

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

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

**BEAVER-BLACK RIVER 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
TAP TO SERVE AMPT PROJECT**

OPSB CASE NO.: 23-0785-EL-BNR

September 29, 2023

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

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
BEAVER-BLACK RIVER 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE TAP
TO SERVE AMPT 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: Name and Reference Number

Name of Project: Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project (“Project”)

Reference Number: 3208

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

In this Project, American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (“ATSI”), a FirstEnergy company, proposes to construct a tap from the existing Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line extending to a new substation facility owned by AMP Transmission LLC (“AMPT”). The new transmission line tap will have a length of approximately 30 feet (.01 miles) and require installation of one (1) new, double-circuit, steel-pole structure along with 30 feet of 954 kcmil 54/7 ACSR conductor.

The Project is located in the City of Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio. The general location of the Project is shown in Exhibit 1, a partial copy of the United States Geologic Survey, Lorain County OH, Quad Map. Exhibit 2 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery showing the Project area. General Project 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 (1)(d)(i) of the Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines, Appendix A of OAC Rule 4906-1-01. This item states:

(1) New construction, extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operating at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:

(d) Line(s) primarily needed to attract or meet the requirements of a specific customer or customers, as follows:

(i) The line is completely on property owned by the specific customer or the applicant.

The proposed Project involves construction of a new transmission line tap needed for an interconnection with AMPT’s new substation facility. The new transmission line tap will have a length of approximately 30 feet (0.01 miles) and require installation of one (1) new structure that will be located on property owned by ATSI’s affiliate, Ohio Edison Company, and for which ATSI has a ground lease to occupy.

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

This Project is needed to accommodate AMP Transmission, LLC’s 138 kV Interconnection with the Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line, which was deemed approved by the OPSB in Case No. 22-0956-EL-BN on January 23, 2023.

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 (“LTFR”). This map was submitted to the PUCO in Case No. 23-0504-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 Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line. The Project was included in ATSI’s LTFR filed in 2023 on page 80. The general location and layout of the Project area are shown in Exhibits 1 through 3.

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

Due to the nature of the Project and the specific customer need, there are no reasonable or practical alternatives to the proposed Project.

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

ATSI’s manager of External Affairs will advise local officials of the features and status of the proposed Project as necessary. ATSI has also established a Project website, through which a copy of this Construction Notice application, along with other Project information, 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 for this Project is expected to begin as early as September 19, 2023, and be completed by October 31, 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 Geological Survey, Lorain County, OH, Quad Map. Exhibit 2 is a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery of the Project area.

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

The Project is located on property leased by ATSI, as indicated in Table 1 below. No new easements will be required for the completion of this Project.

Table 1: Property Owner List

Parcel Number	Easement Status
0500098000023	Not applicable (Property leased by ATSI from affiliate)

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: 954 kmil 54/7 ACSR
- Static Wire: ADSS SFSJ-A-001
- Insulators: Porcelain, Polymer, Glass
- ROW Width: N/A: Property leased from affiliate
- Structure Types: Exhibit 4: Double Circuit Steel Pole with Foundation

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

The closest occupied residence or institution is approximately 150 feet (0.03 miles) from the proposed transmission line centerline. Therefore, no Electric and Magnetic Field (“EMF”) calculations are required by this subsection.

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

ATSI's estimated capital cost for the proposed Project is approximately \$2,643,662.

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

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

The Project is located in the City of Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio. The main land use around the Project is residential/agricultural. The Project is located on utility-owned property, so no changes or impacts to the current land use are anticipated.

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

Neither agricultural nor agricultural district land exists within the Project's disturbance area.

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

As part of the investigation for this Construction Notice application, ATSI performed a desktop review of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office's ("OHPO") online database on May 10, 2023, to identify the existence of any significant archeological or cultural resource sites within 0.5 miles of the Project's potential disturbance area. The results of the search are shown in Exhibit 5.

The OHPO database includes all Ohio listings on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"), such as districts, sites, buildings, 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-eligible sites were identified within 0.5 miles of the Project's potential disturbance area.

The OHPO database also includes listing of the Ohio Archaeological Inventory (“OAI”), the Ohio Historic Inventory (“OHI”), previous cultural resource surveys, and the Ohio Genealogical Society (“OGS”) cemetery inventory. The results of the search indicate that no OAI-listed archeological resources or structures have been previously inventoried within 0.5 miles of the Project’s potential disturbance area; no OHI-listed structural resources have been located within 0.5 miles of the Project; and no previous cultural resource surveys were conducted within 0.5 miles of the Project area. There is one (1) OSG cemetery located within 0.5 miles of the Project’s potential disturbance area and is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. List of Ohio Genealogical Society Cemeteries

OGS ID	Name	County	Municipality
6966	Onstine	Lorain	Amherst

Because the proposed Project involves installation of one (1) transmission structure next to AMPT’s project, the Project is not expected to have any impacts to archaeological and cultural resources.

