

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

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

**HIGHLAND–MAGELLAN NO.1 138 KV TRANSMISSION
LINE STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

OPSB CASE NO.: 23-0483-EL-BNR

May 22, 2023

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

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
HIGHLAND MAGELLAN NO. 1 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The following information is being provided in accordance with the procedures in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 4906-6 for the application and review of Accelerated Certificate Applications. Based upon the requirements found in Appendix A to OAC Rule 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 (B)(1): Name and Reference Number

Name of Project: Highland-Magellan No.1 138 kV Transmission Line
Structure Relocation Project (“Project”).
(Reference Number: 3233)

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

In this Project, American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (“ATSI”), a FirstEnergy company, proposes to replace and relocate two existing wood H-frame structures with new steel H-frame structures on the Highland–Magellan No. 1 138 kV Transmission Line. The Project is located in the Village of Lordstown, 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 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery of the Project area.

As shown on Exhibit 3, existing structures 16A and 16B are located within the Tod Substation fence¹. The new H-frame structures will be located outside of the fence. Specifically, new structure #16A will be located approximately 34 feet west of the existing structure and new structure #16B will be located approximately 32 feet east of the existing

¹ Tod Substation is a distribution owned substation.

structure. Both structures will be located on the same transmission centerline. The existing wood structures will be removed as part of this Project. The existing 138 kV transmission line conductor will be transferred to the new structures.

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 OAC Rule 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 transmission 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 two transmission line structures with a different type of structure, for a distance of less than two miles.

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

The need for this Project was identified during the transmission line engineering design review portion of the larger mis operation relay project Highland-GM Lordstown (PJM RTEP s2451).² Through transmission design review, ATSI determined that the existing wood pole structures inside the Tod Substation fence area do not meet current FirstEnergy load criteria for wire break and one-sided loading and therefore need to be replaced with steel H-frame structures on foundations. Due to the proximity of the existing structure locations to the substation fence the foundations needed for the new steel structures would

² The work associated with the misoperations is within the fences of the substations involved: Highlands, Tod, and GM Lordstown. As such, it is non-jurisdiction and not a subject of this Construction Notice Application.

decrease vehicle access clearance around the inside perimeter of the substation and therefore need to be relocated. Relocating the transmission line structures aligns with current FirstEnergy practice of locating transmission line dead-end structures outside substation fences to eliminate risk of structure failure inside the fence that could damage substation equipment and lead to extended outages. The relocation of the structures will increase drive path accessibility that will improve access to equipment inside of the substation, allow for safe maintenance of both the substation equipment and transmission equipment, and will also ensure increased reliability and system performance of this substation in the future.

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. 2023 Long-Term Forecast Report. This map was submitted to the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (“PUCO”) in Case No. 23-0504-EL-FOR under Rule 4901:5-5:04 (C)(2)(b) of the Ohio Administrative Code. The larger misoperations project is referenced on page 97 of the Long-Term Forecast Report. The general location of the Project area is shown in Exhibits 1 and 2. The general layout is shown in Exhibit 3.

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

No other alternatives were considered because the Project as proposed is the most direct and efficient way to provide clear access and safe and reliable operation of both the transmission and substation equipment.

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 has also established a Project website, through which a copy of this Construction Notice application can be accessed:

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_projects/ohio.html.

During all phases of this Project, the public may ask questions, submit comments, or contact ATSI through the transmission projects hotline at 1-888-311-4737 or via email at: transmissionprojects@firstenergycorp.com.

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

Construction on this Project is expected to begin on June 19, 2023, and be completed by November 2, 2023.

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

Exhibits 1 and 2 depict the general location of the Project. Exhibit 1 provides a partial copy of the United States Geologic Survey, Trumbull County, Ohio, Quad Map. Exhibit 2 is a copy of ESRI aerial imagery.

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

The Project is located entirely on Ohio Edison owned property, so no new easements will be required.

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
ROW Width:	Company-owned Property
Conductors:	795 kcmil 54/7 ACSR
Static Wire:	101.8 KCMIL 12/7 ACSR
Insulators:	Porcelain
Structure Type:	Exhibit 4: 138 kV Steel H-frame Structure (Numerical Count: 2)

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

There are no occupied residences or institutions within 100 feet of the Project and therefore no Electric and Magnetic Field (“EMF”) calculations are required by this subsection.

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

The estimated capital cost for the proposed project is approximately \$900,000.

