

# Construction Notice for the Badger-Gondor 138 kV Transmission Tie- Lines Project



An **AEP** Company

PUCO Case No. 24-0797-EL-BNR

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

Submitted by:  
Ohio Power Company

August 16, 2024

# Construction Notice for the Badger-Gondor 138 kV Transmission Tie-Lines Project

## Construction Notice

### Ohio Power Company Badger-Gondor 138 kV Transmission Tie-Lines

#### 4906-6-05

Ohio Power Company (the “Company”) provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

#### 4906-6-5(B) General Information

##### B(1) Project Description

**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.**

The Company has identified the need to construct the Badger-Gondor 138 kV Transmission Tie-Lines Project (the “Project”) in the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio. The purpose of the Project is to provide 138 kV service to a customer’s non-jurisdictional stepdown station by extending four 138 kV transmission lines approximately 200 feet west from Badger Station (OPSB Case Number 23-0290-EL-BLN - approved on September 14, 2023) to the customer’s Gondor Station. The Project was originally approved as part of the Badger Station Letter of Notification, but it is being resubmitted due to shifts to the approved centerlines (see Appendix A, Figure 3). Badger Station will receive looped service from the double-circuit Jug Street-Corridor 138 kV transmission line (OPSB Case Number 23-0852-EL-BNR – approved on December 12, 2023). The locations of the proposed transmission corridors (“Project Area”) are shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2 in Appendix A.

The Project meets the requirements for a CN because the components are within the types of projects defined by item 1(d)(i) of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01 Appendix A of the 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 the property owned by the specific customer or the applicant.*

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 24-0797-EL-BNR.

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### **B(2) Statement of Need**

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

A customer has requested a new substation to serve their facility requiring 125 MW of initial load, with growth up to 290 MW of peak demand. To meet the customer's needs, the Company will be required to construct a new 138 kV station, configured in a breaker-and-half-bus layout, named Badger Station. Badger Station will require cutting into the existing Jug – Corridor 138 kV circuit (part of Jug – Corridor 345 kV double-circuit Transmission Line). Therefore, a section of the Jug – Corridor 345 kV Transmission Line will be adjusted to allow the cut-in to the new Badger Station. The customer has requested an in-service date of May 1, 2024, for the initial load.

Failure to move forward with the proposed Project will result in the inability to serve the customer's load expectations and thereby jeopardize the customer's plans in the New Albany area (potentially 290 MW peak).

The need was presented and reviewed with stakeholders at the February 18, 2022, PJM SSRTEP Western Meeting. The solution was submitted at the May 9, 2023, PJM TEAC Meeting. The Project has not been assigned the PJM supplemental number at this time. The Project was included in the Company's 2024 Long Term Forecast Report (LTFR) on pages 114 and 115 (See Appendix B).

### **B(3) Project Location**

**The applicant shall 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 in Figure 1 of Appendix A.

### **B(4) Alternatives Considered**

**The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.**

The Project is located on customer and Company property within an overall customer development. The proposed locations of tie lines are based on the station bays and are the only suitable alignments for the Project given those bay locations. The proposed Project will result in no impacts to wetlands, streams, or known cultural resource areas eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, this alternative represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's and specific customer's needs in the area.

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### **B(5) Public Information Program**

**The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.**

The Company maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. A letter including Project and filing details will be sent to officials and each property owner and affected tenant within the planned site or contiguous to the planned site within seven days of filing. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project. The Company also retains land agents who will discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities with affected owners and tenants.

### **B(6) Construction Schedule**

**The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.**

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in September 2024, and the anticipated in-service date will be September 2024.

### **B(7) Area Map**

**The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.**

Figure 1 in Appendix A provides the proposed Project area on a map of 1:24,000-scale (1 inch equals 2,000 feet), showing the Project on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic maps of the New Albany, Ohio and Jersey, Ohio quadrangles. Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the Project Area on recent aerial photography, dated 2020, as provided by ESRI World Imagery at a scale of 1:6,000 scale (1 inch equals 500 feet).

To visit the Project site from Columbus, Ohio, take I-670 East to Exit 10A-B toward OH-161/I-270 North. After 1.7 miles, take the ramp on the right for OH-161 East. Continue for 11.2 miles before taking the ramp on the right to Beech Road/Township Road 88. Turn left onto Beech Road SW. The Project is located on the right after approximately 1.4 miles at the approximate address of 2465 Beech Rd, Johnstown, Ohio 43031, at latitude 40.100110, longitude -82.753464.



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### B(8) Property Agreements

The applicant shall 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.

All work activities are proposed on the customer property, or a property transferred from the customer to the Company for the Project. A list of properties required for the Project is provided in the table below.

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	Easement/ Option Obtained (Yes/No)
095-111618-04.000	New Easement Agreement	Yes
095-111618-04.001	Company Property	Not Applicable

### B(9) Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

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

The equipment and facilities to be installed within the Project Area will include the following:

Line Asset Name: Badger – Gondor (Amazon) Tie Line No. 1 (T)  
Voltage: 138 kV  
Conductors: (3) 556 KCM ACSR (26/7)  
Static Wire: (2) 7#8 Alumoweld  
Insulators: Polymer  
ROW Width: Not Applicable  
Structure Type: (2) H-frame dead end structures within Badger and the customer stations

Line Asset Name: Badger – Gondor (Amazon) Tie Line No. 2 (T)  
Voltage: 138 kV  
Conductors: (3) 556 KCM ACSR (26/7)  
Static Wire: (2) 7#8 Alumoweld  
Insulators: Polymer  
ROW Width: Not Applicable  
Structure Type: (2) H-frame dead end structures within Badger and the customer stations

Line Asset Name: Badger – Gondor (Amazon) Tie Line No. 3 (T)  
Voltage: 138 kV  
Conductors: (3) 556 KCM ACSR (26/7)  
Static Wire: (1) 7#8 Alumoweld

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Insulators:	Polymer
ROW Width:	Not Applicable
Structure Type:	(2) H-frame dead end structures within Badger and the customer stations
Line Asset Name:	Badger – Gondor (Amazon) Tie Line No. 4 (T)
Voltage:	138 kV
Conductors:	(3) 556 KCM ACSR (26/7)
Static Wire:	(2) 7#8 Alumoweld
Insulators:	Polymer
ROW Width:	Not Applicable
Structure Type:	(2) H-frame dead end structures within Badger and the customer stations

### **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 capital cost estimate for the Project is approximately \$900,000 using a Class 4 estimate. Forty percent of the costs will be recovered through reimbursement from the customer. The remaining 60% of the costs will be recovered through the Ohio Power Company's FERC formula rate (Attachment H-14 to the PJM OATT) and allocated to the AEP Zone pursuant to the PJM OATT.

### **B(10) Social and Economic Impacts**

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

#### **B(10)(a) Land Use Characteristics**

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

An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as Figure 2 in Appendix A. The Project is located in the City of New Albany, Licking County, Ohio. Land use in the Project area consists of adjacent substations within a data warehouse development. The Project area is zoned General Employment. The closest residence is approximately 1,000 feet from the Project.

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### **B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information**

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

The majority of the customer's property and the Company's property, including the entirety of the Project, have been developed for commercial use. Two adjacent substations are connected by the proposed Project transmission tie-lines. The Licking County Auditor confirmed that the Project parcels are not registered as Agricultural District Land on August 9, 2024.

### **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.**

The Company's consultant completed a literature review of a Phase I Cultural Resource Management Investigation of the Project Area. No further investigation was considered to be necessary by the consultant. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") agreed that the Project will not impact any cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP and no additional coordination is necessary prior to construction. A copy of the October 5, 2022, concurrence letter from SHPO is provided in Appendix C.

### **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 Notice of Intent was filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000006, and the Company coordinated storm water permitting needs with the City of New Albany for the overall development of the substation and transmission line interconnections. The Company will continue to implement and maintain best management practices as outlined in the Project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") to minimize erosion control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events.

The customer completed an ecological survey in April 2019 for the overall customer property. The proposed Project falls within the area reviewed by the customer in 2019. One stream and two wetlands were originally identified approximately 100 feet north and northeast of the Project. These features were the subject of a Jurisdictional Determination. The property owner continued with the permitting process and received the

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applicable permits. The associated permits are LRH-2018-686-SCR-Blacklick Creek and OEPA DSW 401196304.

The Company's consultant completed an additional survey in March 2023 to review current site conditions. The Project area was graded. The two PEM/Cat 1 wetlands identified as a result of the field review were located within the area of a Jurisdictional Determination (LRH-2018-686-SCR-Blacklick Creek) and permitting efforts by others and are located within the larger site development. The Company will not be impacting the identified stream or two identified wetlands (see Figure 2 in Appendix D).

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map numbers **39049C0207K** and **39049C0230K**). Based on this mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project Area. Therefore, no floodplain permit will be required for this Project.

There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the proposed Project.

### **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.**

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office seeking technical assistance on the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. The October 21, 2022 response letter from the USFWS (see Appendix C) indicated that the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat occur through Ohio. Seasonal tree clearing would be required if bat habitat trees were identified. Due to the Project type, size, and location, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species.

A coordination letter was submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Division of Wildlife ("DOW") Ohio Natural Heritage Program ("ONHP") and the ODNR - Office of Real Estate seeking an environmental review of the proposed Project for potential impacts on state-listed and federally-listed threatened or endangered species. Correspondence from ODNR's DOW/OHNP and the ODNR - Office of Real Estate was received on November 15, 2022 (see Appendix C).

According to the ODNR-DOW, the Project is within the range of the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat. ODNR recommends cutting between October 1 and March 31. No winter hibernacula were observed within the Project Area (See Appendix D), and no tree clearing is anticipated for the Project. A review of potential winter bat hibernacula including underground mine openings and karst features was conducted within 0.25 miles of the Project. No potential hibernacula were identified.

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Therefore, no adverse impacts to these species are anticipated and no additional coordination with ODNR regarding bat species is required.

The ODNR-DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the lake chubsucker, a state threatened fish species. Due to no in-water work and habitat, this species is not anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

The ODNR-DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the eastern massasauga, a state endangered and a 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. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

In addition, the ODNR lists the Project in the range of the northern harrier. The ODNR recommends that nesting habitats for the listed species be avoided during their nesting periods. A habitat survey was completed for avian resources, and concluded no suitable habitat was observed in the Project area. No construction restrictions are warranted as suitable habitat was not present on site.

### **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.**

Correspondence received from the USFWS indicated that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat in the Project vicinity. Similarly, the ODNR ONHP identified no unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within one mile of the Project (see Appendix D).

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps were consulted to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped in the Project Area (specifically, map numbers **39049C0207K** and **39049C0230K**). Based on these maps, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project area.

The customer completed an ecological survey in April 2019 for the overall customer property. The Company's consultant completed an additional survey in March 2023 to review current site conditions.

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Impacts to an intermittent stream and two wetlands approximately 100 feet north and northeast of the Project were permitted by others. These features were not present during the 2023 ecological survey.

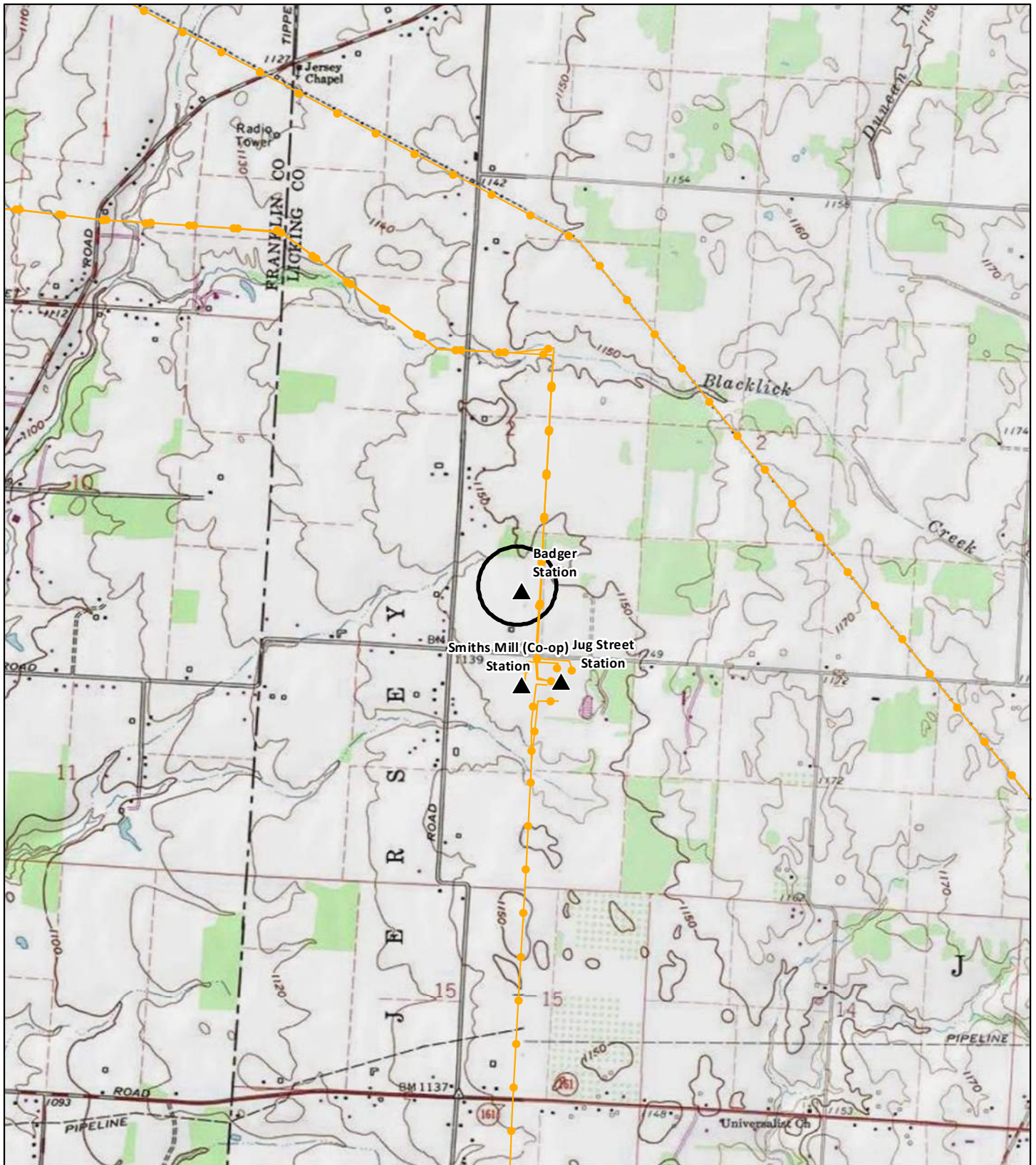
### **B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions**

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




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

**Appendix A Project Maps**





**Legend:**

-  Project Area
-  Existing Station
-  Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles (New Albany and Jersey, Ohio)

Ohio State Plane South NAD 1983



August 08, 2024

**PROJECT LOCATION**



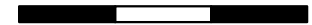
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 1  
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**



