement (Property Under Option by IPP)	Yes

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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 transmission line is estimated to include the following:

Voltage: 138kV
Conductors: 795 kcmil 26/7 DRAKE ACSR
Static Wire: (2) DNO-12739 (144-count OPGW)
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: One (1) single circuit, steel 3-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 \$900,000 using a Class 4 estimate. The costs for this Project will be recovered through total reimbursement by the IPP.

B(10) Social and Ecological Impacts

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

B(10)(a) Land Use

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

The Project location includes the South Kenton Station property and a portion of adjacent property that has historically been used for agriculture but is currently under option by the IPP. The surrounding vicinity is primarily agricultural land with scattered woodlots. An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as **Figure 2**. The Project is mapped within Buck Township in Hardin County The Project does not anticipate the need to clear forested land.

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B(10)(b) Agricultural Land

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

The Project Area consists of the South Kenton Station property and a current agricultural parcel under option by the IPP for their collector distribution substation. Based on data received from the Hardin County Auditor’s office on April 8, 2026, there are no agricultural district parcels within the potential disturbance area of the Project. The Project parcels are not part of an Ohio Department of Agriculture easement.

B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

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

A cultural resource survey and report were conducted by the Company’s consultant for the Project in November 2024. Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) was received in December, see **Appendix C**. The SHPO stated that that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties and that no further archaeological work is necessary.

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

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

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

Table 2 – Anticipated Permits

Permit/Authorization/Coordination	Agency	Date
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Obtained January 2026
	Hardin County	
Notice Criteria	Federal Aviation Administration	Submitted through Criteria Tool on 3/26/2026, no further action required
Clean Water Act Section 404/401	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Not Applicable

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	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	
Archaeology/Architectural	Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Coordination complete 12/6/2024, no additional work required
Threatened and Endangered Species	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultation complete 6/12/2023
Threatened and Endangered Species	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Consultation complete 5/19/2023

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

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

On April 19, 2023, 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 May 19, 2023 and June 12, 2023, respectively. Copies of the agencies’ responses are presented in **Appendix C**.

Table 4, in **Appendix D** lists the federal and state threatened or endangered species in the Project area.

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

B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

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

The Company’s consultant conducted a wetland and stream delineation survey in the Project study area on April 19, 2023 and August 6, 2025, and prepared an Ecological Survey Report, which is provided in **Appendix D**. The survey of the Project area identified one stream, no wetlands, and no ponds. The

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stream is not crossed by the proposed Project and no in-water work is proposed. The Project construction activities are not expected to result in discharge of fill in any delineated features.

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.

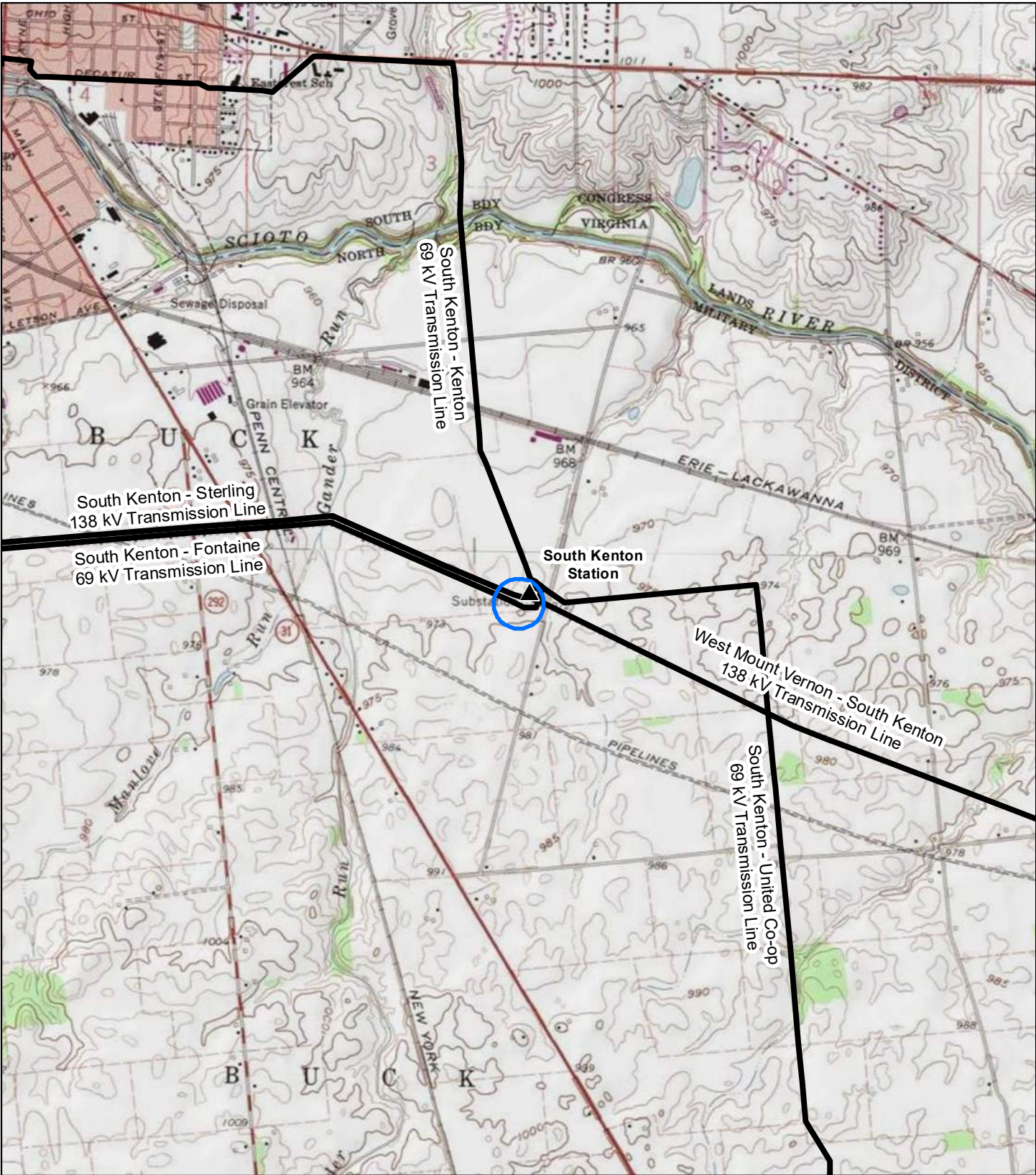
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (“FIRM”) was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map number 39159C0025D). Based on this mapping, no FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains are crossed by the proposed alignment. No floodplain permits are 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



-  Project
-  Existing Transmission
-  Existing Station

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI USA Topo Maps

Ohio State Plane North
NAD 1983



March 31, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION

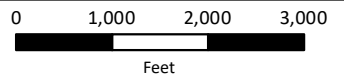


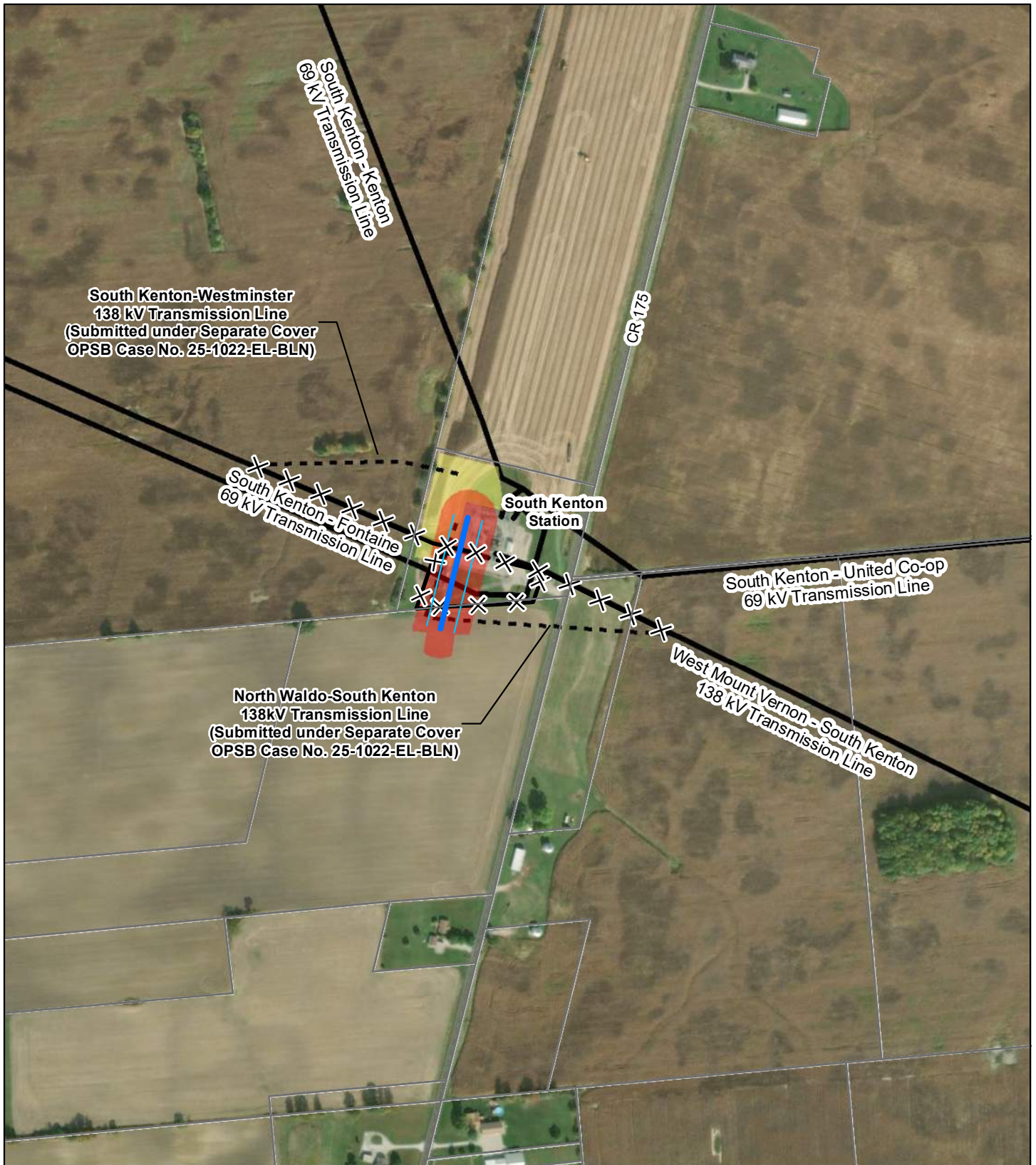
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 1
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**



South Kenton-Scioto Solar
138 kV Generation Tie Line





- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Right-of-way
- Project Corridor
- - - Proposed Transmission Line Relocation (Submitted Separately)
- ✕✕ Transmission Line Removal
- Existing Transmission Line
- Approximate Distribution Station Expansion
- Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,
ESRI World Imagery

Ohio State Plane North
NAD 1983

March 31, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION

HARDIN COUNTY

HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO

FIGURE 2
PROJECT AERIAL MAP

AEP OHIO TRANSMISSION COMPANY
South Kenton-Scioto Solar
138 kV Generation Tie Line

