# Construction Notice Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY \*\*

PUCO Case No. 23-0694-EL-BNR

Submitted to:

The Ohio Power Siting Board Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05

Submitted by:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

#### **Construction Notice**

#### AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

#### 4906-6-05

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the "Company") provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

#### 4906-6-05(B) General Information

#### **B(1) Project Description**

The name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice.

The Company proposes to construct the Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project (the "Project") in the Village of Barnesville, Belmont County, Ohio. The purpose of the Project is to provide looped 138 kV service to the Pumpkin distribution Station from the existing Speidel-Barnesville 69 kV transmission line (approved in Case No. 16-0437-EL-BTX and the amendment filing 19-1067-EL-BTA). The Speidel-Barnesville line currently operates at 69 kV but was built to 138 kV standards. The single circuit cut-in will also operate initially at 69 kV but will be capable of 138 kV operation. The length of the proposed Project is less than 0.2 mile. The location of the Project is shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2 in Appendix A.

The Project meets the requirements for a CN because it is within the types of projects defined by item (1)(a) of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01 Appendix A of the Application Requirement Matrix For Electric Power Transmission Lines:

- (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 operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:
  - (a) Line(s) not greater than 0.2 miles in length.

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 23-0694-EL-BNR.

#### **B(2)** Statement of Need

If the proposed project is an electric power transmission line or gas or natural gas transmission line, a statement explaining the need for the proposed facility.

The Project is necessary in order to serve a request from AEP Ohio for a new, non-jurisdictional Pumpkin 138/12 kV distribution station in Barnesville, Ohio. The new Pumpkin Station will replace the aging

#### Construction Notice for Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

Barnesville Station. Attempting to rebuild the existing Barnesville Station at its current location was not a viable option due to space constraints at the station and its congested location in the middle of town.

AEP Ohio has requested a new load delivery point due to capacity loading limits at the Barnesville 138/12 kV substation. The station is limited by its capacity and has an antiquated protection scheme, as well as equipment that is aging and due for replacement. In addition, Barnesville Station is served radially, meaning any issues along the 0.4-mile radial tap will cause the station to lose service entirely. The looped transmission configuration will result in improved reliability for local AEP Ohio customers.

Failure to move forward with the Project will result in an inability to address aging equipment and reliability issues.

The need and solution were presented and reviewed with stakeholders at the November 19, 2021 and January 21, 2022 PJM SSRTEP Western Meeting. The project was subsequently assigned PJM supplemental project number s2688. This Project will be included in the AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. most recent 2023 Supplemental Long-Term Forecast Report (See Appendix B).

#### **B(3) Project Location**

The applicant shall provide the location of the project in relation to existing or proposed lines and substations shown on an area system map of sufficient scale and size to show existing and proposed transmission facilities in the Project Area.

The location of the Project in relation to existing and proposed transmission lines and substations is shown in Figure 1 of Appendix A.

#### **B(4)** Alternatives Considered

The applicant shall describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility. The discussion shall include, but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.

The Project is located on Company-owned property and will energize a proposed distribution substation. Based on the existing facilities in the area, the proposed location is the most suitable for the Project. Other alternatives would require impacting neighboring properties, as opposed to remaining entirely on the Company's property, and would add additional transmission length to the Project without any additional benefit. The proposed Project is not anticipated to impact wetlands, streams, or any known cultural resource areas eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, this alternative represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's needs in the area.

#### **B(5) Public Information Program**

The applicant shall describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and tenants of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.

The Company maintains a website (http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision affected by this Project. The Company also retains land agents who will discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities with affected owners and tenants.

#### **B(6)** Construction Schedule

The applicant shall provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in January 2024, and the anticipated in-service date will be May 2024.

#### B(7) Area Map

The applicant shall provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.

Figure 1 in Appendix A provides the proposed Project area on a map of 1:24,000-scale (1 inch equals 2,000 feet), showing the Project on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map of the Barnesville, Ohio quadrangle. Figure 2 in Appendix A show the Project Area on recent aerial photography, dated 2021, as provided by ESRI's World Imagery at a scale of 1:6,000 scale (1 inch equals 500 feet).

To visit the Project site from Columbus, Ohio, take I-70 West for approximately 100 miles, and take exit #202 for OH-800 toward Dennison/Barnesville. Turn right onto OH-800 South/Barnesville Hendrysburg Road and travel south for approximately six miles (becomes South Chestnut Street). Turn right onto Sycamore Street and continue into the Project Area. The Project Area is at the approximate latitude 39.978775°, -81.176707°.

#### **B(8) Property Agreements**

The applicant shall provide a list of properties for which the applicant has obtained easements, options, and/or land use agreements necessary to construct and operate the facility and a list of the additional properties for which such agreements have not been obtained.

The proposed Project is located on four parcels. Parcel Numbers 42-01015.000 and 41-00580.000 are owned by the Company. The Project also crosses Parcels 42-00877.000 and 42-00878.000, which have

#### Construction Notice for Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

existing right-of-way (ROW) and no supplemental easements are required. No other property easements, options, or land use agreements are necessary to construct the Project or operate the transmission line.

A list of properties required for the Project is provided in the table below.

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	<b>Easement/ Option Obtained</b>		
		(Yes/No)		
41.00580.000	Company Owned	Not Applicable		
42-01015.000	Company Owned	Not Applicable		
42-00877.000	Existing ROW	Yes		
42-00878.000	Existing ROW	Yes		

#### **B(9)** Technical Features

The applicant shall describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

# B(9)(a) Operating characteristics, estimated number and types of structures required, and right-of-way and/or land requirements.

Line Asset Name: Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV

Ownership: AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.

Voltage: 138 kV

Conductors: (3) 1234 KCM ACSR (38/19) ACSS/TW YUKON

Static Wire: 7#8 Alumoweld

Insulators: Polymer ROW Width: 100 feet

Structure Type: (1) Single Circuit, Monopole Deadend, custom concrete pier foundation

(1) Three-pole, single circuit, Deadend, custom concrete pier foundations

#### B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

For electric power transmission lines that are within one hundred feet of an occupied residence or institution, the production of electric and magnetic fields during the operation of the proposed electric power transmission line.

No occupied residences or institutions are located within 100 feet of the Project.

#### **B(9)(c) Project Cost**

#### The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable and capital costs, is approximately \$1,300,000 using a Class 4 estimate. Pursuant to the PJM OATT, the costs for this Project will be recovered in AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc.'s FERC formula rate (Attachment H-20 to the PJM OATT) and allocated to the AEP Zone.

Construction Notice for Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

**B(10) Social and Ecological Impacts** 

The applicant shall describe the social and ecological impacts of the project:

B(10)(a) Land Use Characteristics

Provide a brief, general description of land use within the vicinity of the proposed project, including a list of municipalities, townships, and counties affected.

An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as Figure 2 in Appendix A. The Project is located in the Village of Barnesville, Belmont County, Ohio. Land use in the Project Area consists of a Company property planned for development with a distribution substation (which is currently fallow), existing transmission line right-of-way, and adjacent residential and wooded properties.

#### B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

Provide the acreage and a general description of all agricultural land, and separately all agricultural district land, existing at least sixty days prior to submission of the application within the potential disturbance area of the project.

Almost the entire Company property, including the entirety of the Project, is undeveloped with a mix of existing right-of-way, old field, and woodland. No agricultural land is crossed by the Project. The Belmont County Auditor indicated on May 9, 2023 that none of the parcels crossed by the Project are registered as Agricultural District Land.

#### B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of significant archaeological or cultural resources that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

The Company's consultant completed a Phase I Cultural Resource Management Investigation of the Project Area in April 2023. No further investigation was considered to be necessary by the consultant. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") agreed that the Project will not impact any cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP and no additional coordination is necessary prior to construction. A copy of the May 19, 2023 concurrence letter from SHPO is provided in Appendix C.

#### B(10)(d) Local, State, and Federal Agency Correspondence

Provide a list of the local, state, and federal governmental agencies known to have requirements that must be met in connection with the construction of the project, and a list of documents that have been or are being filed with those agencies in connection with siting and constructing the project.

A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHCD000006. The Company will also coordinate storm water permitting needs with Belmont County as required. The Company will implement and maintain best management practices as outlined in the Project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") to minimize erosion control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events.

No streams or wetlands are located in the Project work areas (see Appendix D). Therefore, the Project will not require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the OEPA.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map number **39013C0275E**). Based on this mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project Area. Therefore, no floodplain permit will be required for this Project

There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the proposed Project.

#### B(10)(e) Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of federal and state designated species (including endangered species, threatened species, rare species, species proposed for listing, species under review for listing, and species of special interest) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office seeking technical assistance on the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. The July 27, 2022, response letter from the USFWS (see Appendix C) indicated that seasonal tree clearing would be required if bat habitat trees were identified. Due to the Project type, size, and location, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species.

A coordination letter was submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Division of Wildlife ("DOW") Ohio Natural Heritage Program ("ONHP") and the ODNR - Office of Real Estate in July 2022, seeking an environmental review of the proposed Project for potential impacts on state-listed and

#### Construction Notice for Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

federally listed threatened or endangered species. Correspondence from ODNR's DOW/OHNP and the ODNR – Office of Real Estate was received on August 15, 2022. (see Appendix C).

According to the ODNR-DOW, the Project is within the range of the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tri-colored bat. ODNR commented the Project is in the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat, a state-endangered species. Due to the record of the Indiana bat in the vicinity of the Project and related buffer area, the ODNR recommends cutting between October 1 and March 31. If cutting must occur during summer months, the ODNR recommends additional coordination with ODNR. Based on a desktop survey for caves, mines, and other potential openings, no winter hibernacula were identified within 0.25 mile of the Project Area (See Appendix D), and tree clearing is expected to adhere to the seasonal restrictions. Therefore, no additional coordination with ODNR is anticipated.

The ODNR-DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of four fish species and the butterfly mussel. In addition, the ODNR lists the project in the range of the eastern hellbender, a state-threatened species and federal species of concern. Due to no in-water work proposed, these species are not anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

The ODNR-DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the northern harrier and upland sandpiper. Due to the absence of potential nesting habitat for these ground nesting birds, these species are not anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

#### B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

Provide a description of the applicant's investigation concerning the presence or absence of areas of ecological concern (including national and state forests and parks, floodplains, wetlands, designated or proposed wilderness areas, national and state wild and scenic rivers, wildlife areas, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, and wildlife sanctuaries) that may be located within the potential disturbance area of the project, a statement of the findings of the investigation, and a copy of any document produced as a result of the investigation.

Correspondence received from the USFWS indicated that there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitats in the Project vicinity (see Appendix D).

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps were consulted to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped in the Project Area (specifically, map number **39013C0275E**). Based on these maps, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project area.

Wetland and stream delineation field surveys were completed within the Project area by the Company's consultant in November 2022. No wetlands or streams were identified within the Project Area (see Figure 2 in Appendix D).

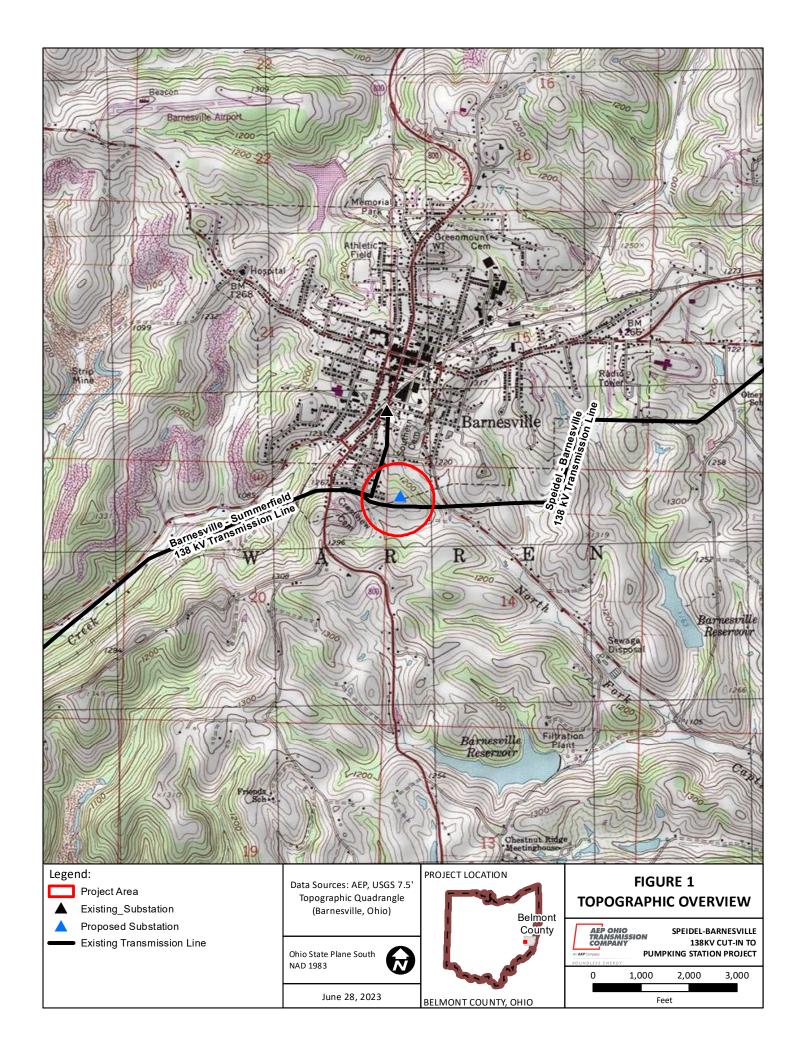
#### Construction Notice for Speidel-Barnesville 138 kV Cut-in to Pumpkin Station Project