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

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

The Project is located in the Village of Lordstown, Trumbull County, Ohio, on company-owned substation property, so no changes or impacts to the current land use are anticipated. The main land use around the Project is commercial and rural residential.

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

Agricultural land use does not exist within the Project area.

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

As part of the investigation for this Construction Notice, ATSI performed a desktop review of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office's ("OHPO's") online database on February 2, 2023, to identify the existence of any significant archeological or cultural resource sites within 0.5 miles of the Project area ("Area of Potential Effect" or "APE"). A map of the results of the search is shown in Exhibit 5.

The OHPO database catalogs all Ohio listings on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"), including districts, sites, building, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The results of the search indicate that no listed NRHP sites and no NRHP Districts are within the APE.

The OHPO database also includes listings on the Ohio Historic Inventory ("OHI"), the Ohio Archaeological Inventory ("OAI"), previous cultural resource surveys, and the Ohio Genealogical Society ("OGS") cemetery inventory. The results of the search indicate that, within the APE, there are four (4) OHI structural resources (listed in Table 1); one (1) OAI (listed in Table 2); and one (1) OSG cemetery (listed in Table 3).

Table 1. OHI Structural Resources

OHI Number	Present Name	Historic Use	County	Municipality
TRU0103722	Lordstown Christian Church	Church/ Religious Structure	Trumbull	Lordstown
TRU0103822	BE Moore House	Single Dwelling	Trumbull	Lordstown
TRU0103622	PC Delaughter	Single Dwelling	Trumbull	Lordstown
TRU0103922	Charles Woodward House	Single Dwelling	Trumbull	Lordstown

Table 2. List of OAI Listed Archeological Resources

OAI Number	Affiliation	Description	County	Quad Name
TR0096	Prehistoric	Unassigned Prehistoric	Trumbull	Warren

Table 3. List of OGS cemeteries

OGS ID	Name	County	Location
11645	Center	Trumbull	.3-mile east of SR 45 on south side of CR 72

OHI structural resources and OGS cemeteries can be seen on the map in Exhibit 5. This Project will replace two transmission structures on property where existing substation is located and will not impact any undisturbed land. Therefore, the proposed Project is not expected to have any adverse effects on cultural or archaeological resources.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(d): Construction Filings with Local, State, and Federal Governmental Agencies

None applicable.

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

TRC, ATSI's environmental consultant for this Project, submitted a request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Real Estate to conduct an Environmental Review. As part of that Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate searched of the ODNR Division of Wildlife's Natural Heritage Database in order to research the presence of any endangered, threatened, or rare species within one (1) mile of the Project area. The ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response dated April 6, 2023, indicated that there are no records of state and/or federally listed plants or animals located within a one-mile radius of the Project area. A copy of ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response is included as Exhibit 6. The entire state of Ohio is within the range of endangered, threatened, and rare species set forth in Table 4.

In addition, TRC submitted a request to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for an Ecological Review to research the presence of any endangered, threatened, rare, or designated species within one (1) mile of the Project Area. A copy of USFWS's Ecological Review response, dated March 13, 2023, is included as Exhibit 7. The response indicated that due to the project type, size, and location, the USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

Table 4. List of Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listed Status	State Listed Status	Affected Habitat
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Trees & Forest
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Trees & Forest

Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	N/A	Endangered	Trees & Forest
Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	N/A	Endangered	Trees & Forest
Northern Brook Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon fossor</i>	N/A	Endangered	Perennial Streams
Mountain Brook Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon greeleyi</i>	N/A	Endangered	Perennial Streams
Eastern Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Wetlands & Wet Prairies
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	N/A	Threatened	Fens, Bogs & Marshes
Eastern Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	Species of Concern	Endangered	Perennial Streams
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonis</i>	N/A	Endangered	Marshes & Grasslands

The response from ODNR, Division of Wildlife (DOW) indicated the Project is within the range of the federally and state endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the federally threatened and state endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the state endangered little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), and the state endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). These bat species predominantly roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices, and cavities, or in the leaves. These species are dependent on the forest structure surrounding the roost trees. 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 April 19, 2023. ODNR responded on April 19, 2023, concurring that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the Project Area. Therefore, the Project is not likely to impact hibernating bats. No tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, therefore this Project is not likely to impact these species.