0 250 500 750
Feet

Appendix B Long Term Forecast Report

6 CONSTRUCTION:	2026
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$4.01 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 & retire 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:	South Kenton - Scloty Solar (TP2022019 AG1-554)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	South Kenton - Scloty Solar INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	0.05 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 / 138 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2025
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2026 - 2027
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$0.8 M (reimbursable)
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:	Continental - Platter Creek 69 kV (formerly Mark Center Switch) (TP2026002 b4026)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Continental - Platter Creek 69 kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - Sherwood, Auglaize, South Rice SW and North Continental SW
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~22 mi / 60 ft / 1 Circuit (~14.48 miles of line work)
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2030
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$28 M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Wood
10 PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11 PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	To fix overloaded for N-1 outages
12 CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Increased risk of equipment failure, reliability, and operational issues
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:	Kenton - South Kenton No. 2 (TP2026006 B3970)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Kenton - South Kenton 69kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~4.92 mi / 60 ft / 1 circuits (~2.87 mi of Line rebuild)
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2029
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$13.19 M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Wood
10 PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11 PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	To address the identified thermal violations
12 CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Increased risk of equipment failure, reliability, and operational issues
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:	Kirk - West Millersport & Hyatt (OP) - West Millersport 345 KV (b4068.27 TP2026012)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Kirk - West Millersport 345 KV INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~9.47 mi / 150 ft / 2 Circuit (6.4 miles of work)
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	345 kV / 345 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2030
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$24M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10 PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11 PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	To fix N-1-1 overloads
12 CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Increased risk of equipment failure, reliability, and operational issues
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:	Hyatt-Maiszewski No.2 138 KV & Hyatt (OP) - West Millersport 345 KV (b4068.28 TP2026036)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Hyatt-Maiszewski 138kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A Hyatt - West Millersport 345kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	38 mi / 150 ft / 2 Circuit (~5.25 mi of line work)
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	345 kV / 345 kV & 138 kV / 138 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2030
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$34.13 M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10 PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11 PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	To fix N-1-1 overloads
12 CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Increased risk of equipment failure, reliability, and operational issues
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:	Fort Steuben - South Toronto & Hammondsville - South Toronto 69 kV (s3724 TP2021600)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Fort Steuben - South Toronto INTERMEDIATE STATION - Sunset Blvd sw Hammondsville - South Toronto 69 kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - West Toronto Stratton(op), Sugar Rove Sw
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~19.45 miles / 60 ft / 1 circuit (~18.5 mi single circuit & ~0.95 mi double Circuit)
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$82.7 M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Croton Switch
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:	Fort Steuben - South Toronto & Hammondsville - South Toronto 69 kV (TP2021600 b3298)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Fort Steuben - South Toronto INTERMEDIATE STATION - Sunset Blvd sw Hammondsville - South Toronto 69 kV INTERMEDIATE STATION - West Toronto Stratton(op), Sugar Rove Sw
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~0.8 miles / 60 ft / 2 Circuit
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$2.83 M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Croton Switch
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Wood
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:	Fort Steuben - South Toronto 69 kV (TP2021600 b3308)
2 POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Fort Steuben - South Toronto INTERMEDIATE STATION - Sunset Blvd sw
3 RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	~0.5 miles / 60 ft / 1 Circuit
4 VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	69 kV / 69 kV
5 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	TBD
6 CONSTRUCTION:	2025
7 CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$0.73M
8 PLANNED SUBSTATION:	N/A
9 SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel

Appendix C Agency Correspondence



In reply, refer to
2024-HAR-62952

December 6, 2024

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

RE: South Kenton Station Upgrades Project, Buck Township, Hardin County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on November 8, 2024, regarding the proposed South Kenton Station Upgrades Project in Buck Township, Hardin 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 2.7 ha (6.6 ac) South Kenton Station Upgrades Project in Buck Township, Hardin County, Ohio* by Ryan J. Weller and Scott McIntosh (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2024). This submission addresses proposed upgrades to the existing South Kenton Station facility in Hardin County, Ohio. A literature review, visual inspection, surface collection and subsurface investigations (shovel probe and shovel test unit excavation) were conducted as part of these investigations. Disturbance related to the construction of the existing station facility was noted in portions of the project area. There were no previously documented archaeological sites located within the project area and no new archaeological sites were identified through these investigations. Our office agrees 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) 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 that the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional cultural resources are discovered during the implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at cgullett@ohiohistory.org, or Ms. Joy Williams at jwilliams@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Gullett".

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

RPR Serial No. 1105693



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate

John Kessler, Chief

2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2

Columbus, OH 43229

Phone: (614) 265-6621

Fax: (614) 267-4764

May 19, 2023

Daniel Godec
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
10200 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Cincinnati OH 45242

Re: 23-0437; South Kenton-North Waldo 138 kV Line Rebuild

Project: The proposed project involves rebuilding a 138 kV Line from Kenton to North Waldo.

Location: The proposed project is located in Buck & Dudley Townships of Hardin County, and Bowling Green, Green Camp, Pleasant, & Richland Townships of Marion 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: The Natural Heritage Database has the following data within one mile of the project area:

Least Darter (*Etheostoma microperca*), SC
Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), SC
Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*), SC
Rainbow (*Villosa iris*), SC

The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. Conservation status abbreviations are as follows: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; U = state status under review; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federally endangered, and FT = federally threatened.

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

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 portion of the project west of Township Road 199 in Hardin County is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in this 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. 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. However, if trees are present within this area, (outside of the area delineated above) and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the "[OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING](#)". If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW.

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 range of the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the purple lilliput (*Toxolasma lividus*), a state endangered mussel, and the pondhorn (*Unio merus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel. This project must not have an impact on native mussels. This applies to both listed and non-listed species, as all species of mussel are protected in Ohio. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2022), all Group 2, 3, and 4 streams (Appendix A) require a mussel survey. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Group 1 streams (Appendix A) and unlisted streams with a watershed of 5 square miles or larger above the point of impact should be assessed using the Reconnaissance Survey for Unionid Mussels

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

The 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 aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and federally threatened snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as drier upland habitat. The DOW recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present; the DOW recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist. A list of [approved herpetologists](#) has been provided for your convenience.

The project is within the range of the 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, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state threatened bird. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through June 15. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). 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 type of habitat will not be impacted, the 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.

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



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



June 12, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0068762

Dear Mr. Godec:

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

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

Thank you for your efforts to conserve listed species and sensitive habitats in Ohio. We recommend coordinating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the proposed project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettegrew, 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 "Patrice Ashfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrice" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ashfield".

Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

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

Appendix D Ecological Survey Report



**South Kenton Station Expansion
Project**

Ecological Survey Report

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
10200 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Blue Ash, OH 45242

August 15, 2025

Sign-off Sheet

This document entitled South Kenton Station Expansion Project Ecological Survey Report was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. ("Stantec") for the account of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. Any reliance on this document by any third party is strictly prohibited. The material in it reflects Stantec's professional judgment in light of the scope, schedule and other limitations stated in the document and in the contract between Stantec and the Client. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the document was published and do not take into account any subsequent changes. In preparing the document, Stantec did not verify information supplied to it by others. Any use which a third party makes of this document is the responsibility of such third party. Such third party agrees that Stantec shall not be responsible for costs or damages of any kind, if any, suffered by it or any other third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on this document.

Prepared by Kate Bomar

(signature)

Kate Bomar

Reviewed by Aaron J. Kwolek

(signature)

Aaron Kwolek

Reviewed by Daniel J. Godec

(signature)

Dan Godec

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SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Introduction
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP) is proposing construction activities associated with the South Kenton Station Expansion Project (the Project). AEP plans to conduct construction activities to rebuild/expand the existing South Kenton 138 kV substation (South Kenton Station) (Figure 1, Appendix A). The Project area was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, open water features, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025. The approximate locations of features located up to 50 feet outside of the Project area were also recorded during the field surveys, where landowner access was permitted. However, no data forms were collected on features that did not extend into the Project area. The approximate locations of these features are shown on the Figure 2 map in Appendix A as "approximate" wetlands, streams (waterways), open waters, and upland drainage features.

Methods
August 15, 2025

2.0 METHODS

2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

Prior to completing the field surveys, a desktop review of the Project area was conducted using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data, and aerial imagery mapping. Stantec completed a wetland delineation study in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (USACE 1987), the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE 2010). Wetland categories were classified using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Version 5.0 (Mack 2001).

2.2 STREAM DELINEATION

Streams that demonstrated a continuously defined channel (bed and bank), ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), and the disturbance of terrestrial vegetation were delineated within the Project area, per the protocols outlined in the USACE's *Guidance on Ordinary High Water Mark Identification* (Regulatory Guidance Letter, No. 05-05) (USACE 2005). Delineated streams were classified as ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial per definitions in the Federal Register/Vol. 67, No. 10 (USACE 2002). Functional assessment of streams identified within the Project area was based on completion of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) *Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index* (HHEI; OEPA 2020) and/or *Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index* (QHEI; OEPA 2006) data forms. The centerline of each waterway and/or the OHWM of each waterway was identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy global positioning system (GPS) unit and mapped with geographic information system (GIS) software. Additionally, the locations of ponds/open water features and upland drainage features (which lacked a continuously defined bed and bank/OHWM) identified within the Project area were also recorded with a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit during the field surveys.

2.3 RARE SPECIES

Prior to conducting the field surveys, Stantec contacted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for information regarding rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats of concern within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix B – Agency Correspondence). To assess potential impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, Stantec scientists conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed Project area, collected information on existing habitats within the Project area, and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by federally listed or state-listed species that have the potential to occur within Hardin County.

SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Results
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3.0 RESULTS

3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys for threatened and endangered species or their habitats on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025. Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the vegetation communities/habitats and land cover types identified within the Project area and the locations of any identified rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat observed within the Project area during the time of the habitat assessment surveys. Representative photographs of the vegetation communities/habitats and land cover types identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 3, Appendix A). Information regarding the vegetation communities/habitats/land cover types identified within the Project area is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types Found within the South Kenton Station Expansion Project Area, Hardin County, Ohio

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within the Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
Agricultural Land	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community dominated by planted row crop species such as corn (<i>Zea mays</i>), and soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>).	No	8.20
Maintained Lawn	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), narrowleaf plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), tall fescue (<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>), and perennial ryegrass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>).	No	3.43
Existing Road	Extreme Disturbance/existing paved road or other paved area (little to no vegetation is present in these habitats).	No	0.29
Industrial Land	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (little to no vegetation is present in these habitats).	No	1.55
New Field	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community. Common plant species included tall fescue, smooth brome (<i>Bromus inermis</i>), frost aster (<i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i>), ticktrefoil (<i>Desmodium sp.</i>), eastern poison ivy (<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>),	No	1.05

SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

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Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within the Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
	orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), and Queen Anne's lace (<i>Daucus carota</i>).		
Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest	Moderate Disturbance (mixed communities of herbaceous, shrub, and canopy strata of varying quality). Dominant species included Amur honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera maackii</i>), black walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>), white oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), prickly ash (<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>), and white mulberry (<i>Morus alba</i>).	No	0.24
TOTAL			14.76

3.2 WETLANDS

Stantec completed field surveys for wetlands within the Project area and evaluated three wetland determination sample points on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025. As a result of the field surveys, Stantec did not identify any wetlands within the Project area. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the locations of the wetland determination sample points evaluated by Stantec within the Project area. Representative photographs of the wetland determination sample point locations are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination data forms are included in Appendix D. A summary of the disposition of NWI-mapped wetlands within the Project area is provided in Table 2.

SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

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Table 2. Summary of NWI Disposition within the South Kenton Station Expansion Project Area, Hardin County, Ohio

NWI Code	NWI Description	Figure 2 Page Number	Related Field Inventoried Resource(s)	Comments
R4SBC	Riverine, intermittent, streambed, seasonally flooded	1	Stream 1	Stream 1 was delineated within the mapped NWI feature. The completed HHEI and QHEI data forms for this stream are provided in Appendix D. Representative photographs are available in Appendix C.

SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

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3.3 STREAMS

Stantec completed field surveys for streams (waterways) within the Project area on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025. One unnamed intermittent (Stream 1) was identified within the Project area. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the location of the stream identified by Stantec within the Project area and representative photographs of the stream are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A). Completed HHEI and QHEI data forms for Stream 1 are included in Appendix D. Information regarding the identified stream is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of Stream Resources Found within the South Kenton Station Expansion Project Area, Hardin County, Ohio

Stream ID	Location		Stream Type	Stream Name ¹	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Field Evaluation			Ohio EPA 401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing?	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude						Method	Score ^{2,3}	Category/ Rating/ OAC Use Designation ^{2,3,4}			Fill Type	Area (acre)
Stream 1	40.623549	-83.579418	Intermittent	UNT to Scioto River	250	5	2	HHEI/ QHEI	71/44.5	Class III PHW/Fair	Eligible	TBD ⁵	TBD ⁵	TBD ⁵
TOTAL					250								TOTAL	TBD ⁵

¹UNT = Unnamed Tributary
²Based on the designated use evaluation presented in the Field Methods for Evaluating Primary Headwater Habitat Streams in Ohio, Version 4.0 (OEPA 2020).
³Based on the designated use evaluation presented in the Methods for Assessing Habitat in Flowing Waters: Using the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (OEPA 2006).
⁴Based on Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-1-16.
⁵TBD – To be determined. Impact information and stream crossing information is unknown at this time.

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3.4 OPEN WATERS

No open water features (ponds) were identified within the Project area during the field surveys that took place on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025.

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3.5 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 4. Summary of Potential Federally Listed and Ohio State-Listed Species within the South Kenton Station Expansion Project Area, Hardin County, Ohio

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status ^{1,2}	Federally Listed Status ^{1,3}	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Reptiles						
Eastern Massasauga/ <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	E	T	Habitats range from sphagnum bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, shrub-dominated peatlands, wet meadows, and floodplains to dry woodlands; this snake prefers seasonal wetlands with a mixture of open grass-sedge areas and short closed canopy (edge situations) (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (large areas of wet meadows, bogs, fens, and marshes) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the eastern massasauga. The ODNR recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the Project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present, the ODNR recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist. USFWS - Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to this species.	No potentially suitable habitat (large areas of wet meadows, bogs, fens, and marshes) was observed within the Project area. However, the ODNR recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the Project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present, the ODNR recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist.
Fish						
Least Darter/ <i>Etheostoma microperca</i>	SOC	N/A	Habitat includes quiet, vegetated lakes, headwaters, creeks, and small rivers, where the species usually occurs over mud and sand. The least darter inhabits weedy portions of lakes and of clear streams with sluggish flow (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – ODNR has records of the least darter within one mile of Project area. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Mussels						
Elktoe/ <i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>	SOC	N/A	Although it occurs in large to medium sized streams, it is more typical of smaller streams. Habitat often includes small streams with good current and sand or gravel bottoms at depths of several inches to two feet (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – ODNR has records of the elktoe within one mile of Project area. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.

SOUTH KENTON STATION EXPANSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

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Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status ^{1,2}	Federally Listed Status ^{1,3}	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Rainbow/ <i>Villosa iris</i>	SOC	N/A	This mussel inhabits small streams, living within and below riffles on a sand, gravel or mud bottom in water less than a meter deep (WDNR 2022).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – ODNR has records of the rainbow within one mile of Project area. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Pondhorn/ <i>Unio merus tetralasmus</i>	T	N/A	This species occurs in fine gravel in moderate current. It may be encountered in shallow, quiet, or slow-moving water at depths seldom exceeding two feet. This species typically inhabits the quiet or slow-moving, shallow waters of sloughs, borrow pits, ponds, ditches, and meandering streams. It is typically found buried in a substrate of fine sand and mud in shallow sloughs and ditches, and it is a species tolerant of adverse habitat conditions, surviving for periods of weeks or even months buried in the bottoms or banks of dried-up ponds (Parmalee and Bogan 1998; NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams and ditches; ponds) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project area is within the range of the pondhorn mussel. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams and ditches; ponds) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Purple Lilliput/ <i>Toxolasma lividus</i>	E	N/A	This species can inhabit fine-particle substrates and sand, gravel, or cobbles and boulders in riffles or flats immediately above riffles. This species is reported from the headwaters of small to medium sized rivers (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR - The Project area is within the range of the purple lilliput mussel. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Rayed Bean/ <i>Villosa fabalis</i>	E	E	Habitat includes gravel or sandy substrates, especially in areas of thick roots of aquatic plants and increased substrate stability (NatureServe 2023; Parmalee and Bogan 1998). Rayed bean can be associated with shoal or riffle areas, and in shallow, wave-washed areas of glacial lakes. It is generally found in smaller, headwater creeks, but sometimes in larger rivers and open-water bodies. It can occur in shallow riffles or in lakes with water depths up to four feet. It has been found in riffles, generally in vegetation, and deeply buried in sand and gravel bound together by roots (Parmalee and Bogan 1998).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project area is within the range of the rayed bean mussel. The ODNR 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 aquatic species. USFWS – Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to this species.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.

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Clubshell/ <i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	E	The clubshell occurs in medium to small rivers and streams, containing clean, coarse sand and cobble substrates (USFWS 1994). The clubshell is usually found within the current, where it may live several inches underneath the surface. It is most common in the downstream ends of riffles and islands (Watters et al. 2009). The clubshell is mostly considered an Ohio River system species, including the Tennessee, Cumberland, Kanawha, and Wabash River drainages. However, it is also found within the Maumee River system of Lake Erie. Although historically the clubshell was originally described as occurring within Lake Erie, only one record of its occurrence there has been found (Watters et al. 2009).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	<p>ODNR – The Project area is within the range of the clubshell mussel. The ODNR 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 aquatic species.</p> <p>USFWS - Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to this species.</p>	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Creek Heelsplitter/ <i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	SOC	N/A	This species occurs principally in rivers and streams of various sizes, even in very small creeks and is rare in lakes. It is found on substrates of gravel, sand, or mud (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	<p>ODNR – ODNR has records of the creek heelsplitter within one mile of Project area. The ODNR 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 aquatic species.</p> <p>USFWS – No comments received.</p>	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Mammals						
Indiana Bat/ <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	E	The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas; Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2023b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).	One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. No potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	<p>ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with diameter at breast height (dbh) ≥ 20 if possible. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for project recommendations.</p> <p>Additionally, the portion of the South Kenton-North Waldo 138 kV Line Rebuild Project west of Township Road 199 in Hardin County is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat. Because</p>	<p>One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species.</p> <p>Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No abandoned underground mines were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment, but an area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). No mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30</p>

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					<p>presence of state endangered bat species has been established in this 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 the ODNR.</p> <p>USFWS – The Indiana bat occurs throughout the State of Ohio. Should the proposed project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, USFWS recommends avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with the USFWS 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, the USFWS recommends removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31.</p>	
Northern Long-eared Bat/ <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	E	E	<p>The northern long-eared bat is found throughout Ohio. This species generally forages in forested habitat and openings in forested habitat and utilizes cracks, cavities, and loose bark within live and dead trees, as well as buildings as roosting habitat (Brack et al. 2010; USFWS 2020). The species utilizes caves and abandoned mines as winter hibernacula. Various sized caves are used providing they have a constant temperature, high humidity, and little to no air current (Brack et al. 2010).</p>	<p>One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. No potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.</p>	<p>ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the northern long-eared bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with dbh ≥ 20 if possible. In addition, The ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for project recommendations.</p> <p>USFWS - The northern long-eared bat occurs throughout the state of Ohio. Should the proposed project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, USFWS recommends avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with USFWS is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and</p>	<p>One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species.</p> <p>Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No abandoned underground mines were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment, but an area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). No mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec.</p> <p>Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30</p>

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					trees ≥3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, USFWS recommends removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31.	
Little Brown Bat/ <i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	E	N/A	The little brown bat is found throughout Ohio. This species seems to prefer to forage over water but also forages among trees in rather open areas (Harvey et al. 1999). During summer, it typically inhabits buildings, attics, church belfries, barns and outbuildings, and occasionally more natural habitats such as sloughing bark of a dead tree. During summer, two types of roosts are utilized: day roosts and night roosts. Day roosts are the maternity colony roost, while little brown bats often roost in other areas where they rest and congregate to digest their food in between foraging bouts. In Ohio, this species typically utilizes caves and mines as hibernacula, although at least one hibernaculum was found to be located in an attic of an old building (Brack et al. 2010).	One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. No potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the little brown bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with dbh ≥ 20 if possible. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. USFWS – No comments received.	One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No abandoned underground mines were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment, but an area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). No mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30
Tri-colored Bat/ <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	E	PE	The tricolored bat is found throughout Ohio. This species has been found to forage above and within a variety of habitats, including woodlands, agricultural fields, grassy areas, and over streamside vegetation (Sparks et al. 2011). Maternity colonies have often been found within clusters of dead leaves, hanging in trees. Maternity colonies have also been found in or on buildings. Little is known of male tri-colored bats in summer, but it is thought that they are probably solitary and spend their days in similar situations, as well as crevices, caves and mines (Brack et al. 2010). In Ohio, this species typically utilizes caves and mines as hibernacula, utilizing a variety of situations, including very cold areas near cave entrances to deeper passages that seem to be too warm for other species of bats (Brack et al. 2010).	One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. No potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the tri-colored bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with dbh ≥ 20 if possible. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for project recommendations. USFWS - This 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	One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No abandoned underground mines were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment, but an area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). No mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30

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					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 tri-colored bat.	
Birds						
Northern Harrier/ <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	E	N/A	Harriers hunt low over grasslands, with wings held in a distinctive dihedral (V-shape). This is a common migrant and winter species; nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands (ODNR 2018). Northern harriers appear to be associated with large tracts of undisturbed habitat. They are uncommon in blocks of contiguous grassland less than 100 hectares (Slater and Rock 2005).	No suitable nesting habitat (large marshes and grasslands) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the northern harrier. This is a common migrant and winter species in Ohio. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally nest in loose colonies in large marshes and 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, the project is not likely to impact this species. USFWS – No comments received.	Northern harriers require large tracts of wetlands and/or grasslands that are 100 hectares (247 acres) or more for suitable breeding/nesting habitat (Slater and Rock 2005). No suitable nesting habitat (large tracts of wetlands and/or grasslands) were observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Upland Sandpiper/ <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	E	N/A	Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (ODNR 2018). Upland sandpipers are primarily restricted to extensive, open tracts of short grassland habitats. These habitats also include edges of highway rights-of-way and airfields. (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable nesting habitat (large areas of pastures, hayfields, or other grassland habitats) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR - The Project is within the range of the upland sandpiper. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). 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 type of habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species. USFWS - No comments received.	No potentially suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. The tracts of grassland/hayfield/pasture habitats within the Project area are likely too small to attract nesting upland sandpipers. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Trumpeter Swan/ <i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	T	N/A	The trumpeter swan is found in ponds, lakes, and marshes, breeding in areas of reeds, sedges or similar emergent vegetation, primarily on freshwater, occasionally in brackish situations, wintering on open ponds, lakes and sheltered bays and estuaries (NatureServe 2023).	No suitable nesting habitat (large marshes and lakes) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the trumpeter swan. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through June 15. If this habitat	No suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.