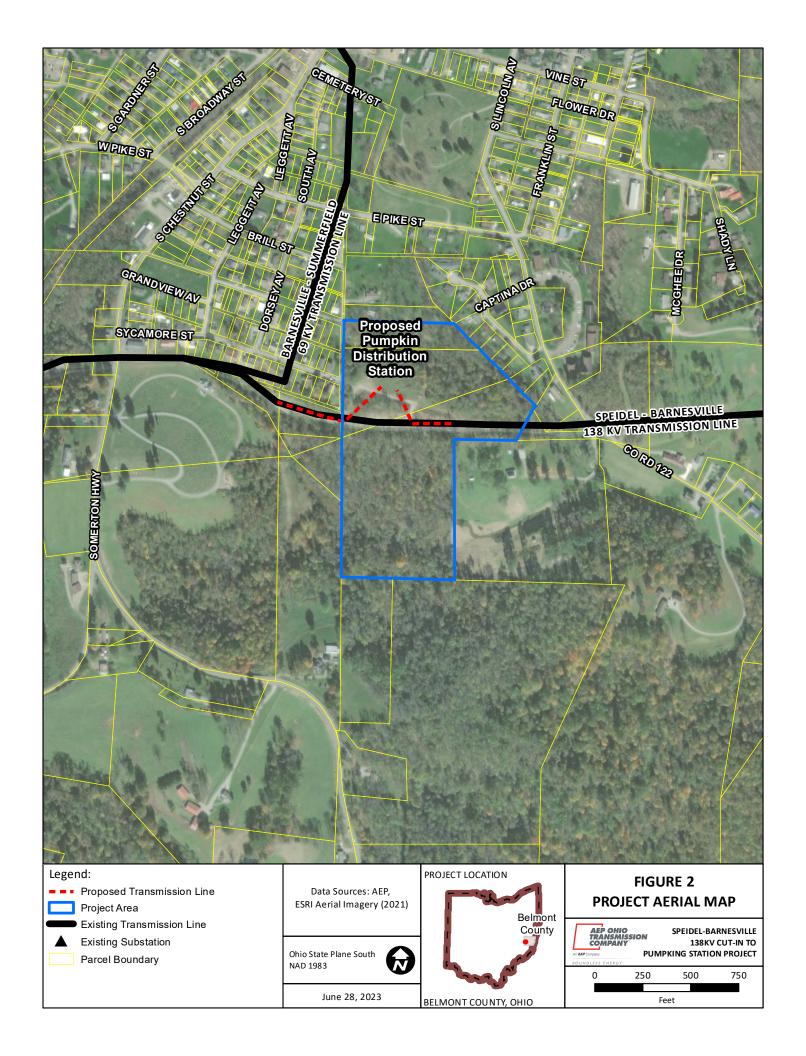
#### **B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions**

Provide any known additional information that will describe any unusual conditions resulting in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

To the best of the Company's knowledge, no unusual conditions exist that would result in significant environmental, social, health, or safety impacts.

# **Appendix A Project Maps**





# **Appendix B PJM Solution**



Need Number: AEP-2021-OH061

**Process Stage:** Solution Meeting 01/21/2022

Previously Presented: Need Meeting 11/19/2021

**Project Driver:** 

Customer Service; Operational Flexibility and Efficiency

**Specific Assumption Reference:** 

AEP Guidelines for Transmission Owner Identified Needs; AEP Connection Requirements (AEP

Assumptions Slides 12-13)

**Problem Statement:** 

**Customer Service:** 

AEP Ohio has requested a new load delivery point due to capacity loading limits at the Barnesville 69/12kV substation. The station is limited by its power transformer and secondary cables. The transformer was manufactured in 1968, has poor oil quality, and has bushing issues reported.

#### Operational Flexibility and Efficiency:

The station is served radially via a 0.4-mile 69kV tap. This T-line tap dates back to 1942, with original #1 copper conductor, and currently has 2 open conditions. Other projects in the area have proposed to rebuild the remainder of the 69 kV line in the area.

Barnesville has an obsolete MOAB/ground-switch for the transformer protection system. This requires remote-end breaker clearing many miles away, and drops another tapped AEP Ohio distribution station in the process (Batesville).

# AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Pumpkin Station





Need Number: AEP-2021-OH061

**Process Stage:** Solution Meeting 01/21/2022

**Proposed Solution:** Install a new distribution station ("Pumpkin") adjacent to the 69kV transmission through-path south of Barnesville. Retire Barnesville station. **Estimated Cost \$0.83 Million** (does not include Distribution costs for the station)

Retire the 0.4-mile 69kV transmission line tap into Barnesville station. **Estimated Cost: \$0.46 Million** 

Loop the Speidel-Summerfield 69kV transmission line into Pumpkin station. **Estimated Cost: \$1.38 Million** 

#### IVIIIIOII

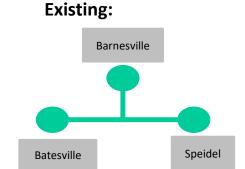
#### Total Estimated Transmission Cost: \$2.67 Million

**Alternatives Considered:** Attempting to rebuild the existing Barnesville station was not a viable option, due to space constraints at the station and its congested location in the middle of town. In addition, the 1940's-vintage 69kV transmission line is not able to be rebuilt due to many siting and right-of-way issues along the route.

Projected In-Service: 12/01/2023

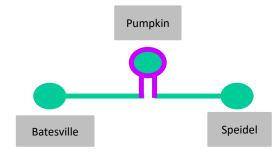
**Project Status:** Scoping **Model:** 2026 PJM RTEP

# AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Pumpkin Station



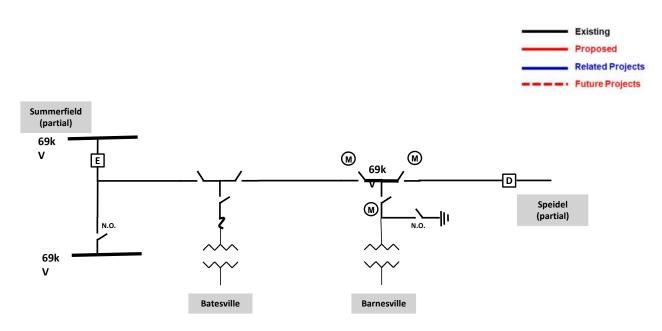
Legend							
500 kV							
345 kV							
138 kV							
69 kV							
34.5 kV							
23 kV							
New							

### **Proposed:**



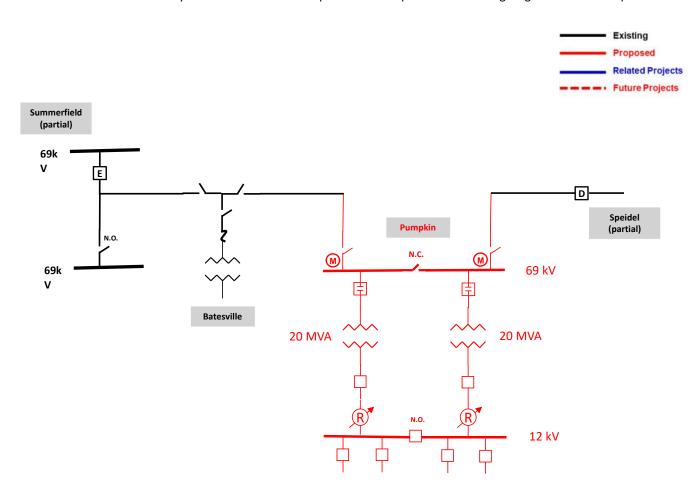


Project System Electrical Diagram (existing)
Include all CPPs in the Master Project. Draw the existing area one line for the buses the project will impact.
Include circuits back to every remote end breaker. Snapshots of the Operations switching diagram are not acceptable.





Project System Electrical Diagram (proposed)
Include all CPPs in the Master Project. Draw the existing area one line for the buses the project will impact.
Include circuits back to every remote end breaker. Snapshots of the Operations switching diagram are not acceptable.



# **Appendix C Agency Coordination**



In reply, refer to 2023-BEL-57814

May 19, 2023

Mr. Ryan J. Weller Weller & Associates, Inc. 1395 West Fifth Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43212

RE: Pumpkin-Barnesville 69kV Transmission Line Installation, Warren Township, Belmont County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received April 27, 2023 regarding the proposed Pumpkin-Barnesville 69kV Transmission Line Installation, Warren Township, Belmont 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 and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-5). 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 following comments pertain to the *Phase I Cultural Resource Management Investigations for the Approximately .5 km* (.3 mi) Pumpkin-Barnesville 69kV Transmission Line Installation in Warren Township, Belmont County, Ohio by Ryan J. Weller and Scott McIntosh (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2023).

A literature review, visual inspection, surface collection, shovel probe, and shovel test unit excavation was completed as part of the investigations. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project area and no new archaeological sites were identified during survey. Our office agrees no additional archaeological investigation is needed.

A literature review and field survey were completed as part of the investigations. A total of twenty-seven (27) resources fifty years of age or older, including with Crestview Cemetery (OGSID 999) and Barnesville Catholic Cemetery (OGSID 994) and a demolished Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) property, were identified within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). Weller recommends these properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It is our offices opinion the eligibility of the cemeteries remain unknown, but will not be affected by the project. Our office agrees with Weller's recommendations of eligibility for the rest of the resources.

Based on the information provided, we agree that the project as proposed will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional historic properties are discovered during implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2022, or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:khorrocks@ohiohistory.org">khorrocks@ohiohistory.org</a> or Joy Williams at <a href="mailto:jwilliams@ohiohistory.org">jwilliams@ohiohistory.org</a>. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Krista Horrocks, Project Reviews Manager

Resource Protection and Review

RPR Serial No: 1098000

#### Holmes, Joshua

From: Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022 10:06 AM

To: Holmes, Joshua

Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; Wyza, Eileen; Hrishenko, Alexander; Miller, Brian;

ajtoohey@aep.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] AEP - Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel-Barnesville T-line Build Project,

Belmont County, Ohio



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

Project Code: 2022-0065274

Dear Mr. Holmes,

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh, we recommend avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-

(see <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

2

Sincerely,

Patrice Ashfield Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW Eileen Wyza, ODNR-DOW



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Fax: (614) 267-4764

Office of Real Estate John Kessler, Chief 2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2 Columbus, OH 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6621

August 15, 2022

Joshua Holmes AECOM Foster Plaza 6 681 Anderson Drive, Suite 120 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

Re: 22-0749; AEP Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel-Barnesville T-line Build Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves building a new greenfield substation within a 10-acre parcel to replace the existing Barnesville Station proposed for retirement.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Warren Township, Belmont 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 project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting

inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species 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. The DOW recommends tree 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.

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 "<u>RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES.</u>" 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 following listed mussel species.

State Endangered

butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*)

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

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

State Endangered

western banded killifish (Fundulus diaphanus menona)

#### State Threatened

channel darter (*Percina copelandi*) paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them

unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

The <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 <a href="mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov">mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov</a> if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Mike Pettegrew Environmental Services Administrator

# **Appendix D Ecological Report**

# SPEIDEL-BARNESVILLE LINE INSTALL TR380 PROJECT BELMONT COUNTY, OHIO

## **ECOLOGICAL REPORT**

#### Prepared for:

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company 8600 Smiths Mill Road New Albany, Ohio 43054



#### Prepared by:



525 Vine Street, Suite 1800 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Project #: 60688122

November 2022



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APPENDIX A: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Upland Data Forms

APPENDIX B OEPA Stream Data Forms / Delineated Features Photographs (combined per

stream and shown in numerical order)

APPENDIX C: Habitat Photographic Record APPENDIX D: Agency Correspondence

APPENDIX E: Desktop Assessment for Winter Bat Habitat

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is proposing the Speidel-Barnesville Line Install TR380 Project (Project) in Belmont County, Ohio. The Study Area associated with this Report for the Project is located on the Barnesville, Ohio U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5' topographical quadrangle as displayed on Project Overview Map (**Figure 1**).

The purpose of this project is for the construction of an approximately 0.3-miles of transmission line to tie in the existing Speidel -Barnesville transmission line to the proposed Pumpkin Station in Belmont County, Ohio. A portion of the Project overlaps with previously delineated Pumpkin Station Project Survey as shown on **Figure 2**.

#### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The field survey was conducted over a Project survey area of approximately 3.9 acres. Prior to conducting field surveys, digital U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), FEMA 100-year floodplain data (FEMA), and USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps were reviewed as an exercise to identify the occurrence and location of potential wetland areas.

Field survey activities included recording the physical boundaries of observed water features using submeter capable EOS Arrow Global Positioning System (GPS) units in conjunction with ArcCollector application on iPad tablets. The GPS data was imported into ArcMap Geographic Information System (GIS) software, where the data was reviewed, edited for accuracy, and compiled in a format suitable for transfer and use by AEP Ohio Transco. Water features were delineated and assessed based upon the appropriate procedures detailed below. Land uses observed within the Project survey area were assigned a general classification based upon the principal land characteristics and vegetation cover of the location.

#### 2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

The Project survey area was evaluated according to the procedures outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual) (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: (USACE, 2012) and Eastern Mountain and Piedmont Region (Version 2.4) (EMP Regional Supplement) (USACE, 2012).

During field survey activities AECOM utilized the routine on-site delineation method described in the 1987 Manual and Regional Supplements that consisted of a pedestrian site reconnaissance, including identifying the vegetation communities, soils identification, a geomorphologic assessment of hydrology, and notation of disturbance. If a wetland was identified, AECOM completed a USACE Wetland Determination Data form (USACE Data form) within each unique wetland habitat to serve as a representative of the wetland



hydrology, vegetative community, and soil characteristics. Adjacent to each wetland complex, AECOM completed an additional USACE Data form as a representative of the upland community.

