AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED A FIRSTENERGY COMPANY

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

FOSTORIA CENTRAL-LALLENDORF 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

OPSB CASE NO.: 24-0283-EL-BNR

June 18, 2024

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

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOSTORIA CENTRAL-LALLENDORF 345 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: Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV Transmission Line

Structure Replacement Project ("Project")

Reference Number: 1036-2

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

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated ("ATSI"), a FirstEnergy company, is proposing to replace Structure #102-1 on the existing Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV Transmission Line. Structure #102-1 is a 3-pole wood structure that ATSI proposes to replace with a tubular steel H-Frame structure on concrete foundations. The Project is in Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio.

The general location of the Project is shown in Exhibit 1, a partial copy of the United States Geologic Survey, Wood County, Ohio Quad Map. Exhibit 2 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery. 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 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 one (1) structure with a different type of structure on the same centerline as the existing transmission line.

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

As a part of ATSI's Right-Of-Way ("ROW") Assurance Program (a program that assesses existing transmission lines and their associated ROWs for clearance issues that may violate the National Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") design and operating field condition requirements) and due to National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") minimum transmission line conductor-to-conductor clearance requirements, a clearance concern was identified at the existing crossing of the (upper circuit) of the Davis Besse-Lemoyne 345 kV Transmission Line and the (lower circuit) of the Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV Transmission Line. Remediation of this clearance concern involved the reframing and installation of a new wood pole to increase clearances to the upper crossing circuit. This work was completed in 2021. Since the remediation in 2021, the wood pole structure caught fire and 1 pole of the 3-pole structure failed, resulting in an outage. The structure was repaired, and the line placed back in service with an expectation to replace the structure in its entirety to mitigate future pole fire risk. The permanent remediation proposed in this Project involves the replacement of the 3-pole wood structure with a new, steel H-frame structure. Historical operating experience has shown that pole fire

mitigation on 345 kV lines by utilizing steel structures provides a positive impact to reliability and resiliency.

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. 2024 Long-Term Forecast Report. This map was submitted to the PUCO in Case No. 24-0504-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 Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV Transmission Line. The Project was not included in the 2024 LTFR as it does not entail any topology or rating change. 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

Due to the nature of the identified clearance issue, and issues with the previous remediations, there were no alternatives considered for this project.

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 below:

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: <u>transmissionprojects@firstenergycorp.com</u> where the public may ask questions or leave comments on the Project for ATSI.

4906-11-02 (B)(6): Construction Schedule

Construction on the project is expected to begin as early as September 30, 2024, and be completed by November 15, 2024.

4609-6-05 (B)(7): Area Map

Exhibits 1 and 2 depict the general location of the Project. Exhibit 1 provides a partial copy of the USGS Topographic Map, Wood County, Ohio Quad Map. Exhibit 2 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery.

4906-11-01 (B)(8): Property Owner List

The Project is located on fee owned property of Toledo Edison Company. No new easements or right-of-way is required.

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

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

The Transmission Line will have the following characteristics:

Voltage: 345 kV

Conductors: (3) double-bundled 1024.5 kcmil 24/13 ACAR

Static Wire: 7#120 Alumoweld

Insulators: Porcelain ROW Width: 290 feet

Land Requirements: No New ROW required.

Structure Types: Exhibit 4 – One (1) Tubular Steel H-Frame Dead-End

Structure on concrete foundations.

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

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 \$ 716,000. 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 located in Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio. The main land use around the Project area is zoned as commercial/utility. The Project is located on property owned by Toledo Edison Company in the existing transmission line corridor, and no changes or impacts to the current land use are anticipated.

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

Agricultural land (primarily cultivated cropland) exists within the Project's Area of Potential Effect ("APE"), though none of the parcels are designated as Agricultural Districts. Agricultural land surrounds the parcel, but there are no crops on the parcel where construction will take place.

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

As part of the investigation for this Construction Notice, on April 4, 2024, TRC submitted a request to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") to review and provide comments on the project area. On May 14, 2024, the SHPO replied to the request, and the response is attached as Exhibit 5. SHPO concluded that no historic properties, districts, or archaeological sites are located within Area of Potential Effect (APE). Therefore, it is the SHPO's opinion that no cultural resource studies are warranted for the Project. Furthermore, as proposed, the Project will have no effect on historic properties and no further coordination is required for the Project.

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

ATSI coordinated with Troy Township and Wood County regarding the Project, and it was determined that no further coordination is required prior to construction.

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

On March 25, 2024, TRC submitted a request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to conduct an Environmental Review of the Project area. As part of the Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate conducted a search of the ODNR Division of Wildlife's (DOW) Natural Heritage Database to research the presence of any endangered, threatened, or rare species within one (1) mile of the Project area. The ODNR's response on April 26, 2024, attached hereto as Exhibit 6, indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the specified Project area. A list of all endangered, threatened, and rare species, as identified by ODNR, within the range of the Project is provided in Table 1.

TRC also submitted a request to the U.S. 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 Study Area. A copy of USFWS's response, dated April 19, 2024, is included as Exhibit 7. The response indicated 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.

Table 1. List of Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species within range of Project Study Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listed Status	Federal Listed Status	Affected Habitat		
Fish						
Western banded	Fundulus diaphananus	Endangered	N/A	Freshwater perennial		
killifish	menona	, J		streams.		
Greater redhorse	Moxostoma valenciennesi	Threatened	N/A	Freshwater perennial streams.		
Mammals						
Indiana Bat	Myotis sodalis	Endangered	Endangered	Trees and forests.		

Little Brown Bat	Myotis lucifugus	Endangered	N/A	Trees and forests.			
Northern Long- eared Bat	Myotis septentrionalis	Endangered	Endangered	Trees and forests.			
Tricolored Bat	Perimyotis subflavus	Endangered	N/A	Trees and forests.			
Reptiles							
Spotted turtle	Clemmys guttata	Threatened	N/A	Fens, bogs, marshes, wet prairies, meadows, pond edges, small streams, and ditches.			
Kirtland's snake	Clonophis kirtlandii	Threatened	N/A	Wet meadows and other wetlands.			
Mussels							
Pondhorn	Uniomerus tetralasmus	Threatened	N/A	Freshwater perennial streams.			

The Project 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. As proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area; therefore, the Project will not impact these bat species.

The Project is within the range of the pondhorn (*Uniomerus tetralasmus*), a state threatened mussel; the western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphananus menona*), a state endangered fish; and the greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*), a state threatened fish. Because no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project will not impact these or any other aquatic species.

The Project is within the range of the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet meadows and other wetlands. 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.

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

TRC conducted a wetland and waterways delineation of the Project area that is included as Exhibit 8. The TRC investigation focused on an approximately 3.75-acre Project Study Area on March 25, 2024. During field investigations, two (2) palustrine emergent wetland features (Wetland W-JMS-1 and Wetland W-JMS-2), totaling 0.66-acre within the Project Study Area, were identified and delineated. Wetland W-JMS-1 and Wetland W-JMS-2 extend further offsite and outside of the Project Study Area. During the field investigations, one (1) stream was delineated within the Project Study Area. Stream S-JMS-1 is a perennial, un-named direct tributary to Toussaint Creek. An existing culvert carries the flow of Stream S-JMS-1 through the Project Study Area.