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					will not be impacted, this Project is not likely to have an impact on this species. USFWS - No comments received.	
¹ E=Endangered; T=Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered; SOC=Species of Concern; N/A=Not Applicable ² According to ODNR, State Listed Wildlife and Plant Species by County (ODNR 2023a). ³ According to the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation website (USFWS 2023a).						

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbodies delineation and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species within the Project area on April 19, 2023, and August 6, 2025. No wetlands or open waters were identified within the Project area. One intermittent stream was identified within the Project area, an unnamed tributary to the Scioto River. See Table 3 for more information regarding the stream identified within the Project area.

The information provided by Stantec regarding wetland and stream boundaries is based on an analysis of the wetland and upland conditions present within the Project area at the time of the field work. The delineations were performed by experienced and qualified professionals using regulatory agency-accepted practices and sound professional judgment.

An ODNR Ohio Natural Heritage Program data request and environmental review request letter was sent to the ODNR Office of Real Estate on April 19, 2023. The ODNR Office of Real Estate response letter dated May 19, 2023 (Appendix B) states that the natural heritage database has records of the following species within one mile of the Project area: least darter, elktoe, rainbow, and creek heelsplitter. However, there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream and therefore, this project is not likely to impact these species. Each of these species are addressed in more detail in Table 4.

In addition, the ODNR stated that the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and the tricolored bat. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominantly roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs 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 ODNR also recommended that a desktop habitat assessment be conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential bat hibernacula present within 0.25 miles of the Project area. Stantec completed a desktop habitat desktop assessment in accordance with the 2023 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2023b) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2023b) and locations of known or suspected karst geology (ODNR 2023c). No abandoned or active underground mines were identified within the Project area or within 0.25 miles of it as part of the desktop assessment. The desktop assessment identified an area of karst geology that encompasses the entirety of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). However, no underground openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Therefore, no impacts to potential bat hibernacula are anticipated.

Additionally, according to the ODNR, the portion of the South Kenton-North Waldo 138 kV Line Rebuild Project located south of County Road 130 in Hardin County is within the vicinity of known

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records of the Indiana bat. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in this 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 the ODNR.

One potentially suitable roost tree was identified within the Project area (Figure 3). No other potentially suitable summer roosting habitat or hibernacula for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and little brown bat was identified within the Project area. Additionally, AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31, as applicable. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to these bat species.

The Project is within the range of the northern harrier, a state endangered bird. Northern harriers require large tracts of wetlands and/or grasslands that are 100 hectares (247 acres) or more for suitable breeding/nesting habitat (Slater and Rock 2005). No suitable nesting habitat (large tracts of wetlands and/or grasslands) were observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and avoidance dates are not applicable.

The Project is within the range of the state endangered and federally threatened eastern massasauga. ODNR recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the Project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present, the ODNR recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist. No suitable habitat for the eastern massasauga (large areas of wet meadows, bogs, fens, and marshes) was observed by Stantec within the Project area.

The Project is within the range of the trumpeter swan. No potentially suitable nesting habitat (large marshes and lakes) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The Project is within the range of the state endangered and federally endangered clubshell and rayed bean mussels, state endangered purple lilliput mussel, and the state threatened pondhorn mussel. However, as stated, no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream. Therefore, this Project is not likely to impact these species.

A technical assistance request letter was submitted to the USFWS on April 19, 2023. The USFWS response letter dated June 12, 2023, recommends that impacts to wetland and other water resources be avoided or minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation (Appendix B).

According to the USFWS response letter, all projects in the state of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat, the federally endangered northern long-eared bat, and the federally proposed endangered tri-colored bat. In Ohio, presence of these species is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/probable absence survey has been performed to document probable absence. The USFWS response letter states that, should the

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Project site contain trees ≥ 3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends trees be saved whenever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination is requested. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥ 3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, the USFWS recommends that removal of trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31 in order to avoid adverse effects to these species. If implementation of seasonal tree clearing is not possible, the USFWS recommended that summer presence/probable absence surveys be conducted between June 1 and August 15. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31, as applicable. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to these bat species.

The USFWS stated that due to the Project type, size, and location they do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

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5.0 REFERENCES

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August 15, 2025

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Appendix A FIGURES

A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

U:\23900\239001\092\03_data\gis_cad\gis\ArcPro\239001092_SouthKentonStation_AEP_Eco.aprx Revised: 2025-08-14 By: mkarzewska

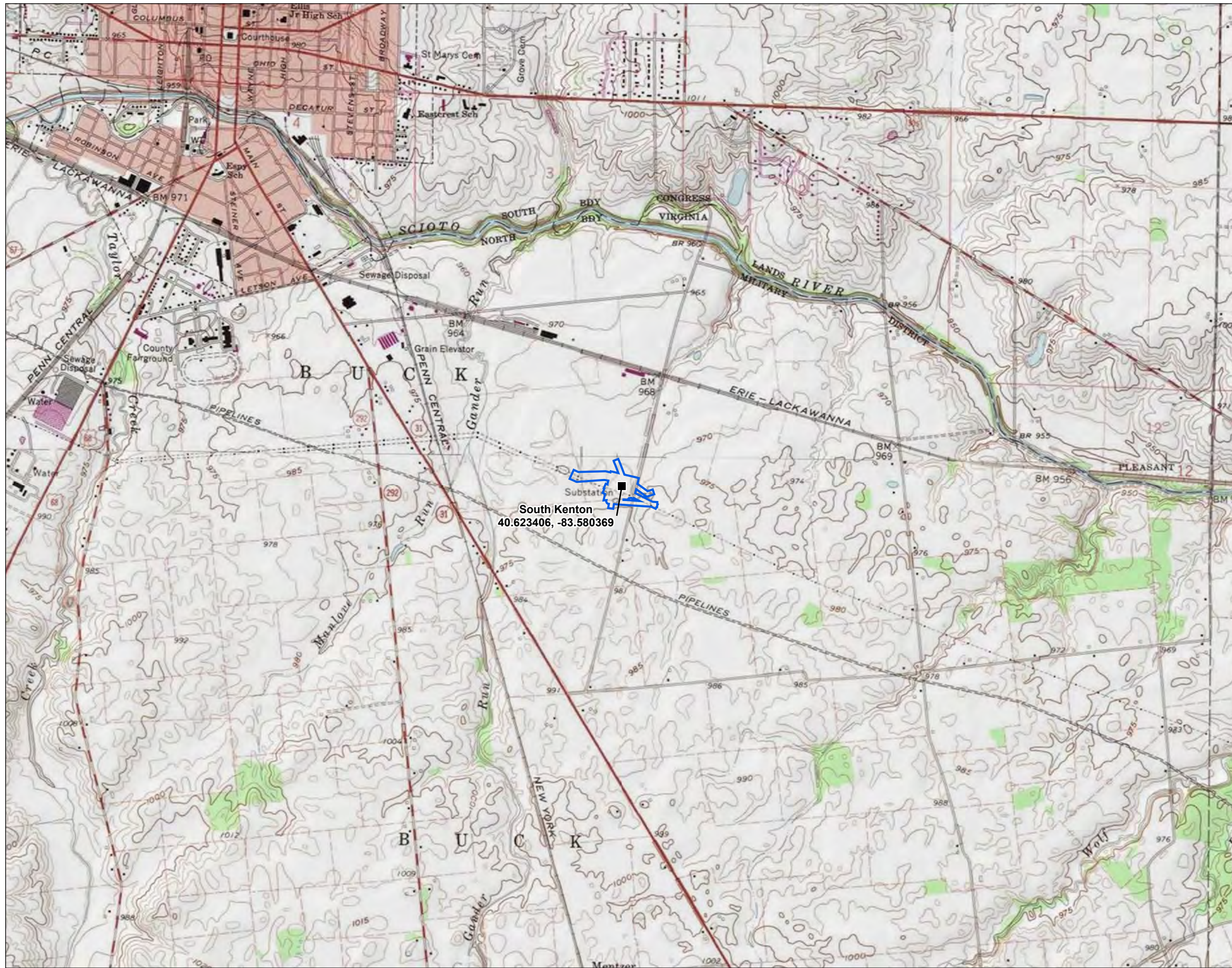


Figure No.

1

Title

Project Location Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project

239001092

Project Location
T. of Buck,
Hardin Co., OH

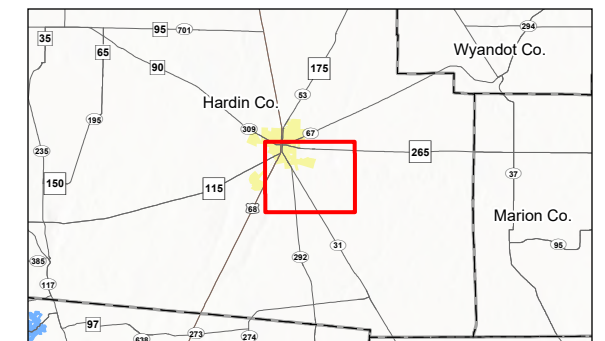
Prepared by MEK on 2025-08-13
TR by JD on 2025-08-13
IR by DJG on 2025-08-13



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(At original document size of 11x17)
1:24,000

Legend

- Existing Substation
- Project Area



- Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, Esri, USGS, USCB
 3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles: Kenton (1961), Mt Victory (1961)



A.2 FIGURE 2 – WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP

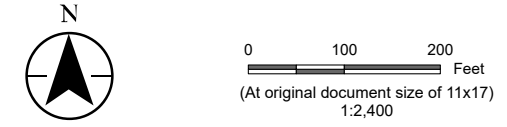
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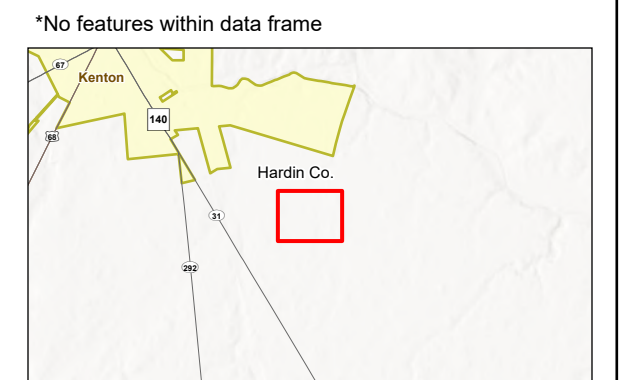
Figure No. **2**
Title **Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Map**

Client/Project 239001092
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project

Project Location T. of Buck, Hardin Co., OH Prepared by MEK on 2025-08-13 TR by JD on 2025-08-13 IR by DJG on 2025-08-13



- Legend**
- Existing Substation
 - Existing Structure
 - Existing Structure to be Removed
 - ◇ Proposed Structure
 - Existing Transmission Line
 - Existing Transmission Line to be Removed
 - Proposed Transmission Line
 - ▭ Project Area
 - Photo Location
 - ▲ Existing Culvert
 - Wetland Determination Sample Point
 - Field Delineated Waterway
 - Approximate Waterway
 - Approximate Upland Drainage Feature
 - National Wetlands Inventory Feature
 - FEMA Flood Hazard Area*
 - ▨ 100-year Floodplain
 - ▨ Floodway



Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, Esri, USGS, FEMA, USFWS, OGRIP, USCB
3. Background: NAIP 2023



A.3 FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

U:\23900\239001\092\03_data\gis_cad\gis\ArcPre\239001092_SouthKentonStation_AEP_Eco.aprx Revised: 2025-08-14 By: mkarziewski



Figure No.