Additionally, USACE Data forms and representative photographs were also taken to represent upland communities where desktop review indicated the potential presence of an aquatic feature based on aerial imagery, two or less wetland criteria were observed, and/or an absence of an aquatic features was observed for areas mapped as an NWI and/or NHD feature.

#### 2.1.1 WETLAND CLASSIFICATION

Wetlands identified in the field were classified based on the naming convention found in *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin *et al*, 1979). The unique wetland habitats were classified as palustrine emergent (PEM), palustrine forested (PFO), palustrine unconsolidated bottom (PUB), palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS), or other classifications for some wetlands, multiple Cowardin classifications may be present where more than one classification's vegetation is dominant (vegetation covers 30 percent or more of the substrate). Where multiple Cowardin classifications are present, the Cowardin classification of the plants that constitute the uppermost layer of vegetation having 30% or greater coverage is listed.

#### 2.1.2 WETLAND ASSESSMENT

Each delineated wetland was assessed following the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) *Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands v. 5.0* (ORAM) (Mack, 2001). Wetland assessments utilized the 10-page ORAM form, providing a final Category rating for each wetland.

#### 2.2 STREAM ASSESSMENT

Streams were identified by the presence of a defined bed and bank, and evidence of an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). The USACE defines OHWM as "that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas" (USACE, 2005).



#### 2.2.1 OEPA PRIMARY HEADWATER HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Stream assessments were conducted using the methods described in the OEPA's *Methods for Assessing Habitat in Flowing Waters*: *Using OEPA's Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index* (Rankin, 2006) and in the OEPA's *Field Methods for Evaluating Primary Headwater Streams in Ohio* (OEPA, 2020). Streams associated with watershed area less than or equal to 1.0 mi² (259ha), and a maximum depth of water pools equal to or less than 15.75 inches were evaluated utilizing the HHEI methodology and all other streams assessed as QHEI. Flow regime (ephemeral, intermittent, perennial) was determined by the appropriate stream assessment score per OEPA manuals (OEPA, 2020) and by AECOM's professional judgment.

Streams assessed in the Project survey area were reviewed for existing OEPA Aquatic Life Use Designations per OEPA's Water Quality Standards (OAC Chapter 3745-1). Those without an existing use designation were assigned a provisional aquatic life use designation based upon habitat assessment results (Rankin, 1989; OEPA 2020).

#### 2.2.2 OEPA 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT ELIGIBILITY

The OEPA has designated each watershed in the state on the basis of whether it may be ineligible for coverage under Ohio EPA's 401 Water Quality Certification for Nationwide Permits. Mapping provided by OEPA illustrate the eligibility of streams in the area for a nationwide 401 permit. Three categories are identified: eligible, ineligible, and possibly eligible with additional field screening required. Impacts to streams within each watershed would then have eligibility for 401 Water Quality Certification determined by the watershed category. The three categories are defined as:

*Eligible*: Streams within the watershed are eligible for coverage under Ohio EPA's water quality certification for the nationwide permits if all other general and regional special terms and conditions are met.

*Ineligible*: Projects affecting high quality streams and undesignated streams draining directly to high quality streams, as represented in the map, must undergo an individual 401 Water Quality Certification review process.

**Possibly Eligible**: Additional field screening procedures are required for streams in the watershed to determine appropriate eligibility. Projects affecting undesignated streams within those HUC12 watersheds that do not directly but eventually drain into high quality waters, might be eligible for coverage under Ohio EPA's 401 Water Quality Certification for Nationwide Permits depending on the results of a field screening assessment. The procedures for determining individual stream eligibility in this scenario are specified in Appendix D "Stream Eligibility Determination Process" of the OEPA Ohio State Water Quality Certification of the 2017 Nationwide Permit Reauthorization.



#### 2.2.3 UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURES

An upland drainage feature (UDF) is a non-jurisdictional drainage that does not meet the criteria of either a jurisdictional stream or a wetland. A UDF generally lacks an OWHM (USACE, 2005), and are equivalent to a swale or an erosional feature as described by the USACE: "generally shallow features in the landscape that may convey water across upland areas during and following storm events. Swales usually occur on nearly flat slopes and typically have grass or other low-lying vegetation throughout the swale" (USACE, 2007).

A roadside ditch may also be documented as a UDF if it meets the "not potentially jurisdictional" characterization as described in the Office of Environmental Services *Roadway Ditch Characterization Flowchart* (Ohio Department of Transportation, 2014). This would include a ditch that originates entirely within the roadway right-of-way, has a seasonal flow regime, was not constructed to drain a wetland, and does not have hydrophytic vegetation extending more than an insignificant amount beyond its original configuration.

In addition, UDF's (including swales, ditches, and other erosional features) are generally not "waters of the U.S." except in certain circumstances, such as relocated streams.

#### 2.3 RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

AECOM conducted a rare, threatened, and endangered species review and general field habitat surveys within the Project survey area. AECOM submitted requests to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Real Estate – Environmental Review Section and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ohio Ecological Services Field Office soliciting comments on the proposed Project. Responses were received on July 27, 2022, and August 15, 2022, respectively (**Appendix D**). Agency-identified species of concern and available species-specific information was reviewed to identify the various habitat types that listed species are known to inhabit.

AECOM field ecologists conducted a general habitat survey in conjunction with the stream and wetland field surveys as part of assessing potential impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species. Land uses within the Project survey area were assigned a general classification based upon the principal land characteristics and vegetative cover as observed during the field surveys.

AECOM conducted a desktop assessment of the Project survey area and a quarter-mile buffer around it to identify potentially occurring winter bat hibernaculum that may be present near the Project which is located in **Appendix E**. This assessment was conducted by reviewing data on mining activity and karst geology from the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources and United States Geological Survey websites.



#### 3.0 RESULTS

On November 2, 2022, AECOM ecologists walked the Project survey area to conduct the wetland delineation, stream assessment and habitat survey. Within the Project survey area, AECOM delineated one stream and no wetlands were identified within the project survey area. The delineated features are discussed in detail in the following sections.

#### 3.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

#### 3.1.1 PRELIMINARY SOILS EVALUATION

Soils in delineated wetlands were observed and documented as part of the delineation methodology. According to the USDA/NRCS Web Soil Survey, three soil series are mapped within the Project survey area (USDA NRCS 2021a and 2021b). Of these, no soil map units are identified as hydric. **Table 1** below provides a detailed overview of all soil series and soil map units present within the Project survey area. Soil map units located in the Project survey area and vicinity are shown on **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1 - SOIL MAP UNITS AND DESCRIPTIONS WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Soil Series	Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Description	Topographic Setting	Hydric	Hydric Component (%)	
Allegheny	AeC	Allegheny variant loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Benches on terraces, coves on terraces	No	N/A	
Lowell-Westmoreland LoC		Lowell-Westmoreland silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Ridges	No	N/A	
Westmoreland	WmD	Westmoreland silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Hills	No	N/A	

#### 3.1.2 NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAP REVIEW

According to NWI data covering the Project location, the Project survey area contains no mapped NWI wetlands. The locations of NWI mapped wetlands in the Project vicinity are shown on **Figure 2**.

#### 3.1.3 DELINEATED WETLANDS

During the field survey, AECOM did not identify any wetlands. Representative uplands were taken to characterize the study area. These points are provided on **Figure 3**. Completed USACE data each upland are provided in **Appendix A**.



#### 3.2 STREAM DELINEATION

During the field survey, AECOM delineated one intermittent was identified as a Class I PHW stream within the Project Survey area. No QHEI evaluations or streams with an existing OEPA Aquatic Life Use Designation were identified within the Project Survey Area.

AECOM has provided a provisional determination that all delineated streams within the Project survey area appear to be jurisdictional (i.e., WOTUS), based on their observed or presumed confluence with downstream waters. Final jurisdictional status can only be determined by the USACE, and AECOM assessments are provisional. A summary of the delineated streams is provided in **Table 2**. Stream data forms and photographs of each delineated stream resource are provided in **Appendix B**.

#### 3.2.1 OEPA STREAM ELIGIBILITY

OEPA stream eligibility for 401 Water Quality Certification mapping was reviewed for the delineated stream. The Project occurs across one watershed, designated by 401 WQC eligibility, as listed in **Table 3**. The watershed is listed as "possibly eligible". OEPA stream eligibility mapping for the Project vicinity, is provided on **Figure 4**.

#### 3.3 FEMA 100 YEAR FLOODPLAINS

Mapped FEMA designated 100-year floodplains and floodways are displayed on **Figure 2**. No regulated FEMA 100-year floodplains and/or floodways are located within the Project area.



#### TABLE 2 - SUMMARY OF DELINEATED STREAMS WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Stream ID	Loc	ation		Stream Name	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Field Evaluation		Ohio EPA		Proposed Impacts		
	Latitude	Longitude	Stream Type					Method	Score	Classification / Rating / OAC Designation	401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing	Fill Type	Length (LF)
S-MRK-002	39.979543	-81.180194	Intermittent	UNT to North Fork Captina Creek	146	3.5	1.75	HHEI	29	Class 1 PHW	Possibly Eligible	No	None	0
Total:					146									0

<sup>\*</sup>Structure placement and aquatic crossing details have not been established at this time



TABLE 3 - SUMMARY OF WATERSHED 401 WQC ELIGIBILITY WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

HUC-12	Watershed	401 WQC Eligibility	Number of Stream Assessments	
050301060901	North Fork Captina Creek	Possibly Eligible	1	
		Total	1	

#### 3.4 PONDS

No ponds were observed within the Project survey area.

#### 3.5 UPLAND DRAINAGE FEAUTURES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

No upland drainage features were observed within the Project survey area.

#### 3.6 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

AECOM ecologists conducted a general habitat survey in conjunction with the stream and wetland field surveys. A variety of woody and herbaceous lands, as described in **Table 4**, below, are present within the Project survey area, including developed open space and forested areas. Habitat descriptions applicable to the Project are provided below. Vegetative communities are depicted visually on aerial photography in **Figure 5**.



TABLE 4- VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Vegetative Community	Description	Approximate Acreage Within the Project Survey Area	Approximate Percentage Within the Project Survey Area
Old Field	Grassland and/or herbaceous cover alongside roads, field borders, and abandoned fields, as the initial stages of recolonization by plants following disturbance, and are infrequently mowed areas dominated by grasses, forbs, and occasional woody species. This community type is typically short-lived, giving way progressively to shrub and forest communities unless periodically redisturbed, in which case they remain as old fields.	2.6	66.7
Woodlands (Successional mixed hardwood forest)	Woodlands (floodplain, upland, successional-mixed, etc) are present along the Project survey area. Woody species dominating these areas included black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). The dominant shrub-layer species included black locust and Allegheny blackberry (Rubus allegheniensis).	0.4	10.3
Urban	Urban areas are areas developed with residential and commercial land uses, including roads, buildings and parking lots. These areas are generally devoid of significant woody and herbaceous vegetation.	0.9	23.0
Totals:		3.9	100%

#### 3.7 RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AGENCY COORDINATION

#### Protected Species Agency Consultation -

AECOM conducted a rare, threatened, and endangered species review for areas within the Project survey area. A summary of the agency coordination is provided below. Correspondence letters from the USFWS and ODNR for Speidel-Barnesville Line Install TR380 Project are included as **Appendix D**. **Table 5** provides a list of species of concern identified by the agencies as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the Project. Photographs of the habitat within the Project area is provided as **Appendix C**.



TABLE 5
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name		Federal		Potential Habitat Observed in the	Avoidance	S WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA	
(Scientific Name)	State Status	Status	Habitat Description	Project Survey	Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
				Area	Ma	 mmals	
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	Winter Indiana bat hibernacula include caves and mines, while summer habitat typically includes tree species exhibiting exfoliating bark or cavities that can be used for roosting. The 8- to 10-inch diameter size classes of several species of hickory ( <i>Carya</i> spp.), oak ( <i>Quercus</i> spp.), ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), birch ( <i>Betula</i> spp.), and elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> spp.) have been found to be utilized by the Indiana bat. These tree species and many others may be used when dead, if there are adequately sized patches of loosely adhering bark or open cavities. The structural configuration of forest stands favored for roosting includes a mixture of loose-barked trees with 60 to 80 percent canopy closure and a low-density subcanopy (less than 30 percent between about 6 feet high and the base canopy). The suitability of roosting habitat for foraging or the proximity to suitable foraging habitat is critical to the evaluation of a particular tree stand. An open subcanopy zone, under a moderately dense canopy, is important to allow maneuvering while catching insect prey.	Summer habitat Yes - Within the Project survey area, areas of young successional forest were identified which appear to be potentially suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat.  Hibernaculum(a) No - No Mines openings and/or known caves are located within 0.25 miles of Project area and USFWS did not identify known hibernacula within 5- miles of the Project. Furthermore, field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area. See Appendix E.	Summer Tree Clearing April 1 – September 30	If suitable habitat occurs within the Project survey Area, the USFWS and ODNR DOW recommends seasonal tree cutting to occur between October 1 and March 31, if tree clearing cannot be avoided. If seasonal tree clearing cannot be completed, USFWS/DOW recommends a mist net or acoustic survey to be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. If no tree removal is proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.  In accordance with 2022 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing (2022 Joint Guidance) (copy of guidance provided within Appendix D), a desktop assessment for features potentially suitable as bat hibernacula was conducted and portal searches within 0.25 miles of the Project area with no features identified as potentially suitable for hibernating bats (See Appendix E).	Summer habitat Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.  Hibernaculum(a) No, potential hibernaculum(a) is not present within the Project area
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Threatened	Threatened	Suitable summer habitat for northern longeared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel, and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forest and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥ 3-inches dbh that have any exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, hollows, and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet of other forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in humanmade structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structure should also be considered potential summer habitat. In the winter, northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.	Summer habitat Yes - Within the Project survey area, areas of young successional forest were identified which appear to be potentially suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat.  ODNR commented known records for species within Project area.  Hibernaculum(a) No - No Mines openings and/or known caves are located within 0.25 miles of Project area. Furthermore, field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area. See Appendix E.	Summer Tree Clearing April 1 – September 30	If suitable habitat occurs within the Project survey Area, the USFWS and ODNR DOW recommends seasonal tree cutting to occur between October 1 and March 31, if tree clearing cannot be avoided. If summer tree cutting is required, additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence due to know presence of this species. Additional consultation with the ODNR for permission for limited summer tree cutting is recommended and roosts/emergent surveys may be required. If no tree removal is proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.  In accordance with 2022 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing (2022 Joint Guidance) (copy of guidance provided within Appendix D), a desktop assessment for features potentially suitable as bat hibernacula was conducted and portal searches within 0.25 miles of the Project area with no features identified as potentially suitable for hibernating bats (See Appendix E).	Summer habitat Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing between October 1 and March 31 is recommended. If summer tree cutting is required, additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence due to know presence of this species. Additional consultation with the ODNR for permission for limited summer tree cutting is recommended and roosts/emergent surveys may be required.  Hibernaculum(a) No potential hibernacula are present within the Project area and no further coordination is warranted.