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

No additional government agency authorizations are expected to be needed for this Project.

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

On June 22, 2023, 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 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 on July 26, 2023, indicated that there are records of thirteen (13)

state and/or federally listed species located within a one-mile radius of the Project area. There was record of two (2) state threatened plant species in the designated project area. A copy of ODNR’s Office of Real Estate’s response is included as Exhibit 6. A list of all endangered, threatened, and rare species, as identified by ODNR, within the range of the Project is provided in Table 5.

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 June 28, 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 5. 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>	Endangered	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
Pondhorn	<i>Uniomerus tetralasmus</i>	N/A	Threatened	Perennial Stream
Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	N/A	Endangered	Perennial Stream
Ohio Lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon bdellium</i>	N/A	Endangered	Perennial Stream

Spotted Gar	<i>Lepisosteus oculatus</i>	N/A	Endangered	Perennial Stream
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	N/A	Threatened	Perennial Stream
Bigmouth Shiner	<i>Notropis dorsalis</i>	N/A	Threatened	Perennial Stream
Chanel Darter	<i>Percina copelandi</i>	N/A	Threatened	Perennial Stream
Blandings Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	N/A	Threatened	Marshes, Ponds, Lakes, Streams, Wet Meadows, Swampy Forests
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	N/A	Threatened	Fens, Bogs, Marshes, Wet Praries, Meadows, Ponds, Wet woods, Streams, Ditches
Round Leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	N/A	Threatened	N/A
Rock Harlequin	<i>Capnoides sempervirens</i>	N/A	Endangered	N/A

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 June 22, 2023. ODNR responded on June 26, 2023, attached as Exhibit 8, 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 six (6) endangered fish species. The Lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*), Spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), Bigmouth shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*), and the Channel darter (*Percina copelandi*). No in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream; therefore, this Project is not likely to impact any aquatic species.

The Project is within the range of the pondhorn (*Unio merus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel. Due to the location, and the fact that the Project does not entail in-water work in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact these species.

The Project is within the range of the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state threatened species. This species inhabits marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, wet meadows, and swampy forests. Although essentially aquatic, the Blanding's turtle will travel over land as it moves from one wetland to the next. 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.

Two rare plant species, the round-leaved dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*, state-threatened) and the rock-harlequin (*Capnoides sempervirens*, state-endangered) have been found within range of the Beaver-Black River 138kv transmission line project. Due to the possible disruption of these species, the ODNR instructed that a pre-construction survey of the proposed project site should be conducted to ensure that these plants

and any other rare species within the proposed construction limits are not impacted and are avoided. TRC conducted the requested preconstruction survey and recorded the *Cornus rugosa* in the area. The *Capnoides sempervirens* was not found in the project area. The survey results were submitted to the ODNR for concurrence on August 15, 2023. ONDR response was received on August 16, 2023, and is included as exhibit 9. The response indicated that due to project size and scope no impacts to the *Cornus rugosa* is expected.

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

The ODNR Office of Real Estate researched the presence of any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, parks or forest, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within one (1) mile of the Project Area. ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response from July 26, 2023, indicated that they have no records of any area(s) of ecological concern within one (1) mile of the identified Project Area.

On June 13, 2023, TRC biologists conducted a surface water delineation and threatened/endangered species habitat assessment for this Project. Proposed construction activities include a new structure installation within the Project Study Area, with an access corridor off North Quarry Road through a residential property. The Project Study Area is comprised mainly of existing maintained utility/road right-of-way and maintained developed-open space, located within residential land. During field investigations, TRC did not observe any wetlands, streams, or other areas of ecological concern within the Project Study Area; no corresponding impacts are anticipated.

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 in the City of Amherst, Lorain County Ohio.

Lorain County

Commissioner Jeff Riddell
Lorain County Commissioners
9611 Dean Rd.
Vermillion, OH 44089

Mr. Ken Carney, P.E., P.S.
Lorain County Engineer
45244 Quail hollow Ct.
Amherst, OH 44001

Commissioner David J. Moore,
Vice-President
Lorain County Commissioners
226 Middle Avenue, 4th Floor
Elyria, OH 44035

Mr. Tom Williams
Lorain County Administrator
226 Middle Avenue, 4th Floor
Elyria, OH 44035

Commissioner Michelle Hung
Lorain County Commissioners
37037 Chaddyck Ln.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Mr. Don Romancak, Director
Lorain County Community
Development Department
226 Middle Avenue, 5th Floor
Elyria, OH 44035

City of Amherst

Mr. Mark Costilow, Mayor,
City of Amherst
206 South Main Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001

Ms. Olga Sivinski
City of Amherst Clerk of Council
206 South Main Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001