3

Title

Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project

239001092

Project Location
T. of Buck,
Hardin Co., OH

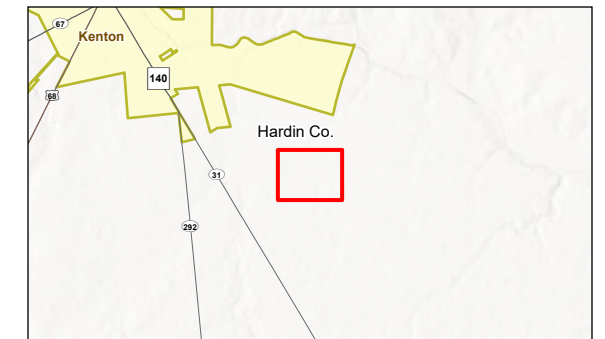
Prepared by MEK on 2025-08-13
TR by JD on 2025-08-13
IR by DJG on 2025-08-13



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(At original document size of 11x17)
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Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Existing Substation | Habitat Area |
| ○ Existing Structure | Mixed Early Successional/Second Growth Deciduous Forest |
| ● Existing Structure to be Removed | Agricultural Land |
| ◇ Proposed Structure | New Field |
| — Existing Transmission Line | Maintained Lawn |
| — Existing Transmission Line to be Removed | Existing Road |
| — Proposed Transmission Line | Industrial Land |
| ▭ Project Area | |
| ○ Photo Location | |
| △ Existing Culvert | |
| ● Potential Roost Tree | |
| — Field Delineated Waterway | |
| — Approximate Waterway | |
| — Approximate Upland Drainage Feature | |



- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, Esri, USGS, OGRIP, USCB
 3. Background: NAIP 2023



A.4 FIGURE 4 – BAT HIBERNACULA DESKTOP STUDY MAP

U:\23900\239001092\03_data\gis_cad\gis\ArcPro\239001092_SouthKentonStation_AEP_Eco.aprx Revised: 2025-08-14 By: mkarzcewski

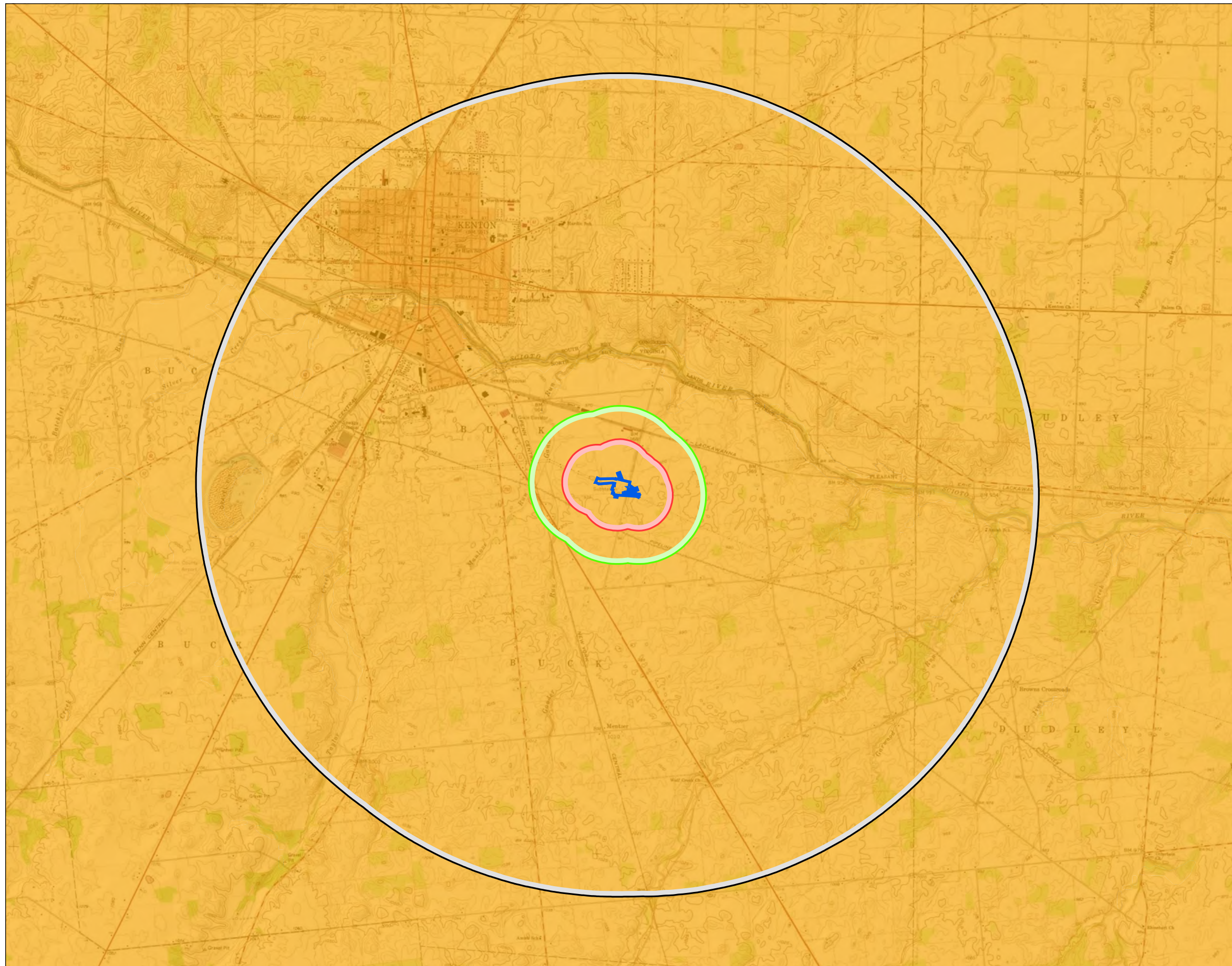


Figure No.

4

Title

Bat Hibernacula Desktop Study Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project

239001092









Project Location
T. of Buck,
Hardin Co., OH

Prepared by MEK on 2025-08-13
TR by JD on 2025-08-13
IR by DJG on 2025-08-13

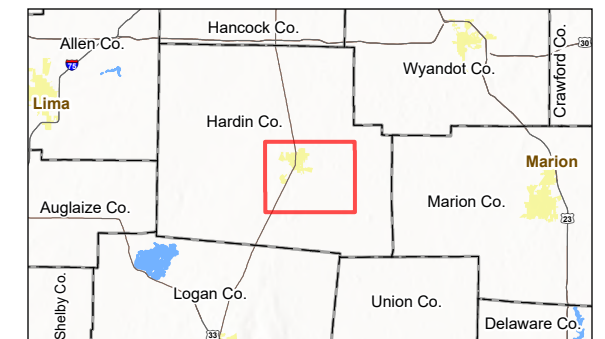


0 2,000 4,000 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:48,000

Legend

-  Project Area
-  0.25-Mile Project Area Buffer
-  0.5-Mile Project Area Buffer
-  3-Mile Project Area Buffer
-  Karst Feature*
-  Area of Karst Geology
-  Mine Opening*
-  Underground Mine*

*No features within data frame



- Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
 2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, Esri, USGS, ODNR, USCB
 3. Background: USGS 30' x 60' Topographic Quadrangles - Marion, OH (1986)



Appendix B AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
John Kessler, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6621
Fax: (614) 267-4764

May 19, 2023

Daniel Godec
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
10200 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Cincinnati OH 45242

Re: 23-0437; South Kenton-North Waldo 138 kV Line Rebuild

Project: The proposed project involves rebuilding a 138 kV Line from Kenton to North Waldo.

Location: The proposed project is located in Buck & Dudley Townships of Hardin County, and Bowling Green, Green Camp, Pleasant, & Richland Townships of Marion 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: The Natural Heritage Database has the following data within one mile of the project area:

Least Darter (*Etheostoma microperca*), SC
Elktoe (*Alasmidonta marginata*), SC
Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*), SC
Rainbow (*Villosa iris*), SC

The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. Conservation status abbreviations are as follows: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; U = state status under review; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federally endangered, and FT = federally threatened.

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

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 portion of the project west of Township Road 199 in Hardin County is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in this 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. 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. However, if trees are present within this area, (outside of the area delineated above) and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the "[OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING](#)". If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW.

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 range of the clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel, the purple lilliput (*Toxolasma lividus*), a state endangered mussel, and the pondhorn (*Unio merus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel. This project must not have an impact on native mussels. This applies to both listed and non-listed species, as all species of mussel are protected in Ohio. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2022), all Group 2, 3, and 4 streams (Appendix A) require a mussel survey. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Group 1 streams (Appendix A) and unlisted streams with a watershed of 5 square miles or larger above the point of impact should be assessed using the Reconnaissance Survey for Unionid Mussels

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

The 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 aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and federally threatened snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as drier upland habitat. The DOW recommends that an approved herpetologist conducts a habitat suitability survey to determine if suitable habitat is present within the project area. If suitable habitat is determined to be present; the DOW recommends that a presence/absence survey be conducted, or an avoidance/minimization plan be developed and implemented by the approved herpetologist. A list of [approved herpetologists](#) has been provided for your convenience.

The project is within the range of the 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, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state threatened bird. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through June 15. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). 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 type of habitat will not be impacted, the 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.

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



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



June 12, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0068762

Dear Mr. Godec:

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

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

Thank you for your efforts to conserve listed species and sensitive habitats in Ohio. We recommend coordinating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the proposed project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettegrew, 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 "Patrice Ashfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrice" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ashfield".

Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

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

Appendix C REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

C.1 WETLAND AND WATERBODY PHOTOGRAPHS

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 1. View of upland (agricultural land and maintained lawn habitat) at wetland determination point SP01. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 1. View of upland (agricultural land and maintained lawn habitat) at wetland determination point SP01. Photograph taken facing south.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 2. View of upland (maintained lawn habitat and industrial land) at wetland determination point SP02. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 2. View of upland (maintained lawn habitat) at wetland determination point SP02. Photograph taken facing west.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 3. View of upland (maintained lawn and agricultural land habitat) at wetland determination point SP03. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 3. View of upland (maintained lawn habitat) at wetland determination point SP03. Photograph taken facing south.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing upstream/north.



Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1. Photograph taken facing downstream/south.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 4. View of substrates of Stream 1.



Photo Location 5. View of upland drainage feature. Photograph taken facing west.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 6. Representative view of existing culvert. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 7. View of upland (new field habitat and mixed early successional/second growth deciduous forest) at wetland determination point SP04. Photograph taken facing north.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 7. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination point SP04. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 8. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination point SP05. Photograph taken facing north.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 8. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination point SP05.
Photograph taken facing south.

C.2 HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 1. Representative view of industrial land (South Kenton Station) and maintained lawn within the Project area. Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photo Location 2. Representative view of agricultural land within the Project area. Photograph taken facing south.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Kenton Station Expansion Project
Hardin County, Ohio



Photo Location 3. Representative view of existing road within the Project area. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 4. Representative view of new field habitat within the Project area. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 5. Representative view of mixed early successional/second growth deciduous forest habitat within the Project area. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 6. Representative view of a potential bat roost tree observed within the Project area. Photograph taken facing northwest.

