

**AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS,
INCORPORATED
A FIRSTENERGY COMPANY**

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

**LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138 KV
TRANSMISSION LINE SWITCH REPLACEMENT
PROJECT
OPSB CASE NO.: 25-0193-EL-BNR**

April 29, 2024

**American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308**

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The following information is being provided in accordance with Chapter 4906-6 of the Ohio Administrative Code (“Adm.Code”) for the application and review of Accelerated Certificate Applications. Based upon the requirements found in Appendix A to Adm.Code 4906-1-01, this Project qualifies for submittal to the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) as a Construction Notice application.

4906-6-05: ACCELERATED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

4906-6-05: Name and Reference Number

Name of Project:	Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line Switch Replacement Project (“Project”)
Reference Number:	2006

4906-6-05 (B)(1): Brief Description of the Project

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (“ATSI”), a FirstEnergy company, proposes to replace two existing switches on the Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line. The existing manually operated switches, No. A-67 and No. A-90 mounted on Structures No. 9594 and No. 9593 respectively, will be replaced with new 1200A Quick Break Whips with SCADA Control switches and new single circuit steel monopole switch structures on concrete foundations. The two new switches will be located one on each side of the transmission line tap to Ellwood Engineer Castings. The Project is in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

The general location of the Project is shown in Exhibit 1, a partial copy of the United States Geologic Survey, Trumbull County OH, Quad Map. Exhibit 2 is a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery of the Project area. The general layout is shown in Exhibit 3.

4906-6-05 (B)(1): Construction Notice Requirement

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice application because the Project is within the types of projects defined by Item (2)(a) of the Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines, Appendix A of Adm. Code 4906-1-01. This item states:

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

(a) two miles or less

The proposed Project is within the requirements of Item (2)(a) as it involves replacing structures with a different type of structure for a distance of less than 2 miles.

4906-6-05 (B)(2): Need for the Project

The existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line's manually operated switches, A-67 and A-90 need replacement to remedy emerging condition concerns and preserve operational reliability. Replacement is recommended because the switches are of an obsolete design and no longer supported for repair parts making continued maintenance impractical. The assembly of these switches is also subject to dimensional changes in the structure such as warping or deflection. These changes can result in mis-operation with the potential for unintended arcing, thereby increasing the exposure risk for switchmen. New switches will be of a unitized design with SCADA controlled motor operators. Engineering evaluation of the existing structures indicates that the wood poles do not meet design criteria to support the equipment required for this Project. After considering multiple options, replacing the existing structures, as well as the switches, is the most efficient method based on constructability and reliability.

4906-6-05 (B)(3): Location of the Project Relative to Existing or Proposed Lines

The location of the Project relative to existing or proposed lines is shown in the ATSI Transmission Network Map, included as part of the confidential portion of the FirstEnergy Corp. 2025 Long-Term Forecast Report. This map was submitted to the PUCO in Case No. 25-0504-EL-FOR under Rule 4901:5-5:04 (C)(2)(b) of the Ohio Administrative Code. The map is incorporated by reference only. This map shows ATSI's 345 kV and 138 kV transmission lines and transmission substations including the Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line. The Project is not included in ATSI's LTFR filed in 2025 because the Project does not entail any topology or rating change. The general location and layout of the Project area is shown in Exhibits 1 and 2.

4906-6-05 (B)(4): Alternatives Considered

Three alternatives were considered as part of this Project. The first alternative considered was to continue to maintain and repair the existing switches. This alternative was not chosen because leaving the existing equipment in its present state and attempting repetitive maintenance is not preferred. Unknown changes between maintenance cycles could potentially result in a mis-operation, thereby exposing a switchman to unintentional arcing. The second alternative considered was to replace the existing manual switches with new manual switches. Although this option resolves the inherent weakness of the existing structures and switch design it does not address improving either safety of use or speed of restoration. Adding motor operators is a relatively minor addition to scope when included with the switch replacement. The third alternative considered was to install only motor operators and supporting equipment while reutilizing existing structures and switches. This option was rejected due to remaining structure strength and the switch design not meeting standards. It also fails to address the possibility of a mis-operation due to alignment of switch parts that cannot be maintained.

4906-6-05 (B)(5): Public Information Program

ATSI's manager of External Affairs will advise local officials of features and the status of the proposed Project as necessary. ATSI will maintain a Project website and will continue

to work with property owners concerning the proposed Project. The website address is: https://www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_projects/ohio.html .

Finally, during all phases of this Project, ATSI will maintain the transmission projects hotline at 1-888-311-4737 or via email at: transmissionprojects@firstenergycorp.com where the public may ask questions or leave comments on the Project for ATSI.

4906-6-05 (B)(6): Construction Schedule

The construction schedule for this Project is expected to begin as early as September 15, 2025, and to be completed by December 31, 2025.

4906-6-05 (B)(7): Area Map

Exhibit 1 provides a partial copy of the USGS Topographic Map, Trumbull County, Ohio Quad Map. Exhibit 2 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery of the Project area.

4906-6-05 (B)(8): Property Owner List

The Project is located entirely within property (Parcel No. 02-332494) owned by Deer Creek Golf Course, Inc., within an existing easement. No new easements will be required for completion of this Project.

4906-6-05 (B)(9): TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(a): Operating Characteristics

The transmission line construction will have the following characteristics:

Voltage:	138 kV
Conductors:	795.0 kcmil ACSR 26/7 (New) 300 kcmil 19 Strand Copper (Existing)
Static Wire:	7#8 Alumoweld
Insulators:	Porcelain
ROW Width:	100'
Structure Types:	Exhibit 4: Steel Pole Switch Structure on Concrete Foundation (Qty. 2)

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(b): Electric and Magnetic Fields

There are no occupied residences or institutions within 100 feet from the proposed transmission line centerline and therefore no Electric and Magnetic Field (“EMF”) calculations are required by this subsection.

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(c): Estimated Cost

The estimated cost for the proposed Project is \$1,091,500. Although not statutorily required for approval, at the request of OPSB Staff, ATSI confirms that ATSI’s costs will be captured and allocated via FERC formula rates for the ATSI Transmission Zone, Attachment H-21 in the PJM OATT.

4906-6-05 (B)(10): SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(a): Land Uses

The Project is in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. The main land use around the Project area is recreational. No significant changes or impacts to the current or future land use are anticipated.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(b): Agricultural Land

Agricultural land does not exist within the Project’s Area of Potential Effect (“APE”).

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(c): Archaeological or Cultural Resources

As part of the investigation for this Construction Notice, on February 14, 2025, TRC Companies, Inc. (“TRC”) submitted a request to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) on behalf of ATSI to review and provide comments for the Project Study Area (Area of Potential Effects or “APE”) within a one (1)-mile search radius. On March 14, 2025, SHPO replied to the request and the response is attached as Exhibit 5. SHPO concurred that the Project, as proposed, will not affect any historic properties or cultural resources. No further coordination is required unless the scope of work changes or new/additional archaeological deposits are discovered during construction.

The SHPO database also includes the Ohio Historic Inventory (“OHI”), the Ohio Archaeological Inventory (“OAI”), previous cultural resource surveys, and the Ohio Genealogical Society (“OGS”) cemetery inventory. The SHPO database includes all Ohio listings on the National Register of Historic Places (“NRHP”), including districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The results of the search indicate that, within 1.0 mile of the Project Study Area, there are no listed or eligible NRHP above-ground historic resources. There are two above-ground historic resources that have not been formally evaluated for NRHP eligibility within 1.0 mile of the APE.

One OGS Cemetery was identified within the 1.0-mile radius of the Project’s APE. Within 1.0 mile of the Project’s APE, three previously archaeological surveys have been conducted, and there are five OAI sites. All of these sites are pre-contact. No impacts to any culturally significant resources are expected.

The Project will not impact the viewshed of any potential historic properties. Additionally, due to prior anthropogenic disturbances, the Project has a low potential to encounter any intact, significant archaeological resources. The Project will have no adverse effect upon any cultural or archaeological resources. The Project ground disturbance is limited to structure replacement.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(d): Local, State, and Federal Requirements

No additional government agency authorizations or permits are required for this Project.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(e): Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species Investigation

As part of the investigation, ATSI retained TRC to conduct necessary surveys. TRC submitted a request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) Office of Real Estate to conduct an Environmental Review. As part of the Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate conducted a search of the ODNR Division of Wildlife’s Natural Heritage Database to research the presence of any endangered, threatened, or rare

species within one (1) mile of the Project Study Area. The ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response on February 19, 2025, stated that within one mile of the Project area, there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals. A copy of ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response is included as Exhibit 6.

In addition, the ODNR-DOW stated that the Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; State Endangered and Federally Endangered), the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; State Endangered and Federally Endangered), and the tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; State Endangered). The entire state of Ohio is also within the range of the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*; State Endangered). An on-site field assessment was performed by TRC on February 7, 2025. Field observations did not identify suitable habitat for these species identified in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. The DOW recommended a desktop bat hibernaculum assessment be completed for the Project, which TRC completed for ATSI and submitted to ODNR for concurrence on February 25, 2025. ODNR responded on March 6, 2025, attached as Exhibit 6A, concurring that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the Project Area. In addition, due to the type, size, and location, the proposed Project is not likely to impact these species.

No tree removal is necessary to complete this Project; therefore, this Project will not impact any tree-dwelling species.

The ODNR-DOW also identified the Project is within the range of the following aquatic species; northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*, State Endangered) and mountain brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*; State Endangered). The Project is also in the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*, State Endangered and Federally Threatened), spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*, State Threatened), eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*, State Endangered and Federal species of concern), and northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*, State Endangered). The ODNR does not believe the Project will impact any listed species.

As part of the investigation, TRC also submitted a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) for an Ecological Review within one (1) mile of the Project area on January 21, 2025. A response was received from USFWS on January 24, 2025, and is included as Exhibit 7. The response states that due to the Project, type, size, and location, no adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat are anticipated.

The Project work limits will be entirely within the maintained transmission line corridor. Moreover, no trees will be cleared as a result of the Project. As such, the Project is not anticipated to adversely impact any state or federally listed species.

A list of all endangered, threatened, and rare species, as identified by ODNR and USFWS, is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. List of Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listed Status	State Listed Status	Preferred Habitat	Suitable Habitat Present within Study Area
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Trees & Forest	No
Northern Long-Eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Trees & Forest	No
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	NA	Endangered	Trees & Forest	No
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered	Endangered	Trees & Forest	No
Northern Brook Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon fossor</i>	NA	Endangered	Perennial Streams	No
Mountain Brook Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon greeleyi</i>	NA	Endangered	Perennial Streams	No
Eastern Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Wetlands and Prairies	No
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	NA	Threatened	Wetlands	No

Eastern Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	Species of Concern	Threatened	Perennial Streams	No
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	NA	Endangered	Marshes and grasslands	No

The Project work limits do not include any in-stream activities or encroach on any regulated flood plains, based on a review of online FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Mapping.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(f): Areas of Ecological Concern

TRC conducted a wetland and stream delineation for the Project, as shown in Exhibit 8. The Project Study Area is approximately 2.58-acres located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. No streams or wetlands were identified during the delineation.

As part of the Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate researched the presence of any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forest, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within one (1) mile of the Project area. No protected sites or public properties were identified.

The switch structure and foundations will be placed along developed ROW associated with the Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line. Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is not required as no impacts to any Waters of the United States are proposed. Reasonable best-management practices will be used to ensure that debris or sediment does not leave the Project site that could potentially impact nearby waterways.

4906-6-05(B)(10)(g): Other Information

Construction and operation of the proposed Project will be in accordance with the requirements specified in the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the PUCO and will meet all applicable safety standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

No other or unusual conditions are expected that will result in significant environmental, social, health or safety impacts.

4906-6-07: Documentation of Construction Notice Transmittal and Availability for Public Review

This Construction Notice application is being provided concurrently to the following officials in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Trumbull County

Commissioner Mauro Cantalamessa
Trumbull County Board of
Commissioners
160 High Street NW
Warren, Ohio 44481
cecantal@co.trumbull.oh.us

Mr. Randy L. Smith, P.E., P.S.,
Trumbull County Engineer
650 North River Road N.W.
Warren, Ohio 44483-2255
hwsmith@co.trumbull.oh.us

Commissioner Niki Frenchko
Trumbull County Board of
Commissioners
160 High Street NW
Warren, Ohio 44481
niki.frenchko@co.trumbull.oh.us

Mr. James Davies, Chairman
Trumbull County Planning
Commission
185 E. Market Street NE, Suite A
Warren, Ohio 44481
tcplanning@co.trumbull.oh.us

Commissioner Denny Malloy
Trumbull County Board of
Commissioners
160 High Street NW
Warren, Ohio 44481
Denny.Malloy@co.trumbull.oh.us

Hubbard Township

Mr. William Colletta, Trustee
Hubbard Township
2600 Elmwood Drive Extension
Hubbard, OH 44425
trusteecolletta@hubbardtwpohio.us

Mr. Jason Tedrow, Trustee
Hubbard Township
2600 Elmwood Drive Extension
Hubbard, OH 44425
trusteetedrow@hubbardtwpohio.us

Mr. Richard Hernandez, Trustee,
Hubbard Township
2600 Elmwood Drive Extension
Hubbard, OH 44425
trusteehernandez@hubbardtwpohio.us

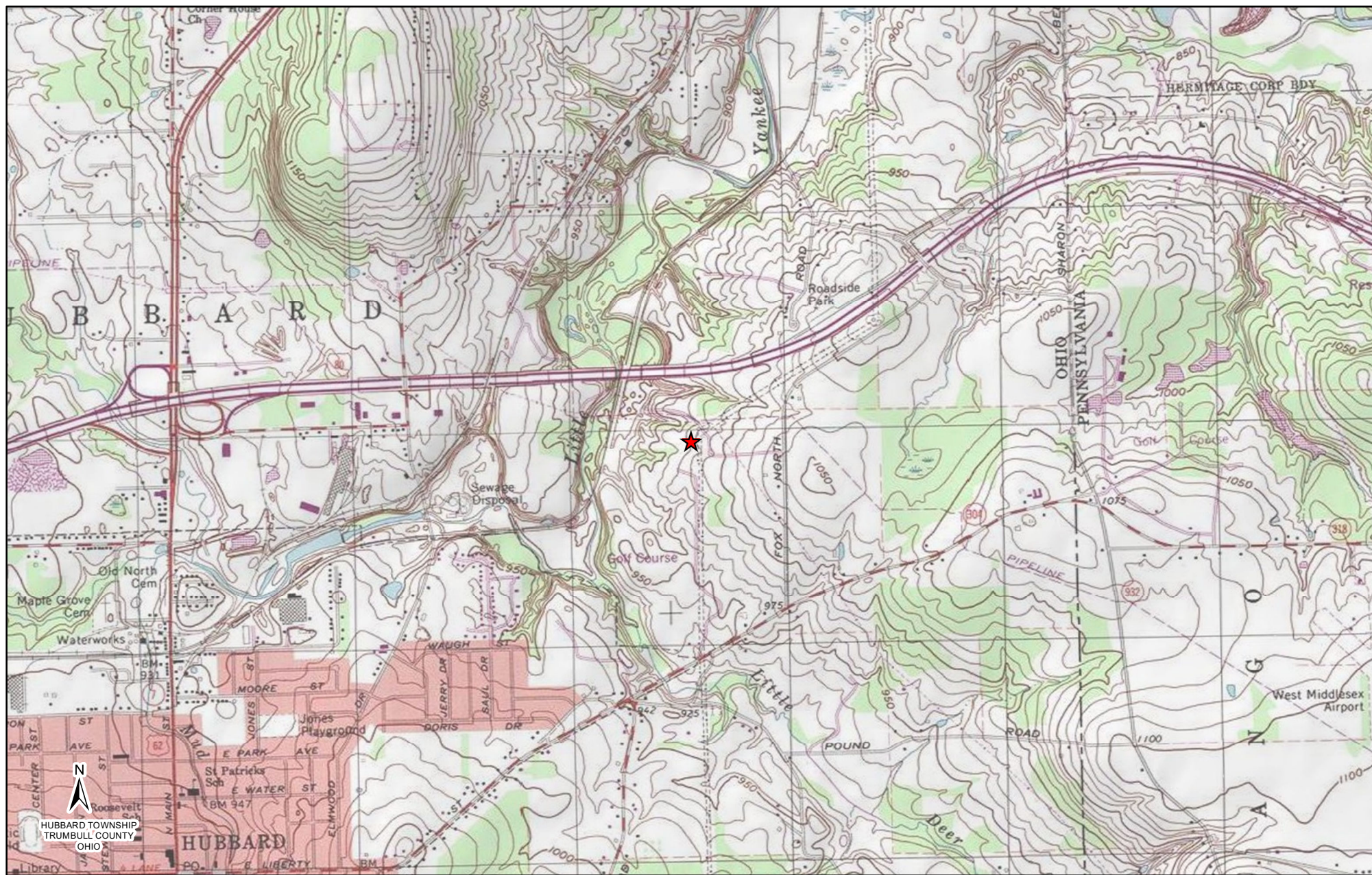
Ms. Jennifer Evans, Fiscal Officer
Hubbard Township
2600 Elmwood Drive Extension
Hubbard, OH 44425
fiscalofficer@hubbardtwpohio.us

Library

Ms. Lorena Hegedus, Director
Hubbard Public Library
436 West Liberty Street
Hubbard, OH 44425
lorena@beyond-books.org

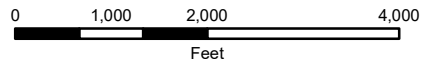
Per Adm.Code 4906-6-07(B), exemplar copies of the notice letters sent to local government officials and to the library have been included with this application as proof of compliance with requirements of Adm.Code 4906-6-07(A)(1) and 4906-6-07(A)(2).

Information is posted at www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_project/ohio.html on how to request an electronic or paper copy of this Construction Notice application. The link to this website is being provided in accordance with Adm.Code 4906-6-07(B), which requires ATSI to provide the OPSB with proof of compliance with Adm.Code 4906-6-07(A)(3).



LEGEND:

★ Project Location



Reference:

USGS Topographical Overlay

Coordinate System:

NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic; Units: Foot US



EXHIBIT 1

ATSI

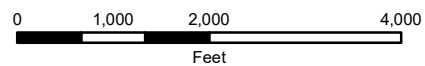
American Transmission Systems, Inc.
a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

**Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line
Switch Replacement Project**



LEGEND:

★ Project Location



Reference:

ESRI Aerial Imagery, ODOT

Coordinate System:

NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic; Units: Foot US

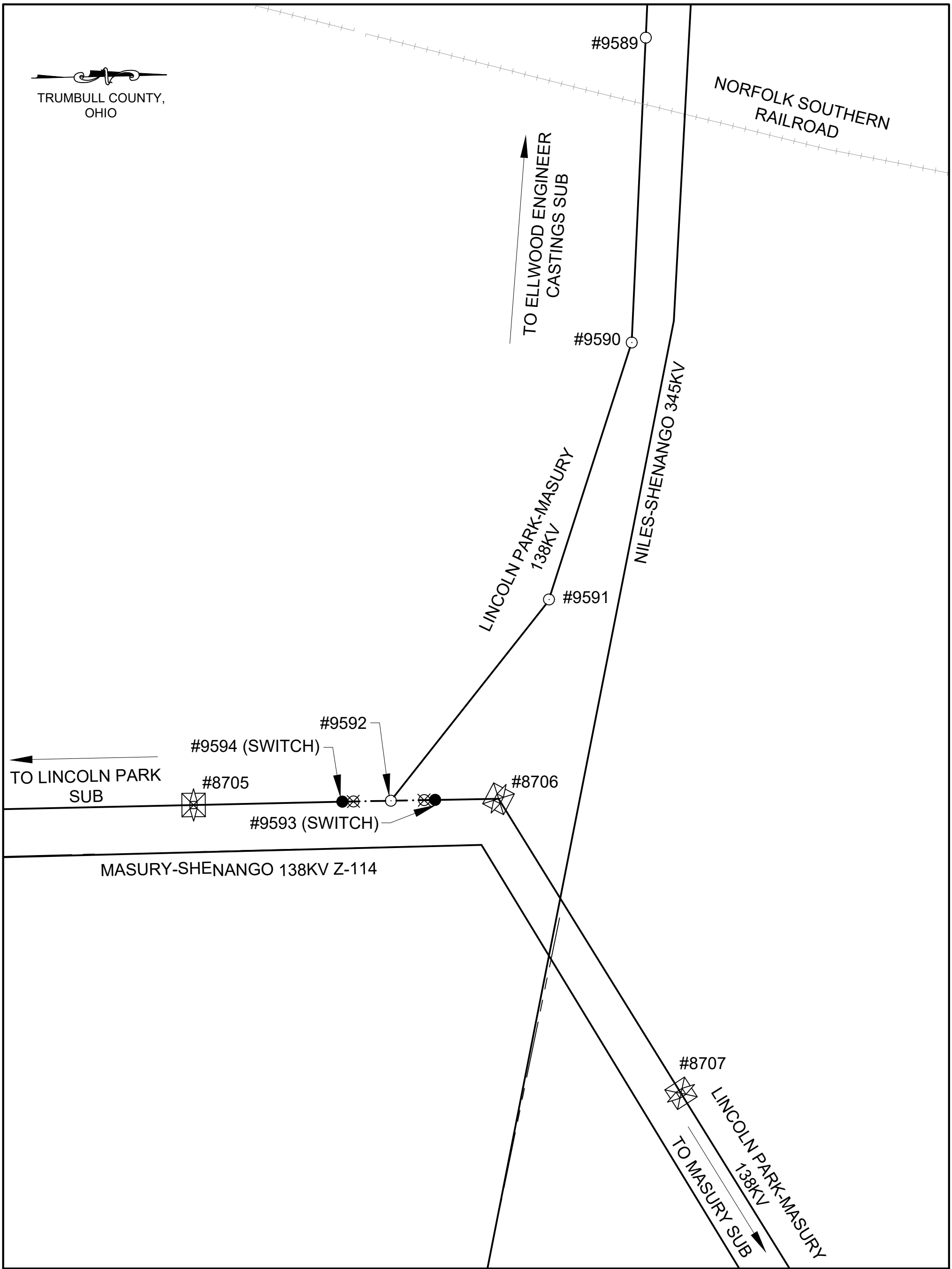


EXHIBIT 2



**Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV Transmission Line
Switch Replacement Project**

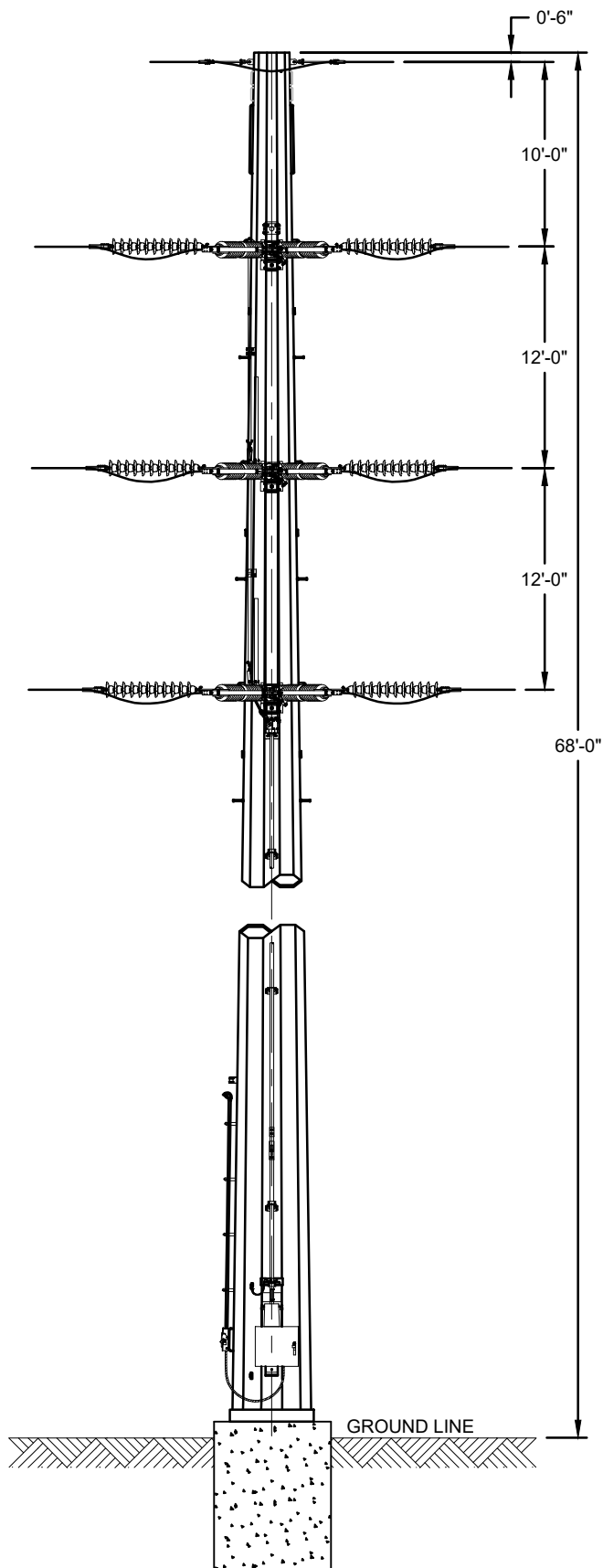
TRUMBULL COUNTY,
OHIO



LEGEND

- EXISTING LATTICE TOWER TO REMAIN
- EXISTING WOOD STRUCTURE TO REMAIN
- EXISTING STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED NEW CONDUCTOR
- RAILROAD

ATSI <small>American Transmission Systems, Inc. a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.</small>	LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT
GENERAL LAYOUT	
EXHIBIT 3	



ATSI

American Transmission Systems, Inc.
a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT

SINGLE CIRCUIT TUBULAR STEEL UNITIZED
SWITCH DEADEND STRUCTURE WITH CONCRETE FOUNDATION

EXHIBIT 4

SCALE: NTS



EXHIBIT 5

In reply refer to:
2025-TRU-64104

March 14, 2025

Justin McKissick, MA, RPA
Senior Archaeologist/Project Manager
TRC Environmental Corporation
317 E Carson Street, Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Email: JMcKissick@trccompanies.com

RE: Section 106 Review: Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project, Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio

Dear Mr. McKissick:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on February 14, 2025, regarding the above-referenced project in Trumbull 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 (O.R.C.) and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project. 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 proposed project involves the replacement of an existing switch along the Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV transmission line. All proposed work activities will be within the existing right-of-way within a golf course. No ground disturbance is anticipated while access will utilize existing asphalt and gravel lanes. Based on information submitted by you, which included a Project Summary Form, no historic properties, districts, or archaeological sites are located within the direct Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined by you. While there are resources fifty years of age or older within the Study Area, removal and replacement of the existing switch will not create new visual impacts. Therefore, it is our opinion that there will be no effect on historic resources as a result of the project. No cultural resource studies are warranted for the project. No further coordination is required for this project unless the scope of work changes or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact either myself via email at sbiehl@ohiohistory.org or Ms. Abigail Rosenow at arosenow@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Biehl, Project Reviews Manager-Archaeology
Resource Protection and Review
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No. 1107477

"Please be advised that this is a Section 106 decision. This review decision may not extend to other SHPO programs."

PROJECT SUMMARY FORM OHIO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Section 106 Review and Ohio Revised Code 149.53

This is a two-tiered form. Sections 1 to 3 must be completed by everyone submitting a Project Summary Form (PSF) to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Sections 4 to 6 are reserved for agencies, consultants, or applicants that have defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE), identified consulting parties and historic properties, and have made a determination of effect.

For projects requiring a license from the Federal Communications Commission, DO NOT USE THIS FORM. Please submit the FCC Forms 620 or 621.

SECTION 1: PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

All contact information provided must include the name, address and phone number of the person listed. Email addresses should also be included, if available. Questions can be directed to section106@ohiohistory.org.

A. Applicant Contact Information:

- a. Name: **Justin D. McKissick, MA, RPA**
- b. Agency/Company: **TRC Environmental Corporation**
- c. Mailing Address: **317 E. Carson Street, Suite 113, Pittsburgh, PA 15219**
- d. Phone Number: **412-660-7937**
- e. Email Address: **jmckissick@trccompanies.com**

B. Project Name and Basic Information

- a. Project Name: **Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project**
- b. Is this a new project submittal to SHPO? **YES** or NO
If NO, please provide the SHPO/RPR Reference Number from previous submission.
- c. Reference number used by Federal/State Agency to identify this project.

C. Project Address or vicinity: **Located 0.54 miles (mi) northwest of intersection of E. Liberty Street and S. Fox North Road (approximate coordinates: 41.167648, -80.5395751) (Figure 1).**

D. City/Township: **Hubbard Township**

E. County: **Trumbull County**

F. Federal Agency/Agency Contact. (HUD Entitlement Communities acting under delegated environmental review authority should list their own contact information). **N/A**

G. Type of Federal Assistance. List all known sources of federal funding, approvals, and permits. **N/A**

H. State Agency and Contact Person (if applicable): **OPSB**

I. Type of State Assistance (if applicable)

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

- A. Provide a detailed description of the proposed work associated with the project.

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line. The proposed Project Study Area measures 2.58 acres (ac) and is comprised of existing, maintained, utility right-of-way (ROW) located within a maintained golf course. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

- B. If the project involves ground-disturbing construction activities, provide a description of the construction activity and the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the expected ground disturbance.

No ground disturbance activities are anticipated. Access/egress will utilize an existing, asphalt and gravel drive. Timber matting will be utilized for access for the switch replacement in any areas that are not gravel or asphalt.

- a. Provide photographs of the area expected to have ground disturbance. See **Attachment 1.**

- b. Provide a narrative description of current land use and conditions.

Presently, the landscape is comprised of existing, maintained, utility ROW located within a maintained golf course.

- c. If known, please provide a description of previous land use and past ground disturbance activities. Include historic aerials and maps if useful.

Historically, the Study Area was likely wooded or open fields. As settlement expanded westward, the wooded areas were likely removed and the landscape converted to agricultural fields or pastures.

A review of available historic maps was conducted to determine the presence of potential historic structures and buildings (50 years of age or older) and other possible historic features within or adjacent to the Study Area that may be impacted by the proposed Project.

By 1856, the region had been settled with widely spaced buildings along the established roadways throughout the region. No buildings were denoted in the Study Area; however, several were located in the general vicinity (Attachment 2, Image 1).

The 1874 historic map displayed a similar, rural landscape, with widely spaced buildings along the established roadways. The Study Area was situated on parcels attributed to *Hall and Whittaker, G.W. Randall*, and *D. Struble*. No buildings were in the Study Area; however, dwellings for the *G.W. Randall* and *D. Struble* parcels were in the general vicinity. The nearby town of Hubbard displayed signs of

growth as a number of new structures were recorded, particularly to the west of the Study Area (Attachment 2, Image 2).

The 1948 aerial photograph displays a rural landscape. The Study Area was depicted on predominately pasture and agricultural fields with small, wooded areas to the north. A farmstead is visible to the east at the access road intersection with E. Liberty Street (Attachment 2, Image 3).

The 1977 aerial photograph displays an altered landscape. The golf course had been constructed just west of the Study Area and Interstate 80 had been built to the north. Additionally, E. Liberty Street was widened and realigned to its current route. Residential developments were constructed to the west, likely in relation to a growing population for Hubbard. The utility line corridor was also constructed and is visible at the northern extent of the Study Area. Overall, the region remained a relatively rural setting (Attachment 2, Image 4).

Between 1977 and present day, the general landscape has remained rural. A number of the agricultural fields transitioned into wooded landscapes and the golf course expanded during the late twentieth century.

- C. Provide a map depicting the location of the project; road names must be identified and legible. The use of Google maps is acceptable but any legible aerial, topographic, or county map will work. Please outline the work limits of your project or if it is a single house, a dot on the house will suffice. **See Figure 2.**
- D. Current color photographs of all buildings or structures that are directly or indirectly affected by the project. Include an approximate age of the buildings/structures. **N/A**

SECTION 3: ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION

If available, provide any additional information such as plan or schematic sheets, renderings of the proposed building/structure/development, and/or agency correspondences. If a Phase I archaeology or reconnaissance level history architecture survey was completed, please provide the report. **N/A**

Email the completed PSF form and supporting documentation to our office via section106@ohiohistory.org. Submission of the form does not constitute completion of the consultation process. Once the SHPO has received the information they will provide within 30 days one of the following recommendations in writing:

- A finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* [36 CFR § 800.4(d) (1)].
- Request additional information or clarification.
- Request a Phase I archaeology and/or reconnaissance level history architecture survey if not previously provided.
- A finding of *No Adverse Effect* on historic properties [36 CFR § 800.5(b)].
- A finding of *Adverse Effect* on historic properties [36 CFR § 800.5(d) (2)].

Note that the file size is limited to 20 MB. If your file sizes are larger, SHPO will be unable to receive your submission. To check your submission was received and logged in for our review, please visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/federal-state-reviews/project-status-check-for-106/>

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PSF

If you are an agency or consultant working on behalf of an agency continue to SECTION 4:
AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

SECTION 4: AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking [36 CFR Part 800.16(d)].

- A. Provide an aerial map depicting the project's APE (See **Figure 2**).
- B. Provide a description of the horizontal and vertical extent of the APE that accounts for direct and indirect effects. Explain the steps taken to identify the APE, and your justification for the boundaries chosen.

The APE will include all areas in which construction activities associated with the proposed Project will take place. There are no anticipated ground disturbances associated with the proposed Project. All vehicle access/egress will utilize an existing access drive or timber matting and will be within the disturbed ROW to complete the switch replacements. The APE will also include a viewshed that will be based on LIDAR data, vegetation, topography, and buildings, which will reduce the APE to areas with positive visibility of the Project infrastructure within 0.25 miles (mi) of the undertaking. While there are structures in the vicinity of the Study Area that are over 50 years of age, removal and replacement of the existing switches will not create new visual impacts.

SECTION 5: IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Describe the cultural resources and properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places located within your APE and how they were identified. Identification efforts must be carried out by a qualified individual or individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and have demonstrated familiarity with the range of potentially historic properties that may be encountered, and their characteristics.

- A. Include a SHPO GIS map depicting known resources within the APE. (See **Figure 3**).
- B. Provide a clear description of the steps taken to determine the presence or absence of historic properties within the APE.

TRC performed a desktop review based on data received from the Ohio History Connection (OHC) on January 22, 2025, to identify the presence of previously recorded significant historic properties, including above-ground historic resources and/or archeological sites, mapped within one (1)-mi of the Study Area.

The file review revealed there are no NRHP-listed or eligible above-ground

historic resources or archaeological sites recorded within one (1)-mi of the proposed Project. There are two (2) above-ground historic resources that have not yet been evaluated for NRHP eligibility located 0.29 and 0.92 mi northwest of the northern Project extent. In addition, there is one (1) Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) cemetery recorded 0.17 mi south of the southern Project extent.

Three (3) archaeological surveys have been conducted within one (1)-mi of the proposed Project. From these surveys, and the efforts of local informants, five (5) archaeological sites are recorded within one (1)-mi. The sites are all pre-contact open sites with no cultural affiliation. Two (2) of the sites are isolated finds. The nearest of the five (5) sites is located 0.33 mi to the east.

- C. Provide a description of how you consulted with others (including the Indian tribes) who may have knowledge of historic properties in the APE. Please provide any written responses that you may have received from the public and consulting parties. **N/A**
- D. If applicable, include a pdf copy of your Phase I archaeology and/or reconnaissance level history architecture reports. **N/A**
 - a. Provide shapefiles for the area surveyed for archaeological and history architecture properties. **N/A**

SECTION 6: DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

If you believe that you have gathered enough information to conclude the Section 106 process, you may be ready to make a determination of effect and ask the SHPO for concurrence. Please select one of the following determinations, then explain the basis for your decision:

- No Historic Properties Affected [36 CFR § 800.4(d) (1)].
- No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties.
- Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d) (2)] on historic properties. You may also include an explanation of how these adverse effects might be avoided, reduced, or mitigated.

Please email the completed form and supporting documentation to our office via section106@ohiohistory.org. Submission of the form does not constitute completion of the consultation process. Once the SHPO has received the information they will provide within 30 days one of the following recommendations in writing:

- Agree with your determination of effect
 - Suggest a different determination of effect
 - Request additional information or clarification.
- Please review the provided information and respond with your determination relative to the potential effects to cultural resources, if any.**
- Require additional information gathering efforts such as a Phase II archaeology or history architecture evaluation.

Note that the file size is limited to 20 MB. If your file sizes are larger, SHPO will be unable to receive your submission. To check your submission was received and logged in for our review,

please visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/federal-state-reviews/project-status-check-for-106/>

References

Browne, P.J.

1856 Map of Trumbull County, Ohio. Published by Gillette Matthews and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Electronic document, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083t.la000680/?r=0.733,-0.23,0.335,0.209,0>, accessed February 12, 2025.

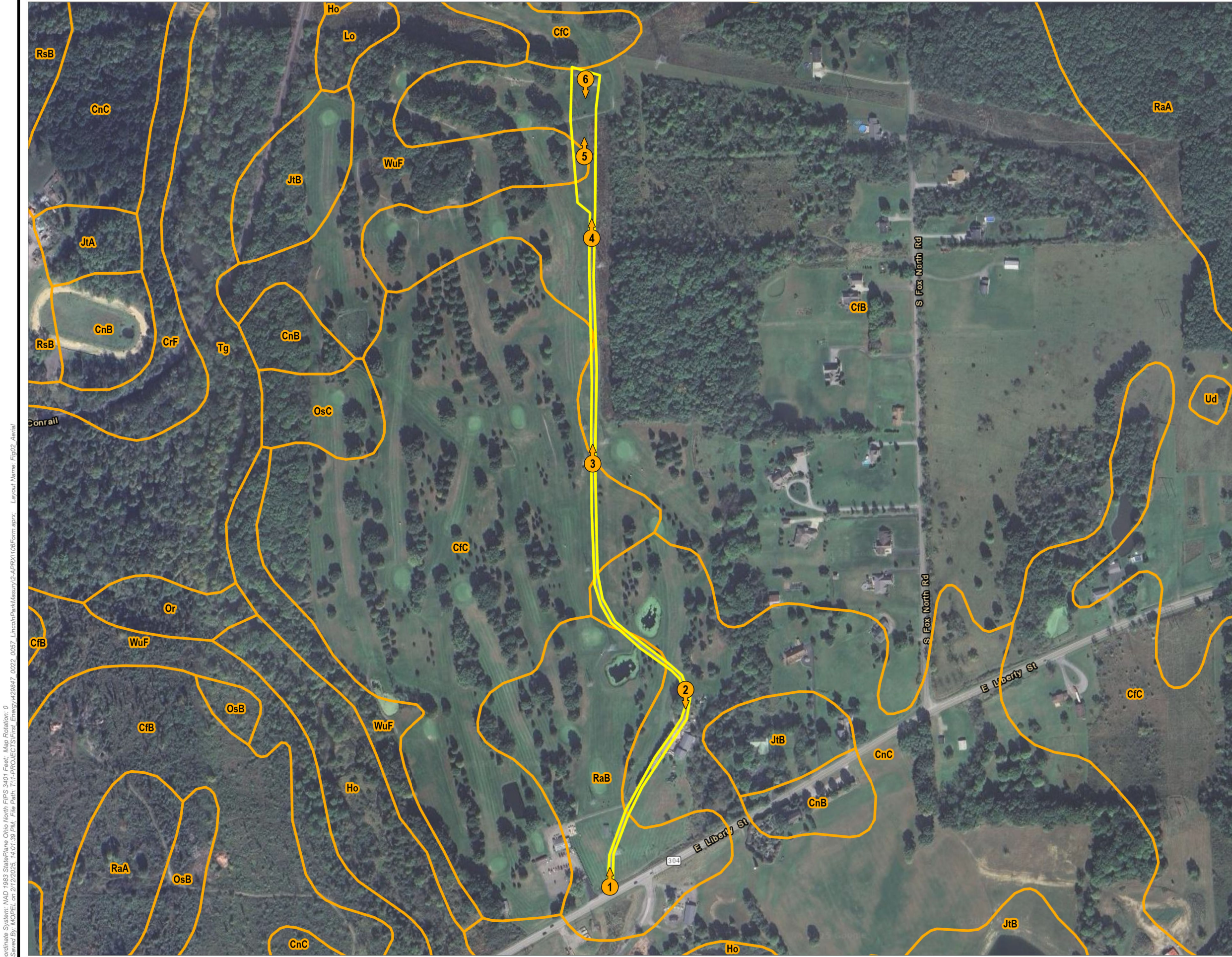
Everts, L.H.

1874 “Map of Hubbard Township” in *Combination Atlas Map of Trumbull County, Ohio*. Published by L.H. Everts, Chicago, Illinois. Electronic document, <https://historicmapworks.com/Map/US/20138/-Hubbard+Township/Trumbull+County+1874/Ohio//>, accessed February 12, 2025.

Ohio Department of Transportation

1948 Aerial Photograph. Electronic document, <https://gis3.dot.state.oh.us/ODOTAerialArchive/>, accessed February 12, 2025.

1977 Aerial Photograph. Electronic document, <https://gis3.dot.state.oh.us/ODOTAerialArchive/>, accessed February 12, 2025.



PROJECT STUDY AREA

MAPPED SOIL UNITS

PHOTO LOCATION

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.

0

400

800

FEET

1:4,800

1" = 400'

PROJECT

FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV
SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
AERIAL BASEMAP WITH PHOTO LOCATIONS

DRAWN BY: M. OPEL

CHECKED BY: J. MCKISSICK

APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG

DATE: FEBRUARY 2025

PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057

FIGURE 2

TRC

1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE:

106Form.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
-- Saved By: MOPEL on 2/12/2025 14:01:39 PM. File Path: T:\1-PROJECTS\First_Energy\429847_0022_0057_LincolnParkMasury\2-APR\X106Form.aprx. Layout Name: Fig02_Aerial



ATTACHMENT 1

Photographs

Client Name: FirstEnergy Corporation	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
--	--	--

Photo No. 1.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing north, viewing the southern extent of the Study Area. Note the existing overhead utility line and existing asphalt drive to be used for access/egress.	

Photo No. 2.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing south, viewing the southern portion of the Study Area. Note the existing gravel road to be used for access/egress and the existing facility associated with the golf course.	



PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

Client Name: FirstEnergy Corporation	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
--	--	--

Photo No. 3.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing north, viewing the central portion of the Study Area. Note the existing overhead utility line and existing gravel drive to be used for access/egress.	

Photo No. 4.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing north, viewing the north-central portion of the Study Area. Note the existing overhead utility line and end of the existing gravel drive to be used for access/egress.	



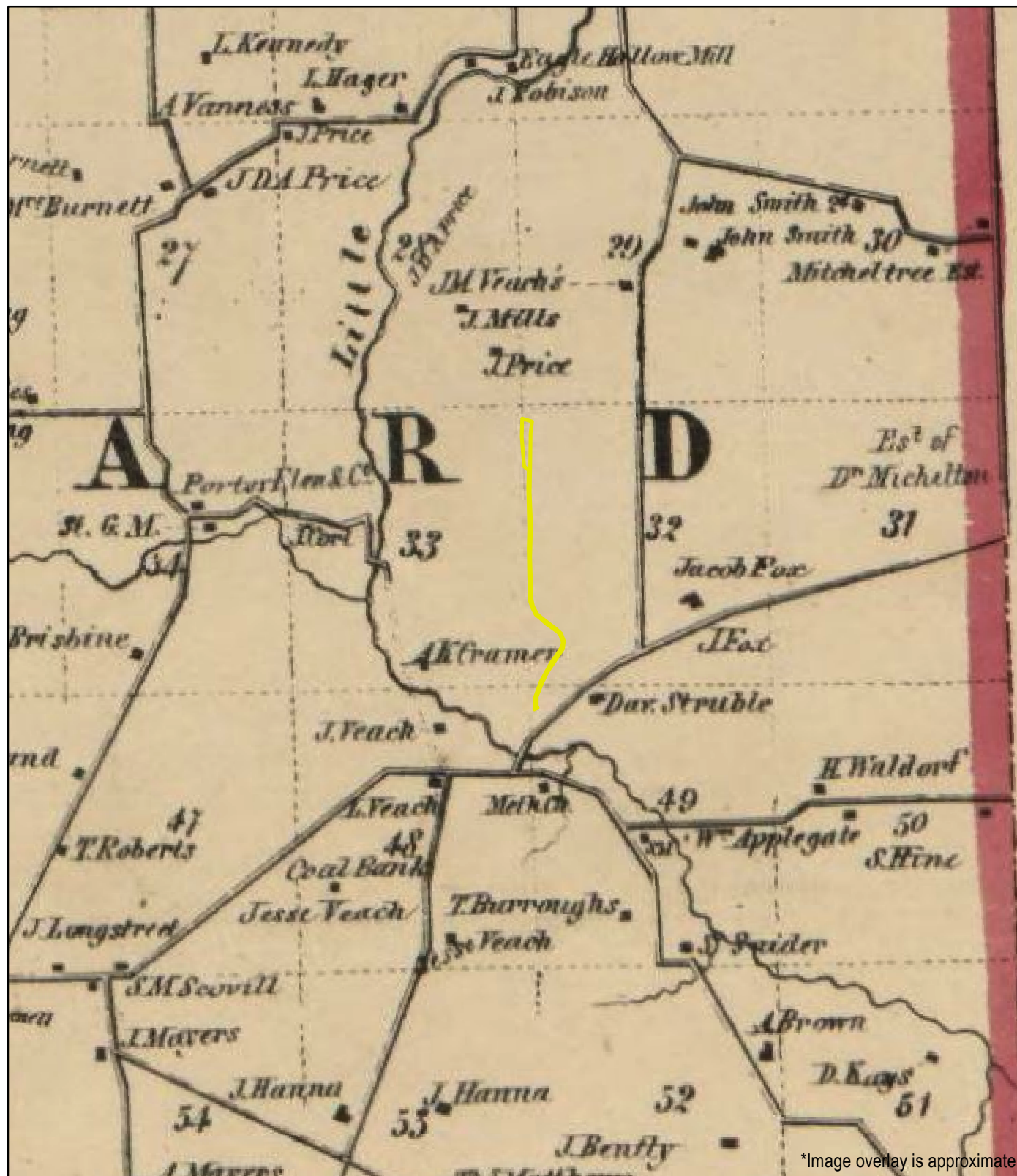
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

Client Name: FirstEnergy Corporation	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
--	--	--

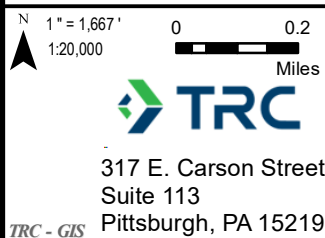
Photo No. 5.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing north, viewing the northern portion of the Study Area.	

Photo No. 6.	
Date: 02/07/2025	
Description: Facing south, viewing the northern extent of the Study Area.	

ATTACHMENT 2
Historic Map Images



BASEMAP FROM MAP OF TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO



PROJECT:

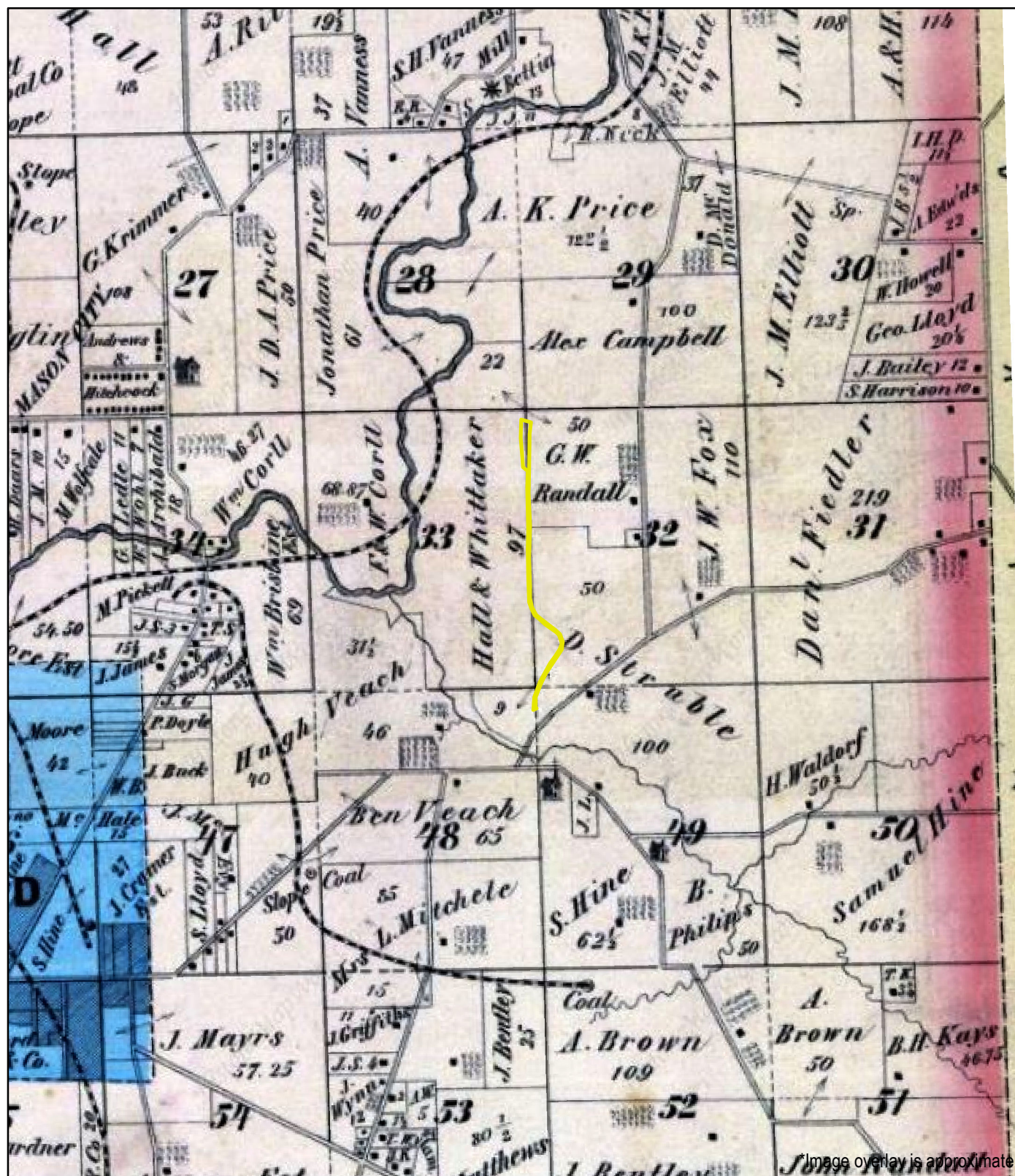
Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1856 (Browne)

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	JANUARY 2025
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0022.0052
FILE:	LincolnMasury.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 1



BASEMAP FROM COMBINATION ATLAS MAP OF TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO



317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1874 (Everts)

DRAWN BY: JUSTIN MCKISSICK

CHECKED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

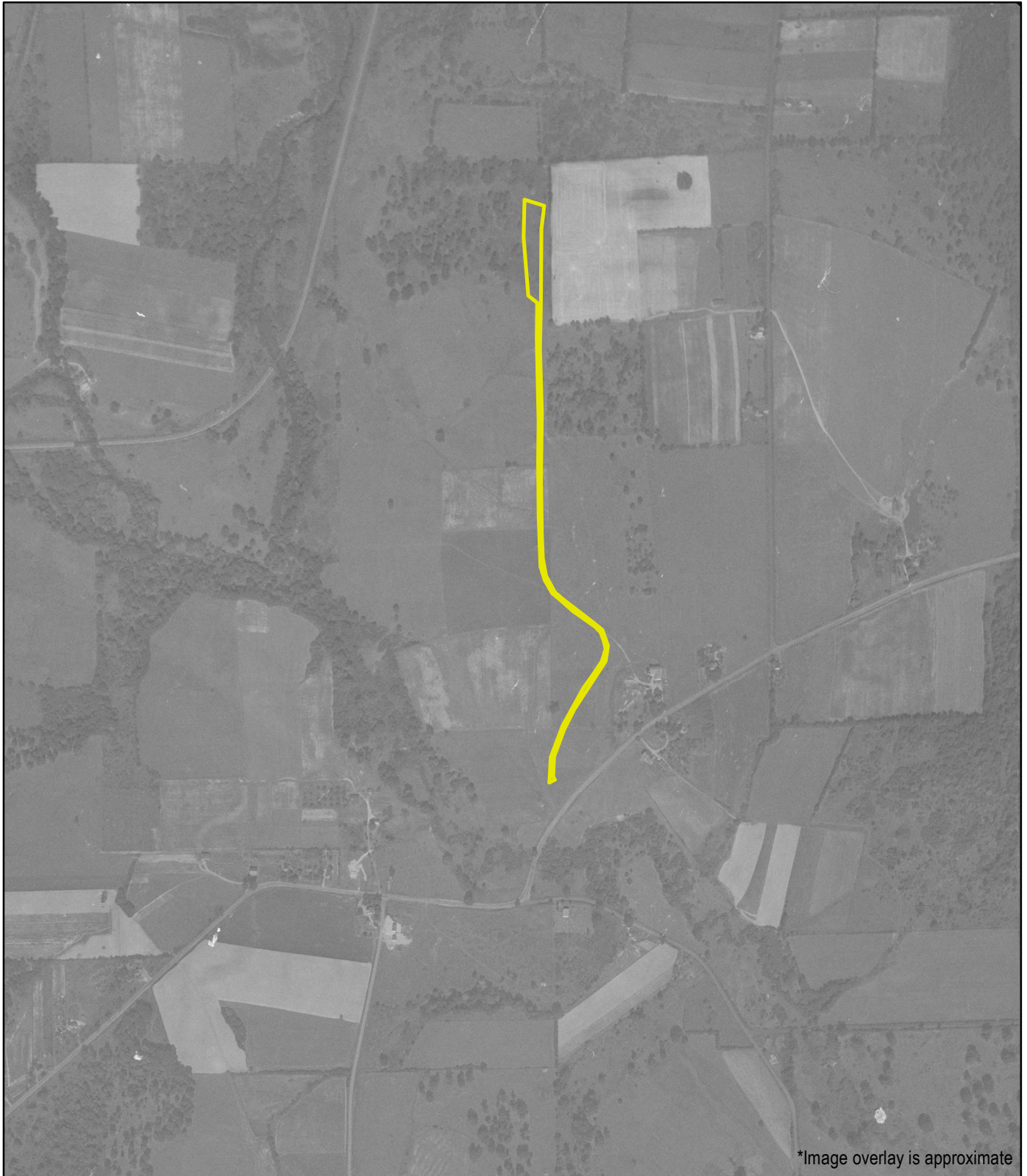
APPROVED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

DATE: JANUARY 2025

PROJ. NO.:	429847.0022.0052
------------	------------------


FILE: LincolnMasury.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 2



*Image overlay is approximate

BASEMAP FROM ODOT AERIAL IMAGERY ARCHIVE

N
 1" = 833'
 1:10,000
 0 0.1
 Miles

 317 E. Carson Street
 Suite 113
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

TITLE:

Study Area in 1948 (ODOT)

DRAWN BY: JUSTIN MCKISSICK

CHECKED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

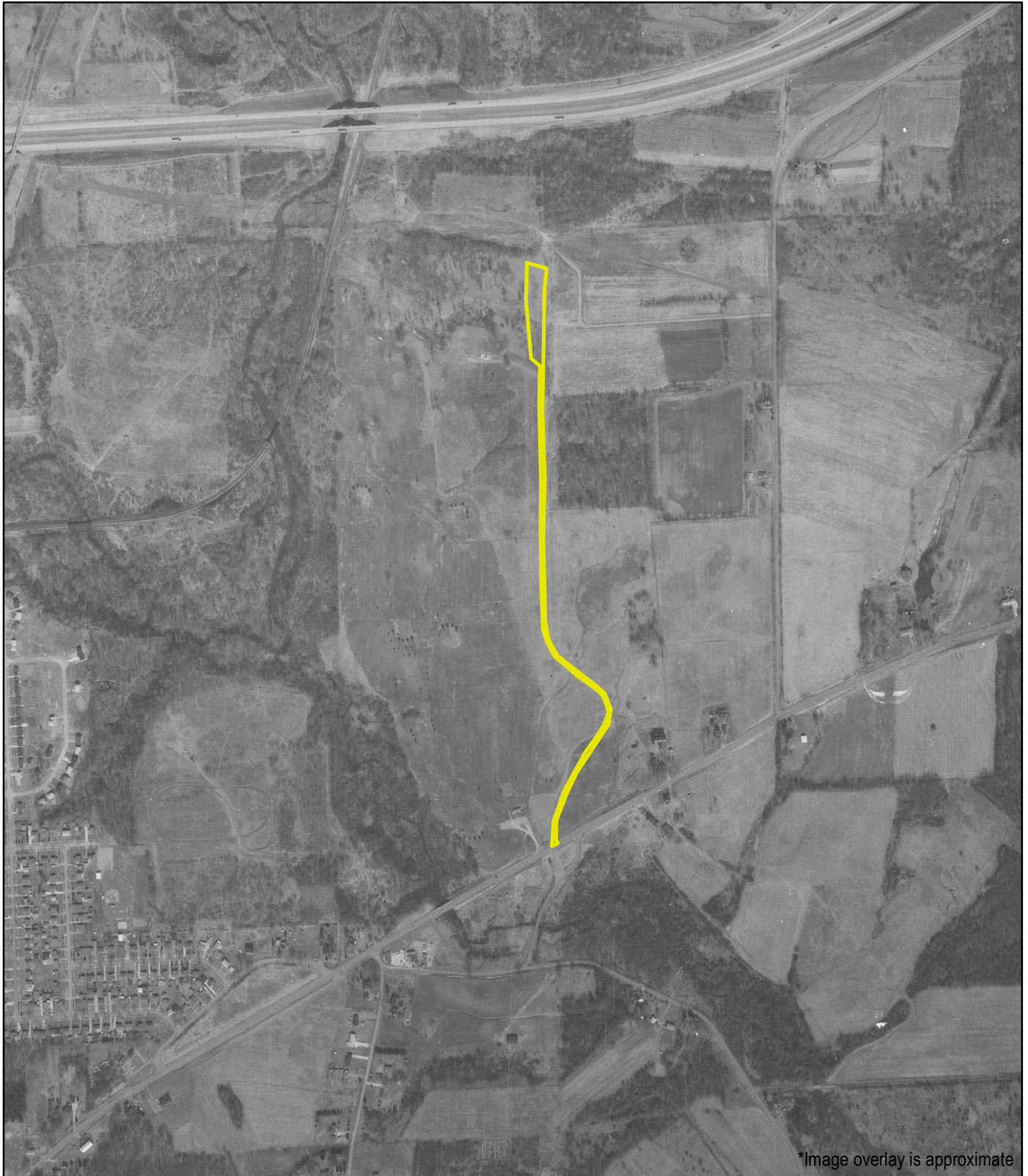
APPROVED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

DATE: JANUARY 2025

PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057


FILE: LincolnMasury.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 3



*Image overlay is approximate

BASEMAP FROM ODOT AERIAL IMAGERY ARCHIVE

N
 1" = 833'
 1:10,000
 0 0.1
 Miles

 317 E. Carson Street
 Suite 113
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

TITLE:

Study Area in 1977 (ODOT)

DRAWN BY: JUSTIN MCKISSICK

CHECKED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

APPROVED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH

DATE: JANUARY 2025

PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057

FILE: LincolnMasury.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 4



Office of Real Estate & Land Management

Tara Paciorek - Chief
2045 Morse Road – E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

February 19, 2025

Maggie Molnar
TRC Companies, Inc.
781 Science Boulevard, Suite 200
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Re: 25-0139_Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement

Project: The proposed project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line.

Location: The proposed project is located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull 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 entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species of bats predominately roost in trees behind loose,

exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends 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. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the "[OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING](#)". If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

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

The project is within the range of the northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*), a state endangered fish, and the mountain brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*), a state endangered 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 these 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 spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), a state threatened species. This species prefers fens, bogs and marshes, but also is known to inhabit wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, wet woods, and the shallow sluggish waters of small streams and ditches. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the

floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

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

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

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

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



1382 W Ninth St., Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

January 21, 2025

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate & Land Management
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

**Project Submittal for an Environmental Review of the Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0022.0057)**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy), TRC Environmental Corporation. (TRC) is requesting an Environmental Review of the proposed Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project (Project) located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio (**Figure 1: Site Location Map**).

Project Location (latitude/longitude):

Centroid: 41.167648, -80.5395751

County: Trumbull

Project Description: The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line. The proposed Project Study Area is approximately 2.58 acres, located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. As depicted in the attached mapping, the proposed Project Study Area (**Figure 2: Aerial Map**) is comprised of an existing, maintained, utility right-of-way (ROW) located within a maintained golf course landscape. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

On-site Habitat Description: Based on available desktop resources, TRC has identified the following habitats within the Project Study Area:

Land Use: Existing, maintained utility ROW located within a maintained golf course.

Wetlands: The proposed Project Study Area has one (1) National Wetlands Inventory feature, a freshwater pond within the proposed project limits. A surface water delineation will be performed prior to construction of the proposed Project to determine the presence/absence of wetlands. If wetlands cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for avoidance.

Streams: The proposed Project Study Area does not include any National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) streams. A surface water delineation will be performed to determine the presence/absence of streams. In-stream work is not anticipated as a result of this Project.

Forested Area: The proposed Project Study Area contains some ornamental trees and shrubs within the maintained utility ROW. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

Uplands: The proposed Project Study Area includes upland habitat within the existing utility ROW located in the golf course setting comprised of mowed lawns, pavement, and ornamental landscaping.

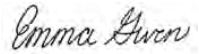
Floodplains: According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel 39155C0441D (eff. 6/18/2010), the proposed Project is not located within a FEMA-mapped 100-Year Flood Zone.

Potential Disturbance: It is anticipated that due to the nature of the Project, jurisdictional resources may be impacted by the proposed Project activities. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands and streams cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for any temporary impacts. The most current Best Management Practices will be followed during construction and disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions as much as applicable. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. Any

tree clearing needed as a result of this Project will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 446-0265 or via email at EGiven@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,



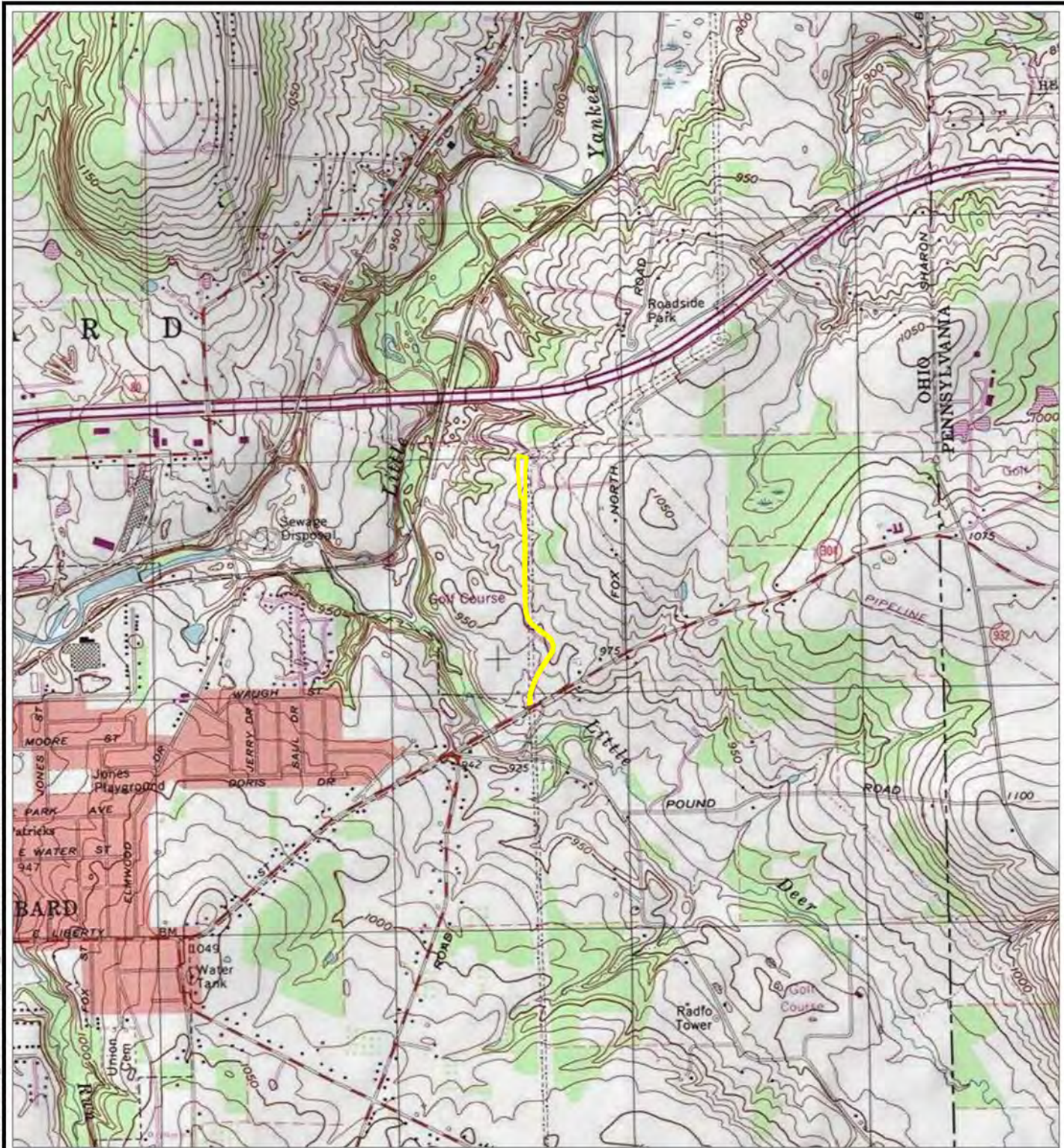
Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist

Attachments:

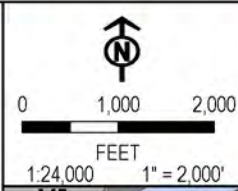
Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 STATEPLANE OHIO NORTH FIPS 3401 FEET, MAP ROTATION: 0
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 PROJECT STUDY AREA



BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, SHARON WEST QUAD

PROJECT: **FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY
SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH**

TITLE: **SITE LOCATION MAP**

DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 1
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: JANUARY 2025	



1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR

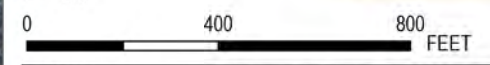



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.



1:4,800
1" = 400'



PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH	
TITLE: AERIAL MAP	
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 2
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: DECEMBER 2024	
 TRC	
1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:	WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
-- Saved By: MOPEL on 12/4/2024, 09:21:36 AM. File Path: T:\14-PROJECTS\First_Energy\429847_0022_0057_LincolnParkMasury\5-APR-24\WDR.aprx. Layout Name: Fig02_Aerial

Stolarski, Adrianna

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Slabe, Jenna
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad M (Ruszala, Amy M); Molnar, Maggie; Stolarski, Adrianna
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

External Sender, use caution with links/attachments. Click 'Report Message' in Outlook if suspicious.

Thank you for that information.

Per review of the desktop survey provided for FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project, the Ohio Division of Wildlife concurs with your assessment that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the project area. Therefore, any seasonal tree clearing (October 1 – March 31) is not likely to impact hibernating bats.

Because potential hibernacula are present within 5 miles of the project area and subsurface disturbance is planned, DOW recommends that subsurface disturbance occur between April 1 and September 30 if possible. This is to reduce risk of disturbing hibernating bats that may be present in nearby mines by causing vibrations to the surrounding bedrock. If you would like to discuss further, please reach out to me.

Should any reported conditions change before or during construction, please contact me for additional guidance.

Thank you,

Eileen Wyza, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
Wildlife Biologist
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Phone: 614-265-6764
Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov



Support Ohio's wildlife. Buy a license or stamp at wildohio.gov.

This message is intended solely for the addressee(s). Should you receive this message by mistake, we would be grateful if you informed us that the message has been sent to you in error. In this case, we also ask that you delete this message and any attachments from your mailbox, and do not forward it or any part of it to anyone else. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

<JSlabe@trccompanies.com>

From:
Slabe,
Jenna

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:47 PM

To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>

Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>; Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

Hi Eileen,

Just following up with Adrianna's previous email that there will be ground disturbance for this Project. The foundation depths would be around or less than 15 feet.

Let us know if you have any other questions, thank you!

Jenna Slabe

Ecologist

Planning, Permitting, and Licensing



1382 W 9th St, Suite 400, Cleveland, OH 44113

C 330.998.0481

[LinkedIn](#) | TRCcompanies.com

From: Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:52 PM

To: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov; Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>

Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

This is an **External** email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

ALWAYS hover over the link to preview the actual URL/site and confirm its legitimacy.

Good afternoon,

There will be ground disturbance, we haven't gotten the geotechnical analysis back yet, for this area we believe that any foundations would be around or less than 15 feet in depth.

Thank you,



Adrianna Stolarski

Adv Scientist

cell: 304-816-1875 | office: 304-534-7525

astolarski@firstenergycorp.com

5001 Nasa Boulevard, Fairmont, WV 26554 | mailstop: WV-MP / Fairmont MonPower-Transmission

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 8:54 AM

To: Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>

Cc: Falkinburg, Brad M (Ruszala, Amy M) <bfalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>; Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

External Sender, use caution with links/attachments. Click 'Report Message' in Outlook if suspicious.

Hello Jenna,

Is any subsurface disturbance planned for this project?

Eileen Wyza, Ph.D.

(she/her/hers)

Wildlife Biologist

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Phone: 614-265-6764

Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov



Support Ohio's wildlife. Buy a license at wildohio.gov.



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

<JSlabe@trccompanies.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 4:07 PM

To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>

Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>; Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>

Subject: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

From:
Slabe,
Jenna

Eileen,

In response to ODNR's DOW recommendations (attached), TRC completed a desktop hibernacula assessment to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within FirstEnergy's proposed Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Please let us know if you have any questions on the provided desktop assessment or require any additional information, thank you!

Jenna Slabe

Ecologist

Planning, Permitting, and Licensing



1382 W 9th St, Suite 400, Cleveland, OH 44113

C 330.998.0481

[LinkedIn](#) | TRCcompanies.com

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February 25, 2025

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate & Land Management
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

**Re: Desktop Assessment for potential hibernaculum for the Lincoln Park-Masury
138kV Switch Replacement Project located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull
County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0022.0057)**

To Whom It May Concern,

In response to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife's recommendations, TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) completed a desktop habitat assessment, on behalf of FirstEnergy Corporation, to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within the proposed Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project (Project) Study Area. The proposed Project is located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio (**Appendix A, Figure 1 and Figure 2**). The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV transmission line. The proposed Project Study Area occurs within an existing utility right-of-way (ROW) located on a maintained golf course (**Appendix A, Figure 3**).

During the recommended desktop habitat assessment, secondary source information was utilized to determine if past or present underground resources were present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area. The secondary source information utilized included but was not limited to aerial imagery mapping (Google Earth, 2025), karst topography mapping (ODNR, 2024a) mine data mapping (ODNR, 2024b), and land cover dataset mapping (USGS, 2021).

No historic surface mine, surface industrial mine, underground industrial mine, surface coal mine, and/or abandoned underground coal mine were identified within 0.25 mile of the Project Study Area (**Appendix A, Figure 4a and 4b**). The nearest historic surface mine is located approximately 11 miles south of the Project Study Area; the nearest surface industrial mine is 2 miles northwest of the Project Study Area; the nearest underground industrial mine is located approximately 15 miles south of the Project Study Area; the nearest surface coal mine is located 14 miles south of the Project Study Area; and the nearest abandoned underground coal mine is located 1 mile south of the Project Study Area. The Project Study Area is not located within a karst region. The nearest karst topographic region is located 109 miles west of the Project Study Area.

In addition, a wetland delineation was conducted by TRC on February 7th, 2025, at which time winter and summer bat habitat was concurrently assessed. Based on the field investigations, no winter or summer bat habitat was identified within the Project Study Area. During field investigations, photographs of the Project Study Area were taken, which depict the site conditions (**Appendix B**).

No winter or summer bat habitat was identified within the Project Study Area and potential bat hibernaculum is not likely present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area; therefore, it is TRC's opinion that federally- or state- listed bats species are not likely to be impacted by this proposed Project. In addition, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. If minor tree clearing is needed as a result of this Project, it will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1-March 31). We kindly request your concurrence that potential bat hibernaculum is not likely present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 998-0481 or via email at JSlabe@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,



Jenna Slabe
Ecologist

Appendices:

Appendix A: Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: National Land Cover Database Map

Figure 4: Mine/Karst Map

Appendix B: Photographic Record

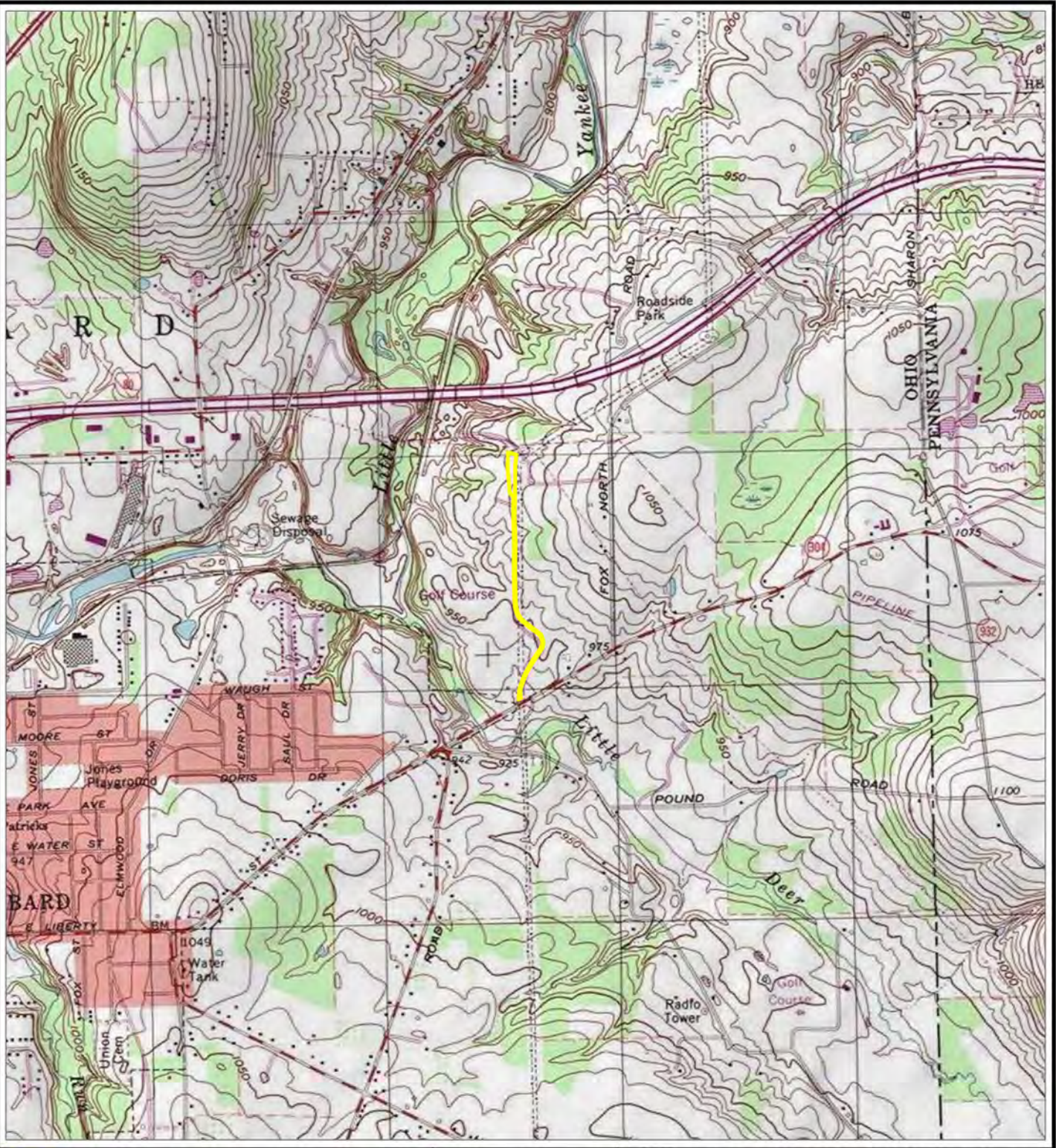
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



- Google Earth. (2025). Google Earth Images of Project Area. *Date accessed January, 2025.*
- ODNR. (2024a). *Karst Interactive Map, ODNR Division of Geological Survey*. Retrieved from ODNR: https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/website/dgs/karst_interactivemap/
- ODNR. (2024b). *Mines of Ohio, ODNR Division of Mineral Resources*. Retrieved from ODNR: <https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/MapView/?config=OhioMines>
- USGS. (2021). *National Land Cover Database*. Retrieved from https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

APPENDIX A

Figures

COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 STATEPLANE OHIO NORTH FIPS 3401 FEET MAP ROTATION: 0
- SAVED BY: MOPEL ON 2/21/2025 09:59:01 AM FILE PATH: T:\PROJECTS\FIRST ENERGY\429847_0022_0057 LINCOLN PARK\MASURY\3-APR\X\HIBERNACULA\ASSESSMENT\APPX LAYOUT\NAME FIG01.SLM



 PROJECT STUDY AREA	 0 1,000 2,000 FEET 1:24,000 1" = 2,000' 	PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV SWITH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH	
		TITLE: SITE LOCATION MAP	
BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, SHARON WEST QUAD	DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057	FIGURE 1
	CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR		
	APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG		
	DATE: FEBRUARY 2025		
			1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072
		FILE:	HIBERNACULAASSESSMENT

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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 PROJECT STUDY AREA


BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.



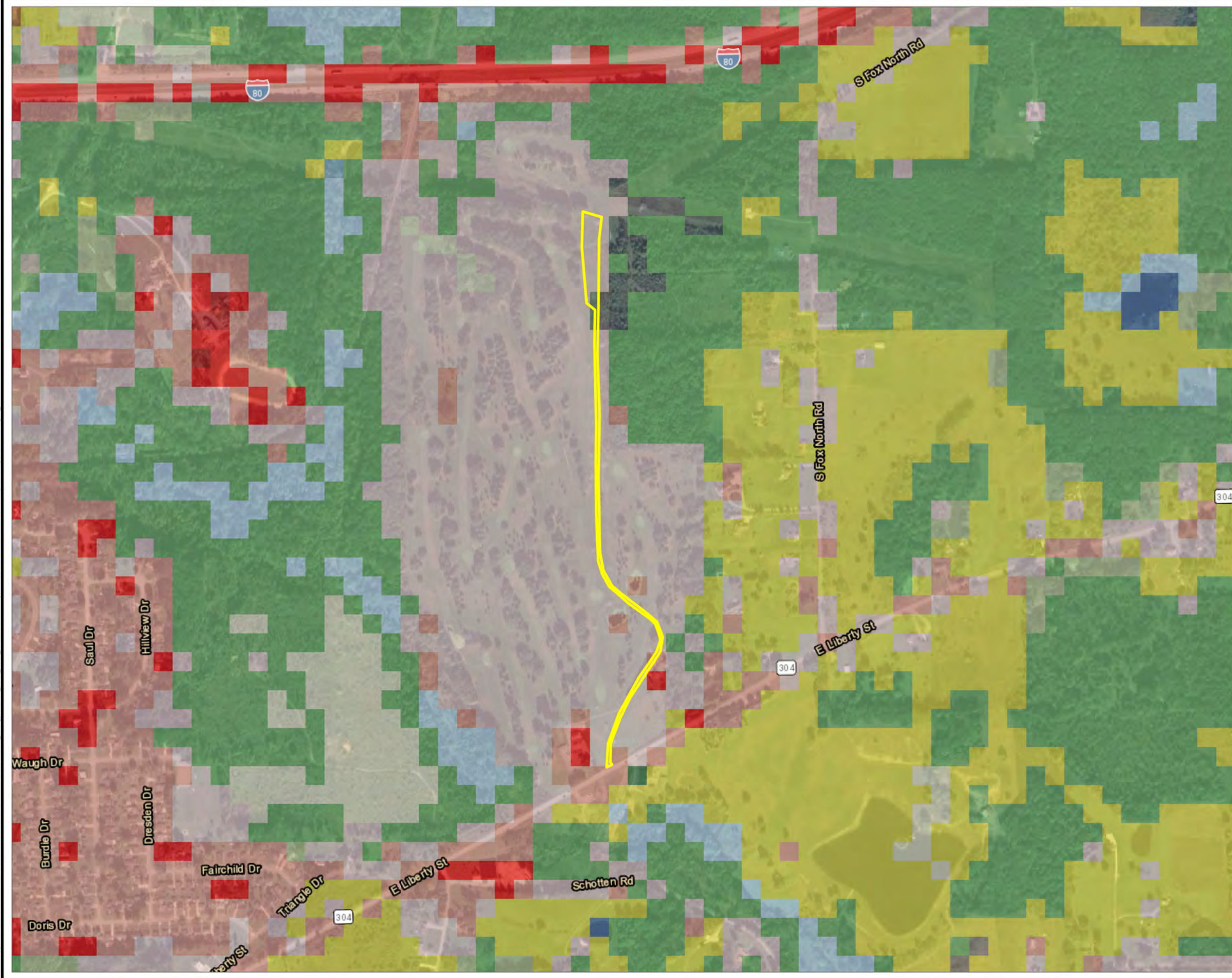
1:4,800
1" = 400'

0 400 800 FEET



PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV SWITH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH			
TITLE: AERIAL MAP			
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL		PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057	
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR		FIGURE 2	
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG			
DATE: FEBRUARY 2025			
		1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:		HibernaculaAssessment.aprx	

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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PROJECT STUDY AREA

NLCD LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

BARREN LAND

CULTIVATED CROPS

DECIDUOUS FOREST

DEVELOPED, HIGH INTENSITY

DEVELOPED, LOW INTENSITY

DEVELOPED, MEDIUM INTENSITY

DEVELOPED, OPEN SPACE

EMERGENT HERBACEOUS WETLANDS

EVERGREEN FOREST

HAY/PASTURE

HERBACEOUS

MIXED FOREST

OPEN WATER

WOODY WETLANDS

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: NATIONAL LAND COVER DATABASE (NLCD) 2021 DATA
ACQUIRED FROM THE USGS.

N

1:7,200
1" = 600'

0

600

1,200

FEET

PROJECT

FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV
SWITH REPLACEMENT PROJECT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH

TITLE:

NATIONAL LAND COVER DATABASE MAP

DRAWN BY: M. OPEL

PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057

CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR

APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG

DATE: FEBRUARY 2025

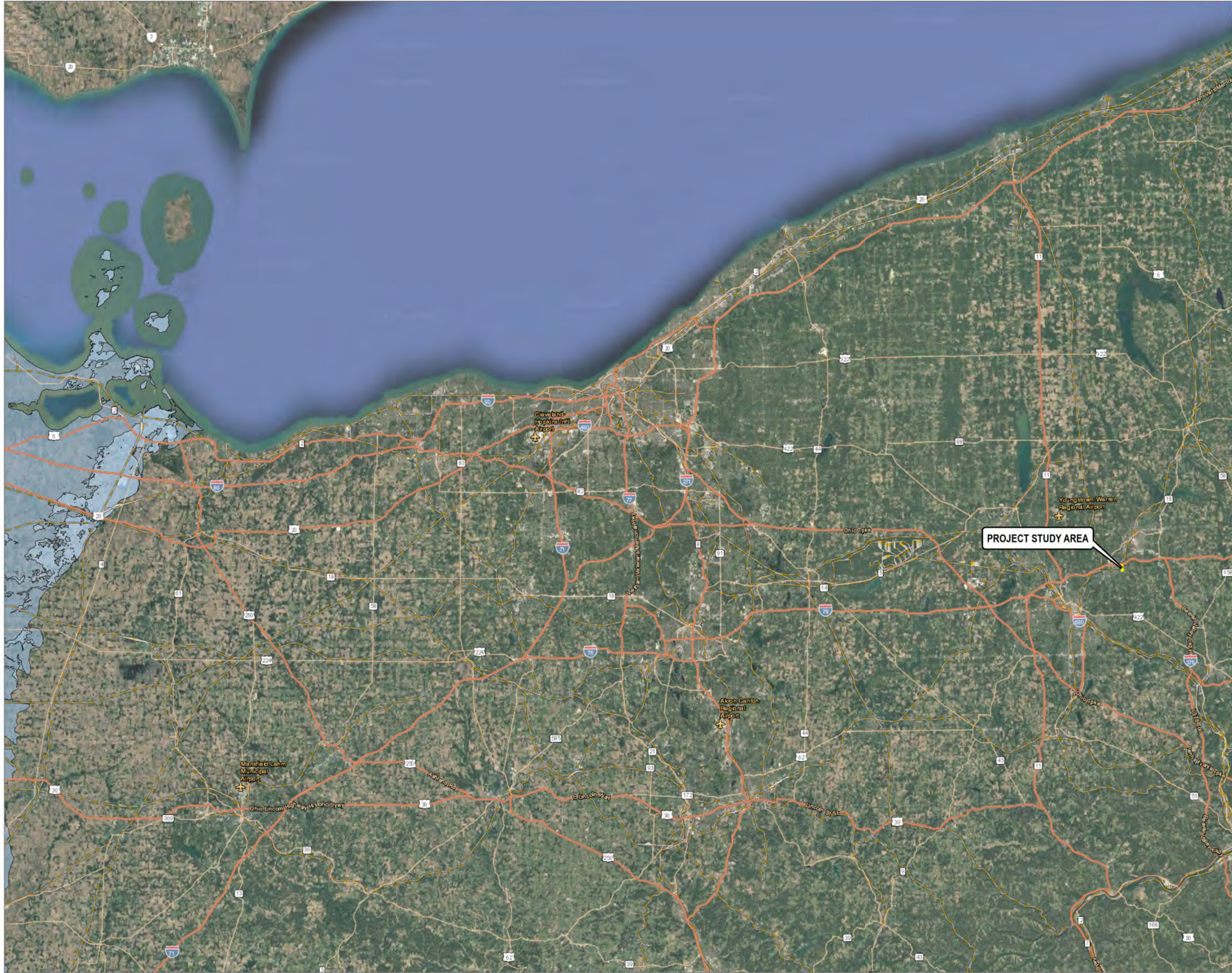
FIGURE 3

1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE:

HibermaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
- Saved By: MOPEL on 2/21/2025 09:59:01 AM. File Path: T:\PROJECTS\First_Energy\429847_0022_0057_LincolnParkMasury\5-APPX\HibernaculaAssessment.aprx. Layout Name: Fg04A_Karst




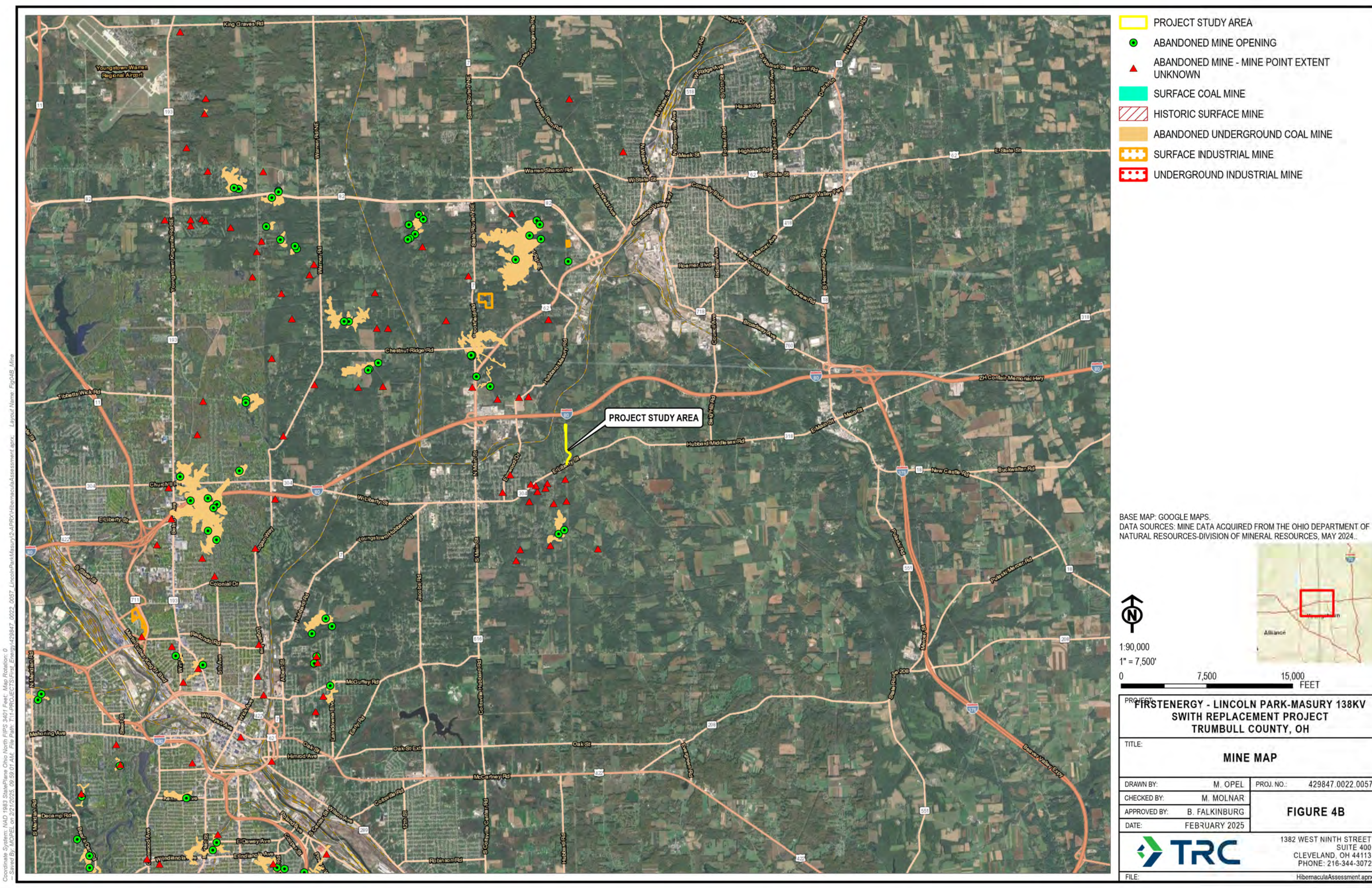
- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- KARST GEOLOGY
- SILURIAN- AND DEVONIAN-AGE CARBONATE BEDROCK OVERLAIN BY LESS THAN 20 FEET OF GLACIAL DRIFT AND/OR ALLUVIUM
 - SILURIAN- AND DEVONIAN-AGE CARBONATE BEDROCK OVERLAIN BY MORE THAN 20 FEET OF GLACIAL DRIFT AND/OR ALLUVIUM

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: KARST DATA ACQUIRED FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MAY 2024.



1:720,000
1" = 60,000'
0 60,000 120,000 FEET


PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV SWITH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH	
TITLE: KARST MAP	
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 4A
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: FEBRUARY 2025	
	
1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:	HibernaculaAssessment.aprx



- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- ABANDONED MINE OPENING
- ABANDONED MINE - MINE POINT EXTENT UNKNOWN
- SURFACE COAL MINE
- HISTORIC SURFACE MINE
- ABANDONED UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
- SURFACE INDUSTRIAL MINE
- UNDERGROUND INDUSTRIAL MINE

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: MINE DATA ACQUIRED FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, MAY 2024.



PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV SWITH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH	
TITLE: MINE MAP	
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 4B
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: FEBRUARY 2025	
	
1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:	HibermaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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APPENDIX B
Photographic Record

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 1.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo from the northern end of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Photo No. 2.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 3.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 4.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 5.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 6.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 7.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 8.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area near the maintenance building, facing south.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 9.

Photo Date:
2/7/2025

Description:

Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.



Photo No. 10.

Photo Date:
2/7/2025

Description:

Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.



Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 11.

Photo Date:
2/7/2025

Description:

Representative photo of the southern end of the Project Study Area, facing north.





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



January 24, 2025

Project Code: 2025-0042452

Dear Ms. Maggie Molnar:

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

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

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees ≥ 3 inches dbh, we recommend avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥ 3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Erin Knoll
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Matthew.Stooksbury@dnr.ohio.gov
Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov



1382 W Ninth St., Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

January 21, 2025

Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, OH, 43230

**Request for Submittal Review (IPaC Project Code: 2025-0042452) regarding the Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0022.0057)**

Dear Ms. Ashfield,

On behalf of the FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy), TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) is requesting Technical Assistance regarding the proposed Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project (Project) located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio (**Figure 1: Site Location Map**). We are requesting information regarding Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species, or their habitats that may be impacted by the proposed Project, as well as information regarding, known locations of any known bald eagle nests, bat capture records, and bat hibernacula within a 5-mile radius of the proposed Project.

Project Location (latitude/longitude):

Centroid: 41.167648, -80.5395751

County: Trumbull

The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line. The proposed Project Study Area is approximately 2.58 acres, located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. As depicted in the attached mapping, the proposed Project Study Area (**Figure 2: Aerial Map**) is comprised of an existing, maintained, utility right-of-way (ROW) located within a maintained golf course landscape. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

On-site Habitat Description: Based on available desktop resources, TRC has identified the following habitats within the Project Study Area:

Land Use: Existing, maintained utility ROW located within a -maintained golf course.

Wetlands: The proposed Project Study Area has one (1) National Wetlands Inventory feature, a freshwater pond within the proposed project limits. A surface water delineation will be performed prior to construction of the proposed Project to determine the presence/absence of wetlands. If wetlands cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for avoidance.

Streams: The proposed Project Study Area does not include any National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) streams. A surface water delineation will be performed to determine the presence/absence of streams. In-stream work is not anticipated as a result of this Project.

Forested Area: The proposed Project Study Area contains some ornamental trees and shrubs within the maintained utility ROW. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

Uplands: The proposed Project Study Area includes upland habitat within the existing utility ROW located in the golf course setting comprised of mowed lawns, pavement, and ornamental landscaping.

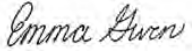
Floodplains: According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel 39155C0441D (eff. 6/18/2010), the proposed Project is not located within a FEMA-mapped 100-Year Flood Zone.

Potential Disturbance: It is anticipated that due to the nature of the Project, jurisdictional resources may be impacted by the proposed Project activities. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands and streams

cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for any temporary impacts. The most current Best Management Practices will be followed during construction and disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions as much as applicable. Currently as proposed, tree clearing may be anticipated within the Project Study Area. Any tree clearing needed as a result of this Project will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 446-0265 or via email at EGiven@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,



Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist

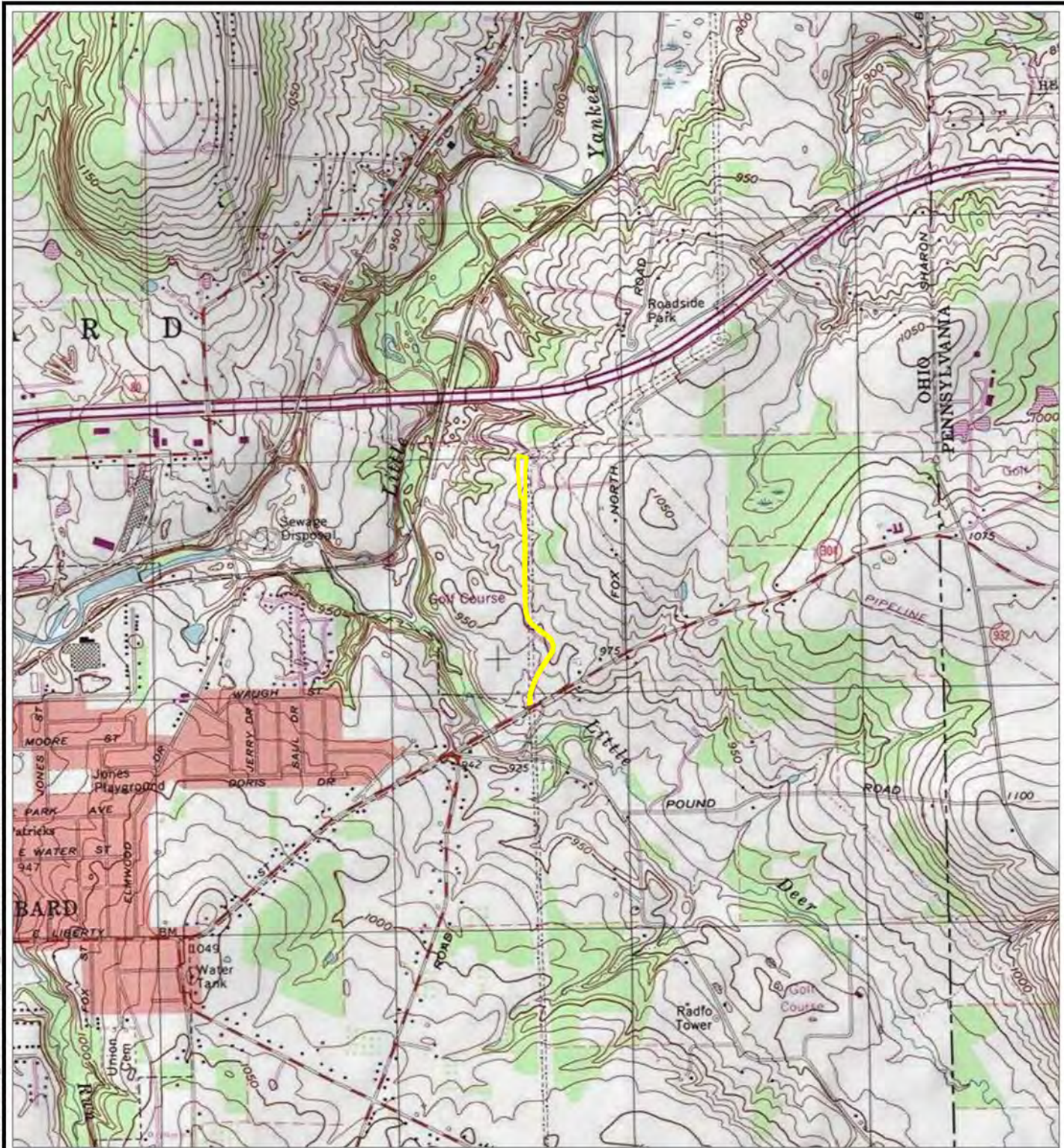
Attachments:

Figure 1: Site Location Map

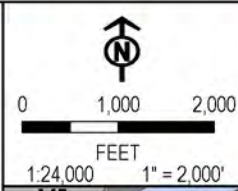
Figure 2: Aerial Map

USFWS IPaC Official Species List

COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 STATEPLANE OHIO NORTH FIPS 3401 FEET, MAP ROTATION: 0
- SAVED BY: MOPEL ON 1/14/2025 15:13:33 PM, FILE PATH: T:\PROJECTS\FIRST ENERGY\429847_0022_0057 LINCOLN PARK\MASURY\2401\PRJ\WDR.APRX, LAYOUT NAME: FIG01.SLM



 PROJECT STUDY AREA



BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, SHARON WEST QUAD

PROJECT: **FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY
SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH**

TITLE: **SITE LOCATION MAP**

DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 1
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: JANUARY 2025	



1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR

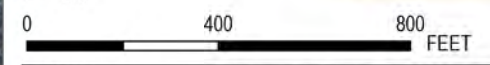



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.



1:4,800
1" = 400'



PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH	
TITLE: AERIAL MAP	
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 2
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: DECEMBER 2024	
 1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:	WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
-- Saved By: MOPEL on 12/4/2024, 09:21:36 AM. File Path: T:\14-PROJECTS\First_Energy\429847_0022_0057_LincolnParkMasury\2-APR\WDR.aprx. Layout Name: Fig02_Aerial



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ohio Ecological Services Field Office

4625 Morse Road, Suite 104

Columbus, OH 43230-8355

Phone: (614) 416-8993 Fax: (614) 416-8994



In Reply Refer To:

01/15/2025 15:40:34 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0042452

Project Name: Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ohio Ecological Services Field Office

4625 Morse Road, Suite 104

Columbus, OH 43230-8355

(614) 416-8993

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0042452

Project Name: Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project

Project Type: Transmission Line - Maintenance/Modification - Above Ground

Project Description: The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.16969985,-80.53994678171989,14z>



Counties: Trumbull County, Ohio

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Leah Cavanaugh
Address: 1382 W 9th St, Suite 400
City: Cleveland
State: OH
Zip: 44113
Email: leah.cavanaugh@trccompanies.com
Phone: 6146162127

Stolarski, Adrianna

From: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:08 PM
To: Stolarski, Adrianna
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad M (Ruszala, Amy M)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: New Ohio Switches, pending information: Lincoln Park-Masury
Attachments: Lincoln Park Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Photolog.pdf; Fig03_Delineation.pdf

External Sender, use caution with links/attachments. Click 'Report Message' in Outlook if suspicious.

Adrianna,

Please see the below and attached field summary for FirstEnergy's Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project.

Field Summary:

On February 7th, 2025, TRC biologists conducted a wetland and waterways delineation for the Lincoln Park-Masury 138kV Switch Replacement Project (Project) located in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. The proposed Project involves the replacement of a switch on the existing Lincoln Park-Masury 138 kV line. The proposed Project Study Area is approximately 2.58 acres. Land use within the Project Study Area was observed to be an existing, maintained utility ROW located within a maintained golf course. No streams or wetlands were identified during the delineation. To verify the absence of wetlands within the Project Study Area, upland data point (U-EVN-1) was collected and is shown on the attached delineated resources map.

See the attached delineated resources map and photographic record for further details.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Maggie Molnar, PWS
Ecologist



781 Science Boulevard, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
D 614.423.6342 | C 614.949.2437
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#) | [TRCcompanies.com](#)

From: Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:16 AM
To: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: New Ohio Switches, pending information: Lincoln Park-Masury

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
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Photo No. 1.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo from the northern end of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Photo No. 2.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
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Photo No. 3.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 4.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 5.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 6.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
------------------------------------	---	--

Photo No. 7.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 8.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area near the maintenance building, facing south.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
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Photo No. 9.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 10.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Client Name: FirstEnergy	Site Location: Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.	Project No. 429847.0022.0057
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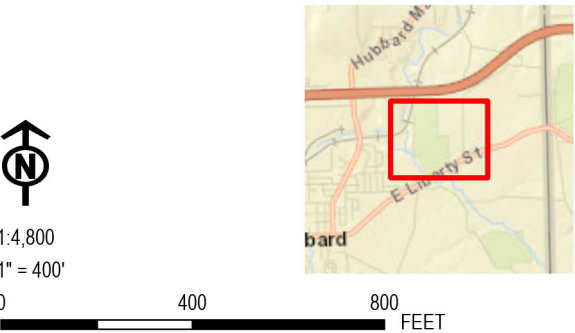
Photo No. 11.	
Photo Date: 2/7/2025	
Description: Representative photo of the southern end of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- CULVERT
- UPLAND DATA POINT

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: TRC WETLAND DELINEATION COMPLETED FEBRUARY 7, 2025.



PROJECT: FIRSTENERGY - LINCOLN PARK-MASURY 138KV SWITCH REPLACEMENT PROJECT TRUMBULL COUNTY, OH			
TITLE: DELINEATED RESOURCES MAP			
DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0022.0057
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 3	
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		
DATE:	FEBRUARY 2025		
		1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:		WDR.aprx	