Ms. Jennifer Wasilk
President of Council
City of Amherst
206 South Main Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001

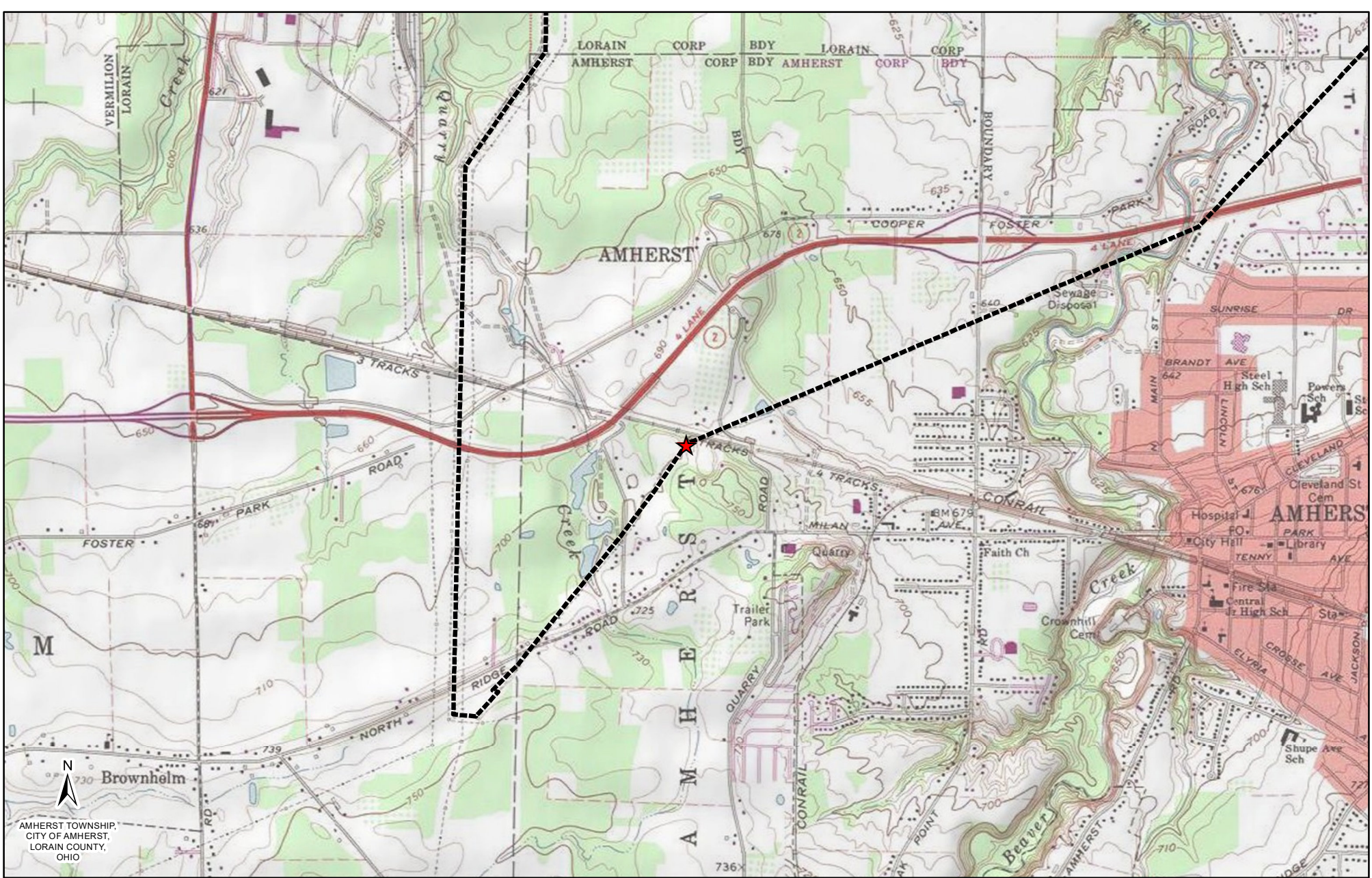
Mr. Richard Ramsey
Treasurer,
City of Amherst
480 Park Avenue
Amherst, Ohio 44001

Library

Mr. Donald Dovala,
Library Administrator
Amherst Public Library
221 Spring Street
Amherst, OH 44001

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 Construction Notice application as proof of compliance with requirements of OAC Rules 4906-6-07(A)(1) and 4906-6-07(A)(2).