Appendix D DATA FORMS

D.1 WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORMS

Project/Site: South Kenton Station Expansion Project		Stantec Project #: 239001092	Date: 04/19/23
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc.		Investigator #1: Aaron Kwolek	Investigator #2: Savannah Pheanis
Soil Unit: PkA - Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes		NWI/WWI Classification: N/A	County: Hardin
Landform: Plain		Local Relief: None	State: Ohio
Slope (%): 0	Latitude: 40.623296	Longitude: -83.581140	Datum: --
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? (If no, explain in remarks)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> significantly disturbed?		Are normal circumstances present?	
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> naturally problematic?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Section: --			Wetland ID: N/A
Township: --			Sample Point: SP01
Range: --			Community ID: UPL
Dir: --			

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Hydic Soils Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is This Sampling Point Within A Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators (Check here if indicators are not present)

<p><u>Primary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - High Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Saturation <input type="checkbox"/> B1 - Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> B2 - Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B3 - Drift Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B4 - Algal Mat or Crust <input type="checkbox"/> B5 - Iron Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> B8 - Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<input type="checkbox"/> B9 - Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> B13 - Aquatic Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> B14 - True Aquatic Plants <input type="checkbox"/> C1 - Hydrogen Sulfide Odor <input type="checkbox"/> C3 - Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots <input type="checkbox"/> C4 - Presence of Reduced Iron <input type="checkbox"/> C6 - Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils <input type="checkbox"/> C7 - Thin Muck Surface <input type="checkbox"/> D9 - Gauge or Well Data <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> B6 - Surface Soil Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> B10 - Drainage Patterns <input type="checkbox"/> C2 - Dry-Season Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> C8 - Crayfish Burrows <input type="checkbox"/> C9 - Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> D1 - Stunted or Stressed Plants <input type="checkbox"/> D2 - Geomorphic Position <input type="checkbox"/> D5 - FAC-Neutral Test
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Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Water Table Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	
Saturation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available: N/A

Remarks:

SOILS

Map Unit Name: **PkA - Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes**

Profile Description (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.) (Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered/Coated Sand Grains; Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix)

Top Depth	Bottom Depth	Horizon	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture (e.g. clay, sand, loam)	
			Color (Moist)	%	Color (Moist)	%	Type	Location		
0	16	1	10YR	4/4	100	--	--	--	--	silty clay loam
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NRCS Hydic Soil Field Indicators (check here if indicators are not present)

<input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Black Histic <input type="checkbox"/> A4 - Hydrogen Sulfide <input type="checkbox"/> A5 - Stratified Layers <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2 cm Muck <input type="checkbox"/> A11 - Depleted Below Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> A12 - Thick Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S1 - Sandy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> S3 - 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<input type="checkbox"/> S4 - Sandy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> S5 - Sandy Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S6 - Stripped Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F1 - Loamy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> F2 - Loamy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F3 - Depleted Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F6 - Redox Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F7 - Depleted Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F8 - Redox Depressions	<p>Indicators for Problematic Soils¹</p> <input type="checkbox"/> A16 - Coast Prairie Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S7 - Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F12 - Iron-Manganese Masses <input type="checkbox"/> TF12 - Very Shallow Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
--	---	---

¹ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (If Observed) Type: _____ Depth: _____	Hydic Soil Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
--	--

Remarks:

Project/Site: **South Kenton Station Expansion Project**

Wetland ID: **N/A**

Sample Point: **SP01**

VEGETATION (Species identified in all uppercase are non-native species.)

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)				
	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)				
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)				
1.	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	50	Y	UPL
2.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	10	N	FACU
3.	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	10	N	FACU
4.	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	10	N	FACU
5.	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	10	N	UPL
6.	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	10	N	FACU
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
11.	--	--	--	--
12.	--	--	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--
14.	--	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		100		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)				
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Dominance Test Worksheet

Number of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index Worksheet

<u>Total % Cover of:</u>		<u>Multiply by:</u>	
OBL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>
FACW spp.	<u>0</u>	x 2 =	<u>0</u>
FAC spp.	<u>0</u>	x 3 =	<u>0</u>
FACU spp.	<u>40</u>	x 4 =	<u>160</u>
UPL spp.	<u>60</u>	x 5 =	<u>300</u>
Total		<u>100</u> (A)	<u>460</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =		<u>4.600</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- Yes No Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- Yes No Dominance Test is > 50%
- Yes No Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 *
- Yes No Morphological Adaptations (Explain) *
- Yes No Problem Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain) *

* Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree - Woody plants 3 in. (7.6cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft. tall.

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft. tall.

Woody Vines - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft. in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present Yes No

Remarks:

Additional Remarks:

Project/Site: South Kenton Station Expansion Project		Stantec Project #: 239001092	Date: 04/19/23
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc.		Investigator #1: Tyler Gillette	Investigator #2: Perry Gardiner
Soil Unit: Pk: Pewano silty clay loam, 0-1% slopes		NW1/WW1 Classification:	
Landform: Terrace		Local Relief: Convex	
Slope (%): 0	Latitude: 40.61963	Longitude: -83.581305	Datum: WGS84
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? (If no, explain in remarks)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> significantly disturbed?		Are normal circumstances present?	
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> naturally problematic?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Section: --			Wetland ID: N/A
Township: --			Sample Point: SP02
Range: --			Community ID: UPL
Dir: --			

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Hydic Soils Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is This Sampling Point Within A Wetland? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: **Upland within station property**

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators (Check here if indicators are not present)

<p><u>Primary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - High Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Saturation <input type="checkbox"/> B1 - Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> B2 - Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B3 - Drift Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B4 - Algal Mat or Crust <input type="checkbox"/> B5 - Iron Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> B8 - Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<input type="checkbox"/> B9 - Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> B13 - Aquatic Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> B14 - True Aquatic Plants <input type="checkbox"/> C1 - Hydrogen Sulfide Odor <input type="checkbox"/> C3 - Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots <input type="checkbox"/> C4 - Presence of Reduced Iron <input type="checkbox"/> C6 - Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils <input type="checkbox"/> C7 - Thin Muck Surface <input type="checkbox"/> D9 - Gauge or Well Data <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> B6 - Surface Soil Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> B10 - Drainage Patterns <input type="checkbox"/> C2 - Dry-Season Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> C8 - Crayfish Burrows <input type="checkbox"/> C9 - Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> D1 - Stunted or Stressed Plants <input type="checkbox"/> D2 - Geomorphic Position <input type="checkbox"/> D5 - FAC-Neutral Test
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Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Water Table Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	
Saturation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available: **N/A**

Remarks:

SOILS

Map Unit Name: **Pk: Pewano silty clay loam, 0-1% slopes**

Profile Description (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.) (Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered/Coated Sand Grains; Location: PL=Pure Lining, M=Matrix)

Top Depth	Bottom Depth	Horizon	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture (e.g. clay, sand, loam)	
			Color (Moist)	%	Color (Moist)	%	Type	Location		
0	21	1	10YR	4/3	100	--	--	--	--	silty clay loam
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NRCS Hydic Soil Field Indicators (check here if indicators are not present)

<input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Black Histic <input type="checkbox"/> A4 - Hydrogen Sulfide <input type="checkbox"/> A5 - Stratified Layers <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2 cm Muck <input type="checkbox"/> A11 - Depleted Below Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> A12 - Thick Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S1 - Sandy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> S3 - 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<input type="checkbox"/> S4 - Sandy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> S5 - Sandy Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S6 - Stripped Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F1 - Loamy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> F2 - Loamy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F3 - Depleted Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F6 - Redox Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F7 - Depleted Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F8 - Redox Depressions	<p>Indicators for Problematic Soils¹</p> <input type="checkbox"/> A16 - Coast Prairie Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S7 - Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F12 - Iron-Manganese Masses <input type="checkbox"/> TF12 - Very Shallow Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
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¹ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (If Observed)	Type:	Depth:	Hydic Soil Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Remarks:

Project/Site: **South Kenton Station Expansion Project**

Wetland ID: **N/A**

Sample Point: **SP02**

VEGETATION (Species identified in all uppercase are non-native species.)

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)

	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)

	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	30	Y	FACU
2.	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	20	Y	FACU
3.	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	10	N	FACU
4.	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	40	Y	FAC
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
11.	--	--	--	--
12.	--	--	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--
14.	--	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		100		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)

	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Remarks:

Dominance Test Worksheet

Number of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 33% (A/B)

Prevalence Index Worksheet

<u>Total % Cover of:</u>		<u>Multiply by:</u>	
OBL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>
FACW spp.	<u>0</u>	x 2 =	<u>0</u>
FAC spp.	<u>40</u>	x 3 =	<u>120</u>
FACU spp.	<u>60</u>	x 4 =	<u>240</u>
UPL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>
Total		<u>100</u> (A)	<u>360</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =		<u>3.600</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- Yes No Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- Yes No Dominance Test is > 50%
- Yes No Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 *
- Yes No Morphological Adaptations (Explain) *
- Yes No Problem Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain) *

* Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree - Woody plants 3 in. (7.6cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft. tall.

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft. tall.

Woody Vines - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft. in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present Yes No

Additional Remarks:

Project/Site: South Kenton Station Expansion Project		Stantec Project #: 239001092	Date: 04/19/23
Applicant: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc.		Investigator #1: Tyler Gillette	Investigator #2: Perry Gardiner
Soil Unit: Pk: Pewano silty clay loam,	NW1/WW1 Classification:		County: Hardin
Landform: Terrace	Local Relief: Convex	State: Ohio	Wetland ID: N/A
Slope (%): 0	Latitude: 40.62347	Longitude: -83.579623	Sample Point: SP03
Datum: WGS84			Community ID: UPL
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? (If no, explain in remarks)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> significantly disturbed?		Are normal circumstances present?	
Are Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> , Soil <input type="checkbox"/> , or Hydrology <input type="checkbox"/> naturally problematic?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Section: --			Township: --
Range: --			Dir: --

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Hydic Soils Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is This Sampling Point Within A Wetland? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: **Upland Maintained lawn within station property**

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators (Check here if indicators are not present)

<p><u>Primary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - High Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Saturation <input type="checkbox"/> B1 - Water Marks <input type="checkbox"/> B2 - Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B3 - Drift Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B4 - Algal Mat or Crust <input type="checkbox"/> B5 - Iron Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> B8 - Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<input type="checkbox"/> B9 - Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> B13 - Aquatic Fauna <input type="checkbox"/> B14 - True Aquatic Plants <input type="checkbox"/> C1 - Hydrogen Sulfide Odor <input type="checkbox"/> C3 - Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots <input type="checkbox"/> C4 - Presence of Reduced Iron <input type="checkbox"/> C6 - Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils <input type="checkbox"/> C7 - Thin Muck Surface <input type="checkbox"/> D9 - Gauge or Well Data <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> B6 - Surface Soil Cracks <input type="checkbox"/> B10 - Drainage Patterns <input type="checkbox"/> C2 - Dry-Season Water Table <input type="checkbox"/> C8 - Crayfish Burrows <input type="checkbox"/> C9 - Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery <input type="checkbox"/> D1 - Stunted or Stressed Plants <input type="checkbox"/> D2 - Geomorphic Position <input type="checkbox"/> D5 - FAC-Neutral Test
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Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	Wetland Hydrology Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Water Table Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	
Saturation Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Depth: (in.)	

