

# **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**



An **AEP** Company

PUCO Case No. 24-0711-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.

July 22, 2024

**Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

**Construction Notice**

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton 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.

**4906-6-5(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 West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project (the “Project”) located in Lincoln Township, Morrow County, Ohio. The Project involves installing a new structure and adjusting approximately 0.1 miles of the existing West Mount Vernon–North Waldo 138 kV line. Supplemental easements will be acquired on properties adjacent to the east and west of the Fulton Station parcel to accommodate the adjusted transmission line. The location of the Project is shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2 in Appendix A.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice because it is within the types of projects defined by items (1)(a) and 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. 24-0711-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 existing switches outside of Fulton Station both failed in 2019 and are currently inoperable due to burnt contacts. To fix the broken infrastructure, the two inoperable switches will be removed and replaced with

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

one new Point of Delivery (“POD”) box bay structure, located north of the existing Fulton Station. The West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line must shift slightly to reconnect the new box bay structure and the Fulton Station.

The Project did not need to go through the PJM process, because the Project does not change transmission system ratings, impedances, or topology. The Project was not listed in the Company’s 2024 LTFR document because the Project had not been identified separately as one to be constructed in 2024.

### **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 transmission lines and substation 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.**

Fulton Station, a distribution substation, is located on property owned by Ohio Power Company, an affiliate of the Company. Two switch structures, one of which has failed, are located on the same property north of the existing station fence. The Company evaluated multiple solutions to address the failed switch. Ultimately, the proposed point of delivery structure replaces both existing switch structures. The structure replacement shifts the centerline north approximately 20 feet with small supplemental easements needed on the adjacent properties, although no disruption to the agricultural use of these properties is necessary as the only new structure remains on Ohio Power Company property. This minimal shift also allows the Company to maintain safety and reliability standards. No impacts to wetlands, streams, or cultural resources are introduced. This Project is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company’s needs in the area because other solutions increase costs, disrupt the necessary in-service schedule, or restrict future potential improvements at Fulton Station.

### **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 Construction Notice is available. An electronic copy of the Construction Notice will be served to the public

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

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 October 2024, and the anticipated in-service date will be in November 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 Marengo, Ohio quadrangle. Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the Project Area on recent aerial photography, dated 2022, as provided by ESRI 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-71 North for approximately 31.5 miles to Exit 140. Turn left onto OH-61 North and continue for approximately 2.9 miles. Turn left onto Prospect Mount Vernon Road and continue for 1.7 miles. Turn right on to Worthington-New Haven Road (County Road 24). After approximately 2.5 miles, the driveway to the existing Fulton Station will be on the left at the approximate address of 2730 County Road 24, Cardington, Ohio 43315 at latitude 40.453654, longitude -82.842786.

### **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.**

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

<b>Property Parcel Number</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>	<b>Easement/ Option Obtained (Yes/No)</b>
J24-001-A0-114-00	Property owned by affiliate of the Company	Not Applicable
J24-001-00-113-00	Supplemental Easement	No
J24-001-00-302-04	Supplemental Easement	No

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

The form easement in Appendix B represents the easement rights the Company would seek if condemnation proceedings were necessary to construct, operate, and maintain these facilities. The Company does not anticipate the need for condemnation proceedings in this Project.

### **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.**

The Project construction is estimated to include the following:

Voltage:	138 kV
Conductors:	(3) 1033.5 KCM ACSR 54/7 Curlew (Same conductor type as existing) (3) 556.5 kcm ACSR 26/7 Dove
Static Wire:	(2) 7#8 Alumoweld (same static wire type as existing)
Insulators:	Polymer
ROW Width:	100 feet
Structure Types:	(1) Point of delivery ("POD") box bay structure

### **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 cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$1,777,000 using a Class 5 estimate. Pursuant to the PJM OATT, the costs for this Project will be recovered in the 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 the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton 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.**

Aerial photography of the Project vicinity is provided as Figure 2 in Appendix A. The Project is located in Lincoln Township, Morrow County, Ohio. Land use in the Project area is rural including existing ROW, agriculture, and scattered residences. The closest residence is approximately 250 feet to the south of the existing West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV transmission line.

#### **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.**

The Project crosses two parcels used for row crops east and west of the Fulton Station. The POD structure installation will occur on the station property, which causes a slight change to the proposed centerline. The Morrow County Auditor reviewed the Project parcels versus their list of registered as Agricultural District Land on June 20, 2024. The parcel located west of the Fulton Station property is currently enrolled in the Agricultural District Land program. The Project will not add any new structures and no conversion of farmland or disruption to the Agricultural District Land status is proposed. The station property and adjacent parcel to the east were not identified 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. No further investigation was recommended by the Company's consultant to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO"). Concurrence from the SHPO is pending and will be docketed on the Project case file upon receipt.

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

### **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 is only needed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000006, if ground disturbance exceeds one acre. The area of disturbance is below reporting and permitting requirements for state and local stormwater permitting requirements and no permits are required. The Company will implement and maintain best management practices to minimize erosion control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events.

No streams or wetlands were delineated within the Project area (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 **39117C0275E**). 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 June 11, 2024 response letter from the USFWS (see Appendix C) identified the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, federally endangered species, and the tricolored bat, a federally proposed endangered species, as occurring within the Project area. In accordance with current Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Division of Wildlife ("DOW") /USFWS Joint Guidance for at Surveys and tree clearing, no known karst, mines and/or caves were identified within 0.25 miles of the project survey area. The USFWS recommend that if no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees  $\geq 3$  inches cannot be avoided, trees should be removed between October 1 and March 31 to avoid

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats during the brood-rearing months. If seasonal tree cutting is not possible, the USFWS recommended a presence/absence survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15. No tree clearing is proposed for the Project, therefore, no impacts to these bat species are anticipated.