The Limits of Disturbance (LOD), which corresponds to the APE, will be completely within the Study Area and will predominantly include an access road measuring approximately 25 feet wide, along with work and staging areas surrounding the structure replacement that measure approximately between 125 feet and 250 feet wide (east to west) by 400 feet long (north to south). NWP 57 (effective March 15, 2021, valid through March 14, 2026), authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of electric utility lines or telecommunication lines, including overhead lines and substations, in nontidal waters of the United States, provided the activity does not cause the loss of greater than half an acre of waters of the United States. Nationwide Permit Regional General Conditions were reviewed regarding this Project. This Project is located in Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio, which is within the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") Buffalo Regulatory District. The Project location is not listed in Appendix 1 to Regional General Condition 5(a) (Endangered Species and Threatened Species). No impacts to Stream S-JMS-1 will result from construction activities because the existing culvert will be utilized. Timber matting will be used for access across W-JMS-1 and because timber matting of wetlands is regarded as a nonjurisdictional activity, wetland impacts will be limited to the foundations associated with the structure, which will total 0.001-acre for both foundations within wetland W-JMS-2. This is below the 0.1-acre notification threshold for NWP 57.

The Project Study Area consists mainly of an existing, transmission line right-of-way (ROW) and access road, surrounded by forested and agricultural land. TRC did not observe the presence of any of the threatened and/or endangered species or habitat during the field investigation due to the highly maintained nature of the utility ROW and existing facility.

A review of the National Conservation Easement Database (www.conservationeasement.us) revealed no conservation easements in the Project Study 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 Application Transmittal and Availability for Public Review

This Construction Notice application is being provided concurrently to the following officials in Troy Township and Wood County, Ohio:

Wood County

Mr. Craig LaHote, President Wood County Commissioner 5th Floor, County Office Building One Courthouse Square Bowling Green, OH 43402

Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus, Vice-President Wood County Commissioner 5th Floor, County Office Building One Courthouse Square Bowling Green, OH 43402

Ms. Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. Wood County Commissioner 5th Floor, County Office Building One Courthouse Square Bowling Green, OH 43402

Troy Township

Mr. Matthew Brinker Trustee, Troy Township 4707 Dowling Road Perrysburg, OH 43551

Mr. Skip Recker Trustee, Troy Township 1651 Ottawa Road Genoa, OH 43430

Library

Ms. Ariel Jacobs, Director Luckey Branch Library 335 Park Drive Luckey, OH 43443 Mr. John M. Musteric P.E, P.S., Wood County Engineer County Office Building One Courthouse Square Bowling Green, OH 43402

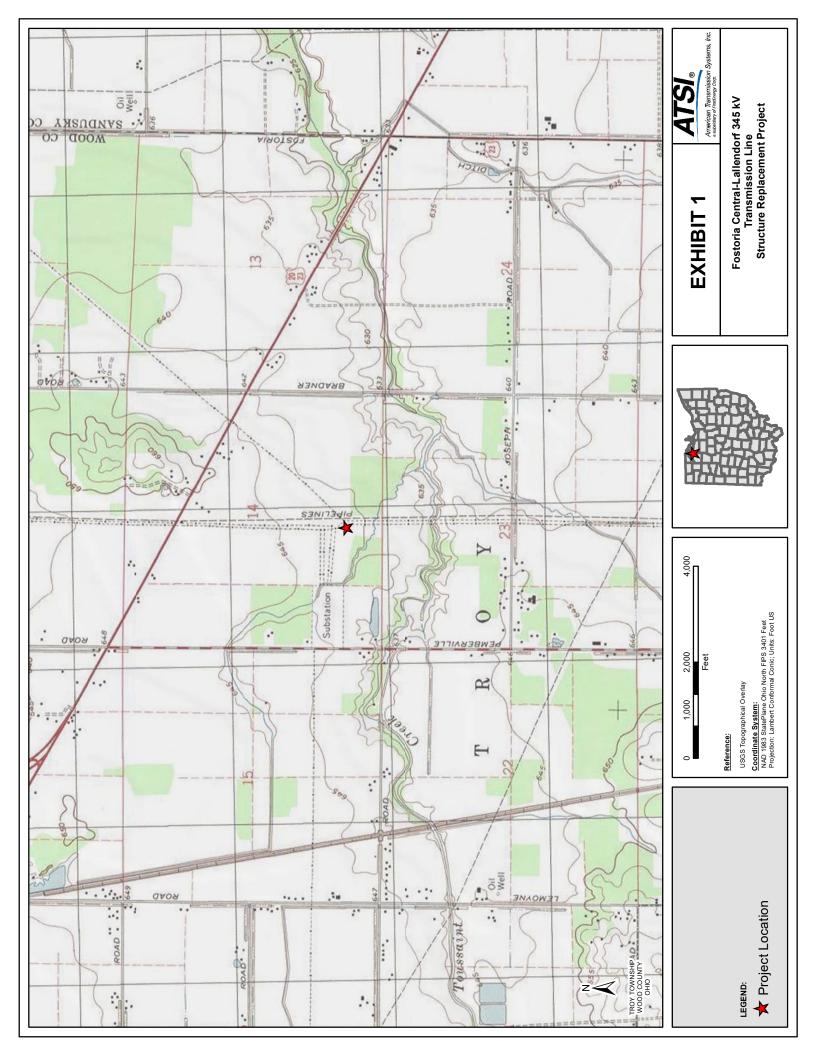
Mr. Dave Steiner, Director Wood County Planning Commission 5th Floor, County Office Building One Courthouse Square Bowling Green, OH 43402

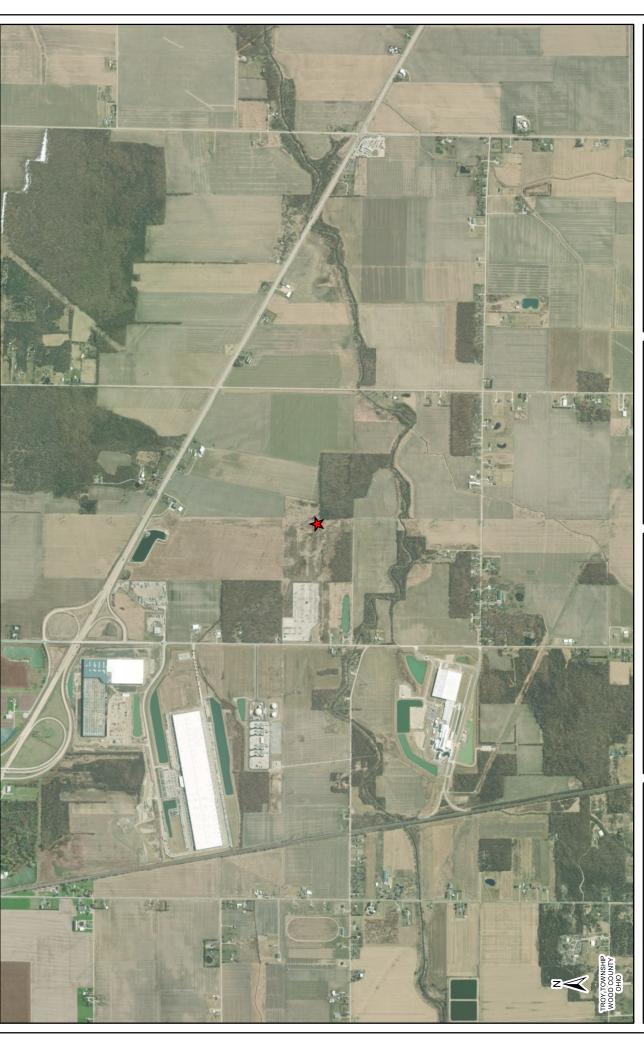
Mr. Jim Carter, District Administrator, Wood County Soil & Water Conservation District 1616 E. Wooster St. Suite 32 Bowling Green, OH 43402

Ms. Kelley Knitz Trustee, Troy Township 23792 Luckey Road Perrysburg, OH 43551

Ms. Linda Biniker Fiscal Officer, Troy Township PO Box 205, Stony Ridge, OH 43463 Per OAC Rule 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 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 OPSB with proof of compliance for in OAC Rule 4906-6-07(A)(3).









Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

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

Reference: ESRI Imagery; ODOT

2,000

1,000

★ Project Location LEGEND:

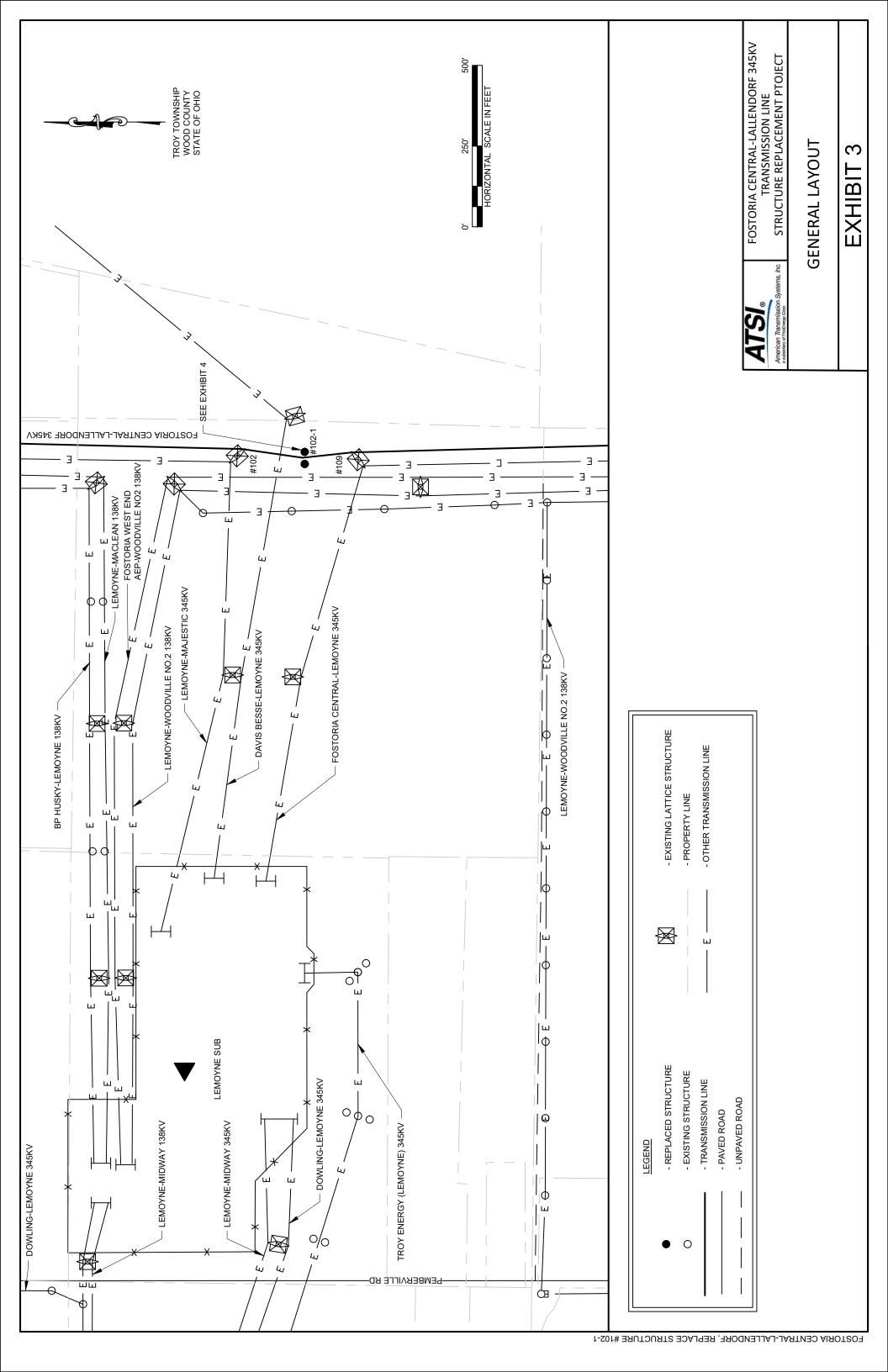


EXHIBIT 5



In reply refer to: 2024-WOO-61025

May 14, 2024

Justin McKissick, MA, RPA Project Archaeologist/Field Director TRC Environmental Corporation 317 E Carson Street, Suite 113 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Email: <u>JMcKissick@trccompanies.com</u>

RE: Section 106 Review: Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345 kV Structure Replacement Project, Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio

Dear Mr. McKissick:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on April 18, 2024, regarding the above reference project in Wood 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 consists of replacing one structure (102-1) along the Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345 kV transmission line. The new structure will be installed in the same location as the existing one, and access to the structure location will utilize an existing lane. The new structure will be the same height as the existing one, therefore no new visual impacts are anticipated. 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. Therefore, based on this, it is the SHPO's opinion that no cultural resource studies are warranted for the project. Furthermore, as proposed, the project will have no effect on historic properties. 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 as required by 36 CFR § 800.13. If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact either myself via email at sbiehl@ohiohistory.org or Ms. Joy Williams at jwilliams@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Biehl, Project Reviews Coordinator (archaeology)

Resource Protection and Review State Historic Preservation Office

Stephe M. Biell

RPR Serial No. 1102763



OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE: RESOURCE PROTECTION AND REVIEW

Section 106 Review - Project Summary Form

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

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROJECT 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. Please refer to the Instructions or contact an OHPO reviewer (mailto:Section106@ohiohistory.org) if you need help completing this Form. Unless otherwise requested, we will contact the person submitting this Form with questions or comments about this project.