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available: **N/A**

Remarks:

SOILS

Map Unit Name: **Pk: Pewano silty clay loam,**

Profile Description (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.) (Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered/Coated Sand Grains; Location: PL=Pure Lining, M=Matrix)

Top Depth	Bottom Depth	Horizon	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture (e.g. clay, sand, loam)	
			Color (Moist)	%	Color (Moist)	%	Type	Location		
0	21	1	10YR	4/3	100	--	--	--	--	silty clay loam
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NRCS Hydic Soil Field Indicators (check here if indicators are not present)

<input type="checkbox"/> A1 - Histosol <input type="checkbox"/> A2 - Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> A3 - Black Histic <input type="checkbox"/> A4 - Hydrogen Sulfide <input type="checkbox"/> A5 - Stratified Layers <input type="checkbox"/> A10 - 2 cm Muck <input type="checkbox"/> A11 - Depleted Below Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> A12 - Thick Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> S1 - Sandy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> S3 - 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<input type="checkbox"/> S4 - Sandy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> S5 - Sandy Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S6 - Stripped Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F1 - Loamy Muck Mineral <input type="checkbox"/> F2 - Loamy Gleyed Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F3 - Depleted Matrix <input type="checkbox"/> F6 - Redox Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F7 - Depleted Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F8 - Redox Depressions	<p>Indicators for Problematic Soils¹</p> <input type="checkbox"/> A16 - Coast Prairie Redox <input type="checkbox"/> S7 - Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> F12 - Iron-Manganese Masses <input type="checkbox"/> TF12 - Very Shallow Dark Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
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¹ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (If Observed)	Type:	Depth:	Hydic Soil Present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Remarks:

Project/Site: **South Kenton Station Expansion Project**

Wetland ID: **N/A**

Sample Point: **SP03**

VEGETATION (Species identified in all uppercase are non-native species.)

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)				
	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)				
	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)				
	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	40	Y	FACU
2.	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	20	Y	FACU
3.	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	10	N	FACU
4.	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	30	Y	FAC
5.	--	--	--	--
6.	--	--	--	--
7.	--	--	--	--
8.	--	--	--	--
9.	--	--	--	--
10.	--	--	--	--
11.	--	--	--	--
12.	--	--	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--
14.	--	--	--	--
15.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		100		

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)				
	<u>Species Name</u>	<u>% Cover</u>	<u>Dominant</u>	<u>Ind.Status</u>
1.	--	--	--	--
2.	--	--	--	--
3.	--	--	--	--
4.	--	--	--	--
5.	--	--	--	--
Total Cover =		0		

Remarks:

Dominance Test Worksheet

Number of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 33% (A/B)

Prevalence Index Worksheet

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>
FACW spp.	<u>0</u>	x 2 =	<u>0</u>
FAC spp.	<u>30</u>	x 3 =	<u>90</u>
FACU spp.	<u>70</u>	x 4 =	<u>280</u>
UPL spp.	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>
Total		<u>100</u> (A)	<u>370</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =		<u>3.700</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- Yes No Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- Yes No Dominance Test is > 50%
- Yes No Prevalence Index is ≤ 3.0 *
- Yes No Morphological Adaptations (Explain) *
- Yes No Problem Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain) *

* Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree - Woody plants 3 in. (7.6cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub - Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft. tall.

Herb - All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft. tall.

Woody Vines - All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft. in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present Yes No

Additional Remarks:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Midwest Region
 See ERDC/EL TR-10-16; the proponent agency is CECW-COR

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027
 Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
 (Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: South Kenton Station Expansion City/County: Hardin County Sampling Date: 08/06/2025
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: OH Sampling Point: SP04
 Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Abbey Dunn Section, Township, Range: _____
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave
 Slope (%): 0-1 Lat: 40.62281 Long: -83.579282 Datum: WGS84
 Soil Map Unit Name: Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes NWI classification: R4SBC

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No _____
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
Remarks: _____ _____ _____	

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. <u>Ulmus americana</u>	3	No	FACW	
2. <u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	2	No	FAC	
3. _____				
4. _____				
5. _____				
	5	=Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)				
1. _____				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
5. _____				
	0	=Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)				
1. <u>Bromus inermis</u>	75	Yes	FACU	
2. <u>Daucus carota</u>	30	No	UPL	
3. <u>Symphotrichum pilosum</u>	15	No	FACU	
4. <u>Cirsium arvense</u>	15	No	FACU	
5. <u>Dipsacus fullonum</u>	15	No	FACU	
6. <u>Dactylis glomerata</u>	10	No	FACU	
7. <u>Heracleum maximum</u>	10	No	FACW	
8. <u>Calystegia pubescens</u>	10	No	UPL	
9. <u>Cichorium intybus</u>	5	No	FACU	
10. _____				
	185	=Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)				
1. _____				
2. _____				
	0	=Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>
FACW species <u>13</u>	x 2 = <u>26</u>
FAC species <u>2</u>	x 3 = <u>6</u>
FACU species <u>135</u>	x 4 = <u>540</u>
UPL species <u>40</u>	x 5 = <u>200</u>
Column Totals: <u>190</u> (A)	<u>772</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.06</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0¹
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

_____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation¹ (Explain)

¹Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No X

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP04

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)								
Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type ¹	Loc ²		
0-16	10YR 3/2	100					Silt Loam	

¹Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

²Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:	Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils ³ :
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (F21)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Monosulfide (A18)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark Surface (S7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)	

³Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed): Type: _____ Depth (inches): _____	Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
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Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:	Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)	Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Fauna (B13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> True Aquatic Plants (B14)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphic Position (D2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Deposits (B5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gauge or Well Data (D9)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	

Field Observations: Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)	Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
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Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Midwest Region
 See ERDC/EL TR-10-16; the proponent agency is CECW-COR

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027
 Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
 (Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: South Kenton Station Expansion City/County: Hardin County Sampling Date: 08/06/2025
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: OH Sampling Point: SP05
 Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Abbey Dunn Section, Township, Range: _____
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave
 Slope (%): 1 Lat: 40.622504 Long: -83.579243 Datum: WGS84
 Soil Map Unit Name: Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes NWI classification: R4SBC

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No _____
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
Remarks: New field area between paved road and agricultural field	

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum	(Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
		<u>0</u>	=Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum	(Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)				
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
		<u>0</u>	=Total Cover		
Herb Stratum	(Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)				
1.	<u>Bromus inermis</u>	80	Yes	FACU	
2.	<u>Daucus carota</u>	25	No	UPL	
3.	<u>Dipsacus fullonum</u>	20	No	FACU	
4.	<u>Symphotrichum pilosum</u>	15	No	FACU	
5.	<u>Toxicodendron radicans</u>	10	No	FAC	
6.	<u>Solanum carolinense</u>	5	No	FACU	
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
		<u>155</u>	=Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum	(Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)				
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	
		<u>0</u>	=Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>
FACW species <u>0</u>	x 2 = <u>0</u>
FAC species <u>10</u>	x 3 = <u>30</u>
FACU species <u>120</u>	x 4 = <u>480</u>
UPL species <u>25</u>	x 5 = <u>125</u>
Column Totals: <u>155</u> (A)	<u>635</u> (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.1</u>	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0¹
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

_____ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation¹ (Explain)

¹Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No X

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP05

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)								
Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type ¹	Loc ²		
0-16	10YR 4/2	100					Silt Loam	

¹Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

²Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Stratified Layers (A5)
- 2 cm Muck (A10)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Iron Monosulfide (A18)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Dark Surface (S7)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils³:

- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- Red Parent Material (F21)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

³Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____
 Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes No

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- Surface Water (A1)
- High Water Table (A2)
- Saturation (A3)
- Water Marks (B1)
- Sediment Deposits (B2)
- Drift Deposits (B3)
- Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- Iron Deposits (B5)
- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- Gauge or Well Data (D9)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- Drainage Patterns (B10)
- Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- Geomorphic Position (D2)
- FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes No Depth (inches): _____
 Water Table Present? Yes No Depth (inches): _____
 Saturation Present? Yes No Depth (inches): _____
 (includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes No

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

D.2 HHEI/QHEI DATA FORMS



Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Form

HHEI Score (sum of metrics 1+2+3)

71

SITE NAME/LOCATION South Kenton station Expansion Project
 SITE NUMBER Stream 1 RIVER BASIN Scioto RIVER CODE _____ DRAINAGE AREA (mi²) 0.85
 LENGTH OF STREAM REACH (ft) 200 LAT 40.623254 LONG -83.579502 RIVER MILE _____
 DATE 4/19/23 SCORER Gillette COMMENTS _____

NOTE: Complete All Items On This Form - Refer to "Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Manual" for Instructions

STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS: NONE / NATURAL CHANNEL RECOVERED RECOVERING RECENT OR NO RECOVERY

1. SUBSTRATE (Estimate percent of every type present). Check ONLY two predominant substrate TYPE boxes. (Max of 32). Add total number of significant substrate types found (Max of 8). Final metric score is sum of boxes A & B.		HHEI Metric Points Substrate Max = 40 26 A + B																											
<table border="0"> <tr><th>TYPE</th><th>PERCENT</th><th>TYPE</th><th>PERCENT</th></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> BLDR SLABS [16 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pts]</td><td><u>10</u></td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]</td><td><u>10</u></td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]</td><td><u>40</u></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]</td><td><u>30</u></td><td><input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]</td><td><u>10</u></td></tr> </table>	TYPE		PERCENT	TYPE	PERCENT	<input type="checkbox"/> BLDR SLABS [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pts]	<u>10</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]	<u>10</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]	<u>40</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]	<u>30</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	<u>10</u>
TYPE	PERCENT	TYPE	PERCENT																										
<input type="checkbox"/> BLDR SLABS [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pts]	<u>10</u>																										
<input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]	<u>10</u>																										
<input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]	_____																										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]	<u>40</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	_____																										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]	<u>30</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]	_____																										
<input type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	<u>10</u>																										
Total of Percentages of Bldr Slabs, Boulder, Cobble, Bedrock <u>40</u> (A) 21 (B) 5 SCORE OF TWO MOST PREDOMINATE SUBSTRATE TYPES: 21 TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSTRATE TYPES: 5																													
2. Maximum Pool Depth (Measure the maximum pool depth within the 61 meter (200 feet) evaluation reach at the time of evaluation. Avoid plunge pools from road culverts or storm water pipes) (Check ONLY one box):		Pool Depth Max = 30 25																											
<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> > 30 centimeters [20 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 5 cm - 10 cm [15 pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 22.5 - 30 cm [30 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> < 5 cm [5pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> NO WATER OR MOIST CHANNEL [0pts]</td></tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> > 30 centimeters [20 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 cm - 10 cm [15 pts]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 22.5 - 30 cm [30 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> < 5 cm [5pts]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> NO WATER OR MOIST CHANNEL [0pts]																					
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> NO WATER OR MOIST CHANNEL [0pts]																												
COMMENTS _____ MAXIMUM POOL DEPTH (centimeters): 15																													
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3 - 4 measurements) (Check ONLY one box):		Bankfull Width Max=30 20																											
<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> > 1.0 m - 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8") [15 pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 1.0 m (≤ 3' 3") [5 pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]</td><td></td></tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> > 1.0 m - 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8") [15 pts]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 1.0 m (≤ 3' 3") [5 pts]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]																						
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]																													
COMMENTS _____ AVERAGE BANKFULL WIDTH (meters): 1.6																													

This information must also be completed

RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY * NOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R) as looking downstream *

RIPARIAN WIDTH (Per Bank)		FLOODPLAIN QUALITY (Most Predominant per Bank)	
L	R	L	R
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS Maintained lawn

FLOW REGIME (At Time of Evaluation) (Check ONLY one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream Flowing	<input type="checkbox"/> Moist Channel, isolated pools, no flow (intermittent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Subsurface flow with isolated pools (interstitial)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry channel, no water (ephemeral)

COMMENTS _____

SINUOSITY (Number of bends per 61 m (200 ft) of channel) (Check ONLY one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0
<input type="checkbox"/> 0.5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	<input type="checkbox"/> >3

STREAM GRADIENT ESTIMATE

Flat (0.5 ft/100 ft) Flat to Moderate Moderate (2 ft/100 ft) Moderate to Severe Severe (10 ft/100 ft)

ADDITIONAL STREAM INFORMATION (This Information Must Also be Completed):

QHEI PERFORMED? Yes No QHEI Score 44.5 (If Yes, Attach Completed QHEI form)

DOWNSTREAM DESIGNATED USE(S)

WWH Name: Scioto River Distance from Evaluated Stream _____
 CWH Name: _____ Distance from Evaluated Stream _____
 EWH Name: _____ Distance from Evaluated Stream _____

MAPPING: ATTACH COPIES OF MAPS, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE WATERSHED AREA. CLEARLY MARK THE SITE LOCATION.