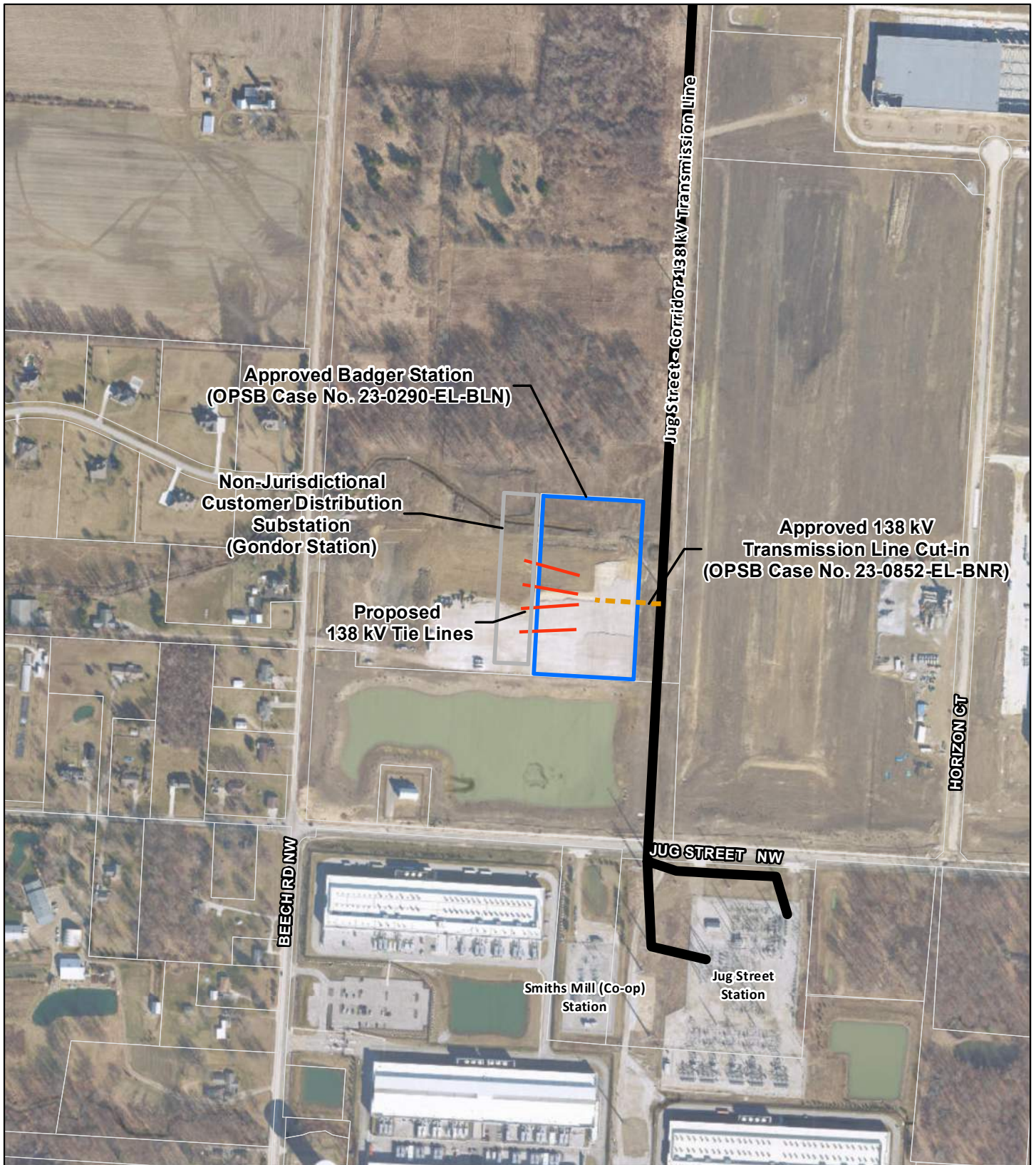
Badger-Gondor 138 kV  
Transmission Tie-Lines

0 1,000 2,000 3,000



Feet





**Legend:**

- Proposed 138 kV Tie Line
- Approved Badger Station Fence
- Approved Transmission Line Cut-in
- Existing Transmission Line
- Proposed Non-Jurisdictional Customer Distribution Station
- Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP,  
Licking County Auditor (2023)

Ohio State Plane South  
NAD 1983



August 08, 2024

**PROJECT LOCATION**



LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 2  
PROJECT AERIAL MAP**

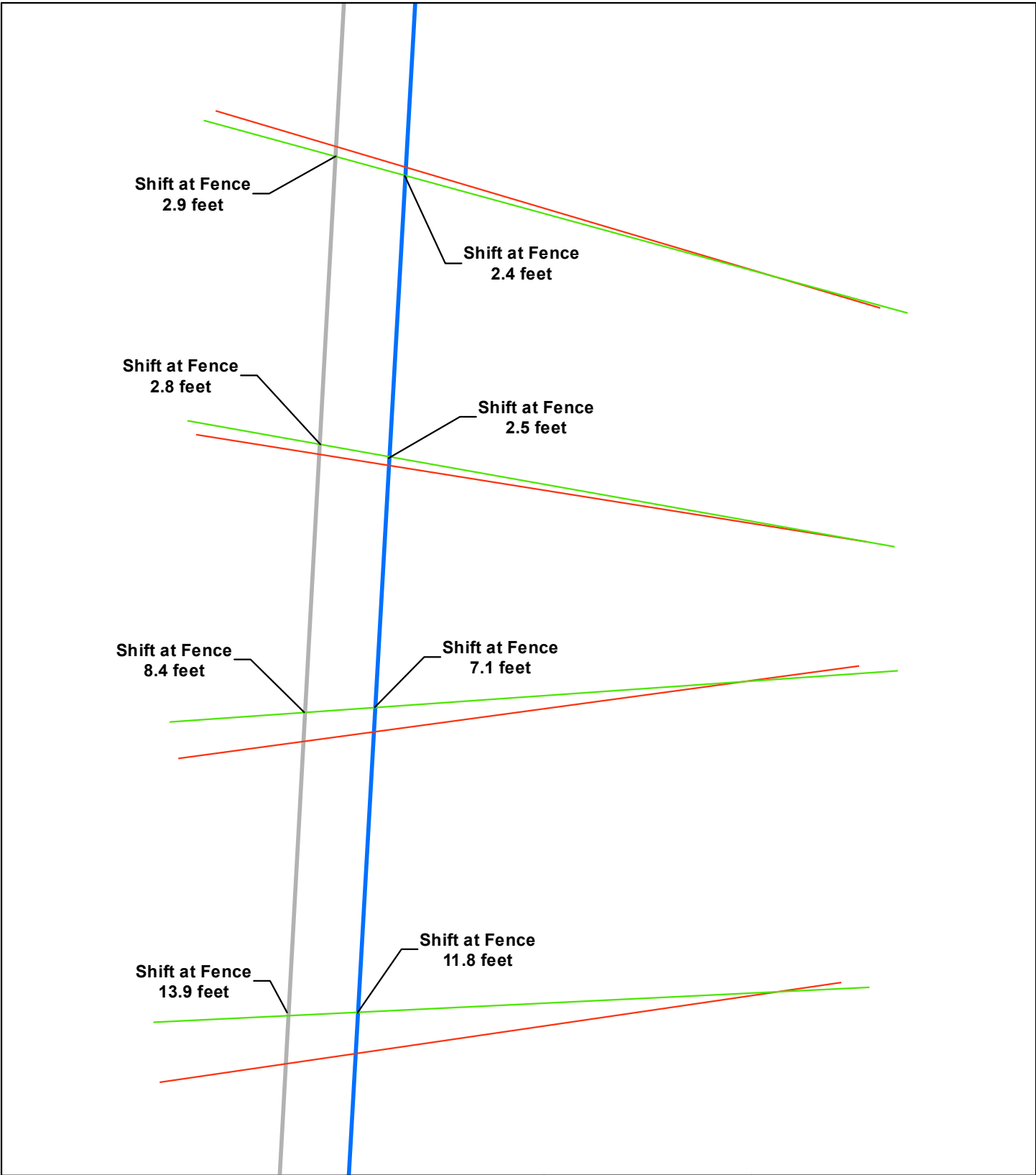


Badger-Gondor 138 kV  
Transmission Tie-Lines

0 250 500 750



Feet



**Legend:**

- Proposed Centerline
- Approved Centerline (23-290-EL-BLN)
- Approved Badger Station Fence
- Non-Jurisdictional Customer Station Fence

Data Sources: AEP

Ohio State Plane South  
NAD 1983



August 15, 2024

**PROJECT LOCATION**

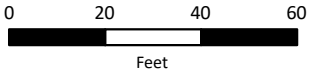


LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 3  
PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS**



**Badger-Gondor 138 kV  
Transmission Tie-Lines**



**Appendix B PJM Solution and Long-Term Forecast Report Pages**



# AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Badger

**Need Number:** AEP-2022-OH023

**Process Stage:** Solutions Meeting 5/9/2023

**Previously Presented:** Need Meeting 2/18/2022

**Project Driver:** Customer Service

**Specific Assumption Reference:**

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

**Problem Statement:**

Customer Service:

- A customer has requested transmission service at a site North of AEP's existing Jugg Street station in Columbus, OH.
- The customer has indicated an initial peak demand of ~~90~~ 125 MW with an ultimate capacity of up to ~~360~~ 290 MW at the site.
- Initial customer requested in-service date of June 1, 2024.





## AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process New Albany, OH

**Need Number:** AEP-2022-OH023

**Process Stage:** Solutions Meeting 5/9/2023

**Proposed Solution:**

**The following work is all direct connect substation to physically connect demand to the grid.**

- **Badger 138 kV:** Cut into the Green Chapel – Jug 138 kV circuit and extend ~ 0.1 miles of new double circuit line, utilizing 2-bundled ACSR Falcon 1590 (54/19) conductor, SE rating 1118 MVA, to the greenfield Badger station with (10) 80 kA, 4000 A breakers & (1) 69.1 MVAR 138 kV Cap bank, laid out as breaker and a half for future expansion to 6 strings. Construct 4 - 138 kV tie lines to the customers dead end structures ~.05 miles utilizing ACSR Dove 556.5 (26/7) conductor SE 284 MVA. Cost: **\$18.43 M**

PUCO Form FE-T9:  
Specifications of Planned Electric Transmission Lines

12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Potential for increased transmission line outages
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Conesville - Ohio Central 138 kV (TP2021599)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Conesville - Ohio Central INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	2.25 mi of double circuit & 10.6 mi of single circuit / 150 ft / 1 & 2 circuit (10.6 miles of single circuit rebuild)
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	345 kV / 345 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2025 - 2026
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$35.61M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	N/A
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Rebuild aging infrastructure
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Potential for increased transmission line outages
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Badger - Gondor #1 138 kV (TP2021766)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Badger - Gondor #1 INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	0.05 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$0.22 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Badger & Gondor
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Badger - Gondor #2 138 kV (TP2021766)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Badger - Gondor #2 INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	0.05 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$0.21 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Badger & Gondor
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Badger - Gondor #3 138 kV (TP2021766)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Badger - Gondor #3 INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	0.05 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$0.22 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Badger & Gondor
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer

PUCO Form FE-T9:  
Specifications of Planned Electric Transmission Lines

12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Badger - Gondor #4 138 kV (TP2021766)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Badger - Gondor #4 INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	0.05 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$0.22 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Badger & Gondor
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Celtic - Jerome & Jerome - Kileville 138 kV (TP2021576)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Celtic - Jerome & Jerome - Kileville INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	2.3 mi / 100 ft / 2 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$15.88 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Celtic & Jerome
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Jerome Extension 138 kV (TP2021576)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Jerome - Hyatt INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	1.33 mi / 100 ft / 2 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138 kV / 138 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2024
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$10.83 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Jerome
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Unable to serve new customer
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Celtic - Hyatt 345 kV (TP2021576)
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Celtic - Hyatt INTERMEDIATE STATIONS - N/A
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	8.72 mi / 150 ft / 2 circuit (0.2 mi of line work)
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	345 kV / 345 kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2024
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$3.84 M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	Celtic
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	Service to new customer

**Appendix C Agency Coordination**





In reply, refer to  
2022-LIC-56034

October 5, 2022

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

**RE: Badger Station Project, Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received October 4, 2022 regarding the proposed Badger Station Project, Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 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 5.1 ha (12.7 ac) Badger Station Project in Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio* by Ryan J. Weller (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2022).

A literature review was completed as part of the investigations as the entirety of the project area was previously investigated. One (1) previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project area, Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) #33LI2440. The site was recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Our office agrees with this recommendation and no additional archeological investigation is needed. No architectural resources were identified in the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

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 historic properties are discovered during implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2022, or by e-mail at [khorrocks@ohiohistory.org](mailto:khorrocks@ohiohistory.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Krista Horrocks".

Krista Horrocks, Project Reviews Manager  
Resource Protection and Review

RPR Serial No: 1095208



# 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

November 15, 2022

Kim Catano  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
1500 Lake Shore Drive Suite 100  
Columbus OH 43204

**Re:** 22-1017; AEP Badger Station CMH 82 Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves an approximately 10-acre parcel to construct a new 138kV station.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto: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 threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq 20$  if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS “[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#).” If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a 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. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

**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](mailto: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



October 21, 2022

Project Code: 2023-0000416

Dear Ms. Catano:

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

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees  $\geq 3$  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  $\geq 3$  inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats. If Indiana bats are not detected

during the survey, then tree clearing may occur at any time of the year. Surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office. Surveyors must have a valid federal permit. Please note that in Ohio summer mist net surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrice Ashfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "A".

Patrice Ashfield  
Field Office Supervisor

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

## **Appendix D Ecological Survey Report**





**Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio**

**Ecological Survey Report**

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.  
1500 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43204

March 31, 2023

## Sign-off Sheet

This document entitled Badger Station Project Ecological Survey Report was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. ("Stantec") for the account of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the "Client"). 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           *Zoe True*            
(signature)

**Zoe True**

Reviewed by           *Angela Sjollema*            
(signature)

**Angela Sjollema**

Reviewed by           *Charlie Allen*            
(signature)

**Charlie Allen**

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# BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Introduction  
March 31, 2023

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP) is proposing to construct a new 138 kilovolt (kV) station in Licking County, Ohio. The Badger Station Project (the Project) is located northeast of New Albany in Jersey Township, Licking County, Ohio (Figure 1, Appendix B). The Project will include the construction of a new 138 kV station with associated access roads. A 12.7-acre parcel (the Project area) for the proposed new 138 kV station was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, open water features, upland drainage features, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on September 28 and October 5, 2022, and March 21, 2023 (Figure 2, Appendix B). 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. These features are shown on the Figure 2 map in Appendix B as “approximate” wetlands, streams (waterways), open waters, and upland drainage features.

## **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 maps, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, 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 Environmental Laboratory 1987) and 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) and determined as potential Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) in reference to the current guidance per interpretation of WOTUS that is consistent with the pre-2015 regulatory regime (40 CFR 230.3(s)) (USEPA 2022). Functional assessment of streams 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). The centerline and/or the OHWM locations of each waterway were identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy global positioning system (GPS) unit and mapped with GIS software. Additionally, the locations of 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 E – Agency Correspondence). To assess potential impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, Stantec scientists conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the Project area, collected information on existing habitats within the Project area, and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by these species.

## BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Results  
March 31, 2023

### 3.0 RESULTS

#### 3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on September 28 and October 5, 2022, and March 21, 2023 for potentially suitable habitats for threatened and endangered species. Figure 3 (Appendix B) shows the land cover, vegetation communities, and any identified rare, threatened, or endangered species habitats observed within the Project area during the habitat assessment surveys. Representative photographs of the vegetation communities/habitats identified within the Project area are included in Appendix D-2 of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 3 in Appendix B). Information regarding the vegetation communities/habitats identified within the Project area are provided in Table 1.

**Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Found within the Badger Station Project Area Licking 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
Old Field	Moderate to Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by opportunistic invaders, planted non-native species, and/or native highly tolerant taxa, and structures). Dominant species included nodding foxtail ( <i>Setaria faberi</i> ), Canadian goldenrod ( <i>Solidago canadensis</i> ), fall panicum ( <i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i> ), red clover ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> ), lamb's quarters ( <i>Chenopodium album</i> ), giant ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia trifida</i> ), annual ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> ), red-root ( <i>Amaranth retroflexus</i> ), heath aster ( <i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i> ), and alsike clover ( <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> ).	No	9.29
Second Growth Deciduous Forest	Intermediate disturbance (dominated by plants that typify a stable phase of a native community that persists under some disturbance). Dominant species included eastern poison ivy ( <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> ), American elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> ), shagbark hickory ( <i>Carya ovata</i> ), pin oak ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> ), green ash ( <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> ), red oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> ), American beech ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> ), northern spicebush ( <i>Lindera benzoin</i> ), clustered black snakeroot ( <i>Sanicula odorata</i> ), heath aster, jumpseed ( <i>Persicaria virginiana</i> ), common red raspberry ( <i>Rubus idaeus</i> ), multiflora rose ( <i>Rosa</i>	No	3.13

## BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Results

March 31, 2023

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
	<i>multiflora</i> ), and harvest-lice ( <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> ), false nettle ( <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> ).		
Palustrine Emergence Wetland	Intermediate disturbance (dominated by plants that typify a stable phase of a native community that persists under some disturbance). Dominant species included reed canary grass ( <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> ), American tearthumb ( <i>Persicaria sagittata</i> ), paniced aster ( <i>Symphyotrichum lanceolatum</i> ).	No	0.28
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12.70</b>

### 3.2 WETLANDS

Desktop analysis determined that the Project area contains no NWI features. Stantec completed field surveys for wetlands within the Project area on September 28 and October 5, 2022. Two wetlands were identified within the Project area during the field surveys. Figure 2 (Appendix B) shows the location of the identified wetlands. Representative wetland photographs are included in Appendix D-1 of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix B). Completed wetland determination and ORAM data forms are included in Appendix C. Information regarding the wetland resources within the Project area and proposed impacts are summarized in Table 2 and Appendix A.

Biologists completed an additional survey on March 21, 2023 to review current site conditions. During the time of the survey, the two wetlands that were previously delineated were recently graded as part of the construction associated with the permitting efforts by others for a large site development. Representative photographs of the current site conditions, previous wetland areas, are included in Appendix D-3 of this report.



**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Results  
March 31, 2023

**Table 2. Summary of Wetland Resources Found within the Badger Station Project Area, Licking County, Ohio**

Wetland ID	Location			Isolated? <sup>2</sup>	Habitat Type <sup>3,4</sup>	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM <sup>5</sup>		Nearest Proposed Structure Number	Existing Structure Number in Wetland	Proposed Structure Number in Wetland	Structure Installation Method	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude	Photo Location <sup>1</sup>				Score	Category					Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
Wetland 1	40.100484	-82.750062	2	No	PEM	0.11	23	1	N/A	None	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
Wetland 2	40.100254	-82.749535	7	No	PEM	0.17	26	1	N/A	None	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
<b>Total:</b>						<b>0.28</b>	<b>Total:</b>						<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

<sup>1</sup> Appendix B - Figure 2 and Appendix D – Photo log D-1

<sup>2</sup> Pending USACE jurisdictional review

<sup>3</sup> Habitat type based on Cowardin et al. (1979).

<sup>4</sup> PEM = Palustrine Emergent Wetland

<sup>5</sup> ORAM Score and Category are based on the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetland v. 5.0 (Mack 2001).

## **BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Results

March 31, 2023

### **3.3 STREAMS**

Stantec completed field surveys within the Project area on September 28 and October 5, 2022 for waterbodies (streams). Stantec identified one stream within the Project area. Information regarding the stream within the Project area and proposed impacts are summarized in Table 3 and Appendix A. Figure 2 (Appendix B) shows the location of the stream identified within the Project area. Representative photographs of the stream are included in Appendix D of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix B). A completed HHEI data form is included in Appendix C.

Biologists completed an additional survey on March 21, 2023 to review current site conditions. During the time of the survey, the one intermittent stream that was previously delineated was recently graded as part of the construction associated with the permitting efforts by others for a large site development. Representative photographs of the current site conditions, previous stream area, are included in Appendix D-3 of this report.

### **3.4 OPEN WATERS**

No open waters (i.e., ponds, lakes) were delineated within the Project area during the field surveys completed on September 28 and October 5, 2022, and March 21, 2023.

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**Table 3. Summary of Stream Resources Found within the Badger Station Project, Licking County**

Stream ID	Location			Stream Type <sup>2</sup>	Stream Name	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width <sup>3</sup> (feet)	Field Evaluation			Ohio EPA 401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing ?	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude	Photo Location <sup>1</sup>						Method <sup>4</sup>	Score	Category/ Rating/OAC Designation			Fill Type	Length (LF)
Stream 1	40.10036	-82.75079	4, 5	Intermittent	UNT to Blacklick Creek	471	6	4.5	HHEI	58	Modified Class II PHW	Possibly Eligible	N/A	TBD	TBD
<b>Total Delineated Length Within Project Area:</b>						<b>471</b>	<b>Total Proposed Impacts:</b>						<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
<sup>1</sup> Appendix B – Figure 2 and Appendix D – Photo log D-2 <sup>2</sup> Stream Classification is based on Federal Register/Vol.67, N. 10 (USACE 2002). <sup>3</sup> OHWM = Ordinary High Water Mark <sup>4</sup> HHEI = Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index; QHEI = Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index															

### 3.5 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 4. Summary of Potential Federal and Ohio State-Listed Species within the Badger Station Project Area Licking County, Ohio

Common/Scientific Names	*State Listed Status	*Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comment** (Appendix D)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
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 2022). 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).	No potentially suitable winter hibernacula were observed within the Project area. However, suitable summer roost and foraging habitat (deciduous forest) was observed within the Project area.	<b>ODNR</b> – This Project lies within the range the Indiana bat. Therefore, ODNR DOW recommends that habitat be conserved wherever possible. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees need to be cut, the ODNR DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. In addition, the DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area.  <b>USFWS</b> – If the proposed Project area contains trees ≥3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends that trees be saved wherever possible. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, USFWS recommends that 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.	Stantec completed a desktop habitat assessment in accordance with the 2022 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2022) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2022a) and locations of known or suspect karst geology (ODNR 2022b). The desktop assessment did not identify any karst regions or abandoned or active mines within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4; Appendix B). Potential suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed in the Project area. AEP will determine if any tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable habitat and will proceed in accordance with agency recommendations.  <b>Avoidance Dates: April 1 through September 30</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat/ <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	E	T/PE	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 2022). 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).	No potentially suitable winter hibernacula were observed within the Project area. However, suitable summer roost and foraging habitat (deciduous forest) was observed within the Project area.	<b>ODNR</b> - This Project is within the vicinity of records for northern long-eared bat. Therefore, ODNR DOW recommends that habitat be conserved wherever possible. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees need to be cut, the ODNR DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. In addition, the DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area.  <b>USFWS</b> – If the proposed Project area contains trees ≥3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends that trees be saved wherever possible. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, USFWS recommends that removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal tree clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to the northern long-eared bat. Incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule.	Stantec completed a desktop habitat assessment in accordance with the 2022 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2022) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2022a) and locations of known or suspect karst geology (ODNR 2022b). The desktop assessment did not identify any karst regions or abandoned or active mines within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4; Appendix B). Potential suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed in the Project area. AEP will determine if any tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable habitat and will proceed in accordance with agency recommendations.  <b>Avoidance Dates: April 1 through September 30</b>

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Common/Scientific Names	*State Listed Status	*Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comment** (Appendix D)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Little Brown Bat/ <i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	E	N/A	This bat uses a wide range of habitats and man-made structures for roosting, including buildings and attics. Less frequently, they use hollows of trees. Winter hibernation sites typically consist of caves, tunnels, abandoned mines. Foraging habitat for this species generally occurs over water, along the edges of lakes and stream or in woodlands near waterbodies (NatureServe 2022).	No potentially suitable winter hibernacula were observed within the Project area. However, suitable summer roost habitat (second growth deciduous forest) was observed within the Project area.	<b>ODNR</b> - This Project lies within the range of the little brown bat. Therefore, ODNR DOW recommends that habitat be conserved wherever possible. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees need to be cut, the ODNR DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. In addition, the DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area.  <b>USFWS</b> – No comments received.	Stantec completed a desktop habitat assessment in accordance with the 2022 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2022) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2022a) and locations of known or suspect karst geology (ODNR 2022b). The desktop assessment did not identify any karst regions or abandoned or active mines within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4; Appendix B). Potential suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed in the Project area. AEP will determine if any tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable habitat and will proceed in accordance with agency recommendations.  <b>Avoidance Dates: April 1 through September 30.</b>
Tricolored Bat/ <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	E	PE	This species is found throughout Ohio and is associated with forested landscapes, foraging near trees and along waterways. Maternity and summer roosts usually occur in dead or live tree foliage, or in the south, in clumps of Spanish moss. Maternity colonies may also use tree cavities or man-made structures, such as buildings or bridges. Caves, mines, and rock crevices may be used as night roosts between foraging (NatureServe 2022).	No potentially suitable winter hibernacula were observed within the Project area. However, suitable summer roost habitat (second growth deciduous forest) was observed within the Project area.	<b>ODNR</b> - This Project lies within the range of the tricolored bat. Therefore, ODNR DOW recommends that habitat be conserved wherever possible. If suitable habitat occurs within the Project area and trees need to be cut, the ODNR DOW recommends cutting occur between October 1 and March 31. In addition, the DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area.  <b>USFWS</b> – 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	Stantec completed a desktop habitat assessment in accordance with the 2022 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2022) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2022a) and locations of known or suspect karst geology (ODNR 2022b). The desktop assessment did not identify any karst regions or abandoned or active mines within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4; Appendix B). Potential suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed in the Project area. AEP will determine if any tree clearing is necessary in areas containing suitable habitat and will proceed in accordance with agency recommendations.  <b>Avoidance Dates: April 1 through September 30</b>
Lake Chubsucker/ <i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>	T	N/A	This species is found in habitats that include ponds, lakes, oxbows, sloughs, swamps, impoundments, quiet pools of creeks and small rivers, and similar waters of little or no flow that are clear and have bottoms of sand or silt mixed with organic debris; aquatic vegetation usually is present. Eggs are broadcast over beds of vegetation or in gravelly areas cleared by males. Spawning occurs usually over gravel in streams or in still water over vegetation (NatureServe 2022).	No suitable habitat was observed in the project area.	<b>ODNR</b> - The Project is within the range of this species. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial stream from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impact to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in water work is proposed in perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.  <b>USFWS</b> - No comments received.	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Eastern Massasauga / <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	E	T	This species of snake is found in habitats that include freshwater, bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, shrub-dominated peatlands, wet meadows, and floodplains to dry woodland; it prefers seasonal wetlands with a mixture of open grass-sedge areas and short closed canopies (NatureServe 2022).	No suitable habitat was observed in the project area.	<b>USFWS</b> - 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.	No suitable habitat was observed in the project area. In addition, DOW stated ,due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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Common/Scientific Names	*State Listed Status	*Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comment** (Appendix D)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Northern harrier / <i>Circus hudsonis</i>	E	N/A	This species is typically a resident of grasslands, wetlands and upland habitats. As these habitats were converted to cultivated crops, harriers started to occupy pasture, hayfield and cultivated fields. In Ohio they prefer wet prairies, damp meadows, and the grassy margins of large wetlands. (Smith, K. G 2020).	No nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. However, this species will utilize upland fields for hunting prey during the winter. Old field habitat was observed within the Project area.	<p><b>ODNR</b> - The Project is within the range of this species. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.</p> <p><b>USFWS</b> - No comments received.</p>	No nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. Due to no nesting habitat being present and the mobility of this species during their use of wintering grounds, the Project is not likely to impact this species.

\*Status key: E=Endangered; T=Threatened; PE= Proposed Endangered; N/A = Not Applicable

\*\*The information is based on the literature review response information from ODNR and USFWS and is study area/project specific.

## **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 September 28 and October 5, 2022, and March 21, 2023. During the 2022 field surveys, two PEM wetlands totaling 0.28 acre, and one intermittent stream totaling 471 linear feet were observed within the Project area. No open water features were observed 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.

On April 1, 2019 a Jurisdictional Determination was completed for the area east of Beech Road and north of Jug Street by others. The Project area discussed in this report falls within the area detailed in the 2019 Jurisdictional Determination (LRH-2018-686-SCR-Blacklick Creek). The property owner continued with the permitting process and received the applicable permits. The associated permits are LRH-2018-686-SCR-Blacklick Creek and OEPA DSW 401196304.

Stantec biologists completed an additional survey on March 21, 2023, to review current site conditions. During the time of the survey the two Category 1 PEM wetlands and intermittent stream, that were previously delineated in 2022 within the area of the Jurisdictional Determination, were recently graded as part of the construction associated with the permitting efforts by others for a large site development. No wetlands will be impacted by AEP due to the fact that AEP's Project will occur after the grading activities of the large site development.

An ODNR Ohio Natural Heritage Program data request and Environmental Review response letter, and USFWS Technical Assistant Response letter were received on November 15, and October 21, 2022, respectively (Appendix E). Table 3 in section 3.5 of this report details the potential threatened and endangered species with the potential to occur within or near the Project area discussed in the correspondence letters and how the Project may affect these species based on the habitats identified during the field surveys.

The Project is within the vicinity of records of the northern long-eared bat and within the range of the Indiana bat, little brown bat and tricolored bat. Stantec completed a desktop habitat assessment in accordance with the 2022 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2022) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2022a) and locations of known or suspect karst geology (ODNR 2022b). The desktop assessment did not identify any karst regions or abandoned or active mines within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4; Appendix B). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed during the field surveys. However, potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. AEP will determine if any tree clearing is

## **BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Conclusions and Recommendations  
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necessary in areas containing suitable habitat and will proceed in accordance with agency recommendations, cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31.

The Project is not likely to impact state listed fish species or other aquatic species because no in-water work is proposed by AEP in any perennial streams. In addition, no perennial streams were identified within the Project area.

No suitable habitat for the eastern massasauga was observed in the Project area. In addition, ODNR stated, due to the location, the type of habitat within the Project area, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species.

According to the ODNR response letter, the Project is within the range of the state endangered northern harrier. No nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. Due to no nesting habitat being present and the mobility of this species during their use of wintering grounds, the Project is not likely to impact this species.



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References  
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### 5.0 REFERENCES

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United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2007. Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) draft recovery plan: First revision. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. 258 pp.