TABLE 5
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Habitat Observed in the Project Survey	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
Little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus)	Endangered	NA	The little brown bat shares similar habitat requirements as other Myotis species including the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. This species may roost in trees, attics, or other man-made structures during the summer season. In winter, they may hibernate in caves, mines, or man-made structures with appropriate temperature regimes.	Summer habitat Yes - Within the Project survey area, areas of young successional forest were identified which appear to be potentially suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat.  Hibernaculum(a) No - No Mines openings and/or known caves are located within 0.25 miles of Project area. Furthermore, field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area. See Appendix E.	Summer Tree Clearing April 1 – September 30	If suitable habitat occurs within the Project survey Area, the USFWS and ODNR DOW recommends seasonal tree cutting to occur between October 1 and March 31, if tree clearing cannot be avoided. If seasonal tree clearing cannot be completed, USFWS/DOW recommends a mist net or acoustic survey to be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. If no tree removal is proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.  In accordance with 2022 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing (2022 Joint Guidance) (copy of guidance provided within Appendix D), a desktop assessment for features potentially suitable as bat hibernacula was conducted and portal searches within 0.25 miles of the Project area with no features identified as potentially suitable for hibernating bats (See Appendix E).	Summer habitat Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.  Hibernaculum(a) No, potential hibernaculum(a) is not present within the Project area
Tricolored bat (Perimyotis subflavus)	Endangered	NA	The tricolored bat primarily roosts in trees during the summer months. During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.	Summer habitat Yes - Within the Project survey area, areas of young successional forest were identified which appear to be potentially suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat.  Hibernaculum(a) No - No Mines openings and/or known caves are located within 0.25 miles of Project area. Furthermore, field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area. See Appendix E.	Summer Tree Clearing April 1 – September 30	If suitable habitat occurs within the Project survey Area, the USFWS and ODNR DOW recommends seasonal tree cutting to occur between October 1 and March 31, if tree clearing cannot be avoided. If seasonal tree clearing cannot be completed, USFWS/DOW recommends a mist net or acoustic survey to be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to any cutting. If no tree removal is proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.  In accordance with 2022 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing (2022 Joint Guidance) (copy of guidance provided within Appendix D), a desktop assessment for features potentially suitable as bat hibernacula was conducted and portal searches within 0.25 miles of the Project area with no features identified as potentially suitable for hibernating bats (See Appendix E).	Summer habitat Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing between October 1 and March 31 is recommended. If seasonal tree clearing cannot be completed, additional coordination including roost/emergence surveys, mist net surveys, and/or other presence absence surveys may be warranted to be completed between June 1 and August 15.  Hibernaculum(a) No potential hibernaculum(a) is present within the Project area and no further coordination is warranted.



TABLE 5
ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

	ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA								
Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Habitat Observed in the Project Survey Area	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts		
					M	lussels			
Butterfly ( <i>Ellipsaria</i> lineolata)	Endangered	None	Freshwater streams as defined in the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol (2022).	No	N/A	Due to the location, and there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this Project is not likely to impact this species.	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact.		
						I Fish			
Western banded killifish (Fundulus diaphanous menona)	Endangered	None	This species is found mainly in lakes, ponds, swamps, and streams.	No perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	April 15 to June 30	The ODNR DOW recommended that no in-water work from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to this species. If no inwater work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact the species.	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact		
Channel darter ( <i>Percina</i> copelandi)	Threatened	None	This species prefers pools and riffles of small- to medium-sized rivers, but can also be found in shallow, slow current areas of large rivers.	No perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	April 15 to June 30	The ODNR DOW recommended that no in-water work from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to this species. If no inwater work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact the species	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact		
Paddlefish ( <i>Polydon</i> spathula)	Threatened	None	This species is found mainly in medium to large rivers.	No perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	April 15 to June 30	The ODNR DOW recommended that no in-water work from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to this species. If no inwater work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact the species.	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact		
River darter ( <i>Percina</i> shumardi)	Threatened	None	This species is found mainly in rivers and streams with moderate to swift currents.	No perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	April 15 to June 30	The ODNR DOW recommended that no in-water work from April 15 to June 30 to reduce impacts to this species. If no inwater work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact the species.	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact		
					Am	nphibian			
Eastern hellbender	Endangered	None	This entirely aquatic species utilizes perennial streams with large flat rocks	No perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	N/A	The DOW stated that due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient sized to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No perennial streams were observed; therefore, no impact.		



# TABLE 5 ODNR AND USFWS LISTED SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Habitat Description	Potential Habitat Observed in the Project Survey Area	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
						Birds	
Upland Sandpiper ( <i>Bartramia longicauda)</i>	Endangered	None	This species utilizes dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and sometimes the grassy extensions of airports.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed for this species	N/A	ODNR stated that if this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in the habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project survey area (Figure 5).
Northern harrier ( <i>Circus</i> hudsonius)	Endangered	None	This species hunts over grasslands and nests can be found in large marshes and grasslands.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed for this species	N/A	ODNR stated that if this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in the habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 to July 31.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project survey area (Figure 5).



#### **ODNR Coordination –**

Coordination with the ODNR was initiated during the planning stages of the Project to obtain records of protected species located in the vicinity of the Project. On August 15, 2022, the ODNR Office of Real Estate Environmental Review Section replied to a request for records of protected species within an extended area around the Project site. The Ohio Natural Heritage Database (ONHD) review found no records of state-protected species or state protected resource areas at or within a one-mile radius of the Project survey area.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW) recommended 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. In addition, the DOW listed twelve state-listed species within range of the Project survey area, including:

- Four mammals: Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat and tricolored bat;
- One mussel: butterfly;
- One amphibian: eastern hellbender;
- Four fish: western banded killifish, channel darter, paddlefish, and river darter, and
- Two birds: northern harrier and upland sandpiper.

Potentially suitable summer habitat for the four bats were identified in the Project survey area and one of the four listed bat species, Indiana bat, was identified by the ODNR as a known presence within the Project survey area. Therefore, the ODNR recommends tree clearing activities to occur between October 1 and March 31. If trees must be cut during the summer months, the ODNR recommends that a mist net survey could be completed for northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and the tricolored bat between June 1 and August 15 to confirm presence/absence. However, additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence within the Project area for the northern long-eared bat. Therefore, limited tree clearing activities could be permitted upon completion and coordination of results of emergent and/or roost tree surveys with the ODNR. Regarding potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area, a desktop hibernaculum(a) review was completed in accordance with 2022 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing (2022 Joint Guidance) and no known karst, mines, and/or caves were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project survey area during the desktop analysis and no caves or mines were identified during the ecological survey.

Due to the absence of in-stream work proposed, the Project is not likely to impact the western banded killifish, channel darter, paddlefish, river darter, eastern hellbender, or butterfly.

The ODNR noted that the Project is within the range of the northern harrier and upland sand piper; however, AECOM ecologist and approved avian specialist concluded an absence of these species' habitats within the Project survey area. Open grasslands and wet meadow marshes of at minimum of approximately 2 acres are considered as nesting habitat for the Northern Harrier and the Project survey area is mostly woodlands and old field. Similarly, the upland sandpiper requires at a minimum of 20-acres in size of dry grasslands, pastures, hayfields, airports, or vegetation of shorter vegetation height for potential nesting habitat and the Project survey area lack the available landscape due to the amount of urbanization within the area to provide this suitable habitat. As a result, an absence of potential nesting habitat for these bird species was identified within the Project survey area; therefore, the Project is not likely to impact these species.

#### **USFWS** Coordination -

Coordination with the USFWS was also initiated during the planning stages of the Project to obtain technical assistance regarding federally listed species that may occur within the Project area. The USFWS responded on July 27, 2022, noting that the Project lies within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat and the federally threatened northern long-eared bat. USFWS recommends that trees ≥3 inches dbh, be saved wherever possible. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches cannot be avoided, USFWS recommends that tree removal occur between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats during the brood-rearing months.

#### 4.0 SUMMARY

The ecological survey of the Project survey area identified one intermittent stream and was identified as a Class 1 PHW, this feature can be seen on **Figure 3**. The AECOM has preliminary determined that the assessed streams within the Project survey area appear to be jurisdictional (i.e., WOTUS). The reported results of the ecological survey conducted by AECOM on this Project are limited to the areas within the Project survey area provided in **Figure 3**. Areas that fall outside of the Project survey area were not evaluated in the field and are not included in the reporting of this survey.

Of twelve species identified within range of the Project survey area, four bat species were identified as displaying summer roosting habitat and no hibernacula was identified within 0.25 miles of the Project survey area. Due to presence of summer roosting habitat for these bat species, it was recommended by the ODNR to complete seasonal tree clearing activities between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>. If seasonal tree clearing cannot be completed, mist net surveys could be completed for Indiana bat, little brown bat, and/or tricolored bat between April 1 to September 30. However, Indiana bat is known to occur within the Project area and additional mist net surveys would not constitute presence/absence for this species. Therefore, limited summer tree cutting inside of the know buffer for this species could be permitted by further coordinating results of emergent and/or roost surveys with the ODNR.



The reported results of the ecological survey conducted by AECOM on this Project are limited to the areas within the Project survey area provided in Figure 3. Areas that fall outside of the Project survey area were not evaluated in the field and are not included in the reporting of this survey.

The information contained in this wetland delineation report is for a study area that may be much larger than the actual Project limits-of-disturbance; therefore, lengths and acreages listed in this report may not constitute the actual impacts of the Project defined in subsequent permit applications. If necessary, a separate report that identifies the actual Project impacts will be provided with agency submittals.

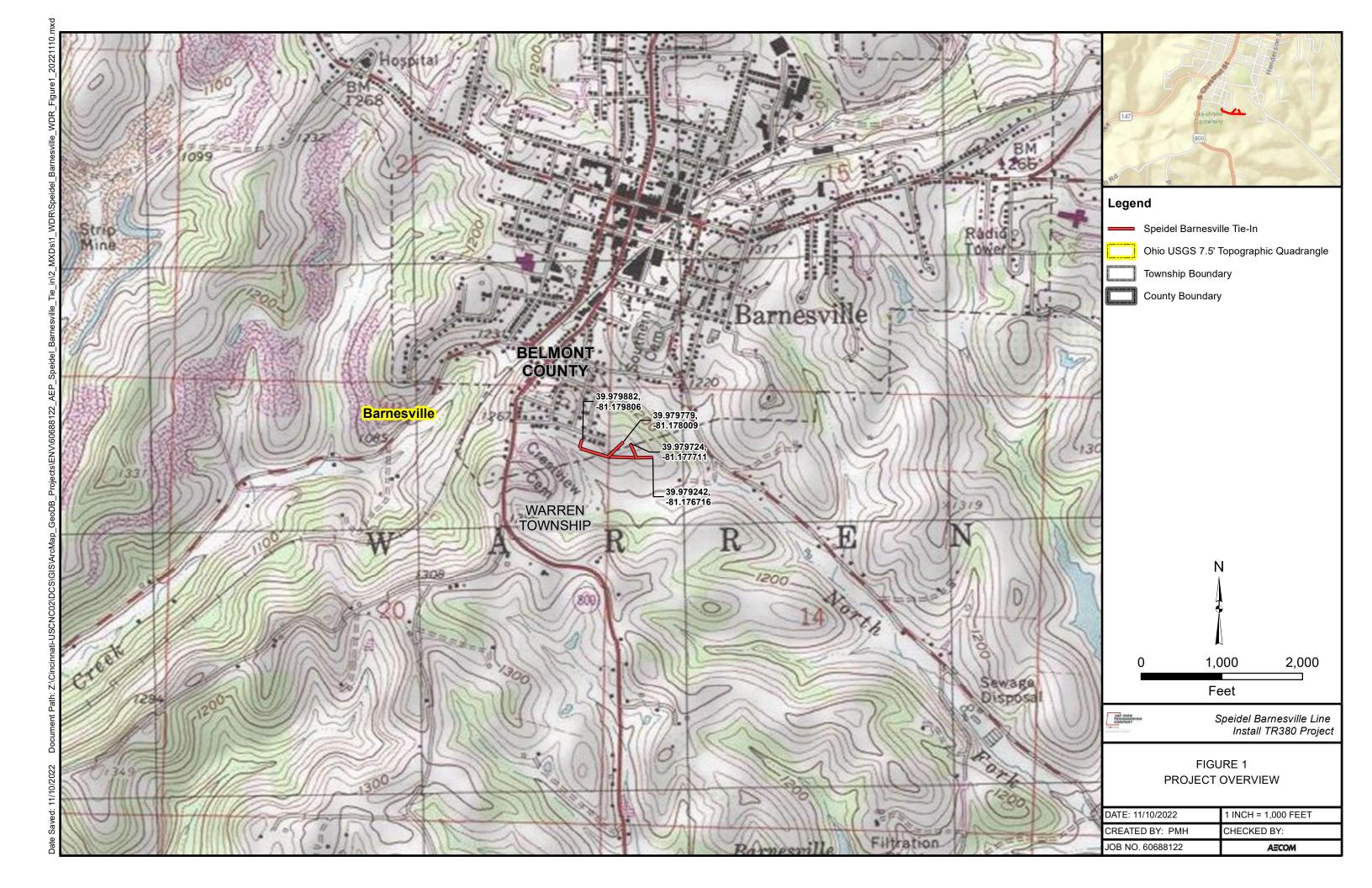
The field survey results presented herein apply to the existing and reasonably foreseeable site conditions at the time of our assessment. They cannot apply to site changes of which AECOM is unaware and has not had the opportunity to review. Changes in the condition of a property may occur with time due to natural processes or human impacts at the project site or on adjacent properties. Changes in applicable standards may also occur as a result of legislation or the expansion of knowledge over time. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated, wholly or in part, by changes beyond the control of AECOM.