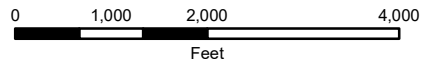
Information is posted at www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_project/ohio.html on how to request an electronic or paper copy of this Construction Notice application. The link to this website is being provided in accordance with OAC Rule 4906-6-07(B), which requires ATSI to provide the Board with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



AMHERST TOWNSHIP,
CITY OF AMHERST,
LORAIN COUNTY,
OHIO

LEGEND:

- ★ Tap to Serve AMPT
- Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line



Reference:
USGS Topographical Overlay

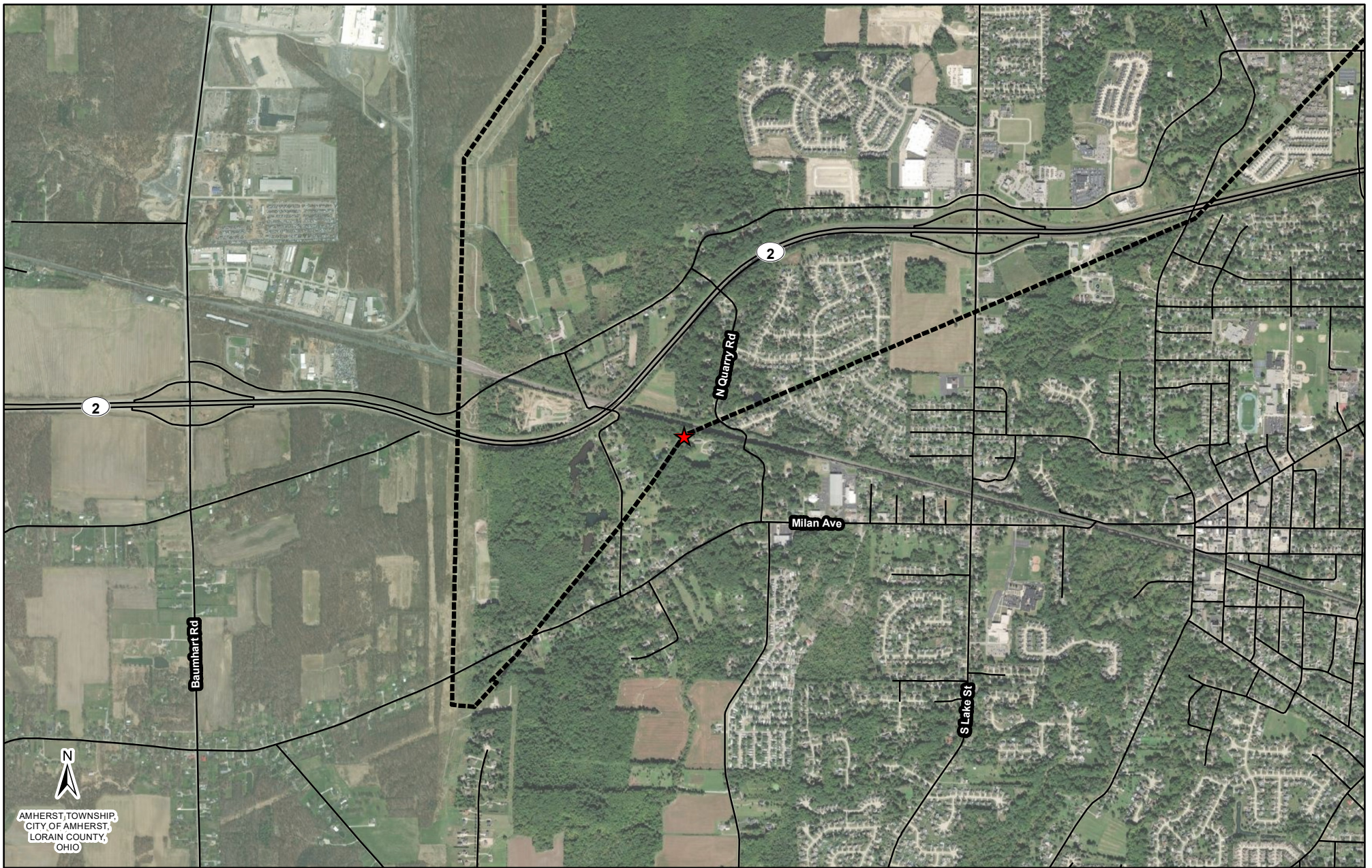
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Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic; Units: Foot US



EXHIBIT 1



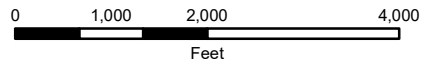
**Beaver-Black River 138 kV
Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT**



AMHERST TOWNSHIP,
CITY OF AMHERST,
LORAIN COUNTY,
OHIO

LEGEND:

- ★ Tap to Serve
- Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line
- Roads