Date: 04/18/2024

Name/Affiliation of person submitting form: Justin McKissick, MA, RPA

Mailing Address: 317 E. Carson Street, Suite 113, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone/Fax/Email: 412.660.7937/jmckissick@trccompanies.com

A. Project Info:

1. This Form provides information about:

New Project Submittal:

YES

Additional information relating to previously submitted project:

NO

OHPO/RPR Serial Number from previous submission:

- 2. Project Name (if applicable): Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV Structure Replacement Project
- 3. Internal tracking or reference number used by Federal Agency, consultant, and/or applicant to identify this project (if applicable): **429847.0092.0000**

- B. Project Address or vicinity: The northern extent of the Study Area is located 0.52 miles (mi) northeast of the intersection of Pemberville Road (State Route [SR] 15) and Garling Road (Township Highway [TH 292]) (41.473962, -83.444640) and extends south and west paralleling a private access drive to a point 0.06 mi north of the same intersection (41.472014, -83.453822) (Figure 1).
- C. City/Township: Troy Township
- D. County: Wood County
- E. Federal Agency and Agency Contact. If you do not know the federal agency involved in your project, please contact the party asking you to apply for Section 106 Review, not OHPO, for this information. HUD Entitlement Communities acting under delegated environmental review authority should list their own contact information. N/A
- F. Type of Federal Assistance. List all known federal sources of federal funding, approvals, and permits to avoid repeated reviews. **N/A**
- G. State Agency and Contact Person (if applicable): Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)
- H. Type of State Assistance: N/A
- I. Is this project being submitted at the direction of a state agency **solely** under Ohio Revised Code 149.53 or at the direction of a State Agency? *Answering yes to this question means that you are sure that <u>no</u> federal funding, permits or approvals will be used for any part of your project, and that you are seeking comments only under ORC 149.53.*

NO

- J. Public Involvement- Describe how the public has been/will be informed about this project and its potential to affect historic properties. Please summarize how they will have an opportunity to provide comments about any effects to historic properties. (This step is required for all projects under 36 CFR § 800.2):
- K. Please list other consulting parties that you have contacted/will contact about this project, such as Indian Tribes, Certified Local Governments, local officials, property owners, or preservation groups. (See 36 CFR § 800.2 for more information about involving other consulting parties). Please summarize how they will have an opportunity to provide comments: N/A

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)

Provide a description of your project, its site, and geographical information. You will also describe your project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Please refer to the Instructions or contact an OHPO reviewer if you need help with developing the APE or completing this form.

For challenging projects, provide as much information as possible in all sections, and then check the box in Section 5.A. to ask OHPO to offer preliminary comments or make recommendations about how to proceed with your project consultation. This is recommended if your project involves effects to significant historic properties or if there may be challenging procedural issues related to your project. Please note that providing information to complete all Sections will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.

A. Does this project involve any Ground-Disturbing activity: YES

(If **Yes**, you must complete all of Section 2.A. If **No**, proceed directly to Section 2. B.)

1. General description of width, length and depth of proposed ground disturbing activity:

The Limits of Disturbance (LOD) which corresponds to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for direct effects, will be completely within the Study Area, which measures approximately 3.75 acres (ac) in size (Figure 2). The access road will measure approximately 25 feet (ft) wide while the work and staging areas surrounding the structure replacement will measure approximately between 125 ft and 250 ft wide (E-W) by 400 ft long (N-S). The proposed Project will involve the replacement of structure 102-1 on Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345kV transmission line. There will be minimal ground disturbance associated as the new infrastructure will be placed in the location of existing and access/egress will utilize existing access roads within the transmission line corridor. Wetland crossings will utilize timber matting to avoid direct impacts. The updated infrastructure will be the same height as the existing structures.

- 2. Narrative description of previous land use and past ground disturbances, if known: Historically, the landscape was likely agricultural fields or wooded landscapes with development occurring predominately throughout the twentieth and into the twenty-first centuries. Buildings were constructed north of the Study Area in the middle of the nineteenth century as the Maumee and Western Reserve Road proceeded through that area.
 - 3. Narrative description of current land use and conditions:

The modern aerial imagery shows a rural landscape with the Study Area composed of an existing access drive and an overgrown brush transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The Study Area is surrounded by a pond, wooded landscapes, overgrown brush and agricultural fields. A large electrical substation is located northwest of the Study Area. Development in the area includes residential properties, commercial warehouse, and industrial facilities. General overview photographs are provided as Attachment 1.

- 4. Does the landowner know of any archaeological resources found on the property? YES NO If yes, please describe: **Unknown**
- B. Submit the exact project site location on a USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map for all projects. Map sections, photocopies of map sections, and online versions of USGS maps are acceptable as long as the location is clearly marked. Show the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). It should be clearly distinguished from other features shown on the map:
 - 1. USGS Quad Map Name: Pemberville, OH
 - 2. Township/City/Village Name: Troy Township
- C. Provide a street-level map indicating the location of the project site; road names must be identified and legible. Your map must show the exact location of the boundaries for the project site. Show the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). It should be clearly distinguished from other features shown on the map: See Figure 2
- D. Provide a verbal description of the APE, including a discussion of how the APE will include areas with the potential for direct and indirect effects from the project. Explain the steps

taken to identify the project's APE, and your justification for the specific boundaries chosen:

The APE will include all areas in which construction activities associated with the proposed Project will take place. The minimal ground disturbances will primarily be associated with the installation of new infrastructure in the location of existing towers. 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 mi of the undertaking. There are buildings in the area that are over 50 years of age; however, new infrastructure will be similar to existing infrastructure heights and, therefore, no new visual impacts are anticipated.

E. Provide a detailed description of the project. This is a critical part of your submission. Your description should be prepared for a cold reader who may not be an expert in this type of project. The information provided must help support your analysis of effects to historic properties, not other types of project impacts. Do not simply include copies of environmental documents or other types of specialized project reports. If there are multiple project alternatives, you should include information about all alternatives that are still under active consideration:

The proposed Project involves the replacement of Structure 102-1 on Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345kV transmission line. The proposed Project Study Area measures approximately 3.75 ac (Figure 2). New infrastructure will be placed in the location of existing infrastructure with the new tower heights similar to the existing. All work will be contained within existing ROW.

SECTION 3: IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Describe whether there are historic properties located within your project APE. To make that determination, use information generated from your own Background Research and Field Survey. Then choose one of the following options to report your findings. Please refer to the Instructions and/or contact an OHPO reviewer if you are unsure about how to identify historic properties for your project.

The results of the search indicate that there is one (1) NRHP-eligible above-ground historic resource, the Pratt Schoolhouse (OHI No.: WO006931, DOE ID: 1090), mapped 0.63 mi northeast of the northern extent of the Study Area. There are an additional 16 above ground historic resources mapped within one (1)-mi of the Study Area. The majority of these are situated to the north and northeast. There are no Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) cemeteries mapped within one (1)-mi of the proposed Project.

There have been six (6) archaeological surveys conducted within one (1)-mi of the Study Area. The nearest of which is situated 0.07 mi north of the western extent. Thirty-two (32) archaeological sites have been recorded within one (1)-mi of the Study Area. The sites include 29 prehistoric sites and three (3) historic sites. All 32 prehistoric sites are open sites of unknown function that with dates ranging from unknown to the Paleolithic, Early Archaic, and Late Archaic periods. The nearest of the archaeological sites is mapped 0.07 mi southeast of the southeastern extent of the proposed Project. The majority of the archaeological sites are recorded to the west, south, and east of the Study Area.

A review of available historic maps was conducted to determine the presence of historic structures and buildings (50 years of age or older) and other possible historic features within or adjacent to the LOD or Study Area that may be impacted by the proposed Project. Troy Township was surveyed in 1820 and established in 1834. By 1886, public land in the area had been disposed by sale, and the region had been settled with residential buildings denoted primarily fronting the established transportation routes. The Maumee & Western Reserve Road, also known historically

as the Mud Pike and present-day US Route 20/23, had been established north of the Study Area. The Study Area is on parcels attributed to *John D. Bringman* and *J. Willman* in 1886 (Attachment 2, Image 1). No buildings on either parcel are mapped in the Study Area. Toussaint Creek flows south of and beyond the southern extent of the proposed Project. In mapping from 1912, the Study Area is within the parcels still owned by *Bringman* and *William* (Attachment 2, Image 2). Buildings are not denoted on this map. Through the turn of century and into the mid-twentieth century, the region remained relatively rural with development along the established roadways. By 1959 the existing transmission lines and a pipeline had been constructed through the Study Area (Attachment 2, Image 3). New development primarily included small housing plots, commercial buildings, and manufacturing facilities in discrete locations throughout the mid-twentieth and into the twenty-first century. Presently, the area remains relatively rural with the majority of contemporary development staying within the nearby town of Woodville to the east.