Due to the Project type, size, and location, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

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 May 2024, seeking an environmental review of the proposed Project for potential impacts on state-listed and federally-listed threatened or endangered species. Correspondence from ODNR’s DOW/OHNP and the ODNR – Office of Real Estate was received on June 26, 2024 (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 tricolored bat. The ODNR recommends cutting between October 1 and March 31, if necessary. No winter hibernacula were observed within the Project Area and no potential hibernaculum were identified within 0.25 mile of the Project Area based on review of karst and mining GIS data as well as topographic quadrangle maps and aerial photography. No tree clearing is expected, therefore, no impacts to bat species are anticipated.

The ODNR-DOW indicated that the Project is within the range of the Iowa darter, a state threatened fish, and the lake chubsucker, a state threatened fish. Due to no in-water work and no perennial streams, these species are not anticipated to be impacted by the Project.

The ODNR-DOW also indicated that the Project is within the range of the northern harrier, 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. If this type of habitat will be impacted, ODNR-DOW stated that construction should be avoided during the nesting period between April 15 and July 31. No suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area based on the ecological survey. No impacts to this species are anticipated.

### **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.**

No federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat in the Project vicinity. Similarly, the ODNR ONHP identified no unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers,

## **Construction Notice for the West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project**

state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within one mile of the Project.

Wetland and stream delineation field surveys were completed within the Project area by the Company's consultant in June 2024. No streams or wetlands were delineated within the Project area (see Appendix C). 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 **39117C0275E**). Based on these maps, no mapped FEMA floodplains are located in the Project area.

### **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**



**Legend:**

- Project Area
- Existing Transmission Line

Data Sources: AEP, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Marengo, Ohio)

Ohio State Plane North NAD 1983



June 26, 2024

**PROJECT LOCATION**



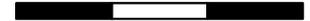
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 1  
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**



West Mount Vernon - North Waldo 138 kV Transmission Line Relocation (Fulton Station) Project

0 1,000 2,000 3,000



Feet



-  Proposed Centerline
-  Proposed Point of Delivery Structure
-  Existing Station
-  Existing Transmission Line
-  Parcel Boundary

Imagery Source:  
ESRI World Imagery  
2022

Ohio State Plane North  
NAD 1983

July 19, 2024



PROJECT LOCATION



MORROW COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 2**  
**PROJECT AERIAL MAP**

 West Mount Vernon-North Waldo 138 kV  
Transmission Line Relocation  
(Fulton Station) Project

0 250 500 750  
Feet

**Appendix B**

**Form Easement**

**Line Name:** Scherers Switch – Alexander (T)

**Line No.:** TLN160:00425

**Easement No.:**

### EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY

#### (Exclusive and Non-Exclusive)

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and the covenants hereinafter set forth, [landowner name and marital status], whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ (“Grantor”), whether one or more persons, hereby grants, sells, conveys, and warrants to AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., an Ohio corporation, a unit of American Electric Power, whose principal business address is 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (“AEP”), and its successors and affiliates, a permanent easement and right of way (“Easement”) for a single electric transmission line, not to exceed 138 kV, for distribution purposes, and for internal communication purposes related to the transmission of electricity (the “Transmission Line”), being, in, on, over, under, through and across the following described lands of Grantor, situated in the State of Ohio, County of \_\_\_\_\_, and Township of \_\_\_\_\_ and being a part of [abbreviated legal description] (“Grantor’s Property”).

*Contingent provision:* [Spouse of Grantor, if any] join herein for the purpose of releasing all dower rights in regard to the Easement.

Grantor claims title by [name of vesting instrument] dated \_\_\_\_\_ from [name of first grantor], recorded on \_\_\_\_\_ at [record volume, page] in the Licking County Recorder’s Office.

Auditor/Key/Tax Number: [Tax Parcel Number]

The Easement Area, which may include both Non-Exclusive and Exclusive Easement Areas, is more fully described and depicted on Exhibit “A”, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof (the Exclusive and Non-Exclusive Easement Areas are together referred to as the “Easement Area” unless otherwise specified).

The Exclusive Easement Area shall be described and depicted on Exhibit "A" as "Exclusive Easement Area." Grantor conveys all rights reasonably necessary for the use and enjoyment of the Exclusive Easement Area. AEP may grade or fill the Exclusive Easement Area as is reasonably necessary for the Transmission Line and related facilities to be located therein, may fence and otherwise restrict access to the Exclusive Easement Area as reasonably necessary for safety and security of such Transmission Line and related facilities, the public, or to comply with applicable laws, regulations, or administrative requirements, and may otherwise exercise exclusive control of the Exclusive Easement Area.

**GRANTOR FURTHER GRANTS AEP THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO BOTH THE EXCLUSIVE AND NON-EXCLUSIVE PORTIONS OF THE EASEMENT AREA:**

The right, now or in the future, to construct, reconstruct, operate, maintain, alter, improve, inspect, patrol, protect, repair, remove, replace, upgrade and relocate within the Easement Area, structures and appurtenant equipment necessary for the Transmission Line.