USGS Quadrangle Name: Mt. Victory NRCS Soil Map Page: _____ NRCS Soil Map Stream Order: _____
County: Hardin Township/City: Kenton

MISCELLANEOUS

Base Flow Conditions? (Y/N): Y Date of last precipitation: 4/17/23 Quantity: 0.05"

Photo-documentation Notes: _____

Elevated Turbidity? (Y/N): N Canopy (% open): 0

Were samples collected for water chemistry? (Y/N): N Lab Sample # or ID (attach results): _____

Field Measures: Temp (°C) 13.8 Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l) ✓ pH (S.U.) 8.1 Conductivity (umhos/cm) .78

Is the sampling reach representative of the stream (Y/N) Y If not, explain: _____

Additional comments/description of pollution impacts: _____

BIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

(Record all observations below)

Fish Observed? (Y/N) ✓ Species observed (if known): _____

Frogs or Tadpoles Observed? (Y/N) ✓ Species observed (if known): _____

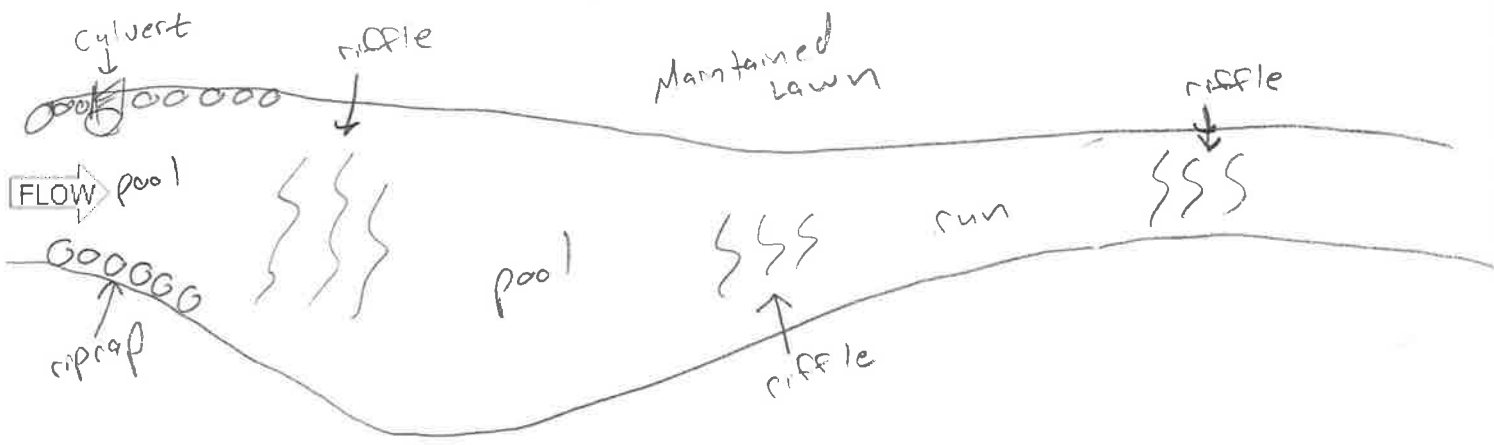
Salamanders Observed? (Y/N) ✓ Species observed (if known): _____

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Observed? (Y/N) ✓ Species observed (if known): _____

Comments Regarding Biology: not conducted

DRAWING AND NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF STREAM REACH (This must be completed)

Include important landmarks and other features of interest for site evaluation and a narrative description of the stream's location



Stream & Location: South Kenton Station Expansion Project RM: Date: 4/19/08 23

Stream: Scorers Full Name & Affiliation: Tyler Gillett, J. Slaughter
River Code: STORET #: Lat./Long.: 40.623254 183.579502 Office verified location

1] SUBSTRATE Check ONLY Two substrate TYPE BOXES; estimate % or note every type present. Check ONE (Or 2 & average). BEST TYPES: BLDR / SLABS [10], BOULDER [9], COBBLE [8], GRAVEL [7], SAND [6], BEDROCK [5]. OTHER TYPES: HARDPAN [4], DETRITUS [3], MUCK [2], SILT [2], ARTIFICIAL [0]. ORIGIN: LIMESTONE [1], TILLS [1], WETLANDS [0], HARDPAN [0], SANDSTONE [0], RIP/RAP [0], LACUSTURINE [0], SHALE [-1], COAL FINES [-2]. QUALITY: HEAVY [-2], MODERATE [-1], NORMAL [0], FREE [1], EXTENSIVE [-2], MODERATE [-1], NORMAL [0], NONE [1].

2] INSTREAM COVER Indicate presence 0 to 3: 0-Absent; 1-Very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality; 2-Moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality; 3-Highest quality in moderate or greater amounts. Check ONE (Or 2 & average). UNDERCUT BANKS [1], OVERHANGING VEGETATION [1], SHALLOWS (IN SLOW WATER) [1], ROOTMATS [1]. POOLS > 70cm [2], ROOTWADS [1], BOULDERS [1]. OXBOWS, BACKWATERS [1], AQUATIC MACROPHYTES [1], LOGS OR WOODY DEBRIS [1]. AMOUNT: EXTENSIVE >75% [1], MODERATE 25-75% [7], SPARSE 5-<25% [3], NEARLY ABSENT <5% [1].

3] CHANNEL MORPHOLOGY Check ONE in each category (Or 2 & average). SINUOSITY: HIGH [4], MODERATE [3], LOW [2], NONE [1]. DEVELOPMENT: EXCELLENT [7], GOOD [5], FAIR [3], POOR [1]. CHANNELIZATION: NONE [6], RECOVERED [4], RECOVERING [3], RECENT OR NO RECOVERY [1]. STABILITY: HIGH [3], MODERATE [2], LOW [1].

4] BANK EROSION AND RIPARIAN ZONE Check ONE in each category for EACH BANK (Or 2 per bank & average). River right looking downstream. EROSION: NONE / LITTLE [3], MODERATE [2], HEAVY / SEVERE [1]. RIPARIAN WIDTH: WIDE > 50m [4], MODERATE 10-50m [3], NARROW 5-10m [2], VERY NARROW < 5m [1], NONE [0]. FLOOD PLAIN QUALITY: FOREST, SWAMP [3], SHRUB OR OLD FIELD [2], RESIDENTIAL, PARK, NEW FIELD [1], FENCED PASTURE [1], OPEN PASTURE, ROWCROP [0]. CONSERVATION TILLAGE [1], URBAN OR INDUSTRIAL [0], MINING / CONSTRUCTION [0].

5] POOL / GLIDE AND RIFFLE / RUN QUALITY MAXIMUM DEPTH: > 1m [6], 0.7-<1m [4], 0.4-<0.7m [2], 0.2-<0.4m [1], < 0.2m [0]. CHANNEL WIDTH: POOL WIDTH > RIFFLE WIDTH [2], POOL WIDTH = RIFFLE WIDTH [1], POOL WIDTH > RIFFLE WIDTH [0]. CURRENT VELOCITY: TORRENTIAL [-1], VERY FAST [1], FAST [1], MODERATE [1], SLOW [1], INTERSTITIAL [-1], INTERMITTENT [-2], EDDIES [1]. Recreation Potential: Primary Contact, Secondary Contact. Pool / Current Maximum 12.

Indicate for functional riffles; Best areas must be large enough to support a population of riffle-obligate species: Check ONE (Or 2 & average). NO RIFFLE [metric=0]. RIFFLE DEPTH: BEST AREAS > 10cm [2], BEST AREAS 5-10cm [1], BEST AREAS < 5cm [metric=0]. RUN DEPTH: MAXIMUM > 50cm [2], MAXIMUM < 50cm [1]. RIFFLE / RUN SUBSTRATE: STABLE (e.g., Cobble, Boulder) [2], MOD. STABLE (e.g., Large Gravel) [1], UNSTABLE (e.g., Fine Gravel, Sand) [0]. RIFFLE / RUN EMBEDDEDNESS: NONE [2], LOW [1], MODERATE [0], EXTENSIVE [-1]. Riffle / Run Maximum 8.

6] GRADIENT (14.7 ft/mi) DRAINAGE AREA (1.49 mi^2). VERY LOW - LOW [2-4], MODERATE [6-10], HIGH - VERY HIGH [10-6]. %POOL: 60, %GLIDE: 0, %RUN: 30, %RIFFLE: 10. Gradient Maximum 10.

A) SAMPLED REACH

Check ALL that apply

- METHOD**
- BOAT
 - WADE
 - L. LINE
 - OTHER
- DISTANCE**
- 0.5 Km
 - 0.2 Km
 - 0.15 Km
 - 0.12 Km
 - OTHER

- STAGE**
- 1st-sample pass- 2nd
- HIGH
 - UP
 - NORMAL
 - LOW
 - DRY

PH 9.1

Conductivity .78 78

Temp 13.8°C

- CLARITY**
- 1st --sample pass-- 2nd
- < 20 cm
 - 20-<40 cm
 - 40-70 cm
 - > 70 cm/ CTB
 - SECCHI DEPTH
- 61 meters

- CANOPY**
- 1st pass _____ cm
- 2nd pass _____ cm
- > 85%- OPEN
 - 55%-<85%
 - 30%-<55%
 - 10%-<30%
 - <10%- CLOSED

- C) RECREATION**
- AREA DEPTH
- POOL: >100ft² >3ft

B) AESTHETICS

- NUISANCE ALGAE
- INVASIVE MACROPHYTES
- EXCESS TURBIDITY
- DISCOLORATION
- FOAM / SCUM
- OIL SHEEN
- TRASH / LITTER
- NUISANCE ODOR
- SLUDGE DEPOSITS
- CSOs/SSOs/OUTFALLS

D) MAINTENANCE

- Circle some & COMMENT
- PUBLIC / PRIVATE / BOTH / NA
 - ACTIVE / HISTORIC / BOTH / NA
 - YOUNG-SUCCESSION-OLD
 - SPRAY / SNAG / REMOVED
 - MODIFIED / DIPPED OUT / NA
 - LEVEED / ONE SIDED
 - RELOCATED / CUTOFFS
 - MOVING-BEDLOAD-STABLE
 - ARMOURED / SLUMPS
 - ISLANDS / SCoured
 - IMPOUNDED / DESICCATED
 - FLOOD CONTROL / DRAINAGE

E) ISSUES

- WWTP / CSO / NPDES / INDUSTRY
- HARDENED / URBAN / DIRT&GRIME
- CONTAMINATED / LANDFILL
- BMPs-CONSTRUCTION-SEDIMENT
- LOGGING / IRRIGATION / COOLING
- BANK / EROSION / SURFACE
- FALSE BANK / MANURE / LAGOON
- WASH H₂O / TILE / H₂O TABLE
- ACID / MINE / QUARRY / FLOW
- NATURAL / WETLAND / STAGNANT
- PARK / GOLF / LAWN / HOME
- ATMOSPHERE / DATA PAUCITY

F) MEASUREMENTS

- \bar{x} width 2'
- \bar{x} depth 6"
- max. depth 6"
- \bar{x} bankfull width 5'
- bankfull \bar{x} depth 2'
- W/D ratio
- bankfull max. depth
- floodprone x² width
- entrench. ratio
- Legacy Tree:

Stream Drawing:

N →