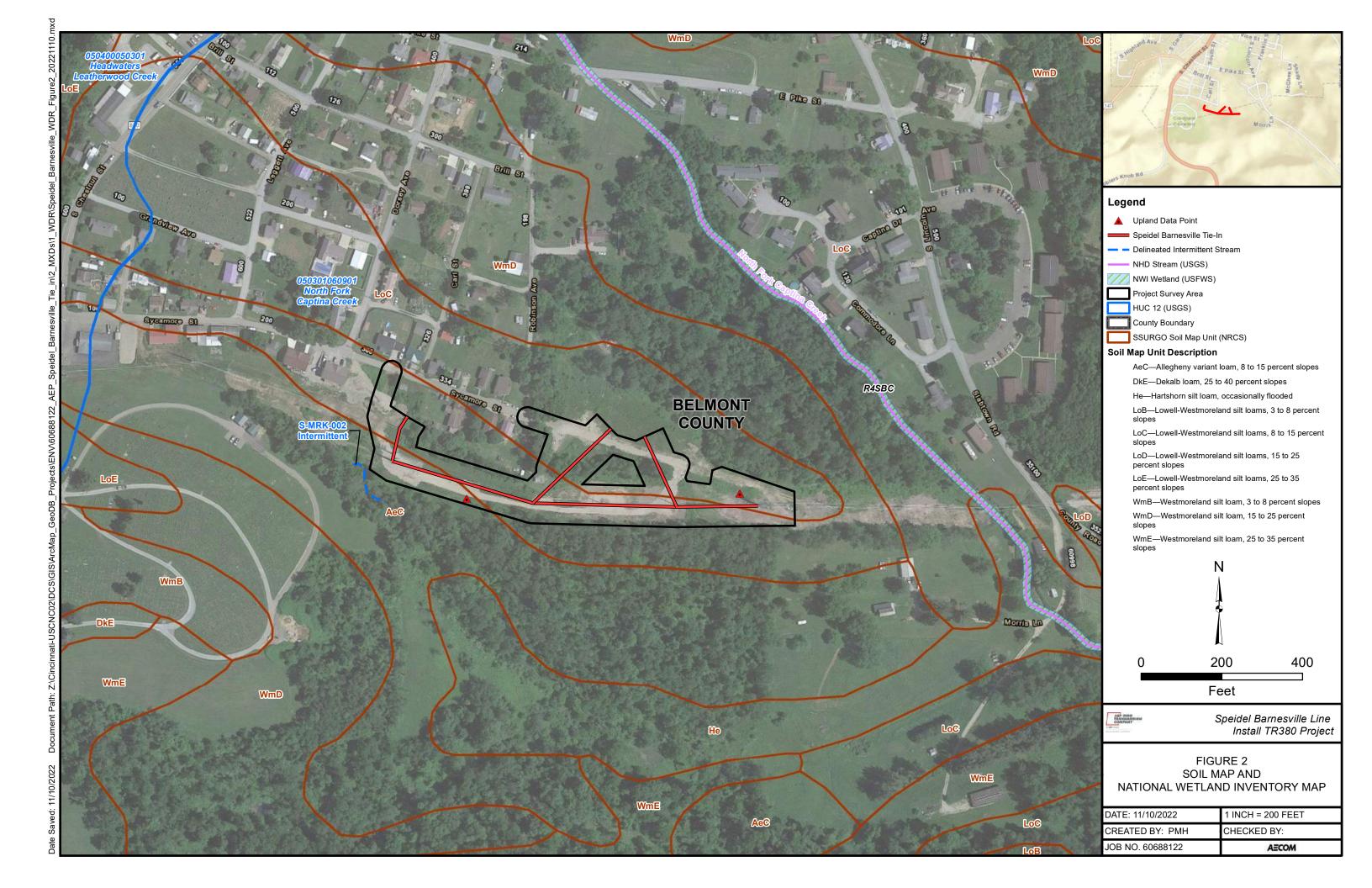
#### 5.0 REFERENCES

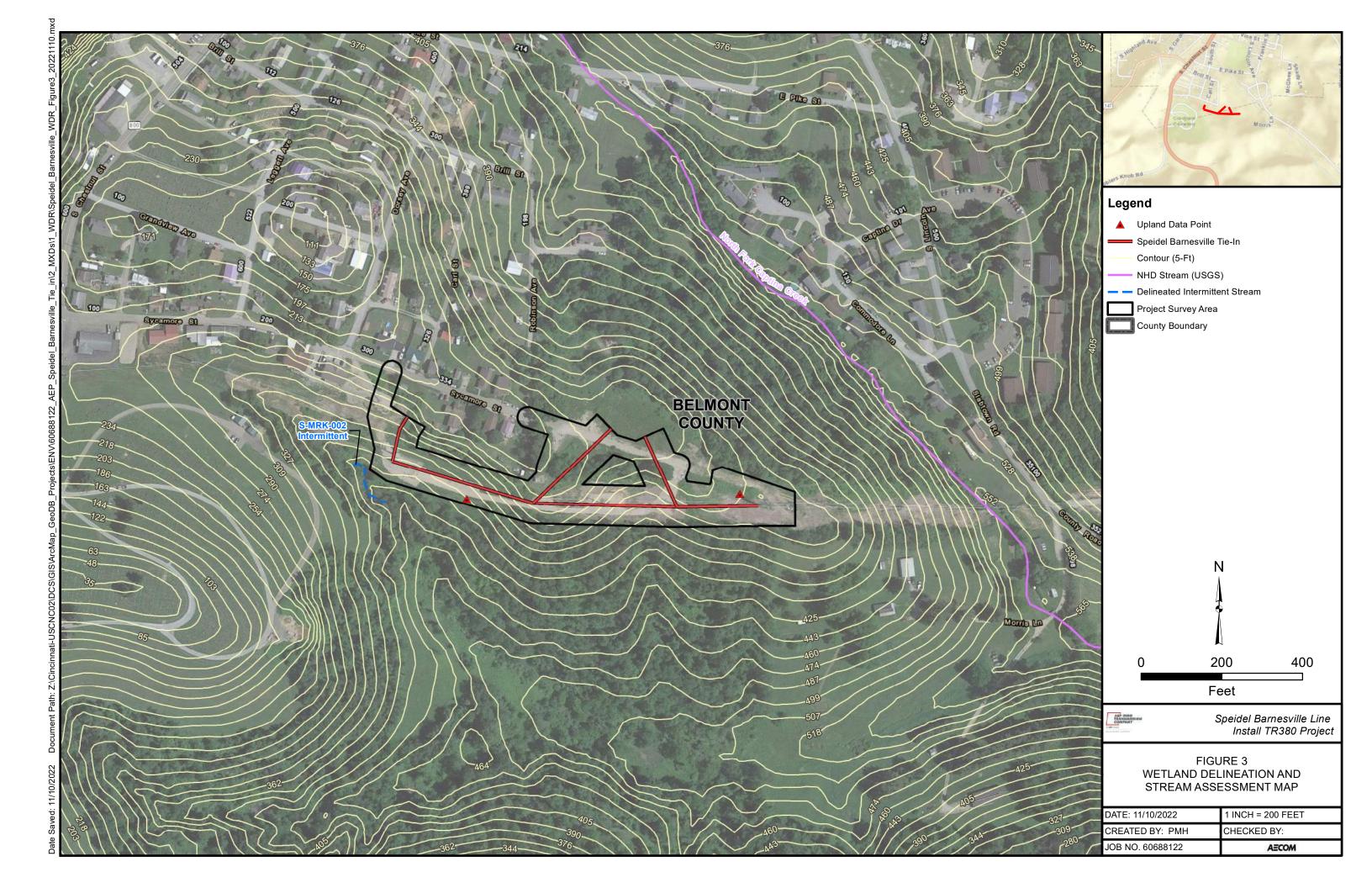
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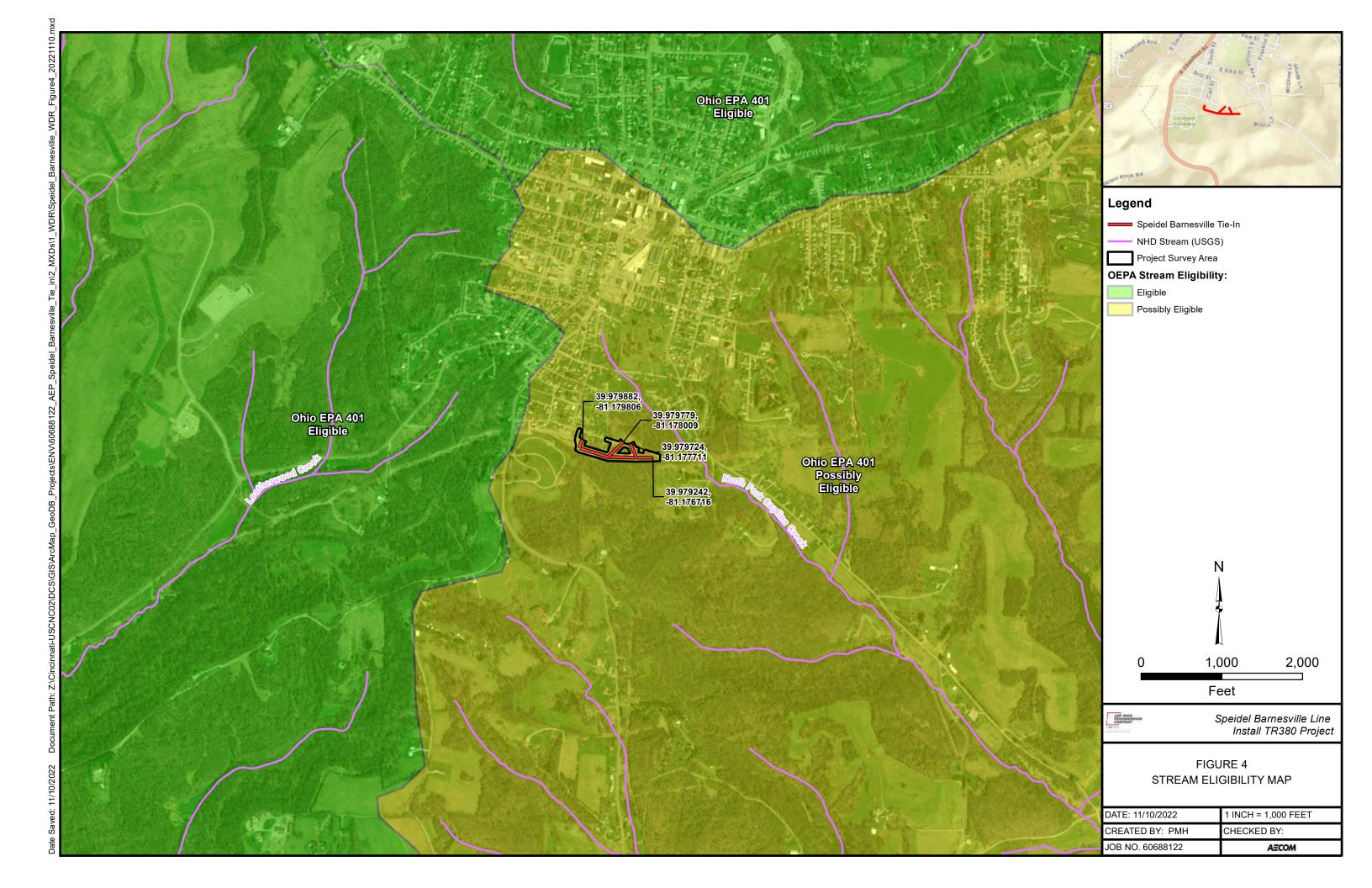