Reference:
ESRI Aerial Imagery; ODOT

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

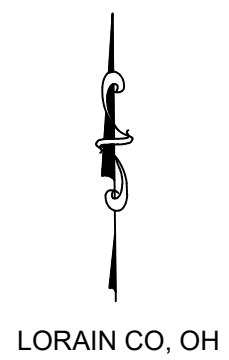
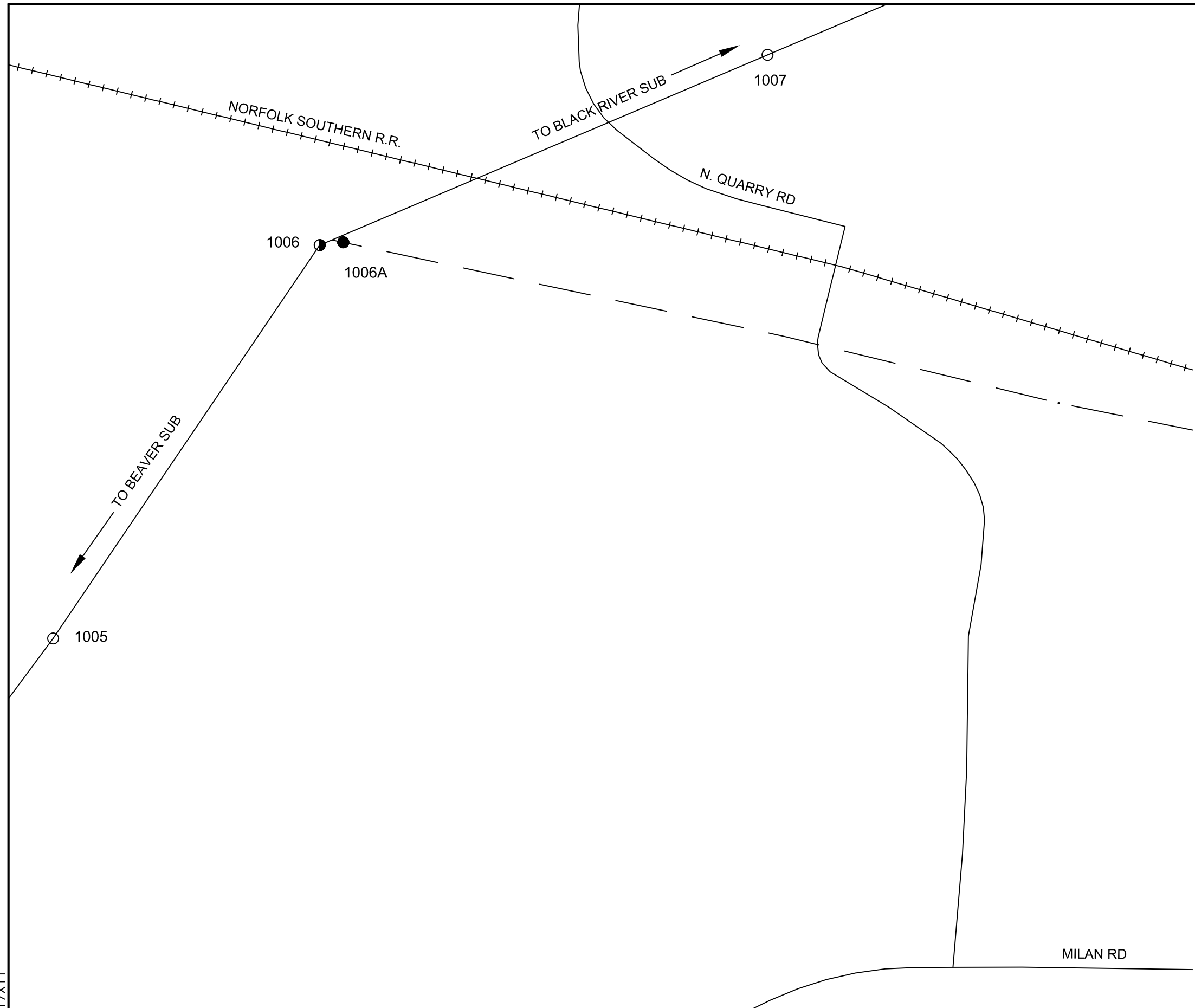


EXHIBIT 2



**Beaver-Black River 138 kV
Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT**

PAPER SIZE: 17X11



LEGEND

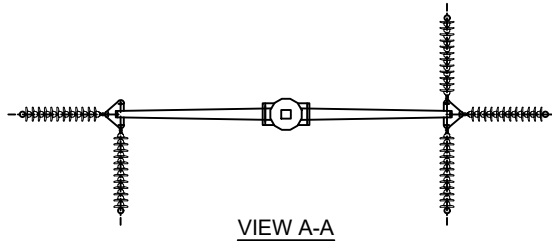
- - MODIFIED STRUCTURE
- - NEW STRUCTURE
- — — - PROPOSED AMPT 138kV LOOP TO WOODINGS SUB - CASE No. 22-0956-EL-BN
- - CONDUCTOR
- + + + + + - RAIL ROAD TRACKS

PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

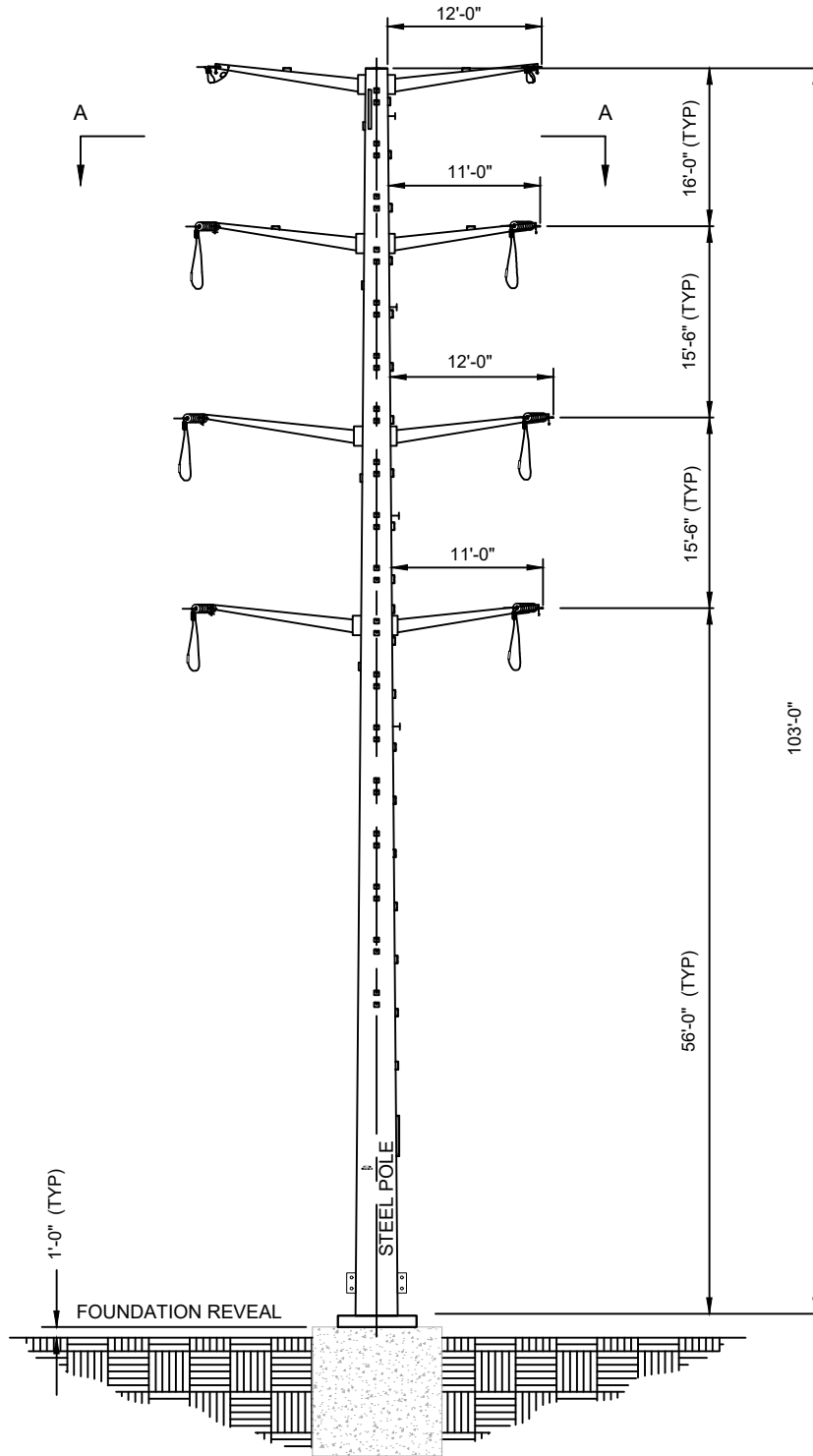
**Beaver-Black River 138 kV
Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT**