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**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Wetland Impacts Table  
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**APPENDIX A WETLAND IMPACTS TABLE**

**Table 1. Summary of Wetland Resources Found within the Badger Station Project Area, Licking County, Ohio**

Wetland ID	Location			Isolated? <sup>2</sup>	Habitat Type <sup>3,4</sup>	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM <sup>5</sup>		Nearest Proposed Structure Number	Existing Structure Number in Wetland	Proposed Structure Number in Wetland	Structure Installation Method	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude	Photo Location <sup>1</sup>				Score	Category					Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
Wetland 1	40.100484	-82.750062	2	No	PEM	0.11	23	1	N/A	None	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
Wetland 2	40.100254	-82.749535	7	No	PEM	0.17	26	1	N/A	None	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
<b>Total:</b>						<b>0.28</b>	<b>Total:</b>					<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Appendix B - Figure 2 and Appendix D – Photo log D-1  
<sup>2</sup> Pending USACE jurisdictional review  
<sup>3</sup> Habitat type based on Cowardin et al. (1979).  
<sup>4</sup> PEM = Palustrine Emergent Wetland  
<sup>5</sup> ORAM Score and Category are based on the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetland v. 5.0 (Mack 2001).

**Table 2. Summary of Stream Resources Found within the Badger Station Project, Licking County**

Stream ID	Location			Stream Type <sup>2</sup>	Stream Name	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width <sup>3</sup> (feet)	Field Evaluation			Ohio EPA 401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing ?	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude	Photo Location <sup>1</sup>						Method <sup>4</sup>	Score	Category/ Rating/OAC Designation			Fill Type	Length (LF)
Stream 1	40.10036	-82.75079	4, 5	Intermittent	UNT to Blacklick Creek	471	6	4.5	HHEI	58	Modified Class II PHW	Possibly Eligible	N/A	TBD	TBD
<b>Total Delineated Length Within Project Area:</b>						<b>471</b>	<b>Total Proposed Impacts:</b>					<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Appendix B – Figure 2 and Appendix D – Photo log D-2  
<sup>2</sup> Stream Classification is based on Federal Register/Vol.67, N. 10 (USACE 2002).  
<sup>3</sup> OHWM = Ordinary High Water Mark  
<sup>4</sup> HHEI = Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index; QHEI = Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index

Figures  
March 31, 2023

## **APPENDIX B** **FIGURES**

### **B.1** **PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



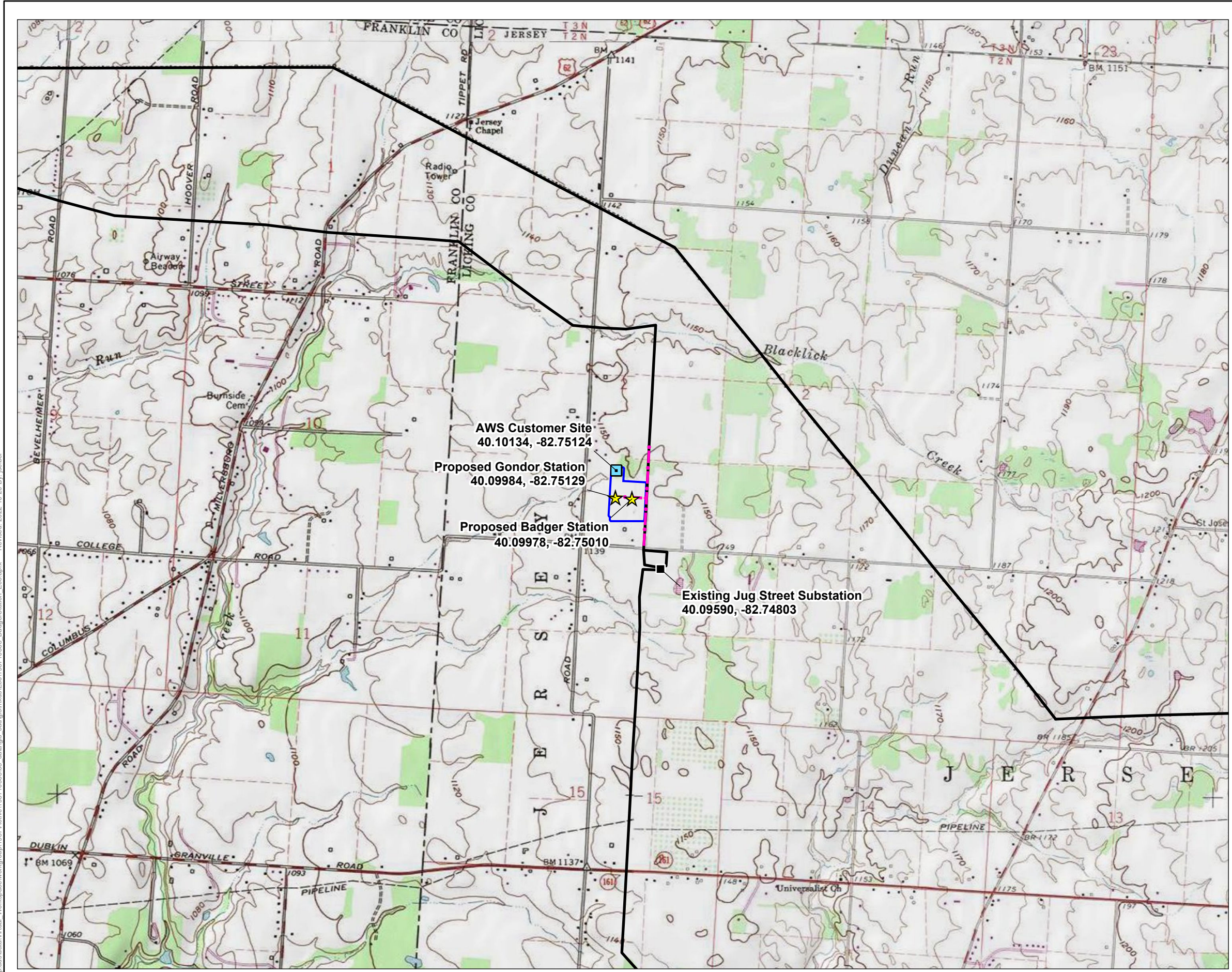


Figure No.

1

Title

**Project Location Map**

Client/Project  
 AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
 Badger Station Project

193710365

Project Location  
 Licking County, Ohio

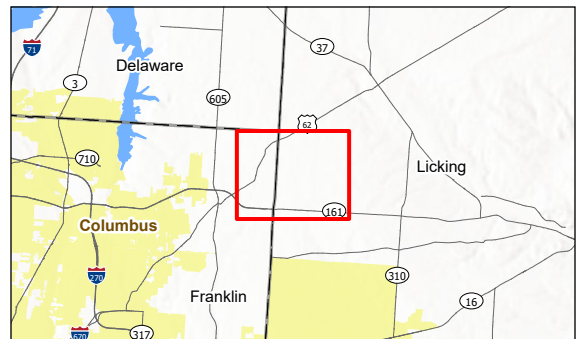
Prepared by JDS on 2022-09-21  
 TR by AS on 2022-10-19  
 IR by CA on 2022-10-20



0 1,000 2,000 Feet  
 (At original document size of 11x17)  
 1:24,000

Legend

- AWS Customer Site
- ★ Proposed AEP Substation
- Existing AEP Substation
- Existing 345 kV Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Project Area



Notes  
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet  
 2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS  
 3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles: New Albany, OH (1983), Jersey, OH (1975)



\\Corp.ads\data\Virtual\_Workspace\workgroup\1937\Active\193710365\03\_data\gis\_cad\gis\mxd\193710365\_BadgerStation\_Eco.aprx Revised: 2022-10-20 By: isebel



Figures  
March 31, 2023

## **B.2 WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP**

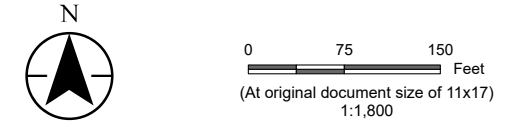
\\Corp.ads\data\Virtual\_Workspace\workgroup\1937\Active\193710365003\_data\gis\_cad\gis\mxd\193710365\_BadgerStation\_Eco.aprx Revised: 2022-10-20 By: jseibel



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

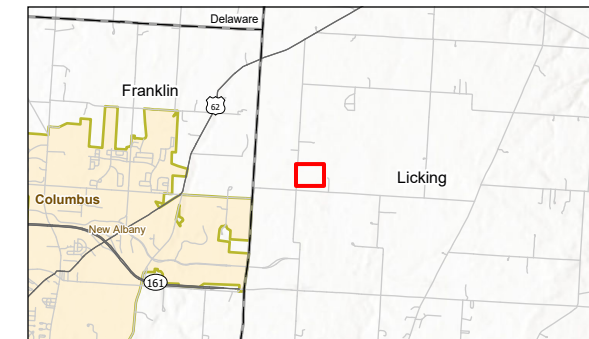
Client/Project 193710365  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project

Project Location Licking County, Ohio Prepared by JDS on 2022-09-21  
TR by AS on 2022-10-19  
IR by CA on 2022-10-20



- Legend**
- Existing Structure
  - ◇ Proposed Structure
  - Existing 345kV Transmission Line
  - - - Proposed Transmission Line
  - ▭ Project Area
  - Photo Location
  - ▲ Culvert
  - Wetland Determination Sample Point
  - Upland Drainage Feature
  - Field Delineated Waterway
  - - - Approximate Waterway
  - ◌ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
  - ◌ Approximate Wetland
  - ◌ National Wetlands Inventory Feature
  - FEMA Flood Hazard Area\*
    - ▨ 100-year Floodplain
    - ▨ Floodway

\*No features within data frame



**Notes**  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet  
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS, USFWS, FEMA  
3. Background: 2019 NAIP





Figures  
March 31, 2023

### **B.3 HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP**

\\Corp.ads\data\Virtual\_Workspace\workgroup\1937\Active\1937\10365\03\_data\gis\_cad\gis\mxd\1937\10365\_BadgerStation\_Eco.aprx Revised: 2022-10-20 By: jseibel



Figure No.

**3**

Title

**Habitat Assessment Map**

Client/Project  
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project

193710365

Project Location  
Licking County, Ohio

Prepared by JDS on 2022-09-21  
TR by AS on 2022-10-19  
IR by CA on 2022-10-20

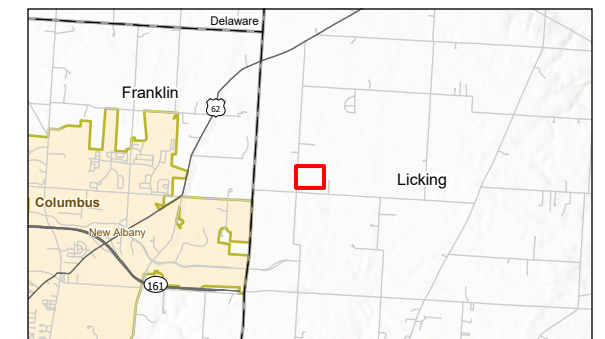


0 75 150 Feet  
(At original document size of 11x17)  
1:1,800

Legend

- Existing Structure
  - ◇ Proposed Structure
  - Existing 345kV Transmission Line
  - - - Proposed Transmission Line
  - ▭ Project Area
  - Photo Location
  - ▲ Culvert
  - ~ Upland Drainage Feature
  - ~ Field Delineated Waterway
  - - - Approximate Waterway
  - ◌ Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
  - ◌ Approximate Wetland
- Habitat
- ▭ Old Field
  - ▭ Second Growth Deciduous Forest

\*No features within data frame



Notes  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet  
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS, USFWS, FEMA  
3. Background: 2019 NAIP



**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Figures  
March 31, 2023

**B.4 HIBERNACULA DESKTOP STUDY MAP**



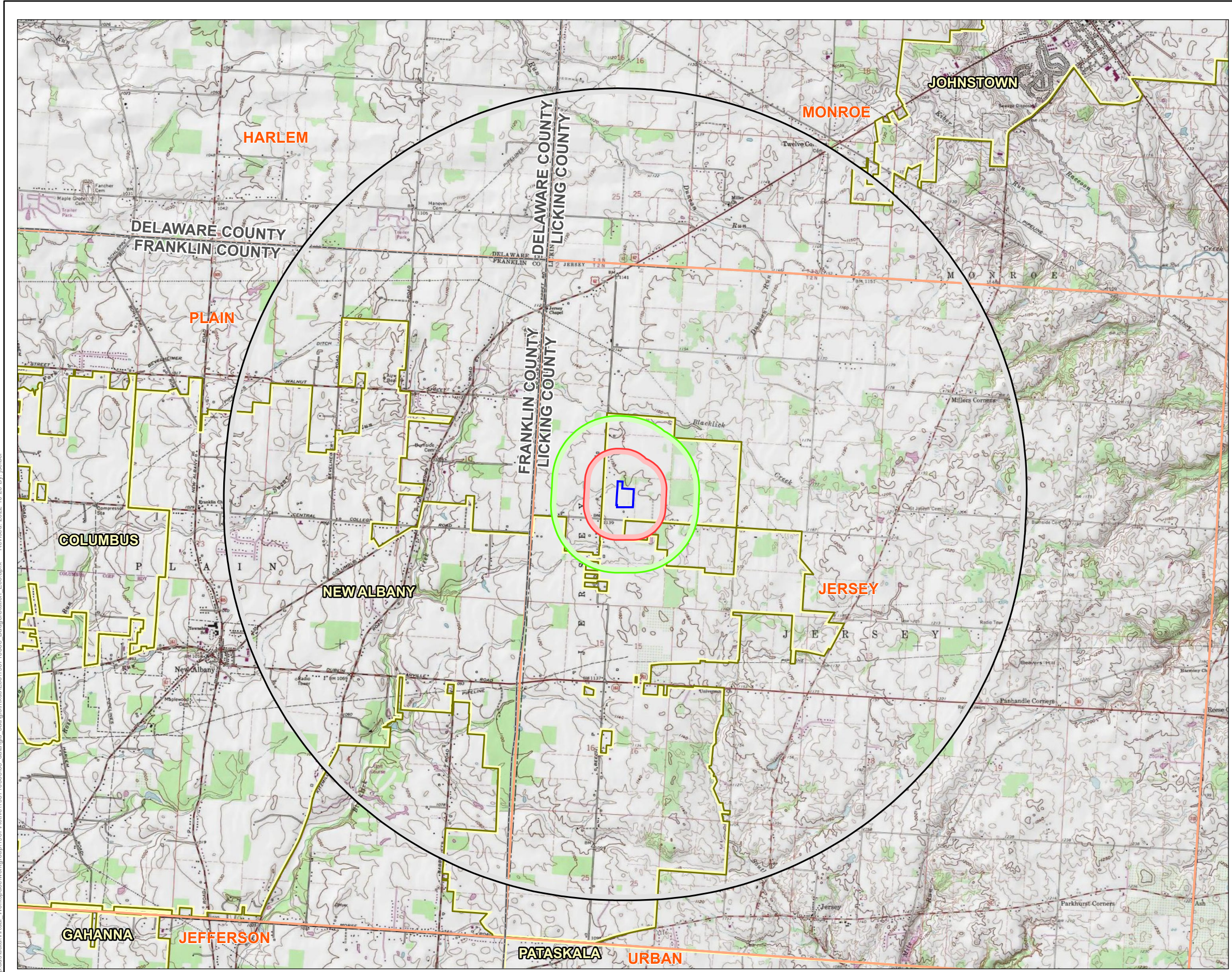
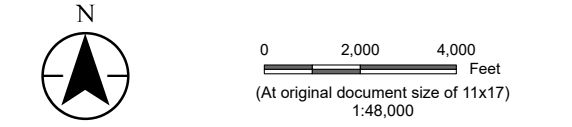