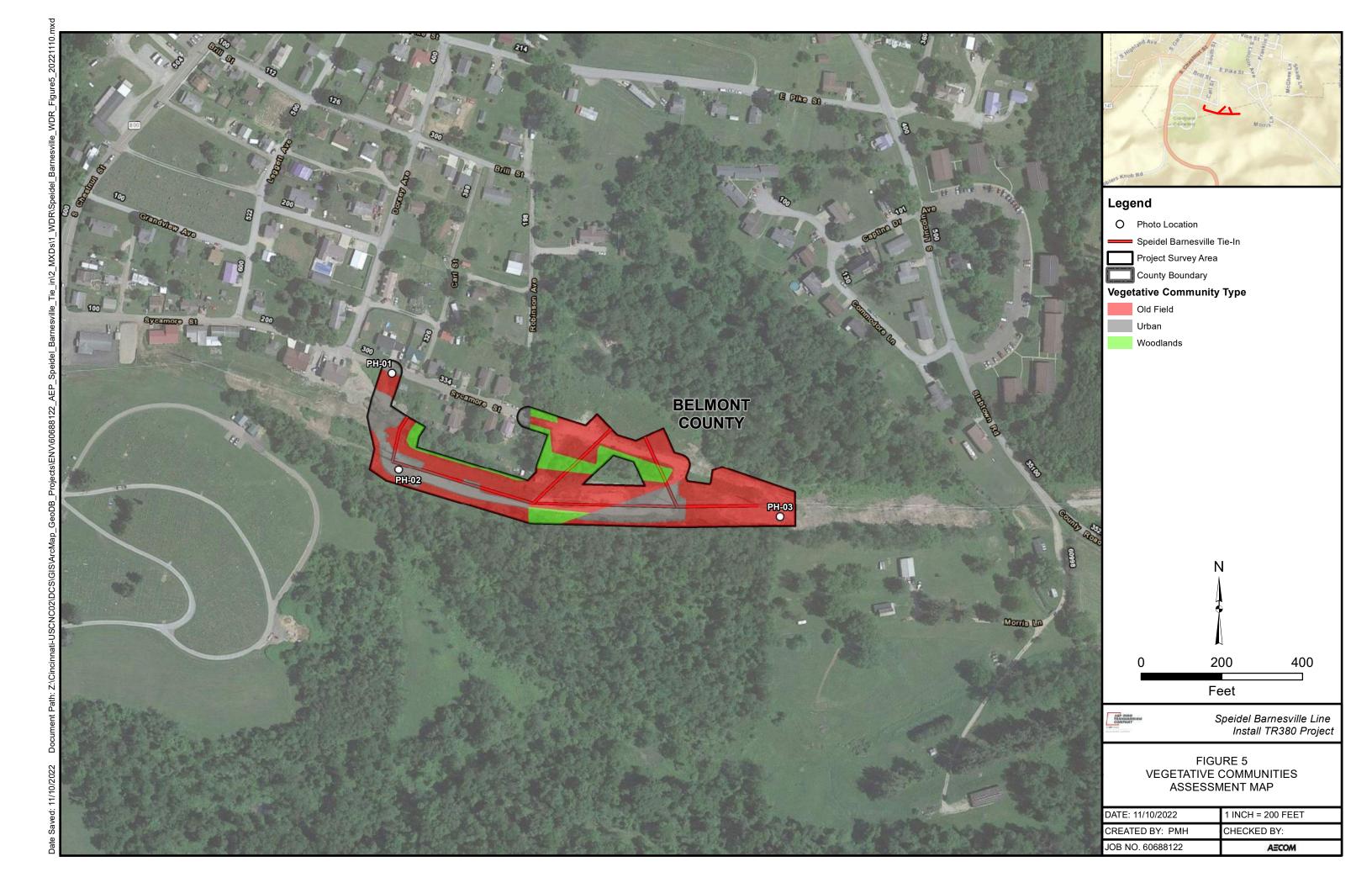
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#### **APPENDIX A**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS UPLAND DATA FORMS

#### WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Speidel-Barnesvi	ile Tie In	City/County:	Belmont	Sampling Da	te: 02-Nov-22
Applicant/Owner: AEP			State: OH	Sampling Point:	UPL-MRK-005
Investigator(s): MRK, AJH		Section, Tow	nship, Range: S	T 8N	<b>R</b> 6W
Landform (hillslope, terrace, e	tc.): Hillside	Local relief (co	ncave, convex, non	e): <sub>CONVEX</sub> Slope:	: _4.0_ %/ 2.3 °
Subregion (LRR or MLRA):	LRR N	 Lat.: 39,979286	Long.:	-81.179320	Datum: NAD83
Soil Map Unit Name: AeC: Al	legheny variant loam, 8 to			NWI classification: NA	
Are climatic/hydrologic condit	ions on the site typical for t	his time of year? Yes 💿	No ○ (If no, ex	plain in Remarks.)	
Are Vegetation $\Box$ , Soil	, or Hydrology	significantly disturbed?	Are "Normal Cir	cumstances" present? Y	'es 💿 No 🔾
plicant/Owner: AEP					
Summary of Findings	- Attach site map s	showing sampling po	oint locations,	transects, importan	t features, etc.
Hydrophytic Vegetation Pres	ent? Yes No 💿				
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes 🔾 No 💿			s O No 🔍	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes O No 💿	withir	a Wetland?	S C 110 C	
	within the existing transmis	ssion line right-of-way to cha	racterize the area. I	ROW is surrounded by fores	t land and
Hydrology					
Wetland Hydrology Indicator	s:		Se	econdary Indicators (minimum of	f two required)
Primary Indicators (minimur	n of one required; check all	that apply)		1	
Surface Water (A1)	Tru	e Aquatic Plants (B14)		Sparsely Vegetated Concave S	Surface (B8)
High Water Table (A2)	☐ Hyd	lrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)		Drainage Patterns (B10)	
Saturation (A3)	Oxid	dized Rhizospheres along Living	Roots (C3)	Moss Trim Lines (B16)	
Water Marks (B1)	☐ Pre	sence of Reduced Iron (C4)		Dry Season Water Table (C2)	
	Rec	ent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils	(C6)	Crayfish Burrows (C8)	
Drift deposits (B3)	Thir	n Muck Surface (C7)		Saturation Visible on Aerial Im	agery (C9)
Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	☐ Oth	er (Explain in Remarks)		Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1	1)
Iron Deposits (B5)				Geomorphic Position (D2)	
Inundation Visible on Aerial	Imagery (B7)			Shallow Aquitard (D3)	
Water-Stained Leaves (B9)				Microtopographic Relief (D4)	
Aquatic Fauna (B13)				FAC-neutral Test (D5)	
Field Observations:	vaa ○ Na <b>③</b> -				
		epth (inches):			
	res ∪ No • De	epth (inches):	Wotland Undrale	Drocont3 Voc	No (•)
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe)	∕es O No ⊙ Do	epth (inches):	wedalia nyalolo	gy Present? Tes ©	140 ©
Describe Recorded Data (stre	am gauge, monitoring well	l, aerial photos, previous insp	pections), if availabl	e:	
NA					
Remarks:					
No source of hydrology was	observed.				
	Vegetation   , Soil   , or Hydrology   significantly disturbed?   Are "Normal Circumstances" present?   Yes				

### **VEGETATION** (Five/Four Strata)- Use scientific names of plants.

		—Species? —		Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-005
	Absolute		Indicator	Dominance Test worksheet:
Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius )	% Cover	Cover	Status	Number of Descinant Consist
1	0	0.0%		Number of Dominant Species That are OBL, FACW, or FAC:  (A)
		0.0%		
2				Total Number of Dominant
3	0			Species Across All Strata: (B)
4	0			
5	0	0.0%		Percent of dominant Species
6		0.0%		That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0.0% (A/B)
	_	0.0%		Prevalence Index worksheet:
7				
8		0.0%		Total % Cover of: Multiply by:
Sapling-Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15' radius	,	= Total Cover		OBL species 2 x 1 = 2
Sapling-Sapling/Snrub Stratum (1 lot 3/26. 15 radius	,			FACW species0 x 2 =0
1	0_			FAC species 35 x 3 = 105
2	0	0.0%		·
3	0	0.0%		
4	•	0.0%		UPL species $0 \times 5 = 0$
5		0.0%		Column Totals: 122 (A) 447 (B)
6				Prevalence Index = $B/A = \underline{3.664}$
7	0			Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:
8	0	0.0%		Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
9		0.0%		
		0.0%		☐ Dominance Test is > 50%
10				Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 ¹
Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15' radius )	0	= Total Cover		Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting
1	0	0.0%		data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
2.		0.0%		Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
		0.0%		<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must
3				be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
4				
5	0			Definition of Vegetation Strata:
6	0	0.0%		Four Vegetation Strata:
7		0.0%		Tree stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in.
		= Total Cover		(7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5' radius )		_		Sapling/shrub stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding
1 Dactylis glomerata	50	<b>✓</b> 41.0%	FACU	vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.
2. Phleum pratense	30	<b>2</b> 4.6%	FACU	Herb stratum – Consists of all herbaceous (non-woody) plants,
3. Verbesina alternifolia	20	16.4%	FAC	regardless of size, and all other plants less than 3.28 ft tall.
4. Dichanthelium clandestinum	10	8.2%	FAC	Woody vines – Consists of all woody vines greater than 3.28 ft
	- <del></del> 5	4.1%	FAC	in height.
5. Symphyotrichum pilosum				
6. Solidago canadensis	5		FACU	Five Vegetation Strata:
7. Persicaria sagittata	_ 2	1.6%	OBL	Tree - Woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 20
8	0	0.0%		ft (6 m) or more in height and 3 in. (7.6 cm) or larger in
9	0	0.0%		diameter at breast height (DBH).
		0.0%		Sapling stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding woody
10				vines, approximately 20 ft (6 m) or more in height and less than 3 in. (7.6 cm) DBH.
11				
12	0			Shrub stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 3 to 20 ft (1 to 6 m) in height.
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30' radius</u> )	122	= Total Cover		Herb stratum – Consists of all herbaceous (non-woody) plants,
1	0	0.0%		including herbaceous vines, regardless of size, and woody
•				species, except woody vines, less than approximately 3 ft (1 m)
2				in height.
3	0			Woody vines – Consists of all woody vines, regardless of
4	0	0.0%		height.
5	0	0.0%		
		0.0%		Hydrophytic
6				Vegetation
	0	= Total Cover		
Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate she	et.)		·	
·				

Soil Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-005

Profile Descri	iption: (Describe to	the depth	needed to document	the indic	ator or co	nfirm the a	absence of indicators.)			
Depth	Matrix		Rec	lox Featu	ıres					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%_	Tvpe 1	Loc2	Texture	Remarks		
0-8	2.5Y 4/3	100					Silt Loam			
8-16	2.5Y 5/4	85	10YR 5/8	15	С	М	Silty Clay Loam			
				-						
				-	-					
<sup>1</sup> Type: C=Conc	rentration D=Denletio	n RM=Redi	iced Matrix CS=Covere	d or Coate	ed Sand Gra	ins <sup>2</sup> l oca	tion: PL=Pore Lining. M=M	atrix		
Hydric Soil I		iii. Idii—Ideai	acca Matrix, C5—C6VCIC	u or court	ca Sana Gra	iiis Loca				
Histosol (A			Dark Surface (S	:7)			Indicators for Proble	ematic Hydric Soils <sup>3</sup> :		
Histosof (A	•		Polyvalue Belov	•	(CQ) (MI DA	147 149)	2 cm Muck (A10)	(MLRA 147)		
Black Histi			Thin Dark Surfa				Coast Prairie Redo	ox (A16)		
	Sulfide (A4)		Loamy Gleyed I			<del>1</del> 0)	(MLRA 147,148)			
	Layers (A5)		Depleted Matrix		)		Piedmont Floodpl (MLRA 136, 147)	ain Soils (F19)		
	(A10) (LRR N)		Redox Dark Sur				_ `	G ( (TE42)		
	Below Dark Surface (A	11)	Depleted Dark	. ,	7)		☐ Very Shallow Dark			
	seiow Dark Surface (A < Surface (A12)	111)	Redox Depressi		,,		Other (Explain in	Remarks)		
	` '		☐ Iron-Manganes	. ,	(F12) (I RR I	N				
MLRA 147	ck Mineral (S1) (LRR N ', 148)	٧,	MLRA 136)	c 1 105505 (	(12) (214(1	•,				
	yed Matrix (S4)		Umbric Surface	(F13) (ML	LRA 136, 12	2)	_			
Sandy Rec			☐ Piedmont Flood	lplain Soils	s (F19) (MLF	RA 148)	<sup>3</sup> Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and			
Stripped M			Red Parent Mat				wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.			
						· · ·				
Restrictive La	yer (if observed):									
Type:							Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ○ No •		
Depth (inch	nes):						nyunc son Presents	res Uno U		
Remarks:										

#### WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Speidel-Barnesville Tie	. In	City/County: Belmont	Sampling Date: 02-Nov-22
Applicant/Owner: AEP		State: OH	Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-006
Investigator(s): MRK, AJH		Section, Township, Range: S	T 8N R 6W
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):	Hillside	Local relief (concave, convex, non	ne):convex Slope:2.0 % /1.1 °
Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR N	\ Lat.:	39.979333 <b>Long.</b>	: -81.176880 <b>Datum:</b> NAD83
Soil Map Unit Name: LoC: Lowell-\	Westmoreland silt loams, 8 to 15 p	percent slopes	NWI classification: NA
Are climatic/hydrologic conditions o	on the site typical for this time of y	rear? Yes 💿 No 🔾 (If no, ex	xplain in Remarks.)
Are Vegetation $\Box$ , Soil $\Box$	, or Hydrology 🗌 significan	tly disturbed? Are "Normal Ci	ircumstances" present? Yes   No
splicant/Owner: AEP   State: OH   Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-006   Westigator(s): NRX, AH   Section, Township, Range: S   T 8N   R 6W    Indidorm (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Hillside   Local relief (concave, convex, none): Convex   Slope; 2,0 % / 1,1 ° Netgoin (LRR or MLRA): LRR N   Lat: 39,979333   Long: 81.176880   Datum: NAD83    India by Unit Name: LoC: Lovel-Westmoreland silt loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes   NWI classification: NA    Re climatic/hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes  No  (If no, explain in Remarks.)    Re Vegetation   , Soil   , or hydrology   apinficantly disturbed?   Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes  No     Re Vegetation   , Soil   , or hydrology   naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)    Rummary of Findings - Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc. Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes  No     No    Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?   Yes  No     Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes  No    Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?   Yes  No     Netland Hydrology Indicators:   Secondary Indicators: (minimum of two required.)   High Water Table (2)   Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)   Drainage Patterns (810)    Netland Hydrology Indicators:   Secondary Indicators: (RB)   Drainage Patterns (810)   Drainage			
Summary of Findings - A	ttach site map showing	sampling point locations,	, transects, important features, etc.
Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?			
Hydric Soil Present?			es O No 💿
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes O No 💿	within a Wetland?	
Upland data point collected within residential property.	n the existing transmission line rigl	ht-of-way to characterize the area.	ROW is surrounded by forest land and
Hydrology			
Wetland Hydrology Indicators:		<u>S</u>	secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)
Primary Indicators (minimum of o	one required; check all that apply)		Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
l — ` ´	True Aquatic Plan	ts (B14)	
l — *	_ ′ -	` '	
l — ` ´			
l — ` ´		` ´	
		` ,	_ ' ' '
		` ′	
	U Other (Explain in	Remarks)	` '
l — ' ' '	any (R7)		
I —	.17 (67)		
Surface Water Present? Yes	O No Depth (inches):		
Water Table Present? Yes	O No Depth (inches):		
Saturation Present?		Wetland Hydrol	ogy Present? Yes ○ No •
(includes capillary ininge)		os previous inspections) if availah	nle:
NA	jauge, monitoring well, aeriai priot	os, previous inspections), ii availab	ne.
Remarks:			
	rved		
The searce of flyarelegy was essen			

#### **VEGETATION** (Five/Four Strata)- Use scientific names of plants.

_	(Plot size: 20' radius	Absolute % Cover	Re	ecies?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:
	Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius )				Status	Number of Dominant Species
				0.0%		That are OBL, FACW, or FAC:
				0.0%		Total Number of Dominant
		_		0.0%		Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)
			H	0.0%		Percent of dominant Species
				0.0%		That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 33.3% (A/B)
			H	0.0%		
			H	0.0%		Prevalence Index worksheet:  Total % Cover of: Multiply by:
8				0.0%		
Sap	ing-Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15' radius	_) =	= 10	tal Cove	r	OBL species
1		0		0.0%		
				0.0%		FAC species $70 \times 3 = 210$
3		0		0.0%		FACU species $\frac{115}{2}$ x 4 = $\frac{460}{2}$
				0.0%		UPL species $0 \times 5 = 0$
				0.0%		Column Totals: <u>185</u> (A) <u>670</u> (B)
				0.0%		Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.622
				0.0%		Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:
		_		0.0%		Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
9		0		0.0%		Dominance Test is > 50%
				0.0%		Prevalence Index is \$3.0 1
		_	= To	tal Cove	r	
	ib Stratum (Plot size: 15' radius )	30	<b>V</b>	100.0%	FACU	Morphological Adaptations 1 (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
	Rubus allegheniensis			0.0%	TACO	Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
			Н	0.0%		
			Н	0.0%		Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
						Definition of Vegetation Strata:
				0.0%		Four Vegetation Strata:
				0.0%		Tree stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in.
			Ш.	0.0%		(7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless
Herl	OStratum (Plot size: 5' radius )	30=	= 10	tal Cove	r	of height. Sapling/shrub stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding
1. J	Dactylis glomerata	50	<b>V</b>	32.3%	FACU	vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.
2. 🛚	Echinochloa crus-galli	50	✓	32.3%	FAC	Herb stratum – Consists of all herbaceous (non-woody) plants,
3	Solidago canadensis	25		16.1%	FACU	regardless of size, and all other plants less than 3.28 ft tall.
4.2	Setaria pumila	10	$\square$	6.5%	FAC	Woody vines – Consists of all woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.
5	Frifolium pratense	10	$\square$	6.5%	FACU	
6. 🛚	Dichanthelium clandestinum	5	$\sqcup$	3.2%	FAC	Five Vegetation Strata:
7	Microstegium vimineum	5	$\square$	3.2%	FAC	Tree - Woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 20
8		0	Ш	0.0%		ft (6 m) or more in height and 3 in. (7.6 cm) or larger in
9		0		0.0%		diameter at breast height (DBH). Sapling stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding woody
10		0		0.0%		vines, approximately 20 ft (6 m) or more in height and less than
				0.0%		3 in. (7.6 cm) DBH.
12		0		0.0%		Shrub stratum – Consists of woody plants, excluding woody vines, approximately 3 to 20 ft (1 to 6 m) in height.
Wor	ody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius )	155 =	= To	tal Cove	r	Herb stratum – Consists of all herbaceous (non-woody) plants,
		0		0.0%		including herbaceous vines, regardless of size, and woody
				0.0%		species, except woody vines, less than approximately 3 ft (1 m) in height.
				0.0%		Woody vines – Consists of all woody vines, regardless of
				0.0%		height.
				0.0%		
				0.0%		Hydrophytic Vegetation
			Ц,			Present? Yes No •
0		0	_ T	otal Cove		rieselle: 195

Soil Sampling Point: UPL-MRK-006

Depth	Matrix		Red	lox Featu					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	<u>%</u>	Type 1	_Loc2	Texture	Rema	rks
0-16	7.5YR 3/3	100					Sandy Loam		
							-	-	
vne: C=Conc	entration D=Denletic	n RM=Redi	ıced Matrix CS=Covere	d or Coate	d Sand Grai	ins <sup>2</sup> Locai	tion: PL=Pore Lining. M=N	Matrix	
ydric Soil Iı		JII. IXII—IXCUC	icca Flatfix, C5-C0VCFC	a or coulc	a Saria Gra	IIIS LOCU			
Histosol (A			Dark Surface (S	:7)			Indicators for Prob	lematic Hydric S	Soils <sup>3</sup> :
Histic Epip			Polyvalue Below		S8) (MI DA	147 148)	2 cm Muck (A10	) (MLRA 147)	
Black Histi			Thin Dark Surfa				Coast Prairie Rec		
_	Sulfide (A4)		Loamy Gleyed N		LIVA 147, 1	10)	(MLRA 147,148)		
_	ayers (A5)		Depleted Matrix				Piedmont Floodp (MLRA 136, 147	olain Soils (F19)	
_	(A10) (LRR N)		Redox Dark Sur						
_	Below Dark Surface (A	(11)	Depleted Dark S	` ,	)			rk Surface (TF12)	
	Surface (A12)	(11)	Redox Depressi		,		Other (Explain in	n Remarks)	
_	• •	NI.	☐ Iron-Manganese	. ,	-12) (LRR N	l.			
MLRA 147	ck Mineral (S1) (LRR N , 148)	ν,	MLRA 136)		/ (	-,			
	yed Matrix (S4)		Umbric Surface	(F13) (MLI	RA 136, 12	2)	2		
Sandy Red			☐ Piedmont Flood	plain Soils	(F19) (MLR	A 148)	<sup>3</sup> Indicators of	f hydrophytic veg drology must be	etation and
Stripped M			Red Parent Mat	erial (F21)	(MLRA 127	, 147)	unless o	listurbed or proble	ematic.
	yer (if observed):								
Type:							Hydric Soil Present?	Yes O	vo ⊙
	es):						,	163 0 1	
emarks:									

# APPENDIX B OEPA STREAM DATA FORMS / DELINEATED FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS (STREAMS)

S-MRK-002 INT



### Primary Headwater Habitat Evaluation Form HHEI Score (sum of metrics 1, 2, 3):

SITE NAME/LOCATION AEP Speidel Barnesville Tie-in	, , , ,
SITE NUMBER RIVER BASIN Ohio	DRAINAGE AREA (mi²) 0.01
LENGTH OF STREAM REACH (ft) 145 LAT. 39.97954 LONG81.18019 RIVER CODE	
DATE 11/02/22 SCORER MRK, AJH COMMENTS	
NOTE: Complete All Items On This Form - Refer to "Field Evaluation Manual for Ohio's P	HWH Streams" for Instructions
STREAM CHANNEL NONE / NATURAL CHANNEL RECOVERED RECOVERING MODIFICATIONS: Stream flows through a forested area at the edge of existing transmission	
SUBSTRATE (Estimate percent of every type of substrate present. Check ONLY two predominals)	
(Max of 32). Add total number of significant substrate types found (Max of 8). Final metric score is s  TYPE  PERCENT  TYPE	PERCENT Metric
BLDR SLABS [16 pts] 0 SILT [3 pt]	35 Points
BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]  BEDROCK [16 pt]	[3 pts] 10 Substrate
☐ COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts] ☐ ☐ ☐ CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	25 Max = 40
GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts] 10 MUCK [0 pts]	0 9
SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts] ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	
Total of Percentages of Bldr Slabs, Boulder, Cobble, Bedrock Substrate Percentage Check	(B) A + B
SCORE OF TWO MOST PREDOMINATE SUBSTRATE TYPES: 3 TOTAL NUMBER OF SUB	STRATE TYPES: 6
2. Maximum Pool Depth (Measure the maximum pool depth within the 61 meter (200 ft) evaluation	on reach at the time of Pool Dept
evaluation. Avoid plunge pools from road culverts or storm water pipes) (Check <i>ONLY</i> one box):  > 30 centimeters [20 pts] > 5 cm - 10 cm [15 pts]	Max = 30
> 22.5 - 30 cm [30 pts] < 5 cm [5 pts]	_
> 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts] NO WATER OR MOIST CHAN	NNEL [0 pts] 5
COMMENTS MAXIMUM POOL DEPT	
MAXIMOM 1 GGE BEI	TH (Inches): 2.00
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY or	ne box):  Bankfull
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY of > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts] > 1.0 m - 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8")	ne box):  [15 pts]  Bankfull Width
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY or	ne box):  Bankfull
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of Section 2.10 m - 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8")   > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]   > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]   ≤ 1.0 m (<=3' 3") [5 pts]	ne box):  [15 pts]  Bankfull Width Max=30
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY of 24.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	ne box):  [15 pts]  Bankfull Width Max=30
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of section 2.10 m (-1.5 m (-3'3" - 4'8") - 1.0 m (-23'3") [5 pts] - 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9'7" - 4'8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS  AVERAGE BANKFULL  This information must also be completed	me box): [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of section 2.10 m (-1.5 m (-3'3" - 4'8") - 1.0 m (-23'3") [5 pts] - 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9'7" - 4'8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS AVERAGE BANKFULL	me box): [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY of 24.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30  15
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of Section 2.10 m = 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8")    > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]   > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]   > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9' 7" - 4' 8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS AVERAGE BANKFULL  This information must also be completed RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY    **NOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R) RIPARIAN WIDTH    L R (Per Bank)   L R (Most Predominant per Bank)   Wide >10m   Mature Forest, Wetland      Immature Forest Shrub or Old   Immature Forest Shrub or Old	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream ☆  Conservation Tillage
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of Section 1.5 m (section 1.5 m (section 1.5 m)	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  As looking downstream ☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of 2 of 3	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30  15  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop
3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of Section 1.5 m (section 1.5 m (section 1.5 m)	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30  15  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONLY of 24.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30  15  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements)  > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]  > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]  > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9' 7" - 4' 8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS  This information must also be completed  RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY  AVERAGE BANKFULL  This information must also be completed  RIPARIAN WIDTH  FLOODPLAIN QUALITY  L R (Per Bank)  Wide >10 m  Mature Forest, Wetland  Moderate 5-10 m  Moderate 5-10 m  Residential, Park, New Field  None  COMMENTS  FLOW REGIME (At Time of Evaluation) (Check ONLY one box):  Stream Flowing  Moist Channel, isolated	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  Bankfull Width Max=30  15  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y of 24.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop Mining or Construction  d pools, no flow (Intermittent)
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements)  > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts] > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts] > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9' 7" - 4' 8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS  This information must also be completed  RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY  ANOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R)  RIPARIAN WIDTH  FLOODPLAIN QUALITY  Wide >10 m  Mature Forest, Wetland    Moderate 5-10 m    Mature Forest, Shrub or Old Field    Narrow <5 m    Residential, Park, New Field    None	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop Mining or Construction  d pools, no flow (Intermittent)
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y on > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream   Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop Mining or Construction  d pools, no flow (Intermittent) (Ephemeral)
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements)  > 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts] > 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts] > 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 9' 7" - 4' 8") [20 pts]  COMMENTS  This information must also be completed  RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY  **NOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R)  RIPARIAN WIDTH    RIPARIAN WIDTH   FLOODPLAIN QUALITY	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream☆  Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop Mining or Construction  d pools, no flow (Intermittent) (Ephemeral)
BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3-4 measurements) (Check ONL Y on    > 4.0 m tetrs (> 13') [30 pts]	me box):  [15 pts]  WIDTH (Feet): 3.50  as looking downstream   Conservation Tillage Urban or Industrial Open Pasture, Row Crop Mining or Construction  d pools, no flow (Intermittent) (Ephemeral)

ADDITIONAL STREAM INFORMATION (This Information Must Also be Completed):
QHEI PERFORMED? - Yes V No QHEI Score (If Yes, Attach Completed QHEI Form)
DOWNSTREAM DESIGNATED USE(S)  WWH Name: North Fork Captina Creek (HUC12-050301060901)  CWH Name: Distance from Evaluated Stream  EWH Name: Distance from Evaluated Stream
MAPPING: ATTACH COPIES OF MAPS, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE WATERSHED AREA. CLEARLY MARK THE SITE LOCATION
USGS Quadrangle Name: Barnesville NRCS Soil Map Page: NRCS Soil Map Stream Order
County: Belmont Township / City: Barnesville
MISCELLANEOUS  Base Flow Conditions? (Y/N):_Y Date of last precipitation:
Photograph Information: Upstream, downstream, substrate
Elevated Turbidity? (Y/N): N Canopy (% open): 20  Were samples collected for water chemistry? (Y/N): N (Note lab sample no. or id. and attach results) Lab Number:
Field Measures: Temp (°C) Dissolved Oxygen (mq/l) pH (S.U.) Conductivity (µmhos/cm)  Is the sampling reach representative of the stream (Y/N)  If not, please explain:
Additional comments/description of pollution impacts:
NA
Performed? (Y/N): N (If Yes, Record all observations. Voucher collections optional. NOTE: all voucher samples must be labeled with the site of the Primary Headwater Habitat Assessment Manual)  Fish Observed? (Y/N) N Voucher? (Y
DRAWING AND NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF STREAM REACH (This must be completed):
Include important landmarks and other features of interest for site evaluation and a narrative description of the stream's location
FLOW -> AForest~
Pole Rowa



### PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Stream Photograph Record** 

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

AEP

Spebar

60688122

#### S-MRK-002

Date:

November 02, 2022

**Description:** 

Intermittent

Facing Upstream



#### S-MRK-002

Date:

November 02, 2022

**Description:** 

Intermittent

Facing Downstream





# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Stream Photograph Record** 

Project No. Client Name: Site Location: AEP 60688122

Spebar

S-MRK-002

Date:

November 02, 2022 **Description:** 

Intermittent

Facing Substrate



# APPENDIX C HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



### PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Habitat Photograph Record** 

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

AEP

Speidel Barnesville Tie-In Project

60688122

#### PH-01

Date:

November 02, 2022

**Description:** 

Old Field Habitat

Facing South



#### PH-02

Date:

November 02, 2022

**Description:** 

Urban Habitat

Facing East





# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Habitat Photograph Record** 

Client Name:

Site Location:

Project No.