EXHIBIT 3



VIEW A-A



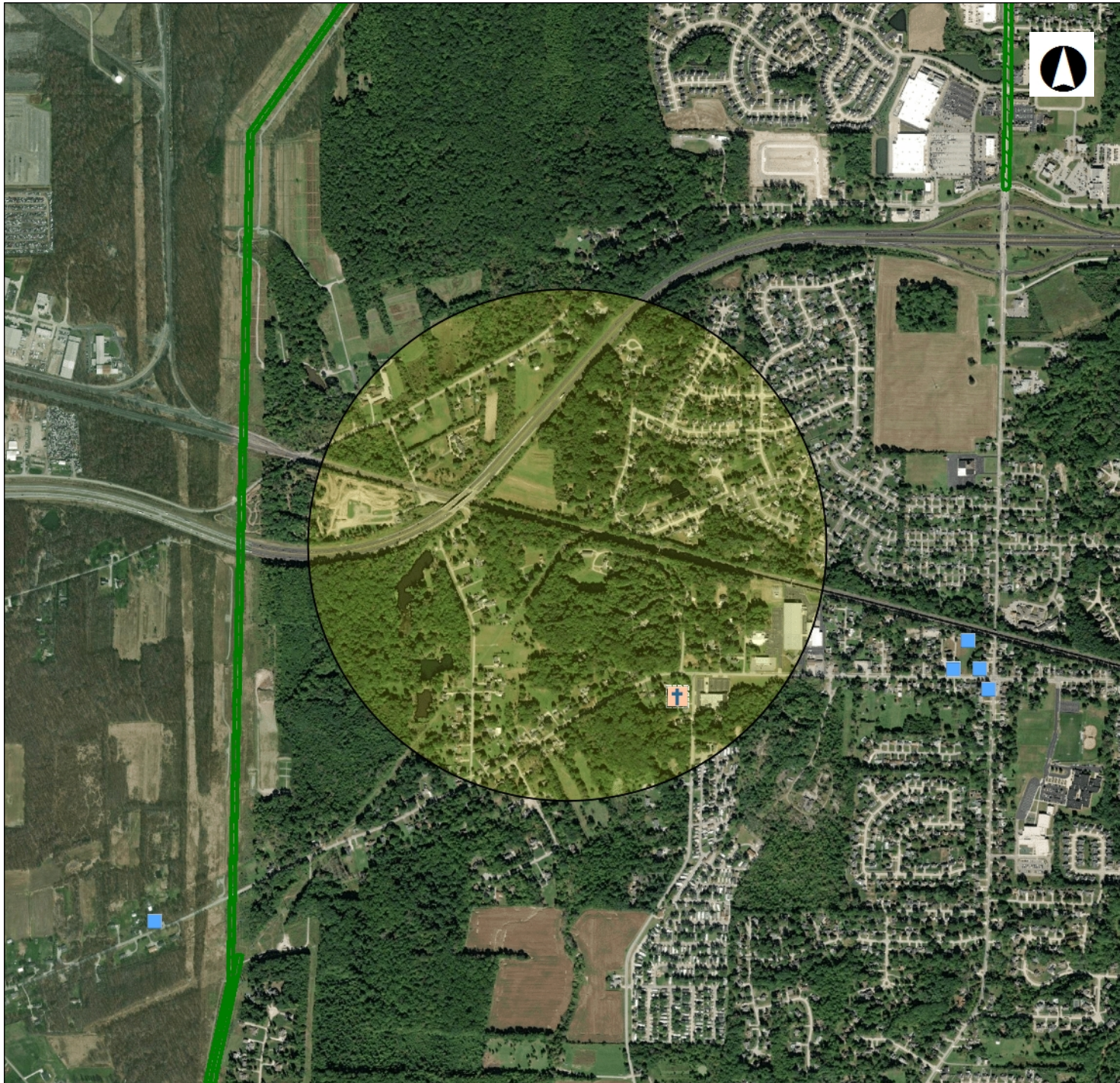
PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

* NOT TO SCALE

Beaver - Black River 138 kv Transmission Line Tap to Serve
 AMPT Project
 Double Circuit Steel Pole With Foundation



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

0 0.30 0.61 Miles



1: 24,000

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Datum: [Datum]
 Projection: WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere





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) 265-6661
Fax: (614) 267-4764

July 26, 2023

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

Re: 23-0721; Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line

Project: The proposed project involves extending a tap, approximately 30 feet (0.01 mile) in length, from the existing Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line to a new facility for the AMP Utility Company, L.L.C.

Location: The proposed project is located in Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio.

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

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Database has the following data at or within one mile of the project area:

Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), state threatened

The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. The species listed above is recorded within the specified project area boundaries.

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

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

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

The 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 pondhorn (*Uniomerus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the following listed fish species.

State Endangered

lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*)
spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*)

State Threatened

American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)
bigmouth shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*)
channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)

Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state threatened species. This species inhabits marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, wet meadows, and swampy forests. Although essentially aquatic, the Blanding's turtle will travel over land as it moves from

one wetland to the next. 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.

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.

Natural Areas and Preserves: The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has the following Rare Plant comments.

Two rare plant species, the round-leaved dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*, state threatened) and the rock-harlequin (*Capnoides sempervirens*, state endangered) have been found inside the proposed footprint of the Beaver-Black River 138kv transmission line project. Due to the possible disruption of these species, a pre-construction survey of the proposed project site should be conducted to ensure that these plants and any other rare species within the proposed construction limits are not impacted and are avoided. Long term protection of rare flora species should also be considered and should include limiting the use of herbicidal spraying in their vicinity. For survey coordination or further discussion, please contact the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' Chief Botanist, Rick Gardner. Mr. Gardner can be contacted directly at richard.gardner@dnr.ohio.gov or (614) 265-6419.