If you read the Instructions and you're still confused as to which reporting option best fits your project, or you are not sure if your project needs a survey, you may choose to skip this section, but provide as much supporting documentation as possible in all other Sections, then check the box in Section 5.A. to request preliminary comments from OHPO. After reviewing the information provided, OHPO will then offer comments as to which reporting option is best suited to document historic properties for your project. Please note that providing information to complete this Section will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.

Recording the Results of Background Research and Field Survey:

- A. **Summary of discussions and/or consultation with OHPO** about this project that demonstrates how the Agency Official and OHPO have agreed that no Field Survey was necessary for this project (typically due to extreme ground disturbance or other special circumstances). Please <u>attach copies</u> of emails/correspondence that document this agreement. You must explain how the project's potential to affect both archaeological and historic resources were considered. **N/A**
- B. A table that includes the minimum information listed in the OHPO Section 106 Documentation Table (which is generally equivalent to the information found on an inventory form). This information must be printed and mailed with the Project Summary Form. To provide sufficient information to complete this Section, you must also include summary observations from your field survey, background research and eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated in the project APE. N/A
- C. OHI (Ohio Historic Inventory) or OAI (Ohio Archaeological Inventory) forms- New or updated inventory forms may be prepared using the OHI pdf form with data population capabilities, the Internet IForm, or typed on archival quality inventory forms. To provide sufficient information to complete this Section, you must include summary observations from your field survey and background research. You must also include eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated in the project APE. N/A
- D. A historic or archaeological survey report prepared by a qualified consultant that meets professional standards. The survey report should meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and OHPO Archaeological Guidelines. You may also include new inventory forms with your survey or update previous inventory forms. To complete this section, your survey report must include summary observations from your field survey, background research and eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated within the APE. **N/A**
- E. Project Findings. Based on the conclusions you reached in completing Section 3, please

choose one finding for your project. There are (mark one): Historic Properties Present in the APE: **N/A**

No Historic Properties Present in the APE: N/A

SECTION 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

This information must be provided for all projects.

- A. Photographs must be keyed to a street-level map and should be included as attachments to this application. Please label all forms, tables, and CDs with the date of your submission and project name, as identified in Section 1. You must present enough documentation to clearly show existing conditions at your project site and convey details about the buildings, structures or sites that are described in your submission. Faxed or photocopied photographs are not acceptable. See Instructions for more info about photo submissions or 36 CFR § 800.11 for federal documentation standards.
 - 1. Provide photos of the entire project site and take photos to/from historic properties from/towards your project site to support your determination of effect in Section 5. **See Attachment 1 Photographs**
 - 2. Provide current photos of all buildings/structures/sites described.
- B. Project plan, specifications, site drawings and any other media presentation that conveys detailed information about your project and its potential to affect historic properties.
- C. Copies or summaries of any comments provided by consulting parties or the public.

SECTION 5: DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

- A. Request Preliminary Comments. For challenging projects, provide as much information as possible in previous sections and ask OHPO to offer preliminary comments or make recommendations about how to proceed with your project consultation. This is recommended if your project involves effects to significant historic properties, if the public has concerns about your project's potential to affect historic properties, or if there may be challenging procedural issues related to your project. Please be aware that providing information in all Sections will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.
 - We request preliminary comments from OHPO about this project:
 YES
 - 2. Please specify as clearly as possible the particular issues that you would like OHPO to examine for your project (for example- help with developing an APE, addressing the concerns of consulting parties, survey methodology, etc.):

Please review the provided information and respond with your determination relative to the potential effects to cultural resources, if any.

B. **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 OHPO for concurrence, while considering public comments. Please select and mark one of the following determinations, then explain the basis for your decision on an attached sheet of paper:

- **No historic properties will be affected** based on 36 CFR § 800.4(d) (1). Please explain how you made this determination:
- **No Adverse Effect** [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties. This finding cannot be used if there are no historic properties present in your project APE. Please explain why the Criteria of Adverse Effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a) (1)], were found not to be applicable for your project:
- Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d) (2)] on historic properties. Please explain why the criteria of adverse effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a) (1)], were found to be applicable to your project. You may also include an explanation of how these adverse effects might be avoided, reduced or mitigated:

Please send completed form and supporting documentation to our office through the section106@ohiohistory.org e-mail address. Note that file size is limited to 30 MB. The Ohio SHPO has a federally mandated review time of 30 calendar day. To check your submission was received and logged in for our review, please visit https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpreviews/section-106-project-status.

REFERENCES

Griffing, B. N.

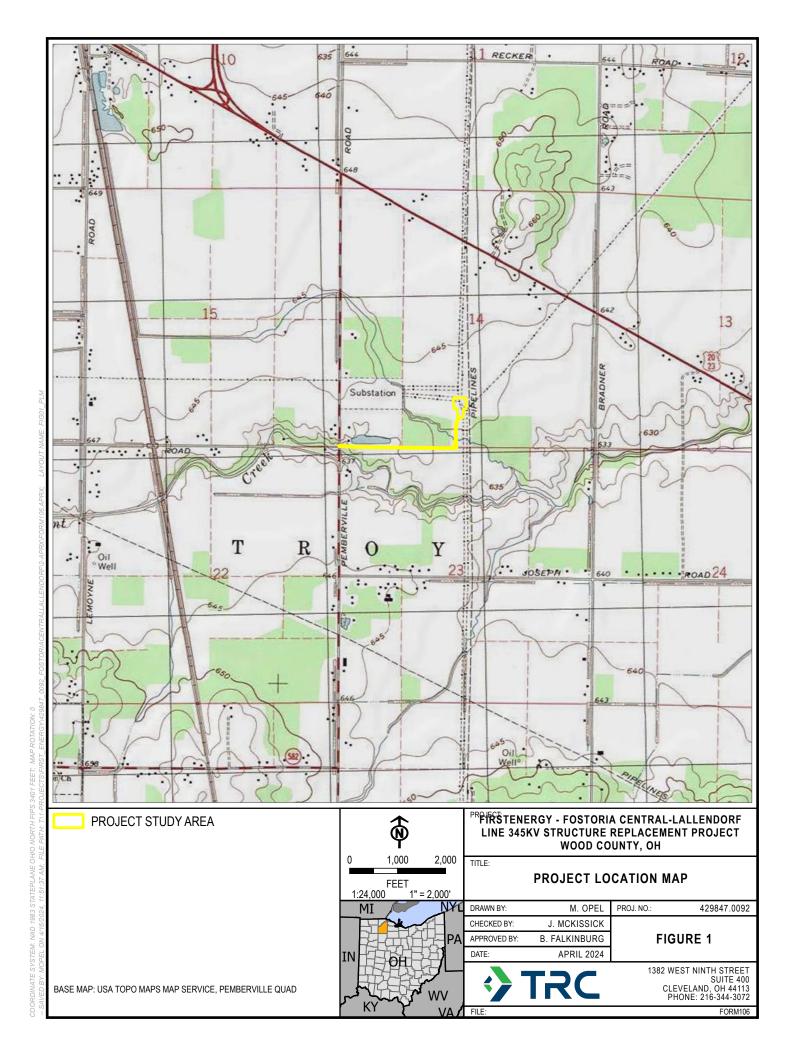
1886 "Troy" in An Atlas of Wood County, Ohio. Published by Griffing, Gordon, and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Electronic document, https://historic-mapworks.com/Map/US/174909/Troy+Township++Lemoyne++Stony+Ridge++Luckey++Webb+P+O/Wood+County+1886/Ohio/, accessed March 15, 2024.