Figure No. **4**  
 Title **Bat Hibernacula Desktop Study Map**

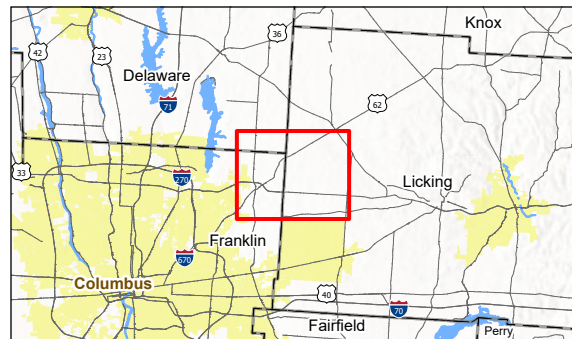
Client/Project 193710365  
 AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
 Badger Station Project

Project Location Franklin County, Ohio Prepared by JDS on 2022-10-17  
 TR by AS on 2022-10-19  
 IR by CA on 2022-10-20



- Legend**
- Project Area
  - 0.25-Mile Project Area Buffer
  - 0.5-Mile Project Area Buffer
  - 3-Mile Project Area Buffer
  - Township Boundary
  - Municipal Boundary
  - Karst Feature\*
  - Area of Karst Geology\*
  - ▲ Abandoned Underground Mine\*
  - ▲ Active Underground Mine\*
  - ▲ Mine Opening\*
  - Active Surface Mine Area\*
  - Inactive Surface Mine Area\*
  - Surface Mine Area (Unknown Status)\*
  - Abandoned Surface Mine Area\*
  - Abandoned Underground Mine Area\*

\*No features within data frame



- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
  2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS, ODNR
  3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle - Jersey, OH (1975) and New Albany, OH (1983)



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**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Field Collected Data Forms

March 31, 2023

**APPENDIX C    FIELD COLLECTED DATA FORMS**

**C.1    WETLAND DETERMINATION FORMS**

## WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Badger Station City/County: Licking Sampling Date: 09/28/2022  
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. State: Ohio Sampling Point: SP01  
 Investigator(s): S. Heitzenrater, M. Kearns Section, Township, Range: T002N, R015W, SNW  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope %: 1  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR M, MLRA Lat: 40.10055 Long: -82.750201 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Bennington silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes NWI classification: N/A  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No      (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No       
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N 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 <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>
Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.) Wetland 1, PEM	

### 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. _____	_____	_____	_____	
0 = 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>Phalaris arundinacea</u>	50	Yes	FACW	
2. <u>Persicaria sagittata</u>	35	Yes	OBL	
3. <u>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</u>	15	No	FAC	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	
100 = 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: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100 (A/B)

**Prevalence Index worksheet:**

Total % Cover of: \_\_\_\_\_ Multiply by:

OBL species \_\_\_\_\_ x 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

FACW species \_\_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

FAC species \_\_\_\_\_ x 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

FACU species \_\_\_\_\_ x 4 = \_\_\_\_\_

UPL species \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Column Totals: \_\_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = \_\_\_\_\_

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:**

X 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation X 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

   3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0<sup>1</sup>

   4 - Morphological Adaptations<sup>1</sup>  
(Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

   Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation<sup>1</sup> (Explain)

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

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?** Yes X No

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

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: SP01

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 <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-3	10YR 3/3	100					Clay Loam	
3-12	10YR 4/1	95	7.5YR 4/6	5	C	M	Clay Loam	
12-21	10YR 5/1	90	7.5YR 4/6	10	C	M	Clay Loam	

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:	Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils <sup>3</sup> :
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dark Surface (S7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Prairie Redox (A16)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (F21)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	

<b>Restrictive Layer (if observed):</b> Type: <u>N/A</u> Depth (inches): <u>N/A</u>	<b>Hydric Soil Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	---

Remarks:

**HYDROLOGY**

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

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
---	---

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

Remarks:

## WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Badger Station City/County: Licking Sampling Date: 09/28/2022  
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. State: Ohio Sampling Point: SP02  
 Investigator(s): S. Heitzenrater M. Kearns Section, Township, Range: T002N, R015W, SNW  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Linear Slope %: 0  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR M, MLRA Lat: 40.100549 Long: -82.750361 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Pewamo silty clay loam, low carbonate till, 0 to 2 percent slopes NWI classification: N/A  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No      (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No       
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N 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 <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u>
Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)	

### VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	
1. <u>Quercus palustris</u>	25	Yes	FACW	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>3</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>5</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>60</u> (A/B)
2. <u>Ulmus americana</u>	15	No	FACW	
3. <u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	10	No	FACW	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
50 = Total Cover				
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)</b>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
0 = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)</b>				
1. <u>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</u>	40	Yes	FACU	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> - 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation X 2 - Dominance Test is >50% - 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> - 4 - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) - Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
2. <u>Solidago canadensis</u>	20	Yes	FACU	
3. <u>Euthamia graminifolia</u>	15	No	FACW	
4. <u>Setaria faberi</u>	10	No	FACU	
5. <u>Rubus idaeus</u>	10	No	FACU	
6. <u>Toxicodendron radicans</u>	5	No	FAC	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	
100 = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)</b>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
0 = Total Cover				

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



**SOIL**

Sampling Point: SP02

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 <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>				
0-21	10YR 4/2	93	10YR 4/6	7	C	M	Clay Loam			

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: 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)
- 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 Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- Red Parent Material (F21)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type: N/A  
 Depth (inches): N/A

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:

## WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Badger Station City/County: Licking Sampling Date: 10/05/2022  
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission company Inc. State: Ohio Sampling Point: SP03  
 Investigator(s): Charlie Allen Ashley Hansen Section, Township, Range: T002N, R015W, SNW  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope %: 1  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR M, MLRA Lat: 40.100535 Long: -82.749358 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Pewamo silty clay loam, low carbonate till, 0 to 2 percent slopes NWI classification: N/A  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No      (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No       
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N 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 <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>
Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)	

### VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>2</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100</u> (A/B)
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)</b>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)</b>				
1. <u>Setaria pumila</u>	45	Yes	FAC	
2. <u>Persicaria pensylvanica</u>	20	Yes	FACW	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>65</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)</b>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)  
 35% bare ground

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: SP03

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 <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>				
0-10	10YR 3/1	97	7.5YR 4/6	3	C	M	Loam			
10-20	10YR 3/1	93	7.5YR 4/6	7	C	M	Clay Loam			

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: 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)
- 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 Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- Red Parent Material (F21)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type: N/A  
 Depth (inches): N/A

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:

## WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Badger Station City/County: Licking Sampling Date: 10/05/2022  
 Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. State: Ohio Sampling Point: SP04  
 Investigator(s): Charlie Allen, Ashley Hansen Section, Township, Range: T002N, R015W, SNW  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Linear Slope %: 0  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR M, MLRA Lat: 40.100545 Long: -82.749319 Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Pewamo silty clay loam, low carbonate till, 0 to 2 percent slopes NWI classification: N/A  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No      (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No       
 Are Vegetation N, Soil N, or Hydrology N 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 <u>    </u> No <u>X</u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u>
Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)	

### VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A/B)
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>5</u> x 2 = <u>10</u> FAC species <u>10</u> x 3 = <u>30</u> FACU species <u>100</u> x 4 = <u>400</u> UPL species <u>0</u> x 5 = <u>0</u> Column Totals: <u>115</u> (A) <u>440</u> (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.83</u>
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> - <u>1</u> - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation - <u>2</u> - Dominance Test is >50% - <u>3</u> - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> - <u>4</u> - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) - <u>    </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
1. <u>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</u>	50	Yes	FACU	
2. <u>Trifolium hybridum</u>	45	Yes	FACU	
3. <u>Setaria pumila</u>	10	No	FAC	
4. <u>Erigeron annuus</u>	5	No	FACU	
5. <u>Persicaria pensylvanica</u>	5	No	FACW	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>115</u> = Total Cover				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>    </u> No <u>X</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)
<u>0</u> = Total Cover				

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 <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-20	10YR 4/3	100					Loam	

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: 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)
- 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 Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- Red Parent Material (F21)
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type: N/A  
 Depth (inches): N/A

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:

# **BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Field Collected Data Forms  
March 31, 2023

## **C.2 ORAM FORMS**

<b>Version 5.0</b>	<b>Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands 10 Page Form for Wetland Categorization</b>	
	<b>Background Information</b> <b>Scoring Boundary Worksheet</b> <b>Narrative Rating</b> <b>Field Form Quantitative Rating</b> <b>ORAM Summary Worksheet</b> <b>Wetland Categorization Worksheet</b>	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Final: February 1, 2001

### Instructions

The investigator is *STRONGLY URGED* to read the Manual for Using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands for further elaboration and discussion of the questions below prior to using the rating forms.

The Narrative Rating is designed to categorize a wetland or to provide alerts to the Rater based on the presence or possible presence of threatened or endangered species. The presence or proximity of such species is often an indicator of the quality and lack of disturbance of the wetland being evaluated. In addition, it is designed to categorize certain wetlands as very low quality (Category 1) or very high quality (Category 3) regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating. In addition, the Narrative Rating also alerts the investigator that a particular wetland *may* be a Category 3 wetland, again, regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating.

It is *VERY IMPORTANT* to properly and thoroughly answer each of the questions in the ORAM in order to properly categorize a wetland. To *properly* answer all the questions, the boundaries of the wetland being assessed must be correctly identified. Refer to Scoring Boundary worksheet and the User's Manual for a discussion of how to determine the "scoring boundaries." In some instances, the scoring boundaries may differ from the "jurisdictional boundaries."

Refer to the most recent ORAM Score Calibration Report for the scoring breakpoints between wetland categories. The most recent version of this document is posted on Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water web page at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wetlands/WetlandEcologySection.aspx>

## Background Information

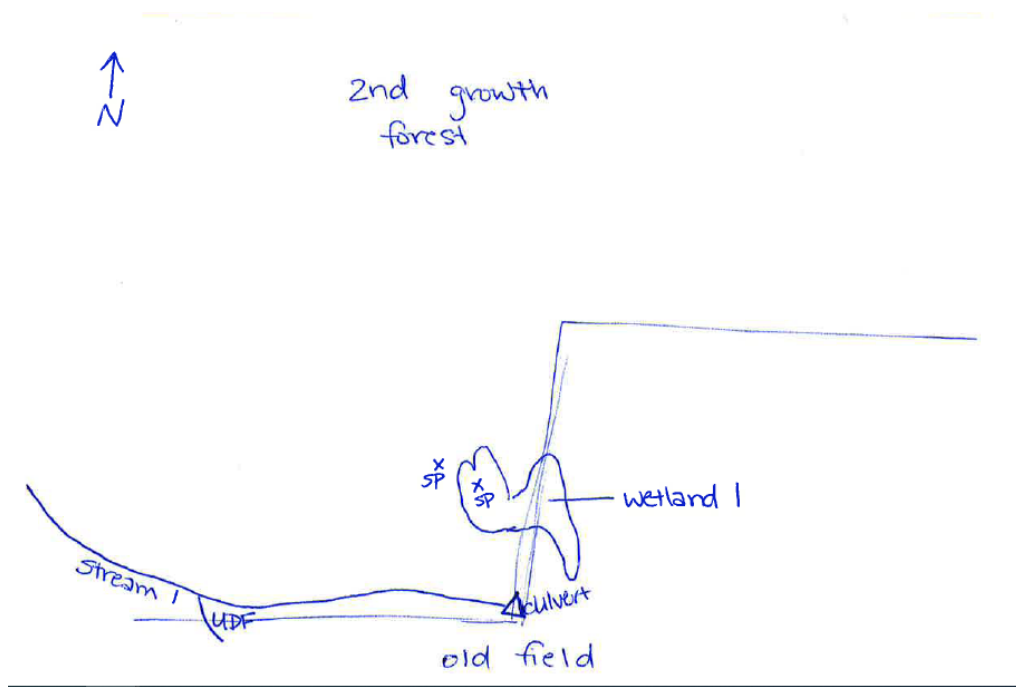
<b>Name:</b>	Samantha Heitzenrater	
<b>Date:</b>	9/28/2022	
<b>Affiliation:</b>	Stantec	
<b>Address:</b>	1500 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43204	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	(614) 607-2458	
<b>e-mail address:</b>	samantha.heitzenrater@stantec.com	
<b>Name of Wetland:</b>	Wetland 1	
<b>Vegetation Communit(ies):</b>	PEM	
<b>HGM Class(es):</b>	depression	
<b>Location of Wetland: include map, address, north arrow, landmarks, distances, roads, etc.</b>		
Lat/Long or UTM Coordinate	40.10048, -82.7501	
USGS Quad Name	Jersey, OH	
County	Licking County	
Township	Jersey	
Section and Subsection	T 2 N R 15 W	
Hydrologic Unit Code	050600011503	
Site Visit	9/28/2022	
National Wetland Inventory Map	No	
Ohio Wetland Inventory Map	No	
Soil Survey	Licking County Soil Survey	
Delineation report/map	Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Report	



Name of Wetland: Wetland 1

Wetland Size (acres, hectares): 0.11 acre

Sketch: Include north arrow, relationship with other surface waters, vegetation zones, etc.



Comments, Narrative Discussion, Justification of Category Changes:

Final score : 23 Category: 1

## Scoring Boundary Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS. The initial step in completing the ORAM is to identify the “scoring boundaries” of the wetland being rated. In many instances this determination will be relatively easy and the scoring boundaries will coincide with the “jurisdictional boundaries.” For example, the scoring boundary of an isolated cattail marsh located in the middle of a farm field will likely be the same as that wetland’s jurisdictional boundaries. In other instances, however, the scoring boundary will not be as easily determined. Wetlands that are small or isolated from other surface waters often form large contiguous areas or heterogeneous complexes of wetland and upland. In separating wetlands for scoring purposes, the hydrologic regime of the wetland is the main criterion that should be used. Boundaries between contiguous or connected wetlands should be established where the volume, flow, or velocity of water moving through the wetland changes significantly. *Areas with a high degree of hydrologic interaction should be scored as a single wetland.* In determining a wetland’s scoring boundaries, use the guidelines in the ORAM Manual Section 5.0. In certain instances, it may be difficult to establish the scoring boundary for the wetland being rated. These problem situations include wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, wetlands divided by artificial boundaries like property fences, roads, or railroad embankments, wetlands that are contiguous with streams, lakes, or rivers, and estuarine or coastal wetlands. These situations are discussed below, however, it is recommended that Rater contact Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401/Wetlands Section if there are additional questions or a need for further clarification of the appropriate scoring boundaries of a particular wetland.