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

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

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

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



June 28, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0096053

Dear Ms. Jenna 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: [Ruggiero, Augustine](#)
To: [DeSarro, Michael A](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023 10:05:02 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)



Auggie Ruggiero
 Transmission Permitting
 office: 330-315-6781 (8506781) | cell: 330-803-4304
aruggiero@firstenergycorp.com
 341 White Pond Drive, Akron, OH 44320 | mailstop: AK-West Akron Campus

From: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 3:03 PM
To: Ruggiero, Augustine <aruggiero@firstenergycorp.com>
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad M (Havalo, Daniel C) <bfalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project

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Auggie,
 Please see ODNr's concurrence below: "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."

We will flag this to upload this response to Unifier.

Regards,

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](#)

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From: Fileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov <Fileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>
Cc: Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project

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

Hi Jenna,

Per review of the desktop survey provided for the Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT 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, Ph.D.

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: Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 4:10 PM

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

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

Subject: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment: FirstEnergy's Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project

Eileen,

TRC Companies, Inc. (TRC) completed a desktop habitat assessment, on behalf of FirstEnergy to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within the proposed Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project (Project) Study Area. The proposed Project is located in the city of Amherst and Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio

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

Thanks,

Jenna Slabe
Ecologist
Planning, Permitting, and Licensing



1382 W 9th St, Suite 400, Cleveland, OH 44113
C 330.998.0481
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#) | TRCcompanies.com

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DeSarro, Michael A

From: Richard.Gardner@dnr.ohio.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 2:39 PM
To: Molnar, Magda (Havalo, Daniel C)
Cc: Ruggiero, Augustine; Falkinburg, Brad M (Havalo, Daniel C)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 23-0721; TRC - Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project: ODNR Comments

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Hi Maggie,

After reviewing your report I do not see this project impacting *Cornus rugosa* that was recorded within the general area. No further coordination is necessary with DNAP.

Thank you for the report and following up with me.

Cheers,



Rick Gardner (he,him,his)
Chief Botanist
 Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
 Department of Natural Resources
 2045 Morse Road, H-3
 Columbus, OH 43229

office: (614) 265-6419
richard.gardner@dnr.ohio.gov
www.naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov



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From: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Gardner, Richard <Richard.Gardner@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Ruggiero, Augustine <aruggiero@firstenergycorp.com>; Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: RE: 23-0721; TRC - Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project: ODNR Comments

Rick,
 I wanted to follow up on this request for a meeting. We saw you were out of the office, so we went out for an additional site visit to collect additional information to provide you regarding the flora on-site.

Please see the attached flora list and photographic record to aid in your review of this project.

Let us know when you are available for a call.

Thanks again for your time.

Regards,

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](#)

Please note that our address has changed.

From: Molnar, Maggie
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:30 AM
To: Richard.Gardner@dnr.ohio.gov
Cc: Ruggiero, Augustine (Jirousek, Michael J.) <aruggiero@firstenergycorp.com>; Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: RE: 23-0721; TRC - Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project: ODNR Comments

Rick,
Please see below and attached.

Do you have availability to discuss on a phone call?

Thanks again for your assistance.

Regards,

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](#)

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From: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Richard.Gardner@dnr.ohio.gov
Cc: Ruggiero, Augustine (Jirousek, Michael J.) <aruggiero@firstenergycorp.com>; Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: 23-0721; TRC - Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project: ODNR Comments

Rick,

We received the attached response to an Environmental Review request for the proposed Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line Tap to Serve AMPT Project. The proposed Project is located in the city of Amherst and Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio.

The Environmental Review response requested coordination with you regarding the round-leaved dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*, state threatened) and the rock-harlequin (*Capnoides sempervirens*, state endangered).

Can you please advise how you would like to proceed regarding addressing these species? Do you have availability for a call to discuss? If so, let me know when you are available, and I can send out a meeting invite.

Thanks again for your time and assistance.

Regards,

Maggie Molnar, PWS
Ecologist



781 Science Boulevard, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
D 614.423.6342 | C 614.949.2437
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From: EnvironmentalReviewRequest@dnr.ohio.gov <EnvironmentalReviewRequest@dnr.ohio.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Slabe, Jenna <JSlabe@trccompanies.com>
Cc: Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>; Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 23-0721; TRC - Beaver-Black River 138 kV Transmission Line ODNR Comments

Please see the attached ODNR Environmental Review comment letter for your Environmental Review request.

Any questions regarding the letter should be directed to Mike Pettegrew at mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov.

Thank you,



Mike Pettegrew

Environmental Services Administrator
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Real Estate & Land Management
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Office: (614) 265-6387
mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov
<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/real-estate/environmental-review/>

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