The response from ODNR, DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of two state endangered fish species, the northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*) and the mountain brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*). No in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream; therefore, this Project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The response from ODNR, DOW indicated that the Project is within range of the federally threatened and state endangered eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*). 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 response from ODNR, DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the state threatened spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). This species prefers fens, bogs, and other wetland features, including small streams. Due to the lack of wetlands and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species.

The response from the ODNR, DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the state endangered and federal species of concern eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*). This species of salamander is entirely aquatic, inhabiting large perennial streams. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this Project is unlikely to impact this species.

The response from ODNR, DOW indicated that the Project is within range of the state endangered northern harrier (*Circus hudsonis*). This bird species is a common migrant and winter species that breeds in large marshes and grasslands. This type of habitat is not located within the Project Area; therefore, impacts to this bird species is not expected.

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

The ODNR and USFWS comments did not identify any areas of ecological concern. TRC conducted a wetland and waterway delineation for this Project on March 3, 2023, using a study area of 2.10 acres in the village of Lordstown, Trumbull County, Ohio. TRC

investigated the structure locations and construction access areas for this Project. No wetlands or streams were identified in the study area, which consists mainly of existing maintained utility right-of-way and an existing substation. TRC also did not observe the presence of any of the ODNR-listed species during the field investigation due to the highly maintained nature of the utility right-of-way and existing facility. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to the listed reptiles, fish, or birds.

A review of the National Conservation Easement Database (www.conservationeasement.us) revealed no conservation easements in the Project Area.

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 sent concurrently with docketing to the following officials for the Village of Lordstown and Trumbull County. A copy will also be provided to the library for public review/reference.

Trumbull County

Denny Malloy
Trumbull County Commissioner
2162 Wilmar Dr
Cortland, OH 44410

Mauro Cantalamessa
Trumbull County Commissioner
391 Broadway Ave SE
Warren, Ohio 44484

Niki Frenchko
Trumbull County Commissioner
170 Kenilworth Ave SE
Warren, Ohio 44483

Randy Smith
Trumbull County Engineer
2792 Hoffman CIR NE
Warren, Ohio 44483

Trumbull County Soil and Water
Conservation District
520 W. Main St. Suite 3
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Village of Lordstown

Mayor Arno Hill
Village of Lordstown
2952 Pond Ln SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Ronald Radtka
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
3573 Ellsworth Bailey Rd SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Lamar Liming
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
3726 Austintown Warren Rd
Warren, Ohio 44440

Robert Bond
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
5092 Highland Ave SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Howard Sheely III
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
2442 Ernest Lyntz RD SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Terry Campbell
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
2977 Pond Ln SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Jamie Moseley
Village of Lordstown
Council Member
3538 Goldner LN SW
Warren, Ohio 44481