Badger Station

Samantha Heitzenrater

9/28/2022

#	Steps in properly establishing scoring boundaries	done?	not applicable
<b>Step 1</b>	Identify the wetland area of interest. This may be the site of a proposed impact, a reference site, conservation site, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 2</b>	Identify the locations where there is physical evidence that hydrology changes rapidly. Such evidence includes both natural and human-induced changes including, constrictions caused by berms or dikes, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, or other factors that may restrict hydrologic interaction between the wetlands or parts of a single wetland.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 3</b>	Delineate the boundary of the wetland to be rated such that all areas of interest that are contiguous to and within the areas where the hydrology does not change significantly, i.e. areas that have a high degree of hydrologic interaction are included within the scoring boundary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 4</b>	Determine if artificial boundaries, such as property lines, state lines, roads, railroad embankments, etc., are present. These should not be used to establish scoring boundaries unless they coincide with areas where the hydrologic regime changes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 5</b>	In all instances, the Rater may enlarge the minimum scoring boundaries discussed here to score together wetlands that could be scored separately.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 6</b>	Consult ORAM Manual Section 5.0 for how to establish scoring boundaries for wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, divided by artificial boundaries, contiguous to streams, lakes or rivers, or for dual classifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**End of Scoring Boundary Determination. Begin Narrative Rating on next page.**

## Narrative Rating

INSTRUCTIONS. Answer each of the following questions. Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be answered based on information obtained from the site visit or the literature *and* by submitting a Data Services Request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Natural Heritage Data Services, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Building F-1, Columbus, Ohio 43224, 614-265-6453 (phone), 614-265-3096 (fax), <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap>. The remaining questions are designed to be answered primarily by the results of the site visit. Refer to the User's Manual for descriptions of these wetland types. Note: "Critical habitat" is legally defined in the Endangered Species Act and is the geographic area containing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species or as an area that may require special management considerations or protection. The Rater should contact the Region 3 Headquarters or the Columbus Ecological Services Office for updates as to whether critical habitat has been designated for other federally listed threatened or endangered species. "Documented" means the wetland is listed in the appropriate State of Ohio database.

Badger Station

Samantha Heitzenrater

9/28/2022

#	Question	Circle one	
1	<b>Critical Habitat.</b> Is the wetland in a township, section, or subsection of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle that has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for any threatened or endangered plant or animal species? Note: as of January 1, 2001, of the federally listed endangered or threatened species which can be found in Ohio, the Indiana Bat has had critical habitat designated (50 CFR 17.95(a)) and the piping plover has had critical habitat proposed (65 FR 41812 July 6, 2000).	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 2	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 2
2	<b>Threatened or Endangered Species.</b> Is the wetland known to contain an individual of, or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 3	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 3
3	<b>Documented High Quality Wetland.</b> Is the wetland on record in Natural Heritage Database as a high quality wetland?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 4	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 4
4	<b>Significant Breeding or Concentration Area.</b> Does the wetland contain documented regionally significant breeding or nonbreeding waterfowl, neotropical songbird, or shorebird concentration areas?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 5	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 5
5	<b>Category 1 Wetlands.</b> Is the wetland less than 0.5 hectares (1 acre) in size and <b>hydrologically isolated</b> and either 1) comprised of vegetation that is dominated (greater than eighty per cent areal cover) by <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , or <i>Phragmites australis</i> , or 2) an acidic pond created or excavated on mined lands that has little or no vegetation?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 1 wetland Go to Question 6	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 6
6	<b>Bogs.</b> Is the wetland a peat-accumulating wetland that 1) has no significant inflows or outflows, 2) supports acidophilic mosses, particularly <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., 3) the acidophilic mosses have >30% cover, 4) at least one species from Table 1 is present, and 5) the cover of invasive species (see Table 1) is <25%?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 7	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 7
7	<b>Fens.</b> Is the wetland a carbon accumulating (peat, muck) wetland that is saturated during most of the year, primarily by a discharge of free flowing, mineral rich, ground water with a circumneutral ph (5.5-9.0) and with one or more plant species listed in Table 1 and the cover of invasive species listed in Table 1 is <25%?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 8a	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 8a
8a	<b>"Old Growth Forest."</b> Is the wetland a forested wetland and is the forest characterized by, but not limited to, the following characteristics: overstory canopy trees of great age (exceeding at least 50% of a projected maximum attainable age for a species); little or no evidence of human-caused understory disturbance during the past 80 to 100 years; an all-aged structure and multilayered canopies; aggregations of canopy trees interspersed with canopy gaps; and significant numbers of standing dead snags and downed logs?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 8b	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 8b

8b	<b>Mature forested wetlands.</b> Is the wetland a forested wetland with 50% or more of the cover of upper forest canopy consisting of deciduous trees with large diameters at breast height (dbh), generally diameters greater than 45cm (17.7in) dbh?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status.  Go to Question 9a	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9a
9a	<b>Lake Erie coastal and tributary wetlands.</b> Is the wetland located at an elevation less than 575 feet on the USGS map, adjacent to this elevation, or along a tributary to Lake Erie that is accessible to fish?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9b	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
9b	Does the wetland's hydrology result from measures designed to prevent erosion and the loss of aquatic plants, i.e. the wetland is partially hydrologically restricted from Lake Erie due to lakeward or landward dikes or other hydrological controls?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Go to Question 10	NO <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9c
9c	Are Lake Erie water levels the wetland's primary hydrological influence, i.e. the wetland is hydrologically unrestricted (no lakeward or upland border alterations), or the wetland can be characterized as an "estuarine" wetland with lake and river influenced hydrology. These include sandbar deposition wetlands, estuarine wetlands, river mouth wetlands, or those dominated by submersed aquatic vegetation.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9d	NO <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
9d	Does the wetland have a predominance of native species within its vegetation communities, although non-native or disturbance tolerant native species can also be present?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland  Go to Question 10	NO <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9e
9e	Does the wetland have a predominance of non-native or disturbance tolerant native plant species within its vegetation communities?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Go to Question 10	NO <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
10	<b>Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings)</b> Is the wetland located in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, or Wood Counties and can the wetland be characterized by the following description: the wetland has a sandy substrate with interspersed organic matter, a water table often within several inches of the surface, and often with a dominance of the gramineous vegetation listed in Table 1 (woody species may also be present). The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can provide assistance in confirming this type of wetland and its quality.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland.  Go to Question 11	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 11
11	<b>Relict Wet Prairies.</b> Is the wetland a relict wet prairie community dominated by some or all of the species in Table 1. Extensive prairies were formerly located in the Darby Plains (Madison and Union Counties), Sandusky Plains (Wyandot, Crawford, and Marion Counties), northwest Ohio (e.g. Erie, Huron, Lucas, Wood Counties), and portions of western Ohio Counties (e.g. Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Van Wert etc.).	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Complete Quantitative Rating	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete Quantitative Rating

**Table 1. Characteristic plant species.**

<b>invasive/exotic spp</b>	<b>fen species</b>	<b>bog species</b>	<b>Oak Opening species</b>	<b>wet prairie species</b>
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Zygadenus elegans</i> var. <i>glaucus</i>	<i>Calla palustris</i>	<i>Carex cryptolepis</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	<i>Cacalia plantaginea</i>	<i>Carex atlantica</i> var. <i>capillacea</i>	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>
<i>Najas minor</i>	<i>Carex flava</i>	<i>Carex echinata</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex atherodes</i>
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	<i>Carex oligosperma</i>	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex trisperma</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	<i>Carex pellita</i>
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	<i>Carex sartwellii</i>
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	<i>Eriophorum viridicarinatum</i>	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>		<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	<i>Gentianopsis</i> spp.	<i>Larix laricina</i>		<i>Liatris spicata</i>
<i>Typha xglauca</i>	<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>	<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>		<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>
	<i>Parnassia glauca</i>	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>		<i>Lythrum alatum</i>
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.		<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>		<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>
	<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>		<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
	<i>Salix candida</i>	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>		<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
	<i>Salix myricoides</i>	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>		<i>Solidago riddellii</i>
	<i>Salix serissima</i>	<i>Xyris difformis</i>		
	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>			
	<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>			
	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>			
	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>			

**End of Narrative Rating. Begin Quantitative Rating on next page.**

<b>Site:</b> Badger Station	<b>Rater(s):</b> Samantha Heitzenrater	<b>Date:</b> 9/28/2022
-----------------------------	--	------------------------

1	1
max 6 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

- Select one size class and assign score.
- >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
  - 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
  - 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
  - 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
  - 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
  - 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
  - <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

9	10
max 14 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

- 2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.
- WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
  - MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
  - NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
  - VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)
- 2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.
- VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
  - LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
  - MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
  - HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

8	18
max 30 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 3. Hydrology.

- 3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.
- High pH groundwater (5)
  - Other groundwater (3)
  - Precipitation (1)
  - Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
  - Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)
- 3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.
- 100 year floodplain (1)
  - Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
  - Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
  - Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)
- 3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.
- >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
  - 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
  - <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)
- 3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.
- Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
  - Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
  - Seasonally inundated (2)
  - Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)
- 3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (12)
  - Recovered (7)
  - Recovering (3)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input type="checkbox"/> ditch	<input type="checkbox"/> point source (nonstormwater)
<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> filling/grading
<input type="checkbox"/> dike	<input type="checkbox"/> road bed/RR track
<input type="checkbox"/> weir	<input type="checkbox"/> dredging
<input type="checkbox"/> stormwater input	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other <u>Agriculture</u>

7	25
max 20 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

- 4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (4)
  - Recovered (3)
  - Recovering (2)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)
- 4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.
- Excellent (7)
  - Very good (6)
  - Good (5)
  - Moderately good (4)
  - Fair (3)
  - Poor to fair (2)
  - Poor (1)
- 4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (9)
  - Recovered (6)
  - Recovering (3)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input type="checkbox"/> mowing	<input type="checkbox"/> shrub/sapling removal
<input type="checkbox"/> grazing	<input type="checkbox"/> herbaceous/aquatic bed removal
<input type="checkbox"/> clearcutting	<input type="checkbox"/> sedimentation
<input type="checkbox"/> selective cutting	<input type="checkbox"/> dredging
<input type="checkbox"/> woody debris removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> farming
<input type="checkbox"/> toxic pollutants	<input type="checkbox"/> nutrient enrichment

25
subtotal this page

<b>Site:</b> Badger Station	<b>Rater(s):</b> Samantha Heitzenrater	<b>Date:</b> 9/28/2022
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25

subtotal first page

0	25
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max 10 pts. subtotal

### Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

Check all that apply and score as indicated.

- Bog (10)
- Fen (10)
- Old growth forest (10)
- Mature forested wetland (5)
- Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

-2	23
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max 20 pts. subtotal

### Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography.

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- Aquatic bed
- Emergent
- Shrub
- Forest
- Mudflats
- Open water
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersion.

Select only one.

- High (5)
- Moderately high(4)
- Moderate (3)
- Moderately low (2)
- Low (1)
- None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- 0 Vegetated hummocks/tussucks
- 0 Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- 0 Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- 0 Amphibian breeding pools

#### Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

#### Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

#### Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

#### Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

23

**End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.**

# ORAM Summary Worksheet

Badger Station

Samantha Heitzenrater

9/28/2022

		<b>circle answer or insert score</b>	<b>Result</b>
Narrative Rating	Question 1. Critical Habitat	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 2. Threatened or Endangered Species	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 3. High Quality Natural Wetland	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 4. Significant bird habitat	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 5. Category 1 Wetlands	NO	If yes, Category 1.
	Question 6. Bogs	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 7. Fens	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8a. Old Growth Forest	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8b. Mature Forested Wetland	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9b. Lake Erie Wetlands - Restricted	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9d. Lake Erie Wetlands – Unrestricted with native plants	NO	If yes, Category 3
	Question 9e. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with invasive plants	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 10. Oak Openings	NO	If yes, Category 3
Question 11. Relict Wet Prairies	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.	
Quantitative Rating	Metric 1. Size	1	
	Metric 2. Buffers and surrounding land use	9	
	Metric 3. Hydrology	8	
	Metric 4. Habitat	7	
	Metric 5. Special Wetland Communities	0	
	Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography	-2	
	TOTAL SCORE	23	Category based on score breakpoints Category 1

**Complete Wetland Categorization Worksheet.**



## Wetland Categorization Worksheet

Choices	Circle one		Evaluation of Categorization Result of ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions:  Narrative Rating Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8a, 9d, 10	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is categorized as a Category 3 wetland	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is quantitative rating score <i>less</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold ( <i>excluding</i> gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been over-categorized by the ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions:  Narrative Rating Nos. 1, 8b, 9b, 9e, 11	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate the wetland using the 1) narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and 2) the quantitative rating score. If the wetland is determined to be a Category 3 wetland using either of these, it should be categorized as a Category 3 wetland. Detailed biological and/or functional assessments may also be used to determine the wetland's category.
Did you answer "Yes" to  Narrative Rating No. 5	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is categorized as a Category 1 wetland	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is quantitative rating score <i>greater</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold ( <i>including</i> any gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been under-categorized by the ORAM
Does the quantitative score fall within the scoring range of a Category 1, 2, or 3 wetland?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to the appropriate category based on the scoring range	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If the score of the wetland is located within the scoring range for a particular category, the wetland should be assigned to that category. In all instances however, the narrative criteria described in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) can be used to clarify or change a categorization based on a quantitative score.
Does the quantitative score fall with the "gray zone" for Category 1 or 2 or Category 2 or 3 wetlands?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to the higher of the two categories or assigned to a category based on detailed assessments and the narrative criteria	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rater has the option of assigning the wetland to the higher of the two categories or to assign a category based on the results of a nonrapid wetland assessment method, e.g. functional assessment, biological assessment, etc, and a consideration of the narrative criteria in OAC rule 3745-1-54(C).
Does the wetland otherwise exhibit <i>moderate OR superior</i> hydrologic OR habitat, OR recreational functions AND the wetland was <i>not</i> categorized as a Category 2 wetland (in the case of moderate functions) or a Category 3 wetland (in the case of superior functions) by this method?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland was undercategorized by this method. A written justification for recategorization should be provided on Background Information Form	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to category as determined by the ORAM.	A wetland may be undercategorized using this method, but still exhibit one or more superior functions, e.g. a wetland's biotic communities may be degraded by human activities, but the wetland may still exhibit superior hydrologic functions because of its type, landscape position, size, local or regional significance, etc. In this circumstance, the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) and (3) are controlling, and the under-categorization should be corrected. A written justification with supporting reasons or information for this determination should be provided.

### Final Category

Choose one	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Category 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**End of Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands.**

<b>Version 5.0</b>	<b>Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands 10 Page Form for Wetland Categorization</b>	
	<b>Background Information</b> <b>Scoring Boundary Worksheet</b> <b>Narrative Rating</b> <b>Field Form Quantitative Rating</b> <b>ORAM Summary Worksheet</b> <b>Wetland Categorization Worksheet</b>	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Final: February 1, 2001

**Instructions**

The investigator is *STRONGLY URGED* to read the Manual for Using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands for further elaboration and discussion of the questions below prior to using the rating forms.

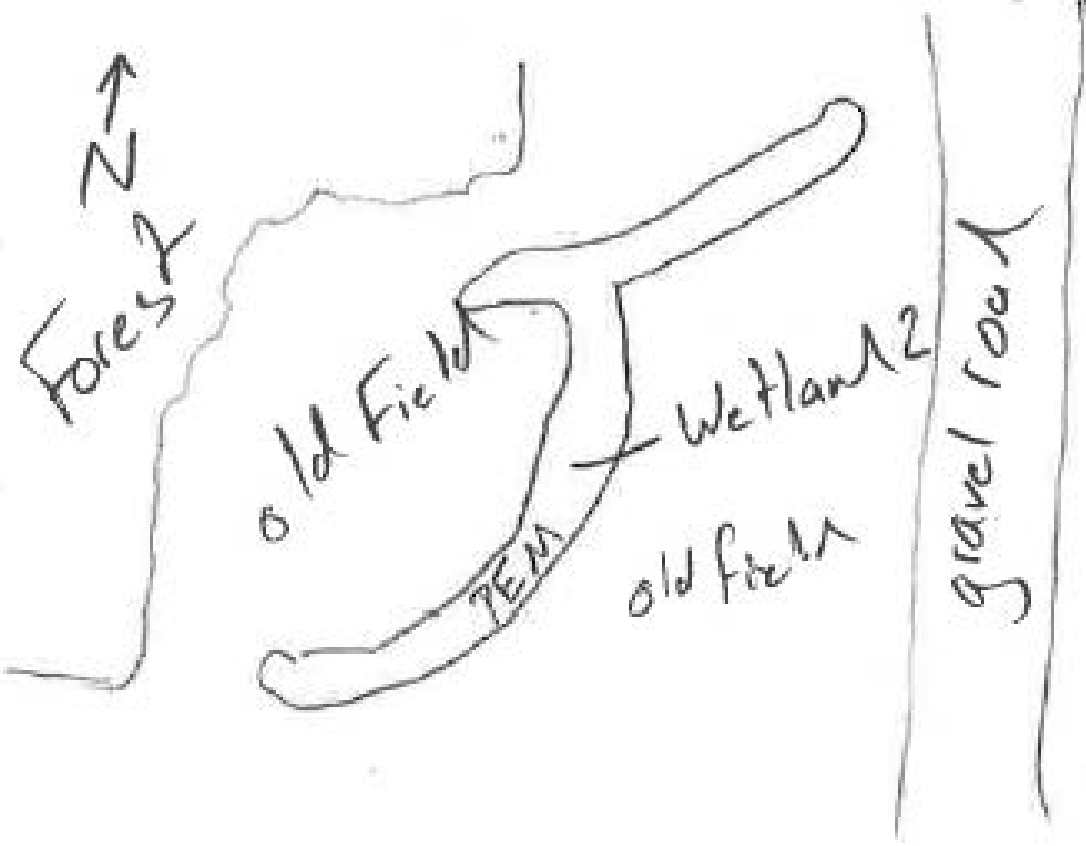
The Narrative Rating is designed to categorize a wetland or to provide alerts to the Rater based on the presence or possible presence of threatened or endangered species. The presence or proximity of such species is often an indicator of the quality and lack of disturbance of the wetland being evaluated. In addition, it is designed to categorize certain wetlands as very low quality (Category 1) or very high quality (Category 3) regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating. In addition, the Narrative Rating also alerts the investigator that a particular wetland *may* be a Category 3 wetland, again, regardless of the wetland's score on the Quantitative Rating.

It is *VERY IMPORTANT* to properly and thoroughly answer each of the questions in the ORAM in order to properly categorize a wetland. To *properly* answer all the questions, the boundaries of the wetland being assessed must be correctly identified. Refer to Scoring Boundary worksheet and the User's Manual for a discussion of how to determine the "scoring boundaries." In some instances, the scoring boundaries may differ from the "jurisdictional boundaries."

Refer to the most recent ORAM Score Calibration Report for the scoring breakpoints between wetland categories. The most recent version of this document is posted on Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water web page at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wetlands/WetlandEcologySection.aspx>

### Background Information

<b>Name:</b>	Charlie Allen
<b>Date:</b>	10/5/22
<b>Affiliation:</b>	Stantec
<b>Address:</b>	1500 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43204
<b>Phone Number:</b>	(614) 643-4348
<b>e-mail address:</b>	Charlie.Allen@stantec.com
<b>Name of Wetland:</b>	Wetland 2
<b>Vegetation Communit(ies):</b>	PEM
<b>HGM Class(es):</b>	Depression
<b>Location of Wetland: include map, address, north arrow, landmarks, distances, roads, etc.</b>	
<b>Lat/Long or UTM Coordinate</b>	40.10025, -82.7495
<b>USGS Quad Name</b>	Jersey
<b>County</b>	Licking County
<b>Township</b>	Jersey
<b>Section and Subsection</b>	T 2 N R 15 W
<b>Hydrologic Unit Code</b>	050600011503
<b>Site Visit</b>	10/5/2022
<b>National Wetland Inventory Map</b>	No
<b>Ohio Wetland Inventory Map</b>	No
<b>Soil Survey</b>	Licking County Soil Survey
<b>Delineation report/map</b>	Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Report

Name of Wetland: Wetland 2	
Wetland Size (acres, hectares): 0.28 acre	
Sketch: Include north arrow, relationship with other surface waters, vegetation zones, etc.	
	
Comments, Narrative Discussion, Justification of Category Changes:	
Final score : 26	Category: 1

## Scoring Boundary Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS. The initial step in completing the ORAM is to identify the “scoring boundaries” of the wetland being rated. In many instances this determination will be relatively easy and the scoring boundaries will coincide with the “jurisdictional boundaries.” For example, the scoring boundary of an isolated cattail marsh located in the middle of a farm field will likely be the same as that wetland’s jurisdictional boundaries. In other instances, however, the scoring boundary will not be as easily determined. Wetlands that are small or isolated from other surface waters often form large contiguous areas or heterogeneous complexes of wetland and upland. In separating wetlands for scoring purposes, the hydrologic regime of the wetland is the main criterion that should be used. Boundaries between contiguous or connected wetlands should be established where the volume, flow, or velocity of water moving through the wetland changes significantly. *Areas with a high degree of hydrologic interaction should be scored as a single wetland.* In determining a wetland’s scoring boundaries, use the guidelines in the ORAM Manual Section 5.0. In certain instances, it may be difficult to establish the scoring boundary for the wetland being rated. These problem situations include wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, wetlands divided by artificial boundaries like property fences, roads, or railroad embankments, wetlands that are contiguous with streams, lakes, or rivers, and estuarine or coastal wetlands. These situations are discussed below, however, it is recommended that Rater contact Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401/Wetlands Section if there are additional questions or a need for further clarification of the appropriate scoring boundaries of a particular wetland.

Badger Station

Charlie Allen

10/5/22

#	Steps in properly establishing scoring boundaries	done?	not applicable
<b>Step 1</b>	Identify the wetland area of interest. This may be the site of a proposed impact, a reference site, conservation site, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 2</b>	Identify the locations where there is physical evidence that hydrology changes rapidly. Such evidence includes both natural and human-induced changes including, constrictions caused by berms or dikes, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, or other factors that may restrict hydrologic interaction between the wetlands or parts of a single wetland.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 3</b>	Delineate the boundary of the wetland to be rated such that all areas of interest that are contiguous to and within the areas where the hydrology does not change significantly, i.e. areas that have a high degree of hydrologic interaction are included within the scoring boundary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 4</b>	Determine if artificial boundaries, such as property lines, state lines, roads, railroad embankments, etc., are present. These should not be used to establish scoring boundaries unless they coincide with areas where the hydrologic regime changes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 5</b>	In all instances, the Rater may enlarge the minimum scoring boundaries discussed here to score together wetlands that could be scored separately.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Step 6</b>	Consult ORAM Manual Section 5.0 for how to establish scoring boundaries for wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, divided by artificial boundaries, contiguous to streams, lakes or rivers, or for dual classifications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**End of Scoring Boundary Determination. Begin Narrative Rating on next page.**

# Narrative Rating

INSTRUCTIONS. Answer each of the following questions. Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be answered based on information obtained from the site visit or the literature *and* by submitting a Data Services Request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Natural Heritage Data Services, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Building F-1, Columbus, Ohio 43224, 614-265-6453 (phone), 614-265-3096 (fax), <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap>. The remaining questions are designed to be answered primarily by the results of the site visit. Refer to the User's Manual for descriptions of these wetland types. Note: "Critical habitat" is legally defined in the Endangered Species Act and is the geographic area containing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species or as an area that may require special management considerations or protection. The Rater should contact the Region 3 Headquarters or the Columbus Ecological Services Office for updates as to whether critical habitat has been designated for other federally listed threatened or endangered species. "Documented" means the wetland is listed in the appropriate State of Ohio database.

Badger Station

Charlie Allen

10/5/22

#	Question	Circle one	
1	<b>Critical Habitat.</b> Is the wetland in a township, section, or subsection of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle that has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for any threatened or endangered plant or animal species? Note: as of January 1, 2001, of the federally listed endangered or threatened species which can be found in Ohio, the Indiana Bat has had critical habitat designated (50 CFR 17.95(a)) and the piping plover has had critical habitat proposed (65 FR 41812 July 6, 2000).	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 2	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 2
2	<b>Threatened or Endangered Species.</b> Is the wetland known to contain an individual of, or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 3	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 3
3	<b>Documented High Quality Wetland.</b> Is the wetland on record in Natural Heritage Database as a high quality wetland?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 4	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 4
4	<b>Significant Breeding or Concentration Area.</b> Does the wetland contain documented regionally significant breeding or nonbreeding waterfowl, neotropical songbird, or shorebird concentration areas?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 5	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 5
5	<b>Category 1 Wetlands.</b> Is the wetland less than 0.5 hectares (1 acre) in size and <b>hydrologically isolated</b> and either 1) comprised of vegetation that is dominated (greater than eighty per cent areal cover) by <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> , <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , or <i>Phragmites australis</i> , or 2) an acidic pond created or excavated on mined lands that has little or no vegetation?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 1 wetland Go to Question 6	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 6
6	<b>Bogs.</b> Is the wetland a peat-accumulating wetland that 1) has no significant inflows or outflows, 2) supports acidophilic mosses, particularly <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., 3) the acidophilic mosses have >30% cover, 4) at least one species from Table 1 is present, and 5) the cover of invasive species (see Table 1) is <25%?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 7	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 7
7	<b>Fens.</b> Is the wetland a carbon accumulating (peat, muck) wetland that is saturated during most of the year, primarily by a discharge of free flowing, mineral rich, ground water with a circumneutral ph (5.5-9.0) and with one or more plant species listed in Table 1 and the cover of invasive species listed in Table 1 is <25%?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 8a	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 8a
8a	<b>"Old Growth Forest."</b> Is the wetland a forested wetland and is the forest characterized by, but not limited to, the following characteristics: overstory canopy trees of great age (exceeding at least 50% of a projected maximum attainable age for a species); little or no evidence of human-caused understory disturbance during the past 80 to 100 years; an all-aged structure and multilayered canopies; aggregations of canopy trees interspersed with canopy gaps; and significant numbers of standing dead snags and downed logs?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 8b	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 8b

8b	<b>Mature forested wetlands.</b> Is the wetland a forested wetland with 50% or more of the cover of upper forest canopy consisting of deciduous trees with large diameters at breast height (dbh), generally diameters greater than 45cm (17.7in) dbh?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status.  Go to Question 9a	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9a
9a	<b>Lake Erie coastal and tributary wetlands.</b> Is the wetland located at an elevation less than 575 feet on the USGS map, adjacent to this elevation, or along a tributary to Lake Erie that is accessible to fish?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9b	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
9b	Does the wetland's hydrology result from measures designed to prevent erosion and the loss of aquatic plants, i.e. the wetland is partially hydrologically restricted from Lake Erie due to lakeward or landward dikes or other hydrological controls?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Go to Question 10	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9c
9c	Are Lake Erie water levels the wetland's primary hydrological influence, i.e. the wetland is hydrologically unrestricted (no lakeward or upland border alterations), or the wetland can be characterized as an "estuarine" wetland with lake and river influenced hydrology. These include sandbar deposition wetlands, estuarine wetlands, river mouth wetlands, or those dominated by submersed aquatic vegetation.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9d	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
9d	Does the wetland have a predominance of native species within its vegetation communities, although non-native or disturbance tolerant native species can also be present?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland  Go to Question 10	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 9e
9e	Does the wetland have a predominance of non-native or disturbance tolerant native plant species within its vegetation communities?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Go to Question 10	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 10
10	<b>Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings)</b> Is the wetland located in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, or Wood Counties and can the wetland be characterized by the following description: the wetland has a sandy substrate with interspersed organic matter, a water table often within several inches of the surface, and often with a dominance of the gramineous vegetation listed in Table 1 (woody species may also be present). The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can provide assistance in confirming this type of wetland and its quality.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland is a Category 3 wetland.  Go to Question 11	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 11
11	<b>Relict Wet Prairies.</b> Is the wetland a relict wet prairie community dominated by some or all of the species in Table 1. Extensive prairies were formerly located in the Darby Plains (Madison and Union Counties), Sandusky Plains (Wyandot, Crawford, and Marion Counties), northwest Ohio (e.g. Erie, Huron, Lucas, Wood Counties), and portions of western Ohio Counties (e.g. Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Van Wert etc.).	YES <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status  Complete Quantitative Rating	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete Quantitative Rating

**Table 1. Characteristic plant species.**

<b>invasive/exotic spp</b>	<b>fen species</b>	<b>bog species</b>	<b>Oak Opening species</b>	<b>wet prairie species</b>
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Zygadenus elegans</i> var. <i>glaucus</i>	<i>Calla palustris</i>	<i>Carex cryptolepis</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	<i>Cacalia plantaginea</i>	<i>Carex atlantica</i> var. <i>capillacea</i>	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>
<i>Najas minor</i>	<i>Carex flava</i>	<i>Carex echinata</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex atherodes</i>
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	<i>Carex sterilis</i>	<i>Carex oligosperma</i>	<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Carex stricta</i>	<i>Carex trisperma</i>	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	<i>Carex pellita</i>
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	<i>Carex sartwellii</i>
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	<i>Eriophorum viridicarinatum</i>	<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>		<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	<i>Gentianopsis</i> spp.	<i>Larix laricina</i>		<i>Liatris spicata</i>
<i>Typha xglauca</i>	<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>	<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>		<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>
	<i>Parnassia glauca</i>	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>		<i>Lythrum alatum</i>
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.		<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>		<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>
	<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>		<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
	<i>Salix candida</i>	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>		<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
	<i>Salix myricoides</i>	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>		<i>Solidago riddellii</i>
	<i>Salix serissima</i>	<i>Xyris difformis</i>		
	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>			
	<i>Tofieldia glutinosa</i>			
	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>			
	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>			

**End of Narrative Rating. Begin Quantitative Rating on next page.**



<b>Site:</b> Badger Station	<b>Rater(s):</b> Charlie Allen	<b>Date:</b> 10/5/22
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<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
max 6 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

- Select one size class and assign score.
- >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
  - 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
  - 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
  - 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
  - 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
  - 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
  - <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
max 14 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

- 2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.
- WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
  - MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
  - NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
  - VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)
- 2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.
- VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
  - LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
  - MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
  - HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>
max 30 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 3. Hydrology.

- 3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.
- High pH groundwater (5)
  - Other groundwater (3)
  - Precipitation (1)
  - Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
  - Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)
- 3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.
- 100 year floodplain (1)
  - Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
  - Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
  - Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)
- 3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.
- >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
  - 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
  - <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)
- 3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.
- Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
  - Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
  - Seasonally inundated (2)
  - Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)
- 3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (12)
  - Recovered (7)
  - Recovering (3)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input type="checkbox"/> ditch <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> dike <input type="checkbox"/> weir <input type="checkbox"/> stormwater input	<input type="checkbox"/> point source (nonstormwater) <input type="checkbox"/> filling/grading <input type="checkbox"/> road bed/RR track <input type="checkbox"/> dredging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other <u>Agriculture</u>

<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>
max 20 pts.	subtotal

### Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

- 4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (4)
  - Recovered (3)
  - Recovering (2)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)
- 4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.
- Excellent (7)
  - Very good (6)
  - Good (5)
  - Moderately good (4)
  - Fair (3)
  - Poor to fair (2)
  - Poor (1)
- 4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.
- None or none apparent (9)
  - Recovered (6)
  - Recovering (3)
  - Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed	
<input type="checkbox"/> mowing <input type="checkbox"/> grazing <input type="checkbox"/> clearcutting <input type="checkbox"/> selective cutting <input type="checkbox"/> woody debris removal <input type="checkbox"/> toxic pollutants	<input type="checkbox"/> shrub/sapling removal <input type="checkbox"/> herbaceous/aquatic bed removal <input type="checkbox"/> sedimentation <input type="checkbox"/> dredging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> farming <input type="checkbox"/> nutrient enrichment

<b>24</b>
subtotal this page

<b>Site:</b> Badger Station	<b>Rater(s):</b> Charlie Allen	<b>Date:</b> 10/5/22
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24

subtotal first page

0	24
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max 10 pts. subtotal

### Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

Check all that apply and score as indicated.