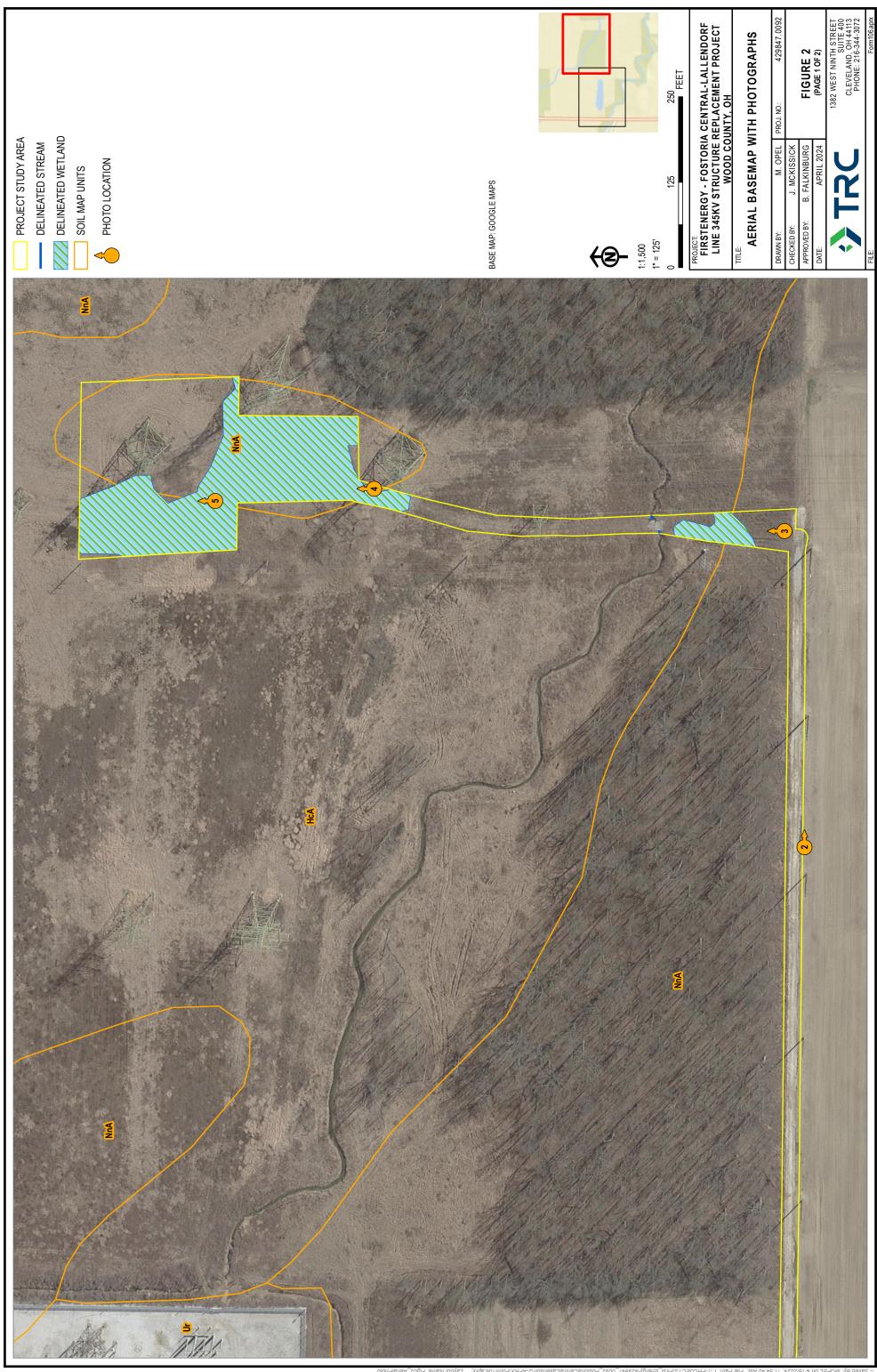
Rossback and Wismar

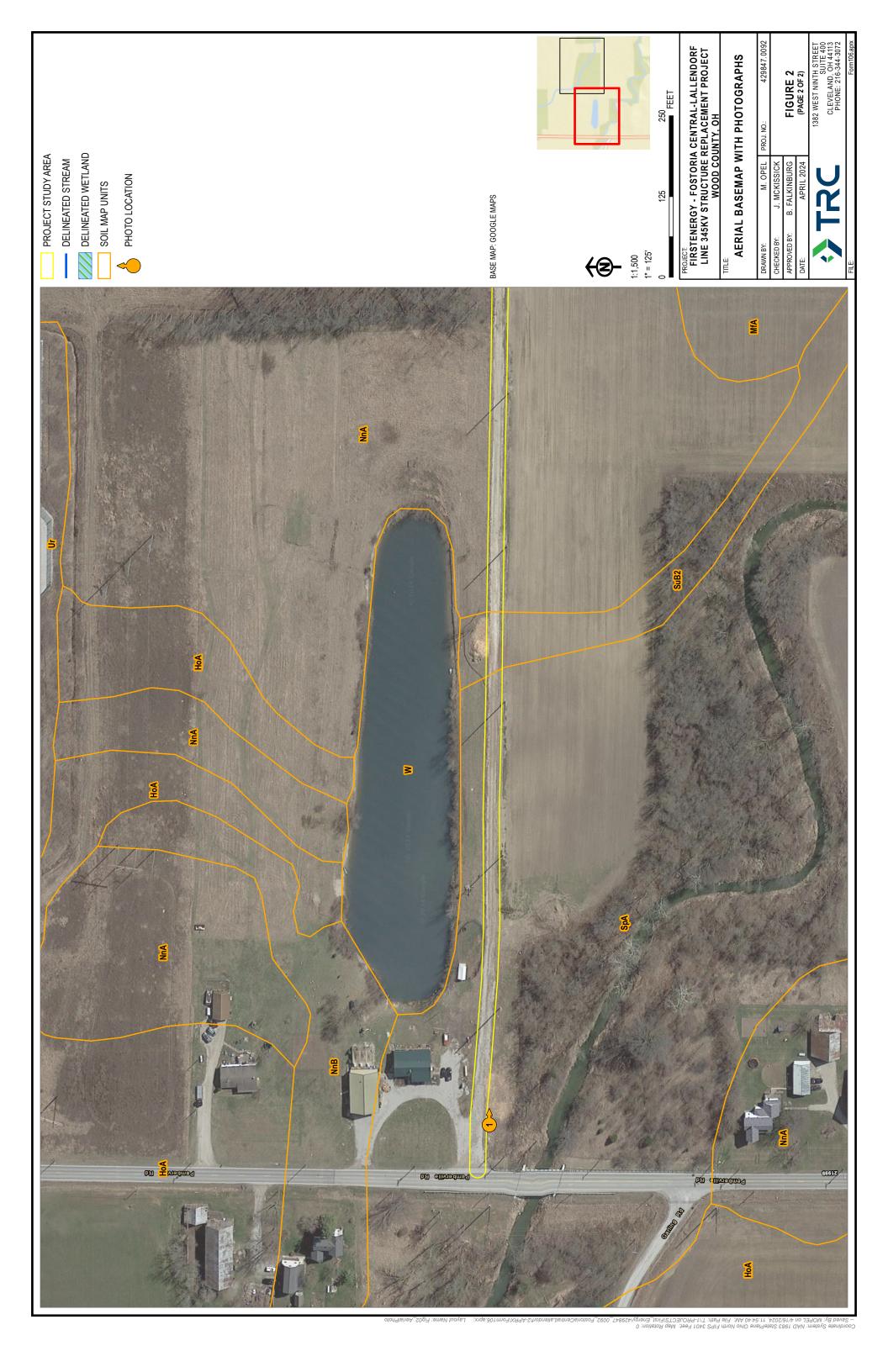
1912 "Troy" in An Atlas of Wood County, Ohio. Published by Maumee Valley Map Company, Bowling Green, Ohio. Electronic document, https://www.loc.gov/-resource/g4083wm.gla00037/?sp=70&st=image&r=-0.206,0.157,1.47,0.918,0, accessed March 15, 2024.