The right, in AEP's discretion, now or in the future, to cut down, trim or remove, and otherwise control, any and all trees, overhanging branches, vegetation or brush situated within the Easement Area. AEP shall also have the right to cut down, trim or remove trees situated on Grantor's Property which adjoin the Easement Area within the Tree Protection Zone when in the reasonable opinion of AEP those trees are dead, dying, diseased, leaning, or structurally defective and may endanger the safety of, or interfere with the construction, operation or maintenance of AEP's facilities or ingress or egress to, from or along the Easement Area. The Tree Protection Zone extends eighty feet on all sides of the Easement Area depicted in Exhibit A.

AEP shall also have the right of reasonable ingress and egress over, across and upon the Easement Area only, unless additional access routes are depicted in the attached Exhibit A. Provided, however, that in the event access over, across and upon the Easement Area – and access routes, if any, shown in Exhibit A – shall become blocked or otherwise rendered unsafe or hazardous for use, AEP may temporarily access the Easement Area from other points across Grantor's Property, so long as that access is both reasonable and limited to the duration of the interference or safety hazard. AEP shall return the access area to its preexisting condition or pay damages to Grantor.

AEP shall also have the right to use temporary workspaces and temporary access roads outside the Easement Area as shown on Exhibit "A" in connection with its initial construction of the Transmission Line. AEP may shift the location of such temporary workspaces up to twenty (20) feet in any direction, and also shift the location of such temporary access roads up to twenty (20) feet in any direction, as field conditions or other requirements dictate. Upon completion of the overall Transmission Line project, but in no event later than two (2) years following the start of construction on Grantor's Property, AEP shall remove its equipment from all temporary workspaces and temporary access roads outside the Easement Area, and AEP's temporary rights outside of the Easement Area shall automatically cease, terminate and revert to Grantor. AEP shall return any such areas to their preexisting condition or pay damages to Grantor as soon as practicable.

**THIS GRANT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

Within the Non-Exclusive Easement Area Grantor reserves the right to cultivate annual crops, pasture, construct fences (provided gates are installed that adequately provide AEP the access rights conveyed herein) and roads or otherwise use Grantor's Property encumbered by this Easement in any way not inconsistent with the rights herein granted. In no event, however, shall Grantor, its heirs, successors, affiliates and assigns plant or cultivate any trees or place, construct, install, erect or permit any temporary or permanent building, structure, improvement or obstruction including but not limited to, storage tanks, billboards, signs, sheds, dumpsters, light poles, water impoundments, above ground irrigation systems, swimming pools or wells, or permit any alteration of the ground elevation, over, or within the Easement Area. AEP may, at Grantor's cost, remove any structure or obstruction if placed within the Easement Area, and may re-grade any alterations of the ground elevation within the Easement Area.

AEP agrees to repair or pay Grantor for actual damages sustained by Grantor to crops, fences, gates, irrigation and drainage systems, drives, or lawns that are permitted herein, when such damages arise out of AEP's exercise of the rights herein granted.

Pursuant to O.R.C. 163.02, Grantor possesses a right of repurchase pursuant to section 163.211 of the Revised Code if AEP decides not to use the property for the purpose stated in the appropriation petition and Grantor provides timely notice of a desire to repurchase.

This instrument contains the complete agreement, expressed or implied between the parties herein and shall inure to the benefit of and be binding on their respective successors, affiliates, heirs, executors, and administrators.

This Easement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**Any remaining space on this page left intentionally blank. See next page(s) for signature(s).**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, said Grantor hereunto set their hand(s) and seal(s) as of the last date set forth below.

**GRANTOR**

*SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR A BUSINESS ENTITY / TRUST:*

[name of entity/trust & kind of business association identified]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Its Authorized Signer

State of Ohio §

§ SS:

County of Licking §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ [title] \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ [name of entity/trust]\_\_\_\_, a/an \_\_\_\_\_ [state of incorporation and type of entity/trust]\_\_\_\_, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ [name of entity/trust]\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

-----  
*SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR AN INDIVIDUAL:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Typed name of individual]

State of Ohio §

§ SS:

County of Licking §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ [name of individual]\_\_\_\_\_.

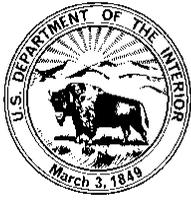
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

This instrument prepared by Marland Turner, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215 for and on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., a unit of American Electric Power.

When recorded return to: American Electric Power – Transmission Right of Way, 8600 Smith’s Mill Road, New Albany, OH 43054.

## **Appendix C**

### **Agency Coordination**



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



June 11, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0075084

Dear Olivia Speckman:

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, endangered, and proposed 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 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  $\geq 3$  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.

Federally Proposed Species: On September 14, 2022, the Service proposed to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) as endangered under the ESA. The bat faces extinction due to the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. During spring, summer, and fall, this species roosts primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead trees, emerging at dusk to hunt for insects over waterways and forest edges. While white-nose syndrome is by far the most serious threat to the tricolored bat, other threats now have an increased significance due to the dramatic decline in the species' population. These threats include disturbance to bats in roosting, foraging, commuting, and over-wintering habitats. Mortality due to collision with wind turbines, especially during migration, has also been documented across their range. Conservation measures for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat will also help to conserve the tricolored bat.

*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.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared 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](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, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at [mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov).

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](mailto:ohio@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Knoll".

Erin Knoll  
Field Office Supervisor

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



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

**Office of Real Estate**  
*Tara Paciorek, Chief*  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6661  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

June 26, 2024

Olivia Speckman  
V3 Companies  
619 North Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Re:** 24-0817\_Fulton Station

**Project:** The proposed project involves removing an existing guyed wooden structure and replacing with new POD bay at the existing Fulton Station.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Lincoln Township, Morrow County, Ohio.

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

**Natural Heritage Database:** A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the specified project area. Records searched date from 1980.

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

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

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

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species of bats predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure

surrounding roost trees. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq 20$  if possible. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the "[OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING](#)". If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov)).

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#)." If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#)." If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish, and the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), 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, the project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

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

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

Mike Pettegrew  
Environmental Services Administrator

## **Appendix D**

### **Ecological Survey Report**

# FULTON STATION ECOLOGICAL REPORT



**PROJECT SITE:**

**2730 County Road 24**  
Cardington, Morrow County, Ohio

**PREPARED FOR:**

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.  
8600 Smiths Mill Road  
New Albany, Ohio 43054



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

**PREPARED BY:**

V3 Companies, Ltd.  
619 North Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 423-0690

June 2024

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... 3

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION ..... 4

1.1 Introduction..... 4

Chapter 2 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES ..... 5

2.1 Wetlands..... 5

Chapter 3 DESKTOP REVIEW ..... 6

3.1 United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map..... 6

3.2 National Wetlands Inventory Map..... 6

3.3 Flood Insurance Rate Map ..... 6

3.4 United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey ..... 6

3.5 Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species Evaluation ..... 7

Chapter 4 SITE RECONNAISSANCE ..... 9

4.1 Methodology ..... 9

4.2 SITE and Adjacent Property Land Use ..... 9

4.3 Wetland Summary..... 9

4.4 Data Point Summary..... 9

4.5 Drainage Features, Streams, and Other Potential “Waters of the U.S.” ..... 10

Chapter 5 CONCLUSIONS ..... 11

**FIGURES**

- FIGURE 1: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
- FIGURE 2: NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY MAP & NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER MAP
- FIGURE 3: SOIL SURVEY OF OHIO (2019) MAP
- FIGURE 4: WETLAND DELINEATION MAP

**TABLES**

Table 3-1: Soil Survey On-SITE..... 7

Table 3-2: ETR Species Table ..... 8

**APPENDICES**

- APPENDIX A ETR SPECIES CORRESPONDENCE
- APPENDIX B SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- APPENDIX C DATA FORMS



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

V3 Companies, Ltd. (V3), performed an ecological survey and report for Fulton Station, located in Cardington, Morrow County, Ohio (SITE) on 19 June 2024.

V3 reached the following conclusions based on review of available and reasonably ascertainable federal, state, and local resources, and a SITE inspection conducted on the date referenced above.

- No streams were identified on-SITE.
- No wetlands were identified on-SITE.
- An official species list obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, endangered), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*, proposed endangered), salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*, proposed endangered), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*, candidate). The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.
- A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the SITE is within the range of nine threatened or endangered species. The SITE does not appear to have perennial streams, grasslands, roost trees, or other potential suitable habitats for these species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species if the habitat is not impacted and gave recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to these species and their habitats.



# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared solely in accordance with an agreement between American Electric Power (“CLIENT”) and V3 Companies (“V3”), Ltd.

The services performed by V3 have been conducted in a manner consistent with the level of quality and skill generally exercised by members of its profession and consulting practices relating to this type of engagement.

This report is solely for the use of CLIENT and was prepared based upon an understanding of CLIENT’s specific objective(s) and based upon information obtained by V3 in furtherance of CLIENT’s specific objective(s). Any reliance of this report by third parties shall be at such third party's sole risk as this report may not contain, or be based upon, sufficient information for purposes of other parties, for their objectives, or for other uses. This report shall only be presented in full and may not be used to support any other objectives than those for CLIENT as set out in the report, except where written approval and consent are expressly provided by CLIENT and V3.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this investigation was to conduct an ecological survey and report of the SITE to evaluate potential land development permitting requirements regarding natural resources. In this report, V3 provides a detailed description of the information reviewed and collected as part of the scope of work for this project. V3 summarizes the jurisdictional framework applicable to this project, provides a desktop review of relevant and publicly available documents, and details information collected during the SITE reconnaissance including a wetlands determination, an evaluation of the potential presence of other natural resources within the SITE boundary, and a discussion of endangered, threatened, and rare (ETR) species and habitat. The Conclusions section summarizes V3’s findings, addresses potential areas of concern and permitting, regulatory, and other relevant issues.

The project involves removing an existing guyed wooden structure and replacing it with a new POD bay at the existing Fulton Station, located in Cardington, Morrow County, Ohio (**Figure 1**).



## CHAPTER 2 JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES

### 2.1 WETLANDS

Wetlands offer a variety of functions and values that may include, but are not limited to, groundwater recharge/discharge, flood flow alteration, sediment/toxicant retention, and fish and wildlife habitat. Because of the perceived functions and values of wetlands, USACE developed the Wetlands Delineation Manual, (*1987 Manual*)<sup>1</sup> to identify wetlands.

Wetlands are defined in the *1987 Manual* as, “Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.”<sup>2</sup> The *1987 Manual* outlines the protocol for distinguishing wetland areas from “upland” areas. Wetland areas are delineated according to three primary criteria: vegetation, soil, and hydrology. An area is determined to qualify as a wetland if it meets the following “general diagnostic environmental characteristics:”

- Hydrophytic vegetation
- Hydrology
- Hydric Soil

---

<sup>1</sup> USACE. Waterways Experiment Station. Wetlands Research Program. “Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual.” Vicksburg, MS: Environmental Laboratory, 1987



## CHAPTER 3 DESKTOP REVIEW

V3 reviewed applicable, readily available, and accessible historical information for the potential presence of wetlands, “Waters of the U.S.,” and other natural resources.

### 3.1 UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE MAP

A USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle map displays contour lines to portray the shape and elevation of the land surface. Quadrangle maps render the three-dimensional changes in elevation of the terrain on a two-dimensional surface. The maps usually portray both manmade and natural topographic features. Although they show lakes, rivers, various surface water drainage trends, vegetation, etc., they typically do not provide the level of detail needed for accurate evaluation of wetlands. However, the existence of these features may suggest the potential presence of wetlands.

The SITE is situated in the Marengo, Ohio USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map, in Township 17 North, Range 17 West. V3 evaluated the topography and concluded that the SITE elevation ranges from approximately 1,050 to 1,070 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). No aquatic features are mapped within the SITE area (**Figure 1**).

### 3.2 NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps were developed to meet a USFWS mandate to map the wetland and deepwater habitats of the U.S. These maps were developed using high altitude aerial photographs and USGS Quadrangle maps as a topographic base. Indicators that exhibited pre-determined wetland characteristics, visible in the photographs, were identified according to a detailed classification system. The NWI map retains some of the detail of the Quadrangle map; however, it is used primarily for demonstration of wetland areas identified by the agency. The maps are accurate to a scale of 1:24,000. In general, the NWI information requires field verification.

NWI data is shown projected over aerial imagery in **Figure 2**. No NWI features are mapped within the SITE area.

### 3.3 FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was developed in 1979 to reform disaster relief and recovery, civil defense, and to prepare and mitigate for natural hazards. The Mitigation Division of FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program which provides guidance on how to lessen the impact of disasters on communities through flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Proper floodplain management has the ability to minimize the extent of flooding and flood damage and improve stormwater quality by reducing stormwater velocities and erosion. The one percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) boundary must be kept free of encroachment as the national standard for the program.

V3 reviewed digital National Flood Hazard Zone data for Morrow County, Ohio. No portion of the SITE is mapped within the 100-year floodway or a flood zone (**Figure 2**).

### 3.4 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL SURVEY

V3 reviewed the soils mapped on-SITE using the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) digital soil survey data for Morrow County, Ohio. This data is projected over aerial photography, illustrating distinct soil map unit boundaries, in **Figure 3**.



Table 3-1: Soil Survey On-SITE

Soil Map Unit	Description	Hydric within Morrow County
Gwe5B2	Glynwood clay loam, end moraine, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	No

There are no hydric soil units mapped within the SITE area.

### 3.5 ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES EVALUATION

An official species list obtained from the USFWS IPaC website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered), the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, endangered), the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*, proposed endangered), the salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*, proposed endangered), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*, candidate for listing).

The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the ODNR indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the SITE is within the range of nine threatened or endangered species. The SITE does not appear to have perennial streams, grasslands, roost trees, or other potential suitable habitats for these species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species if the habitat is not impacted and gave recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to these species and their habitats.

ODNR recommended a desktop habitat assessment followed by a field assessment, if needed, to identify if potential bat hibernacula are present within the Project area. V3 completed a desktop assessment including data on known abandoned or active mines and locations known or suspected of karst geology. The desktop assessment identified no karst features or mine openings within 0.25 mile of the Project area. Further, no suitable bat hibernacula were observed during the field reconnaissance

Agency responses are summarized in **Table 3-2**. Copies of agency correspondence can be referenced in **Appendix A**.

Table 2-2: ETR Species Table

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Listed Status	Federally Listed Status	Typical Habitat Description	Habitat Observed In Survey Area	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comment (Appendix A)	Potential Impacts
<b>Fishes</b>								
<i>Etheostoma exile</i>	Iowa darter	Endangered	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June	ODNR - Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.	No
<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>	Lake chubsucker	Threatened	N/A	Perennial streams	No	15 March to 30 June		No
<b>Birds</b>								
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Northern Harrier	Endangered	N/A	Breed and hunt in large marshes and grasslands. Nests on the ground atop mounds	No	15 March to 31 July	ODNR - If the habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No
<b>Mammals</b>								
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana bat	Endangered	Endangered	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	No	1 April to 30 September	ODNR/USFWS – Cutting of trees is recommended between 1 October and 31 March. If seasonal tree cutting is not possible, a mist net survey or acoustic survey may be conducted by an approved surveyor between 1 June and 15 August.  ODNR - If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 mile of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the Division of Wildlife (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.	No
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern long-eared bat	Endangered	Endangered		No			No
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little brown bat	Endangered	Endangered		No			No
<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Tricolored bat	Proposed Endangered	N/A		No			No



## CHAPTER 4 SITE RECONNAISSANCE

### 4.1 METHODOLOGY

V3 conducted a field investigation at the SITE on 19 June 2024. During this investigation, V3 noted the presumed land use of the SITE and surrounding area, and evaluated the SITE for the potential presence of wetlands, “Waters of the U.S.,” and natural resources using the findings of the desktop review and field observations. Photographs were taken during the field investigation and are provided in **Appendix B**.

V3 used the Routine Determination Method (RDM) with an established baseline and transects as described in the *1987 Manual* for typical sites over five acres. V3 recorded data from a number of data points (DP) along the transect as a function of diversity of vegetation, property size, soil types, habitat variability, and other SITE features as deemed appropriate by V3. Where evidence of a wetland was suspected, three wetland criteria were applied to determine if the area in question was representative of a wetland using the methodology set forth by USACE. More specifically, V3 visually examined and recorded the dominant vegetation, recorded soil properties such as texture and color using the Munsell Soil Color Chart (Munsell Color Chart), excavated soil pits, and evaluated the primary and secondary hydrologic indicators.

If all three criteria were met, i.e. vegetation, soil properties, and hydrologic indicators, a second DP was established adjacent to the wetland DP in an area outside of the presumed wetland boundary for the purpose of delineating between the wetland and non-wetland areas. Once delineated, V3 continued the RDM to evaluate the remainder of the SITE.

### 4.2 SITE AND ADJACENT PROPERTY LAND USE

The 2.62-acre SITE consists of active agricultural land and the existing Fulton Station. Adjacent land use consists of active agricultural land, woodland, and residences.

### 4.3 WETLAND SUMMARY

No wetlands were identified during this investigation based upon the methodology set forth in the *1987 Manual* and the *Midwest Regional Supplement*. Information that V3 collected at each DP on 19 June 2024 is described in the following section. This information is summarized on the forms provided in **Appendix C**. An overall SITE delineation map showing placement of the DPs is included as **Figure 4**.

### 4.4 DATA POINT SUMMARY

Below is a description of the information collected at each additional DP during the 19 June 2024 field investigation that was not associated with an identified wetland area. The purpose of collecting these DPs was to describe the remaining characteristics of the SITE. Information that was collected at each DP is summarized on the forms provided in **Appendix C**. Their placement is depicted in **Figure 4**.

#### DP 1

This DP was collected in the central portion of the SITE. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of soybean (*Glycine max*, UPL, 40%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

#### DP 2

This DP was collected in the southern portion of the SITE. This area did not meet any wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation



for each stratum present consisted of Timothy grass (*Phleum pratense*, FACU, 30%), tall fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*, FACU, 25%), and orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*, FACU, 25%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

### DP 3

This DP was collected in the northern portion of the SITE. This area met the hydrophytic vegetation criteria but did not meet any other wetland criteria. Since all three criteria were not met, this area does not qualify as a wetland. The dominant vegetation for each stratum present consisted of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*, FACW, 35%), Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*, FACU, 25%), and tall fescue (FACU, 20%). No indicators of hydric soils were observed. No indicators of wetland hydrology were observed.

## 4.5 DRAINAGE FEATURES, STREAMS, AND OTHER POTENTIAL “WATERS OF THE U.S.”

No streams, open water bodies, stormwater features, or erosional features were identified during this investigation using the methods described in Chapter 2. Information that V3 collected at each feature on 19 June 2024 is described in the following section. An overall SITE delineation map is included as **Figure 4**.

## CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

On 19 June 2024, V3 performed a wetland delineation of the SITE located in the Marengo, Ohio USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map, in Township 17 North, Range 17 West.

No streams or wetlands were identified on-SITE.

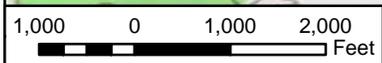
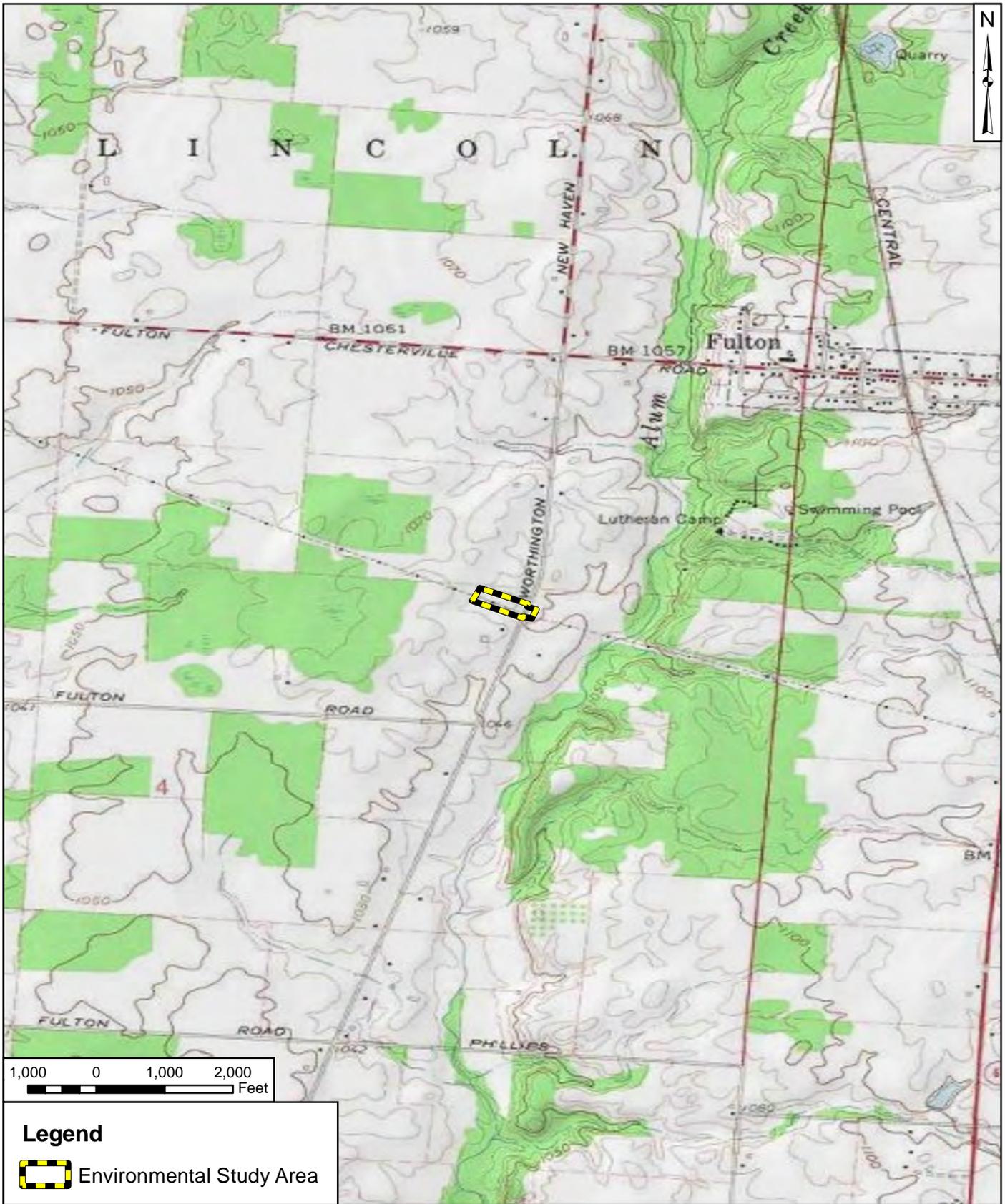
An official species list obtained from the USFWS IPaC website indicated that the SITE is within the ranges of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, endangered), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, endangered), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*, proposed endangered), salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*, proposed endangered), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*, candidate). The USFWS stated the due to the project, type, size, and location, the agency does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database with the ODNR indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the project area. Additionally, the ODNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated that the SITE is within the range of nine threatened or endangered species. The SITE does not appear to have perennial streams, grasslands, roost trees, or other potential suitable habitats for these species. The ODNR stated that the project is not likely to impact these species if the habitat is not impacted and gave recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to these species and their habitats.