- Bog (10)
- Fen (10)
- Old growth forest (10)
- Mature forested wetland (5)
- Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

2

26

max 20 pts. subtotal

### Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersions, microtopography.

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- Aquatic bed
- 1 Emergent
- Shrub
- Forest
- Mudflats
- Open water
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersion.

Select only one.

- High (5)
- Moderately high(4)
- Moderate (3)
- Moderately low (2)
- Low (1)
- None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.

Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- 0 Vegetated hummucks/tussucks
- 0 Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- 0 Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- 0 Amphibian breeding pools

#### Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

#### Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

#### Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

#### Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

26

**End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.**

# ORAM Summary Worksheet

Badger Station

Charlie Allen

10/5/22

		<b>circle answer or insert score</b>	<b>Result</b>
Narrative Rating	Question 1. Critical Habitat	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 2. Threatened or Endangered Species	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 3. High Quality Natural Wetland	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 4. Significant bird habitat	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 5. Category 1 Wetlands	NO	If yes, Category 1.
	Question 6. Bogs	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 7. Fens	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8a. Old Growth Forest	NO	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8b. Mature Forested Wetland	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9b. Lake Erie Wetlands - Restricted	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9d. Lake Erie Wetlands – Unrestricted with native plants	NO	If yes, Category 3
	Question 9e. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with invasive plants	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 10. Oak Openings	NO	If yes, Category 3
Question 11. Relict Wet Prairies	NO	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.	
Quantitative Rating	Metric 1. Size	1	
	Metric 2. Buffers and surrounding land use	9	
	Metric 3. Hydrology	7	
	Metric 4. Habitat	7	
	Metric 5. Special Wetland Communities	0	
	Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersion, microtopography	2	
	TOTAL SCORE	26	Category based on score breakpoints Category 1

**Complete Wetland Categorization Worksheet.**

## Wetland Categorization Worksheet

Choices	Circle one		Evaluation of Categorization Result of ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions:  Narrative Rating Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8a, 9d, 10	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is categorized as a Category 3 wetland	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is quantitative rating score <i>less</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold ( <i>excluding</i> gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been over-categorized by the ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions:  Narrative Rating Nos. 1, 8b, 9b, 9e, 11	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate the wetland using the 1) narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and 2) the quantitative rating score. If the wetland is determined to be a Category 3 wetland using either of these, it should be categorized as a Category 3 wetland. Detailed biological and/or functional assessments may also be used to determine the wetland's category.
Did you answer "Yes" to  Narrative Rating No. 5	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is categorized as a Category 1 wetland	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is quantitative rating score <i>greater</i> than the Category 2 scoring threshold ( <i>including</i> any gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been under-categorized by the ORAM
Does the quantitative score fall within the scoring range of a Category 1, 2, or 3 wetland?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to the appropriate category based on the scoring range	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If the score of the wetland is located within the scoring range for a particular category, the wetland should be assigned to that category. In all instances however, the narrative criteria described in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) can be used to clarify or change a categorization based on a quantitative score.
Does the quantitative score fall with the "gray zone" for Category 1 or 2 or Category 2 or 3 wetlands?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to the higher of the two categories or assigned to a category based on detailed assessments and the narrative criteria	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rater has the option of assigning the wetland to the higher of the two categories or to assign a category based on the results of a nonrapid wetland assessment method, e.g. functional assessment, biological assessment, etc, and a consideration of the narrative criteria in OAC rule 3745-1-54(C).
Does the wetland otherwise exhibit <i>moderate OR superior</i> hydrologic OR habitat, OR recreational functions AND the wetland was <i>not</i> categorized as a Category 2 wetland (in the case of moderate functions) or a Category 3 wetland (in the case of superior functions) by this method?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>  Wetland was undercategorized by this method. A written justification for recategorization should be provided on Background Information Form	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Wetland is assigned to category as determined by the ORAM.	A wetland may be undercategorized using this method, but still exhibit one or more superior functions, e.g. a wetland's biotic communities may be degraded by human activities, but the wetland may still exhibit superior hydrologic functions because of its type, landscape position, size, local or regional significance, etc. In this circumstance, the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) and (3) are controlling, and the under-categorization should be corrected. A written justification with supporting reasons or information for this determination should be provided.

### Final Category

Choose one	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Category 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**End of Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands.**

**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Field Collected Data Forms  
March 31, 2023

**C.3 HHEI FORM**

SITE NAME/LOCATION **Badger Station AEP**

SITE NUMBER **Stream 1** RIVER BASIN \_\_\_\_\_ DRAINAGE AREA (mi<sup>2</sup>) **<1**

LENGTH OF STREAM REACH (ft) **200** LAT. **40.10036** LONG. **-82.75079** RIVER CODE \_\_\_\_\_ RIVER MILE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE **09/28/22** SCORER **S. Heitzen** COMMENTS **intermittent**

**NOTE: Complete All Items On This Form - Refer to "Field Evaluation Manual for Ohio's PWH Streams" for Instructions**

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

**1. SUBSTRATE (Estimate percent of every type of substrate 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.**

TYPE	PERCENT	TYPE	PERCENT
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> BLDR SLABS [16 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pt]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40%
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pt]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40%	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0%

Total of Percentages of Bldr Slabs, Boulder, Cobble, Bedrock **0.00%** (A)

Substrate Percentage Check **100%** (B)

SCORE OF TWO MOST PREDOMINATE SUBSTRATE TYPES: **9**

TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSTRATE TYPES: **4**

**HHEI Metric Points**

Substrate Max = 40

**13**

A + B

**2. Maximum Pool Depth (Measure the maximum pool depth within the 61 meter (200 ft) evaluation reach at the time of evaluation. Avoid plunge pools from road culverts or storm water pipes) (Check ONLY one box):**

<input type="checkbox"/> > 30 centimeters [20 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> > 5 cm - 10 cm [15 pts]
<input type="checkbox"/> > 22.5 - 30 cm [30 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> < 5 cm [5 pts]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> NO WATER OR MOIST CHANNEL [0 pts]

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ MAXIMUM POOL DEPTH (centimeters): **13**

Pool Depth Max = 30

**25**

**3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY one box):**

<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 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 (> 9' 7" - 4' 8") [20 pts]	

COMMENTS **TOB W-6' H-1', OHWM W-4.5' H-0.5'** AVERAGE BANKFULL WIDTH (meters): **1.80**

Bankfull Width Max=30

**20**

**This information must also be completed**

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

RIPARIAN WIDTH		FLOODPLAIN QUALITY	
L	R	L	R
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Per Bank)	Wide >10m	(Most Predominant per Bank)	Mature Forest, Wetland
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Moderate 5-10m		Immature Forest, Shrub or Old Field
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Narrow <5m		Residential, Park, New Field
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	None		Fenced Pasture
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Conservation Tillage
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Urban or Industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Open Pasture, Row Crop
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Mining or Construction

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**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 type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.0
<input checked="" 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  (If Yes, Attach Completed QHEI Form)

**DOWNSTREAM DESIGNATED USE(S)**

WWH Name: Blacklick Creek Distance from Evaluated Stream 1.75mi  
 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: Jersey, OH NRCS Soil Map Page:  NRCS Soil Map Stream Order   
County: Wyandot Township / City: Jersey / New Albany

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Base Flow Conditions? (Y/N): Y Date of last precipitation: 09/27/22 Quantity: 0.05  
Photograph Information: Upstream, downstream, substrate  
Elevated Turbidity? (Y/N): N Canopy (% open): 40%  
Were samples collected for water chemistry? (Y/N): N (Note lab sample no. or id. and attach results) Lab Number:   
Field Measures: Temp (°C) 14.60 Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l)  pH (S.U.) 6.90 Conductivity (µmhos/cm) 650  
Is the sampling reach representative of the stream (Y/N) N If not, please explain:

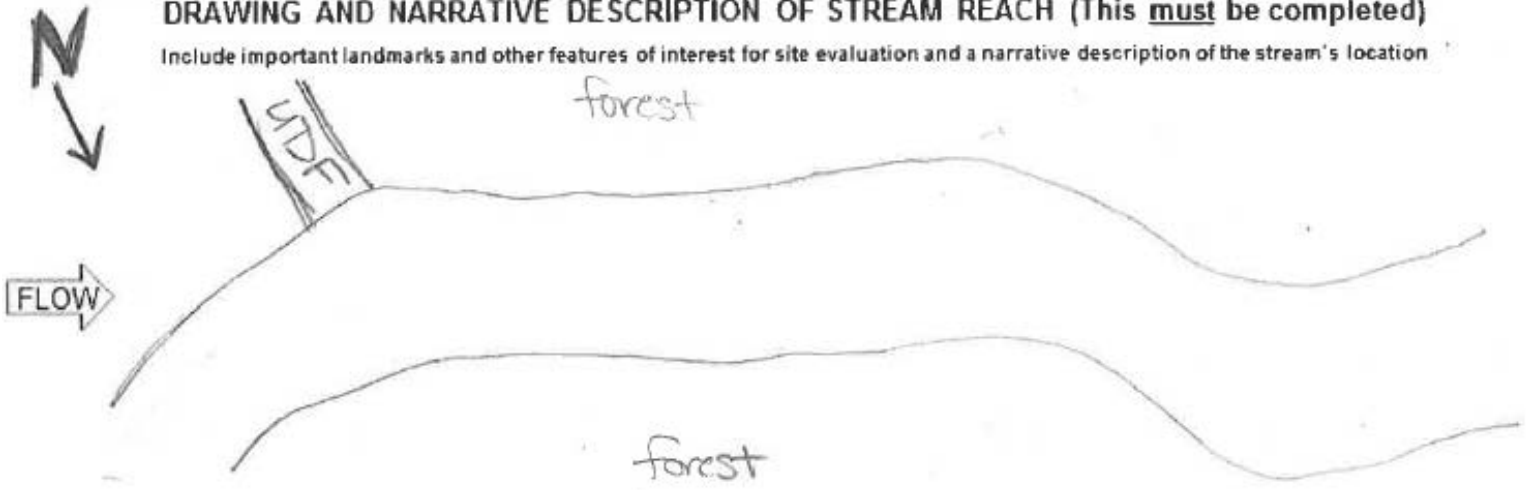
Additional comments/description of pollution impacts:

**BIOTIC EVALUATION**

Performed? (Y/N): N (If Yes, Record all observations. Voucher collections optional. NOTE: all voucher samples must be labeled with the site ID number. Include appropriate field data sheets from the Primary Headwater Habitat Assessment Manual)  
Fish Observed? (Y/N) N Voucher? (Y/N) N Salamanders Observed? (Y/N) N Voucher? (Y/N) N  
Frogs or Tadpoles Observed? (Y/N) N Voucher? (Y/N) N Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Observed? (Y/N) N Voucher? (Y/N) N  
Comments Regarding Biology:

**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





**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Representative Photographs  
March 31, 2023

**APPENDIX D REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS**

**D.1 WETLAND AND WATERBODY PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo Location 1. View of wetland determination sample point (SP01; PEM). Photograph taken facing southwest.



Photo Location 1. View of wetland determination sample point (SP01; PEM), soil profile.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing east.





Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 2. View of Wetland 1. Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 3. View of wetland determination sample point (SP02; upland). Photograph taken facing west.



Photo Location 3. View of wetland determination sample point (SP02; upland), soil profile.





Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1 (intermittent). Photograph taken facing upstream, southeast.



Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1 (intermittent). Photograph taken facing downstream, northwest.





Photo Location 4. View of Stream 1 (intermittent), typical substrates.



Photo Location 5. View of Stream 2 (intermittent). Photograph taken facing upstream, east.





Photo Location 5. View of Stream 2 (intermittent). Photograph taken facing downstream, west.



Photo Location 5. View of Stream 2 (intermittent), typical substrates.





Photo Location 6. View of wetland determination sample point (SP03; PEM). Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photo Location 6. View of wetland determination sample point (SP03; PEM), soil profile.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 7. View of Wetland 2. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 7. View of Wetland 2. Photograph taken facing south.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 7. View of Wetland 2. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 7. View of Wetland 2. Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 8. View of upland determination sample point (SP04; upland). Photograph taken facing northeast.



Photo Location 8. View of wetland determination sample point (SP04; upland), soil profile.

## **BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Representative Photographs  
March 31, 2023

### **D.2 HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS**





Photo Location 1. View of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 1. View of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing northeast.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 2. View of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 2. View of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing north.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 3. View of old field habitat. Photograph taken facing east.



Photo Location 3. View of old field habitat (foreground) and second growth deciduous forest habitat (background).  
Photograph taken facing west.





Photo Location 4. View of typical upland drainage feature (UDF). Photograph taken facing south.



Photo Location 4. View of typical UDF. Photograph taken facing north.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo Location 5. View of second growth deciduous forest habitat. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 5. View of second growth deciduous forest habitat. Photograph taken facing south.





Photo Location 6. View of second growth deciduous forest habitat. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo Location 6. View of second growth deciduous forest habitat. Photograph taken facing south.





Photo Location 7. View of typical culvert. Photograph taken facing ground.



Photo Location 7. View of typical culvert. Photograph taken facing east.

## **BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Representative Photographs  
March 31, 2023

### **D.3 CURRENT CONDITIONS PHOTOGRAPHS**



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo 1. View of previously delineated Wetland 2 and Stream 1 area. Photograph taken facing southwest.



Photo 2. View of previously delineated Wetland 1 area. Photograph taken facing southwest.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo 3. View of grading activities in northeast corner of the Project area. Photograph taken facing west.



Photo 4. View of grading activities from northern edge of the Project area. Photograph taken facing south.



AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
Badger Station Project  
Licking County, Ohio



Photo 5. View of previously delineated Wetland 1 area. Photograph taken facing north.



Photo 6. View of grading activities in southeast corner of Project area. Photograph taken facing west.

**BADGER STATION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT**

Agency Correspondence  
March 31, 2023

**APPENDIX E 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

November 15, 2022

Kim Catano  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
1500 Lake Shore Drive Suite 100  
Columbus OH 43204

**Re:** 22-1017; AEP Badger Station CMH 82 Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves an approximately 10-acre parcel to construct a new 138kV station.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto: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 threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq 20$  if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS “[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#).” If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a 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. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

**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](mailto: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



October 21, 2022

Project Code: 2023-0000416

Dear Ms. Catano:

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

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees  $\geq 3$  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  $\geq 3$  inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats. If Indiana bats are not detected

during the survey, then tree clearing may occur at any time of the year. Surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office. Surveyors must have a valid federal permit. Please note that in Ohio summer mist net surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15.

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

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

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

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

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