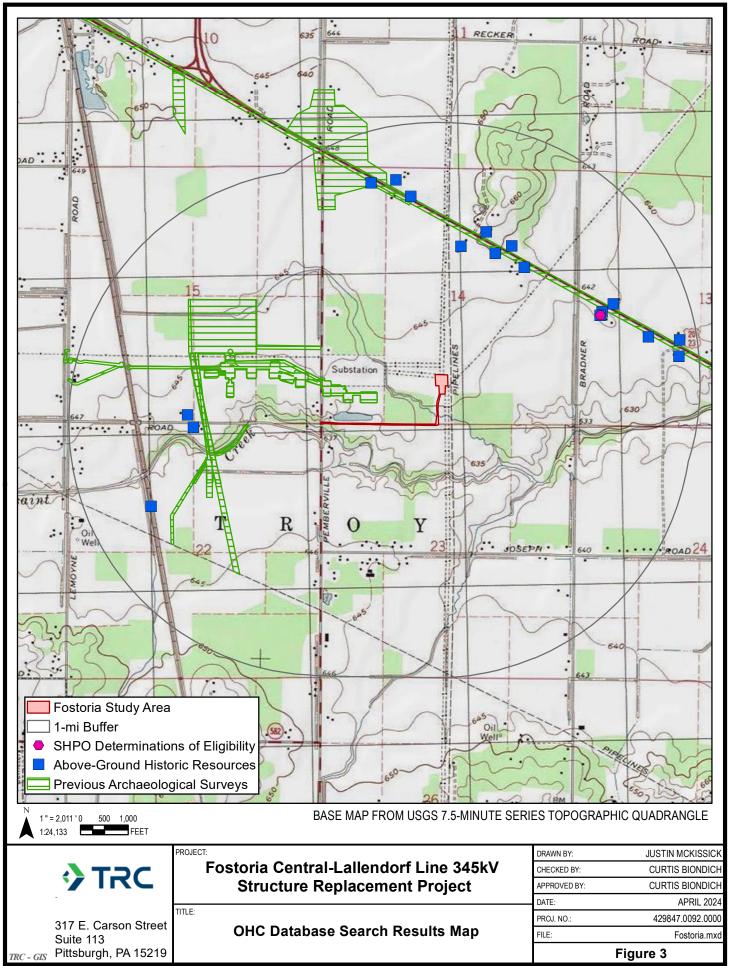
United States Geographical Survey

1959 Pemberville, OH, 7.5-minute series topographic series. Electronic document, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#15/41.3954/-83.4217, accessed March 15, 2024.











ATTACHMENT 1

Photographs



PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV Structure Replacement Project

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

FirstEnergy Corporation

Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio

429847.0092.0000

Photo No. 1.

Date:

March 25, 2024

Description:

Facing east, viewing the existing access road from the western extent of the Study Area.



Photo No. 2.

Date:

March 25, 2024

Description:

Facing east, viewing the existing access road from the central portion of the Study Area.





PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV Structure Replacement Project

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

FirstEnergy Corporation

Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio

429847.0092.0000

Photo No. 3.

Date:

March 25, 2024

Description:

Facing north, viewing the existing utility corridor from the eastern extent of the existing access road within the Study Area.



Photo No. 4.

Date:

March 25, 2024

Description:

Facing north, viewing the southern portion of the Study Area at the northern extent. Note the extensive wetland.





PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV Structure Replacement Project

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

FirstEnergy Corporation

Troy Township, Wood County, Ohio

429847.0092.0000

Photo No. 5.

Date:

March 25, 2024

Description:

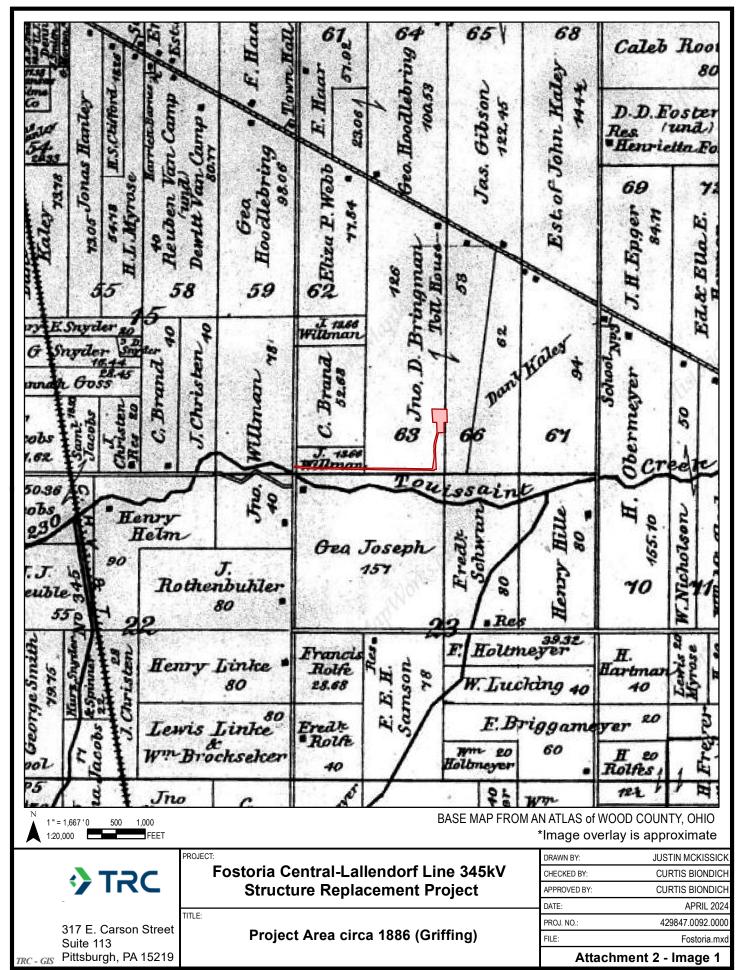
Facing north, viewing the northern portion of the Study Area at the northern extent.

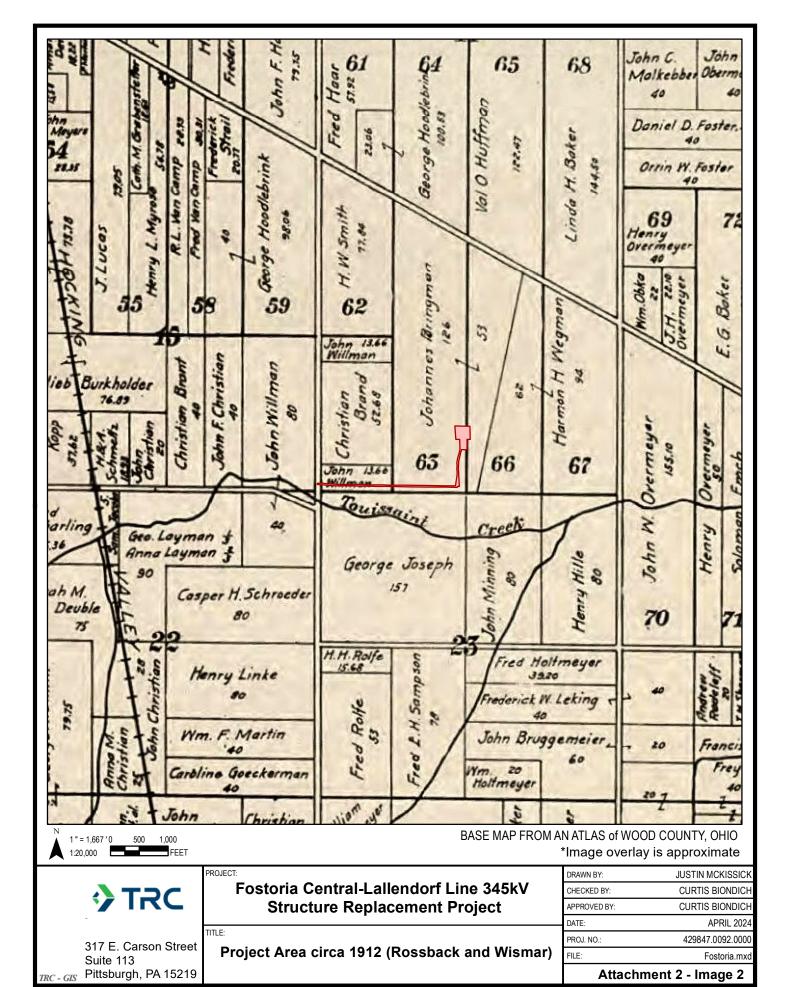


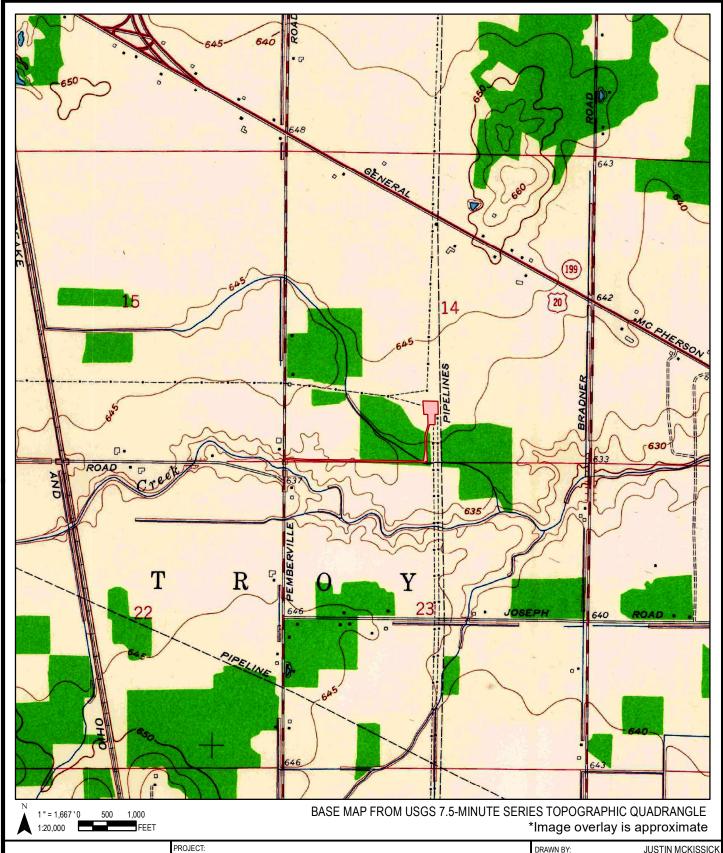


ATTACHMENT 2

Historic Map Images









317 E. Carson Street Suite 113 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV
Structure Replacement Project

Project Area circa 1959 (USGS)

DRAWN BY: JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY: CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE: APRIL 2024
PROJ. NO.: 429847.0092.0000
FILE: Fostoria.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 3

C:\Users\jmckissick\OneDrive - TRC\Documents\Projects\Various\Fostoria.mxd -- Saved By: JMCKISSICK on 4/15/2024, 12:31:12 PM



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, Ohio 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6661

Fax: (614) 267-4764

April 26, 2024

Maggie Molnar TRC Companies, Inc. 1382 West 9th Street, Suite 400 Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Re: 24-0535_Fostoria Central-Lallendorf Line 345kV Structure Replacement

Project: The proposed project involves the replacement of structure 102-1 on Fostoria Central-Lallendorf 345kV transmission line.

Location: The proposed project is located in Troy Township, Wood 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 ≥ 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. This project must not have an impact on native mussels. This applies to both listed and non-listed species, as all species of mussel are protected in Ohio. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2022), all Group 2, 3, and 4 streams (Appendix A) require a mussel survey. Per the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Group 1 streams (Appendix A) and unlisted streams with a watershed of 5 square miles or larger above the point of impact should be assessed using the Reconnaissance Survey for Unionid Mussels (Appendix B) to determine if mussels are present. Mussel surveys may be recommended for these streams as well. Therefore, if in-water work is planned in any stream that meets any of the above criteria, the DOW recommends the applicant provide information to indicate no mussel impacts will occur. If this is not possible, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist conduct a mussel survey in the project area. If mussels that cannot be avoided are found in the project area, the DOW recommends a professional malacologist collect and relocate the mussels to suitable and similar habitat upstream of the project site. Mussel surveys and any subsequent mussel relocation should be done in accordance with the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol. If there is no in-water work proposed, impacts to mussels are not likely.

The project is within the range of the western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphananus menona*), a state endangered fish, and the greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet meadows and other wetlands. 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.

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

The <u>local floodplain administrator</u> 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



April 19, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0066420

Dear Maggie Molnar:

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).

<u>Federally Threatened and Endangered Species</u>: 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,

Erin Knoll

Field Office Supervisor