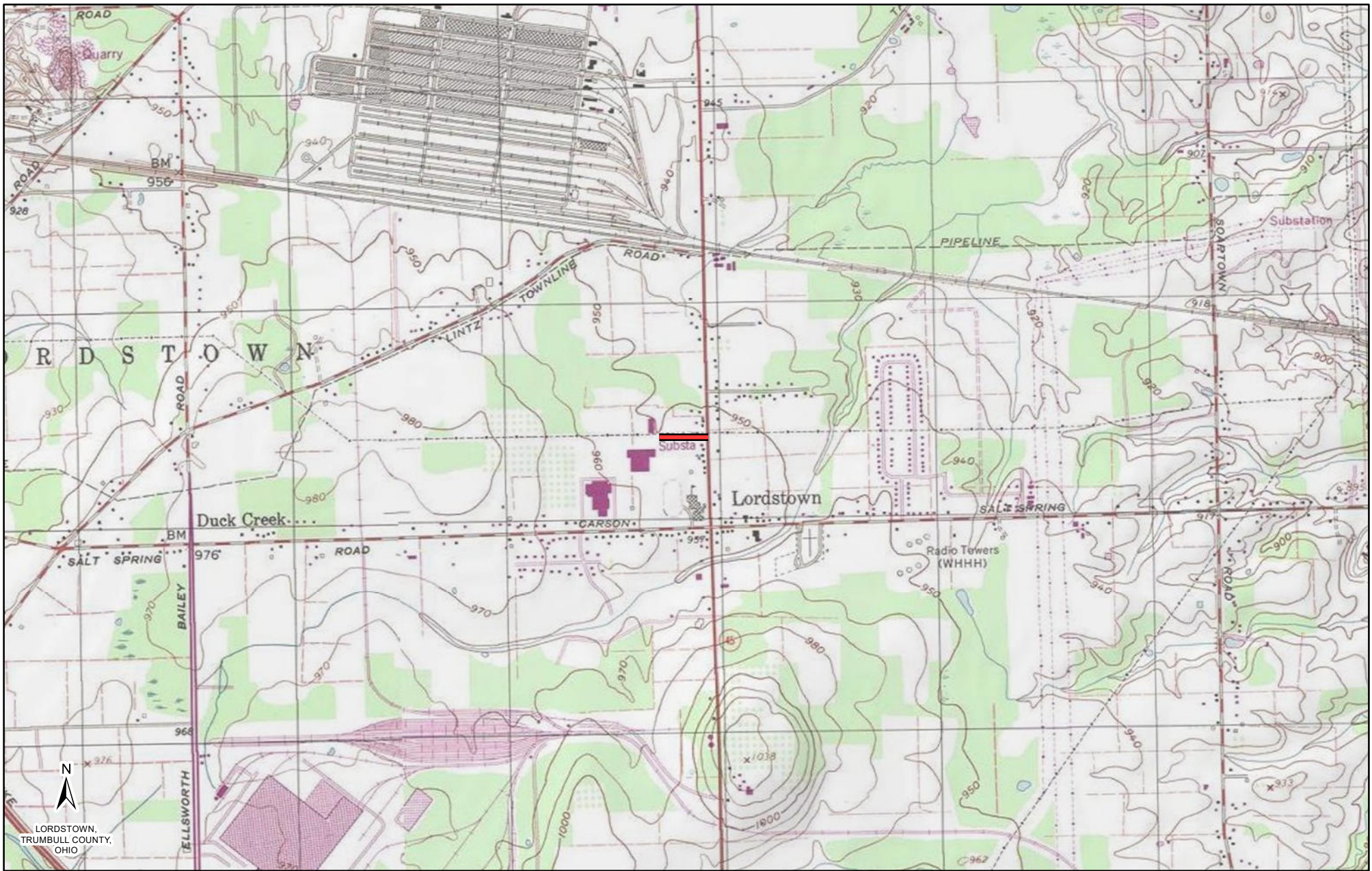
William Blank
Village of Lordstown
Clerk of Council
2210 Carson Salt Springs Rd
Warren, Ohio 44481

Library

James Wilkins, Executive Director
Trumbull County Public Library
Warren Branch
444 Mahoning Ave, NW
Warren, OH 44483


Per OAC Rule 4906-6-07(B), an exemplar copy 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 OAC Rules 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 OAC Rule 4906-6-07(B), which requires ATSI to provide the Board with proof of compliance for OAC Rule 4906-6-07(A)(3).



N
 LORDSTOWN,
 TRUMBULL COUNTY,
 OHIO

LEGEND:


 Project Area

0 1,000 2,000 4,000
 Feet

Reference:
 USGS Topographical Overlay;