AEP

Speidel Barnesville Tie-In Project

60688122

#### PH-03

Date:

November 02, 2022

**Description:** 

Old Field Habitat

Facing North



# APPENDIX D AGENCY COORDINATION

#### Holmes, Joshua

From: Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022 10:06 AM

To: Holmes, Joshua

Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; Wyza, Eileen; Hrishenko, Alexander; Miller, Brian;

ajtoohey@aep.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] AEP - Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel-Barnesville T-line Build Project,

Belmont County, Ohio



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

Project Code: 2022-0065274

Dear Mr. Holmes,

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh, we recommend avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with this office is requested to determine if fall or spring portal surveys are warranted. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees  $\geq 3$  inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-

(see <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

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

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

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

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

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

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 Super

Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW Eileen Wyza, ODNR-DOW



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Fax: (614) 267-4764

Office of Real Estate John Kessler, Chief 2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2 Columbus, OH 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6621

August 15, 2022

Joshua Holmes AECOM Foster Plaza 6 681 Anderson Drive, Suite 120 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

Re: 22-0749; AEP Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel-Barnesville T-line Build Project

**Project:** The proposed project involves building a new greenfield substation within a 10-acre parcel to replace the existing Barnesville Station proposed for retirement.

Location: The proposed project is located in Warren Township, Belmont 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 project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting

inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species 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. The DOW recommends tree 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.

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 "<u>RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES.</u>" 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 following listed mussel species.

State Endangered

butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*)

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

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

State Endangered

western banded killifish (Fundulus diaphanus menona)

#### State Threatened

channel darter (*Percina copelandi*) paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them

unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

The <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 <a href="mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov">mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov</a> if you have questions about these comments or need additional information.

Mike Pettegrew Environmental Services Administrator

# APPENDIX E DESKTOP ASSESSMENT FOR WINTER BAT HABITAT





July 22, 2022

Attention: Mr. John Kessler

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2045 Morse Road, Building E-2 Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Via email: environmentalreviewrequest@dnr.state.oh.us; NHDRequest@dnr.state.oh.us

Reference: Request for Technical Assistance, Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel -

Barnesville Tline Build Project, Belmont County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Kessler:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), is formally requesting that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) complete a review for the proposed Pumpkin Station D250 & Speidel-Barnesville Tline Build Project (Project) in Belmont County, Ohio. The purpose of this project is to build a new greenfield substation within a 10-acre parcel to replace the existing Barnesville Station proposed for retirement in Belmont County, Ohio. This includes building a new greenfield 0.30-mile connector from the proposed Pumpkin Station to the existing Barnesville-Somerton transmission line located in Belmont County, Ohio. The Study Area is located on the Belmont, Ohio U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5' topographical quadrangles as displayed on the Topographic Project Overview Map (Figure 1).

AECOM completed a desktop review of publicly available data to identify underground voids which could be potential hibernation sites for overwintering bats (hibernacula) within 0.25-miles of the Project area. The data sources utilized include USGS topographical maps, aerial photography, and ODNR's Division of Mineral Resources and Geological Survey Data for Known Mining Activity and Karst Geology/Sinkholes as shown on Figure 1 and 2. Based on the available desktop resources, no abandoned underground and surface mines or documented mine entrances/openings are located within 0.25-mile of the Project. No karst features were identified within 0.25-mile of the Project. The closest feature is located approximately 0.45-mile west of the Project area.

Please provide us with the results of the ODNR's environmental review, including results of the ODNR Natural Heritage Database search, at your earliest convenience. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact me at the phone number or email below. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

**Brian Miller** 

**Environmental Project Manager** 

Bang Mulls

Phone: (412-667-9172); brian.miller1@aecom.com

CC: Amy J. Toohey

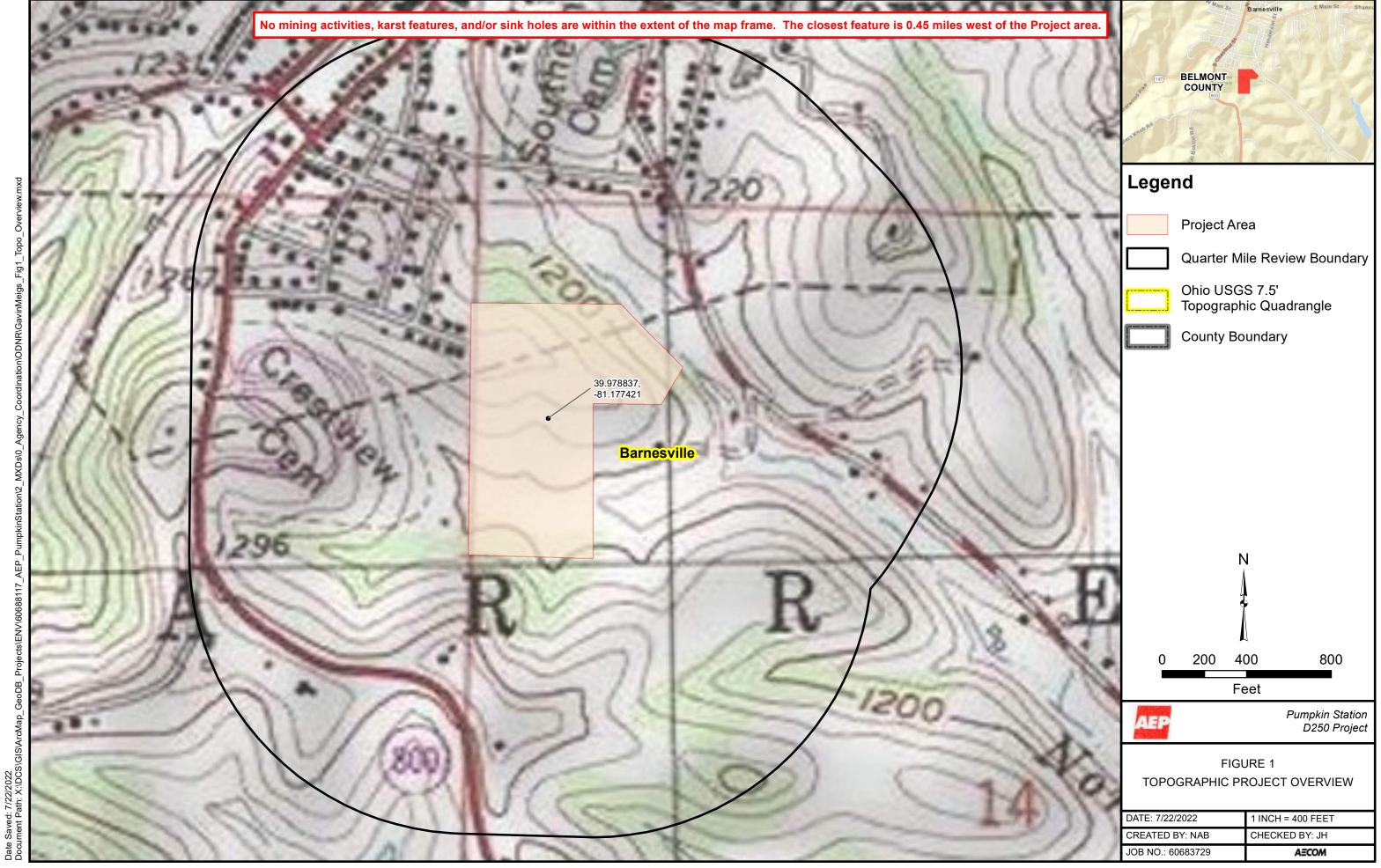
**Environmental Specialist-Consultant** 

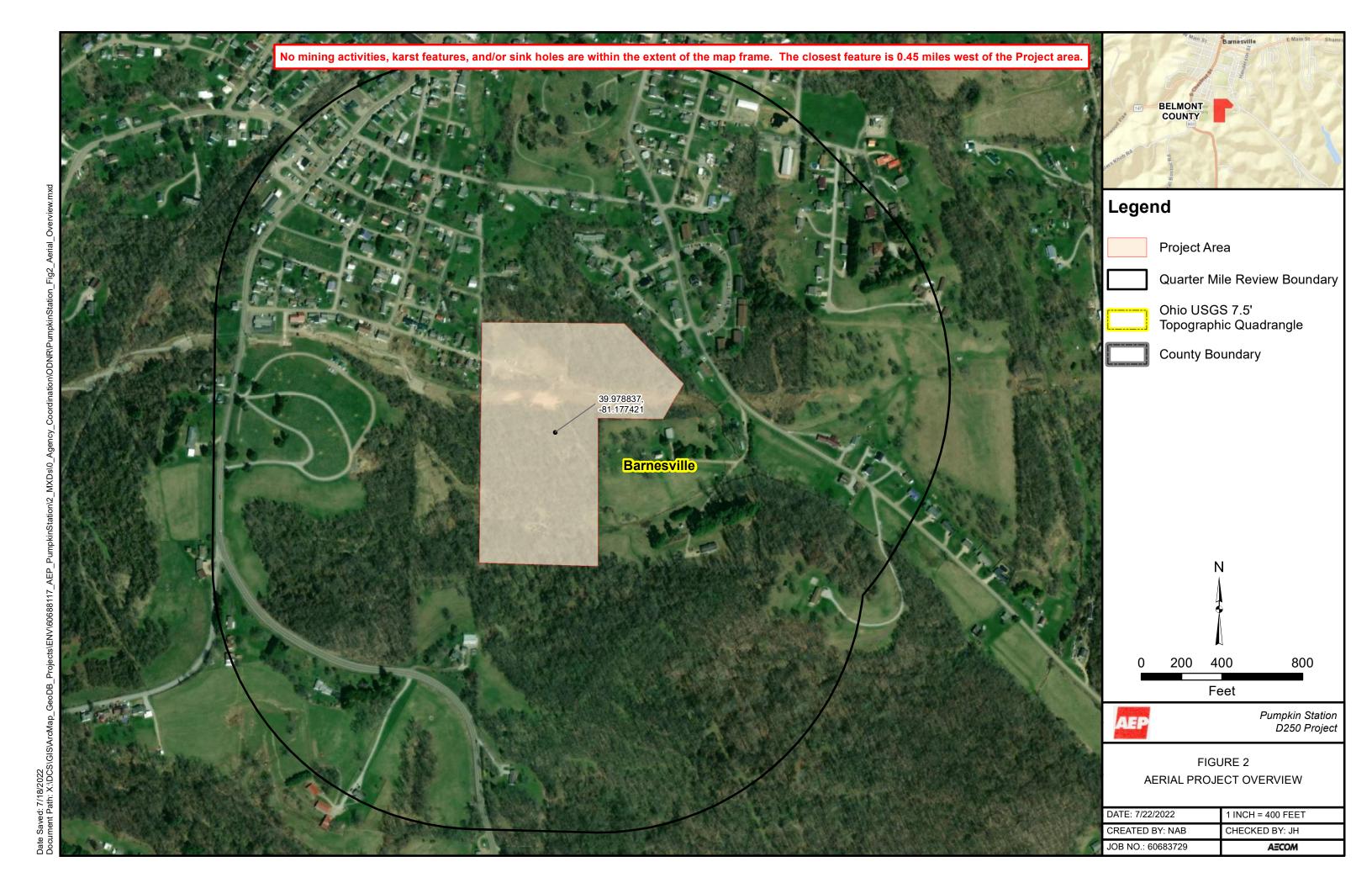
Phone: (614-565-1480); ajtoohey@aep.com

Attachments: Figure 1 – Topographic Project Overview; Figure 2 – Aerial Project Overview; Natural Heritage Data

Request Form; Electronic Shapefiles(.shp)







# This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/29/2023 10:52:47 AM

in

Case No(s). 23-0694-EL-BNR

Summary: Notice Construction Notice. electronically filed by Hector Garcia-Santana on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc..