Construction Notice for the Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV Pole Replacement Project

PUCO Case No. 20-0377-EL-BNR

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

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

April 14, 2020
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
Ohio Power Company
Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV Pole Replacement Project

4906-6-05

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

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

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 Construction Notice.

The Company proposes the Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV Pole Replacement Project ("Project"), located in the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. The purpose of this Project is to replace a six-pole wood structure with a single wood pole, which was requested by the City of Columbus, in order to accommodate a new road for development in the area. Appendix A, Figures 1 and 2 show the location of the Project in relation to the surrounding vicinity. The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice (CN) because it is within the types of projects defined by (5) of Appendix A to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01, Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines:

5. Replacement or relocation of an electric power transmission line and associated facilities where the project is required by publicly funded entries and is located on or adjacent to right-of-way or land owned by the public entity requiring the project.

The Project has been assigned Case No. 20-0377-EL-BNR.

B(2) Statement of Need

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

The Project's primary purpose is to replace an existing six-pole wood structure, with a single wood pole due to development occurring in the area. The City of Columbus notified the Company of its plans to construct a new road and the existing six-pole structure is within the planned road right-of-way. As such, the City requested that the Company move the existing structure to accommodate the new public infrastructure. In addition, the existing six pole structure contains metering equipment that was transferred to a nearby station and is no longer necessary and, therefore, the Project only requires installing a single wood pole replacement. Finally, the line which this pole supports is one of two feeds that directly serve the City of Columbus network. Replacement of this pole is required to maintain the current configuration and reliability of one of the lines serving this network.
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR VINE-CITY OF COLUMBUS WEST 138 kV POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

There is no operation, modeling, or topology change as a result of the Project; therefore, the Project will not be submitted to PJM. The Project is also not reported in the Long-Term Forecast Report because it is not creating a new transmission line or substation.

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 stations is shown on Figure 1, in Appendix A. Figure 2, in Appendix A, identifies the Project components on a 2019 aerial photograph.

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.

As the new structure will be placed within the centerline of the existing Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV transmission line, there will be no additional impacts to any areas outside of the existing right-of-way (ROW) corridor, and therefore no additional alternatives were considered. The resulting alignments represent the most suitable and least impactful pole location alternatives. Socioeconomic, land use, and ecological information is presented in Section B(10).

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. 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 May 2020 with an anticipated in-service date of June 2020.
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, identifies the location of the Project area on a United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle map. Appendix A, Figure 2 is an aerial map of the Project area.

To visit the Project from downtown Columbus, Ohio, take I-70W/I-71S from the 3rd Street exit for approximately 1 mile. Take exit 99C toward Rich Street/Town Street for 0.3 mile before continuing on OH-315 N for approximately 1 mile. Take exit 1C for US-33 toward Long Street/Dublin Road. At the exit, turn left onto West Spring Street, and then immediately take a slight left onto Hocking Street. After 0.1 mile turn left onto West Nationwide Boulevard. In approximately 0.2 mile West Nationwide Boulevard will deadend. The Project will be located on the north side of West Nationwide Boulevard at latitude 39.968267, longitude -83.020001.

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.

A list of properties required for the Project are provided in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Parcel Number</th>
<th>Easement/ Option Obtained (Yes/No)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010-238618</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 transmission line construction along Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV line will include the following:

- Voltage: 138kV
- Conductors: 983.1 KCM ACAR 30/7
- Static Wire: 3/8" EHS Steel 7 strand
- Insulators: Polymer Horizontal Post Insulator w/ Corona Ring
- ROW Width: 100 Feet
- Structure Types: One (1) single circuit wood pole, horizontal post structure
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.

B(9)(b)(i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Strength Levels

i) Calculated Electric and Magnetic Field Levels
Not applicable. No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(b)(ii) Design Alternatives
A discussion of the applicant's consideration of design alternatives with respect to electric and magnetic fields and their strength levels, including alternate conductor configuration and phasing, tower height, corridor location, and right-of-way width.

Not applicable. No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

B(9)(b)(ii)(c) Project Cost
The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital costs estimate for the Vine-City of Columbus West 138 kV pole replacement is approximately $105,000 (Class 4 estimate).

B(10) Social and Economic Impacts
The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project:

B(10)(a) Operating 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.

The Project is located in the city of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. Land use in the Project area consists of disturbed, industrial land and existing transmission line ROW.

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 Project is not located within registered agricultural district lands, based on March 4, 2020 coordination with the Franklin County Auditor’s Office. Additionally, the Project area does not contain any active agricultural row crop land.
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.

Figure 3, in Appendix A, depicts an online review of the State Historic Preservation Office Online GIS website. There are no adverse effects as a result of this Project. The Project is to consolidate transmission line assets onto one structure, further reducing any visual impacts to the area of potential effects. The City of Columbus previously conducted a Cultural Resource survey that encompasses the Project area, and found no properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the proximity of the Project area. In addition, a Historic District Evaluation for the City of Columbus was completed south of the Project, and determined that the boundary was not eligible to be listed as a historic district. This survey contributed to the National Register of Historic Places listing of the Municipal Light Plant, which is 0.1 mile south of the Project area. No adverse effects are expected as a result of this Project to the listed property. As the Project is to consolidate electrical assets, the project will result in a reduced visual impact to the listed property.

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.

The Project requires replacing one structure. This activity is below the reporting levels for an OEPA Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. No other local, state, or federal permits are applicable.

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

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

Coordination letters were submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”), Ohio Ecological Servies Field Office, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) Ohio Natural Heritage Program (“ONHP”), seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. A response from USFWS was received on April 9, 2020 and is provided in Appendix B. ODNR’s DOW/OHNP is currently pending, however, once a response has been received, information will be provided to the OPSB.
The USFWS Federally Listed Species located on the USFWS website IPAC (Information for Planning and Consultation) was reviewed March 11, 2020 (available at https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/) to determine the threatened and endangered species currently known to occur in Franklin County and specifically the project area.

The USFWS publication lists the following species as occurring within Franklin County: Indiana bat (E), northern long-eared bat (T), running buffalo clover (E), Scioto madtom (E), clubshell (E), northern riffleshell (E), rayed bean (E), snuffbox (E), rabbitsfoot (T), eastern hellbender (SC), bald eagle (SC). The project area specifically was noted to have the potential to contain the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat and Running Buffalo Clover.

The Project is within the range of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. Due to this potential, the USFWS/ODNR recommends seasonal tree cutting for trees >3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse impacts to this species. However, no tree clearing activities are anticipated to be required for the Project. Therefore, the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat.

Although the Olentangy River is adjacent to the Project area, no in water work is proposed as part of the Project. Therefore, there will be no impacts associated with the Scioto madtom, clubshell, northern riffleshell, rayed bean, snuffbox, rabbitsfoot, or eastern hellbender.

As the Project area is entirely disturbed, and lacking key charactericts required to support the Running Buffalo Clover, AEP determined that there is no suitable habitat for the Running Buffalo Clover in the project area. Additionally, the coordination letter from USFWS did not identify any species of concern in the project area, therefore, the Project is not likely to adversely affect the Running Buffalo Clover.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Natural Heritage Database was reviewed for Franklin County. As no work will occur in the water, the following list of species includes, the state endangered species of concern birds, and mammals. The species listed for ODNR in Franklin County, and not included on the federal threatened and endangered species list include: Upland Sandpiper, American Bittern, Lark Sparrow, Green-winged Teal, Yellow-Crowned Night-heron, Golden-winged Warbler. As the project area was previously developed by others, and essentially void of vegetation, the area lacks suitable habitat for any of the above listed species.
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.

A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) database indicated that there were no NWI-mapped wetlands identified within the Project area. Additionally, as the Project area has been completely disturbed, no wetlands or streams were identified in the Project area.

No properties identified in the National Conservation Easement Database (http://www.conservationeasement.us) were identified in the Project vicinity.

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 number 39049C0309K). Based on this mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project area. Therefore, no floodplain permit will be required for the Project.

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.
CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR VINE-CITY OF COLUMBUS WEST 138 KV POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

APPENDIX A PROJECT MAPS
LEGEND:
- Proposed Pole
- Existing Pole
- Proposed Centerline
- Existing Centerline

USGS Topo, 2020 & AEP

Coordinate System and Datum: NAD 83 State Plane Ohio South, Feet

Franklin County

March 16, 2020

Vine - City of Columbus West 138kV Pole Replacement Project

FIGURE 1
OVERVIEW MAP

LOCATOR MAP
Dear Ms. Toohey,

We have received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area. The following comments and recommendations will assist you in fulfilling the requirements for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that proposed developments avoid and minimize water quality impacts and impacts to high quality fish and wildlife habitat (e.g., forests, streams, wetlands). Additionally, natural buffers around streams and wetlands should be preserved to enhance beneficial functions. If streams or wetlands will be impacted, the 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. All disturbed areas should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES COMMENTS: All projects in the State of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis). In Ohio, presence of the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is assumed 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 travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) 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 and abandoned mines.

The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of Indiana bats. Therefore, we recommend that trees ≥3 inches dbh be saved wherever possible. Because the project will result in a small amount of forest clearing relative to the available habitat in the immediately surrounding area, habitat removal is unlikely to result in significant impacts to these species. Since Indiana bat presence in the vicinity of the project has been confirmed, clearing of trees ≥3 inches dbh during the summer roosting season may result in direct take of individuals. 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 tree removal is unavoidable, we recommend that removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Following this seasonal tree clearing recommendation should ensure that any effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are insignificant or discountable. Please note that, because Indiana bat presence has already been confirmed in the project vicinity, any additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence surveys for this species.

If there is a federal nexus for the project (e.g., federal funding provided, federal permits required to construct), 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 that 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.

Due to the project type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species. Should the project design change, or during the term of this action, 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, consultation with the Service should be initiated to assess any potential impacts.

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 ESA, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Service’s Mitigation Policy. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document. We recommend that the project be coordinated with the Ohio
Department of Natural Resources due to the potential for the project to affect state listed species and/or state lands. Contact Mike Pettigrew, Acting Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at mike.pettigrew@dnr.state.oh.us.

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

Sincerely,

Patrice Ashfield
Ohio Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW
    Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW
APPENDIX C    SITE PICTURES
Picture 1: Structure 22 facing southwest

Picture 2: Structure 22 facing north