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

TRUMBULL

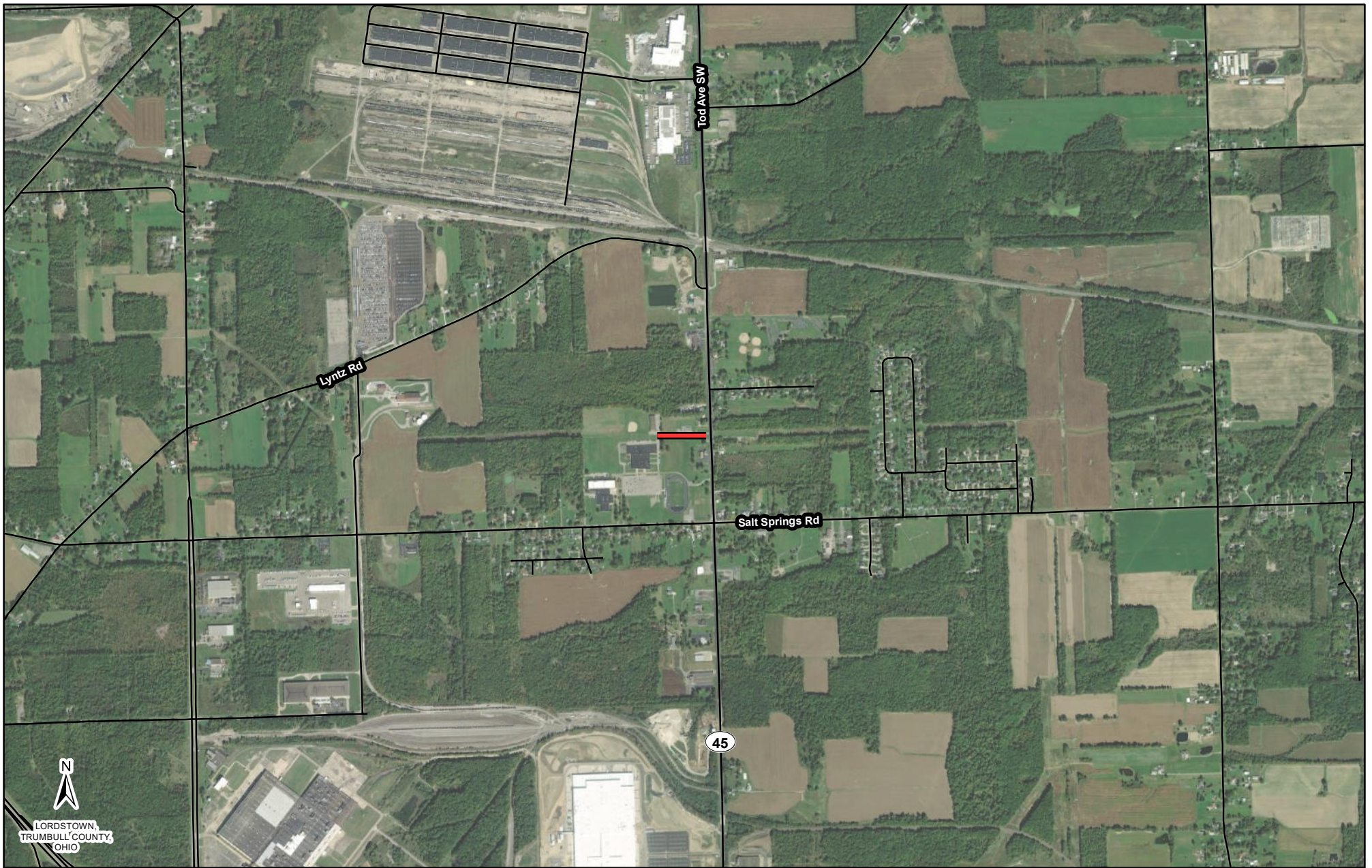




MAHONING

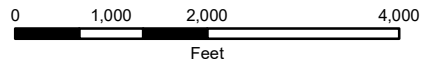
EXHIBIT 1

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

**Highland - Magellan No.1 138 kV
 Transmission Line Structure
 Replacement Project**



LEGEND:
 Project Area
 Roads



Reference:
 ESRI Aerial Imagery, ODOT.

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

PORTAGE

TRUMBULL







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EXHIBIT 2

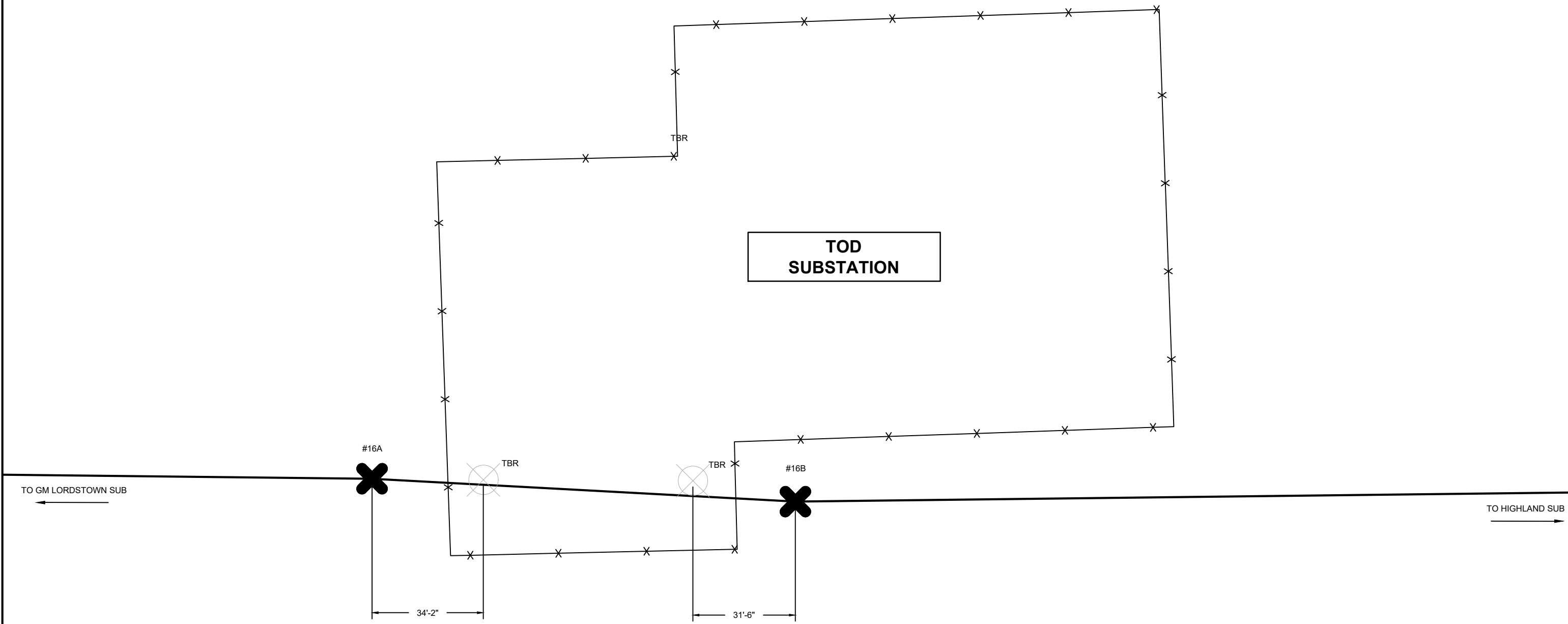
ATSI
 American Transmission Systems, Inc.
 a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

**Highland - Magellan No.1 138 kV
 Transmission Line Structure
 Replacement Project**

LEGEND

-  NEW STEEL TRANSMISSION POLE
- TBR  EXISTING WOOD TRANSMISSION POLE (TO BE REMOVED)
-  TRANSMISSION CENTERLINE
-  FENCE BOUNDARY


 TRUMBULL COUNTY
 STATE OF OHIO



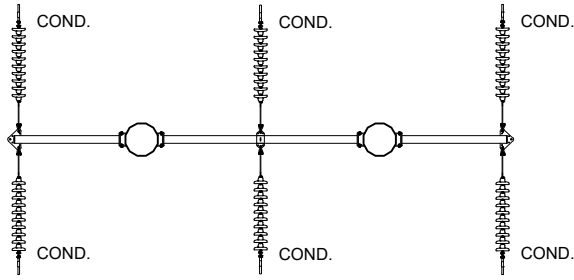
**PRELIMINARY-NOT
FOR CONSTRUCTION**



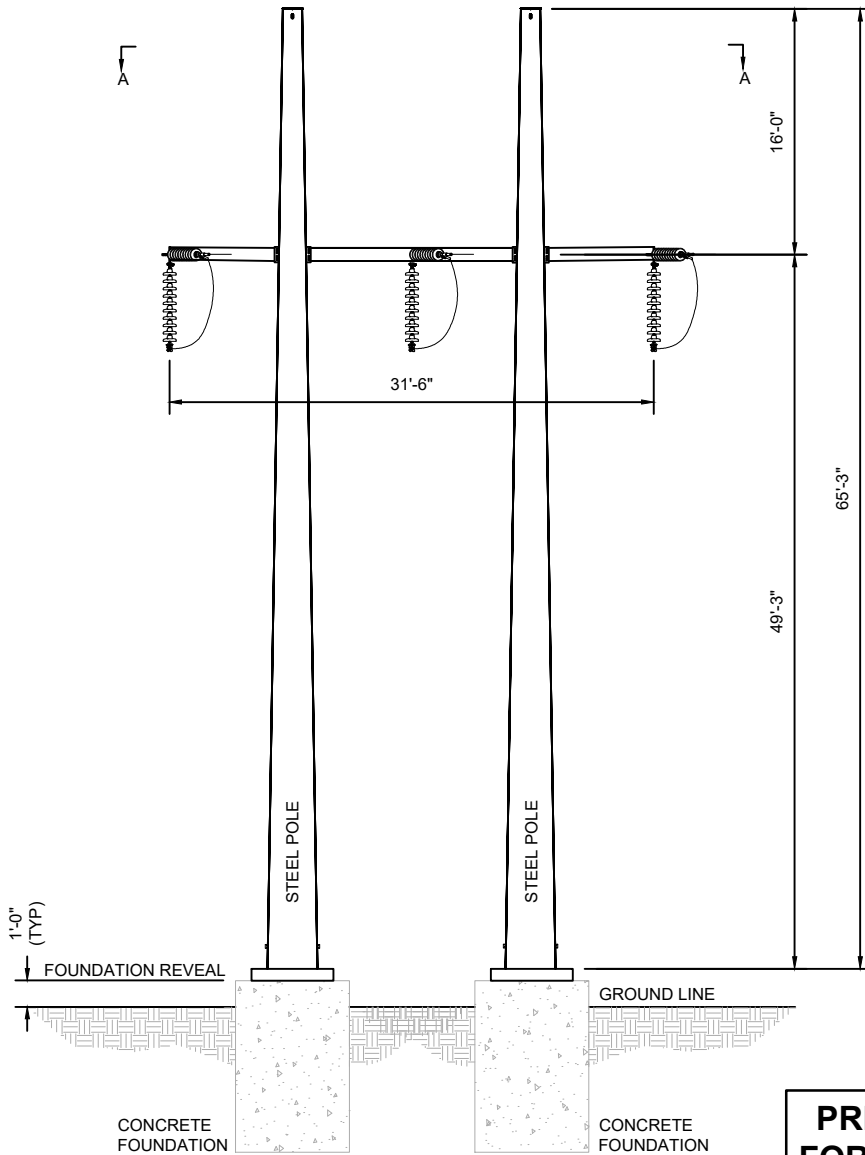
HIGHLAND-MAGELLAN NO. 1 138kV
 TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE
 REPLACEMENT PROJECT

GENERAL LAYOUT

EXHIBIT 3



SECTION A-A



**PRELIMINARY-NOT
FOR CONSTRUCTION**

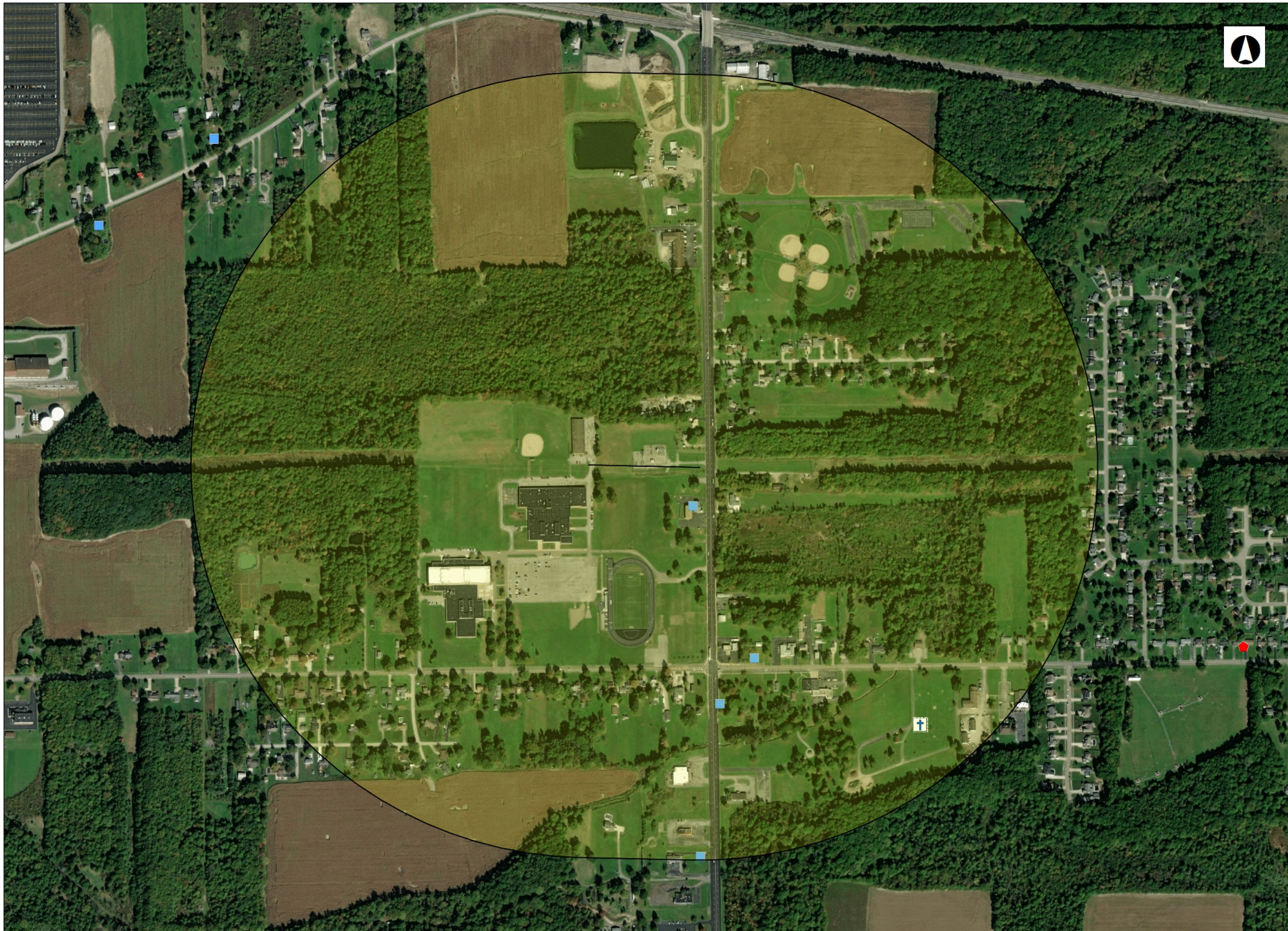


HIGHLAND-MAGELLAN NO.1 138kV
TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**NOT TO SCALE

STEEL H-FRAME

EXHIBIT 4



Legend

- NR Listings
 - ◆ Listed
 - National Historic Landmark
 - ✕ Delisted
- Determinations of Eligibility
 - ◆ DOE
 - ✕ Demolished
- Historic Structures
- Historic Bridges
- Historic Tax Credit Projects
- ◆ Local Designations
- OGS Cemeteries
 - + Confident
 - + Not Confident
- ★ Historic Markers
- Dams
- UTM Zone Split
- NR Boundaries
- Local Districts
- Previously Surveyed Areas
 - Phase 1
 - Phase 2
 - Phase 3
- Historic Previously Surveyed
- Highways
- Counties
- NPS Parks
- Wavne National Forest

0 0.13 0.3 Miles

1: 10,000

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

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

April 6, 2023

Jenna Slabe
 TRC Companies, Inc.
 1382 W 9th St, Suite 400
 Cleveland, OH 44113

Re: 23-0257; FirstEnergy's Highland-GM Lordstown Structure Relocation Project

Project: The proposed project involves the relocation and installation of two (2) structures, 16A and 16B, on the Highland-GM Lordstown transmission line.

Location: The proposed project is located in the Village of Lordstown, 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 threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these 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 of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

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

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

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

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / FAX (614) 416-8994



March 13, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0050424

Dear Ms. Slabe:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) 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 effects to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: Due to the project, type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat. If there are any project modifications during the term of this action, or additional information for listed or proposed species or their critical habitat becomes available, or if new information reveals effects of the action that were not previously considered, then please contact us for additional project review.

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

Sincerely,

Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov
To: [Molnar, Maggie](#)
Cc: [Falkinburg, Brad](#); [Slabe, Jenna](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: Highland-GM Lordstown Structure Relocation Project
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:23:43 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

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.

Hello Maggie,

Per review of the desktop survey provided for the Highland-GM Lordstown Structure Relocation Project, the Ohio Division of Wildlife concurs with your assessment that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the project area. Therefore the project is not likely to impact hibernating bats.

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

Thank you!

Eileen Wyza
Wildlife Biologist
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Phone: 614-265-6764
Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:32 AM
To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>
Subject: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: Highland-GM Lordstown Structure Relocation Project

Eileen,

In response to the ODNR's DOW recommendations (attached), TRC Companies, Inc. (TRC) completed a desktop habitat assessment, on behalf of FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy), to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within the proposed Highland-GM Lordstown Structure Relocation Project (Project) Study Area. The proposed Project is located in the village of Lordstown, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Please let us know if you have any questions on the provided desktop assessment.

Thanks,

Maggie Molnar, PWS

Ecologist



781 Science Boulevard, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230

D 614.423-6342 | **C** 614.949.2437

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Button if available.