

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF 401 APPLICATION

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water (DSW) has received an application for, and has begun to consider whether to issue or deny, a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for a project to install the Stacy Substation and a 138 kV overhead electric transmission line connecting the Stacy Substation to an existing transmission line to meet the demands of higher than average electric load growth. The application was submitted by Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and American Transmission Systems, Incorporated. The project is located within an approximate 14.7 mile long corridor spanning from Mayfield Road to Stocking Road. The Buffalo District Corps of Engineers Public Notice Number for this project is 2009-01427. The Ohio EPA ID Number for this project is 093580.

As required by the Antidegradation Rule, rule 3745-1-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), three alternatives have been submitted for the project. The applicant's proposed preferred alternative, if approved, would extend through an approximate 14.7 mile corridor filling 0.03 acre of wetland, placing 5 upright poles in wetlands along with guying anchors for four additional poles, requiring 3 permanent stream crossings, and converting 6.7 acres of forested wetland to scrub shrub wetland. This alignment represents the route approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in the November 24, 2008 Certificate. The applicant's proposed minimal degradation alternative, if approved, would extend through an approximate 12.05 mile corridor placing 6 upright poles in wetlands, and converting approximately 1.7 acres of forested wetland to scrub shrub wetland. This alternate route was proposed but not selected by the OPSB. The applicant's proposed non-degradation alternative, if approved, would have no direct impacts on waters of the state but would not address the project's needs.

Discharges from the activity, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality within the Grand River watershed. Ohio EPA will review the application, and decide whether to grant or deny the application, in accordance with OAC Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-32. In accordance with OAC rule 3745-1-05, an antidegradation review of the application will be conducted before deciding whether to allow a lowering of water quality. All three proposed alternatives will be considered during the review process. No exclusions or waivers, as outlined by OAC rule 3745-1-05, apply or may be granted.

Starting February 17, 2011, copies of the application and technical support information may be inspected at Ohio EPA-DSW, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio, by first calling (614) 644-2001. Copies of the application and technical support information can be made available upon request at Ohio EPA District Offices by calling the same number.

Persons wishing to 1) be on Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list for this project, 2) request a public hearing, or 3) submit written comments for Ohio EPA's consideration in reviewing the application should do so in writing to Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 within thirty days of the date of this public notice.