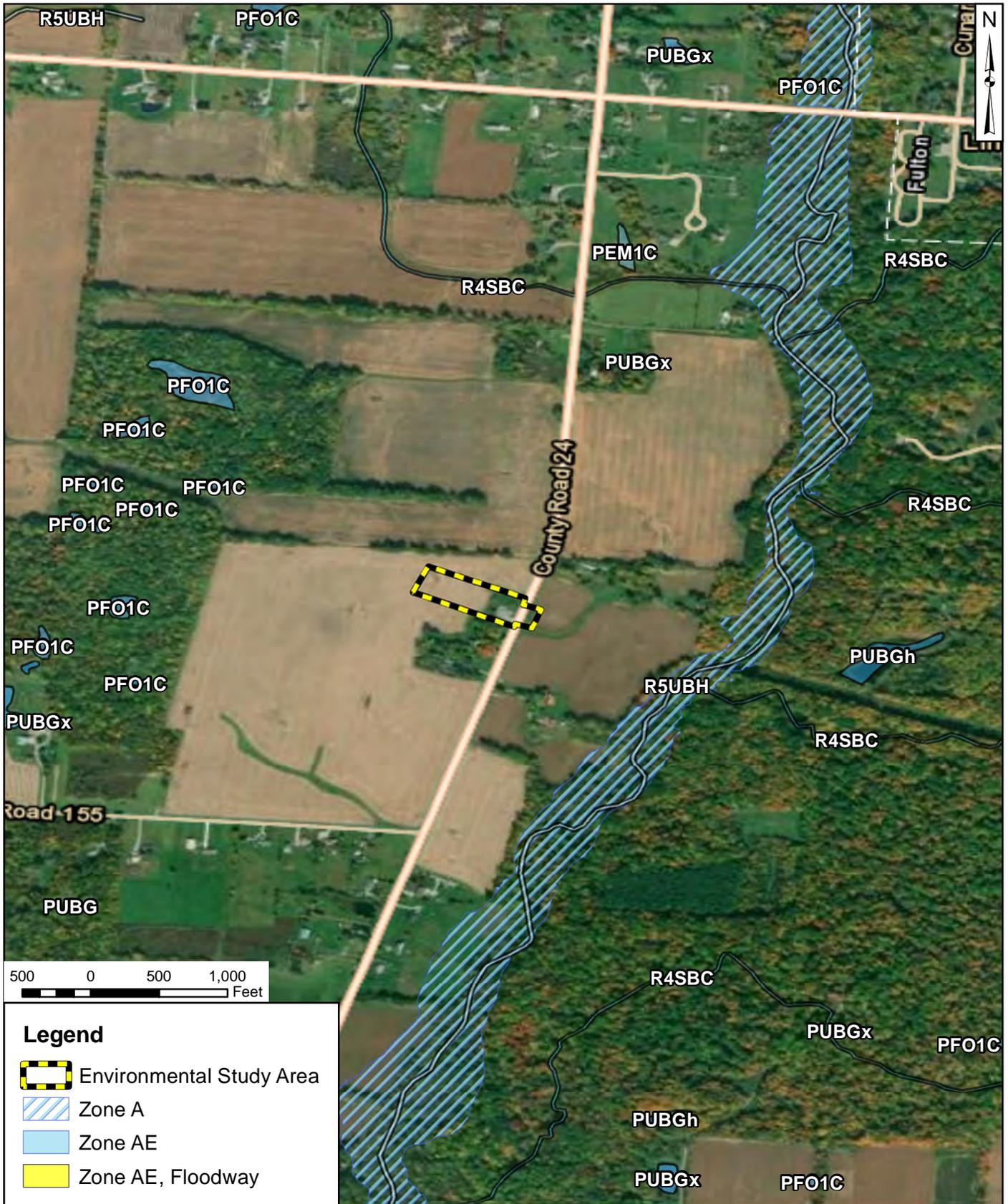
Figures





<b>Legend</b>	
	Environmental Study Area

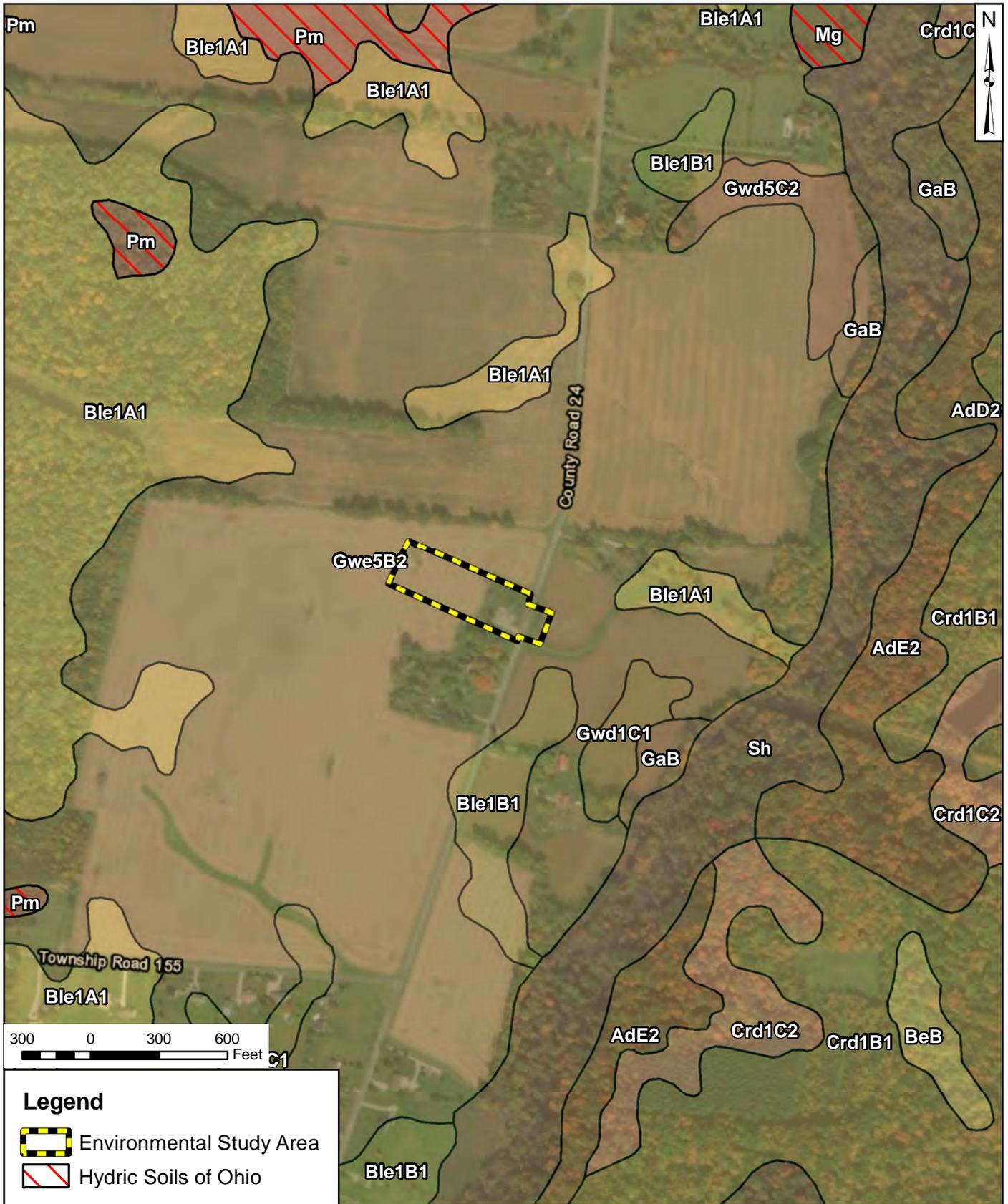
 619 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 317.423.0690 phone www.v3co.com	PROJECT NO.: 210180.204	CLIENT: American Electric Power 8600 Smiths Mill Road New Albany, Ohio 43054	TITLE: <b>USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP</b>	
	CREATED BY: ODS	DATE: 06/26/2024	BASE LAYER: USGS Topographic Map Marengo, Ohio Quadrangle	SITE: Fulton Station Morrow County, Ohio
Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"	SCALE: See Scale Bar			



**Legend**

- Environmental Study Area
- Zone A
- Zone AE
- Zone AE, Floodway

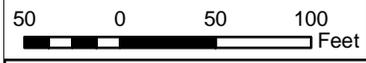
619 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 317.423.0690 phone www.v3co.com	PROJECT NO.: 210180.204	CLIENT: American Electric Power 8600 Smiths Mill Road New Albany, Ohio 43054	TITLE: <b>NATIONAL WETLANDS          INVENTORY MAP &amp; NATIONAL          FLOOD HAZARD LAYER MAP</b>	
	CREATED BY: ODS	DATE: 06/19/2024	BASE LAYER: USGS Topographic Map Marengo, Ohio Quadrangle	SITE: Fulton Station Morrow County, Ohio
Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"	SCALE: See Scale Bar			



**Legend**

-  Environmental Study Area
-  Hydric Soils of Ohio

 619 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 317.423.0690 phone www.v3co.com	PROJECT NO.: 210180.204	CLIENT: American Electric Power 8600 Smiths Mill Road New Albany, Ohio 43054	TITLE: <b>SOIL SURVEY          OF OHIO (2019) MAP</b>	
	CREATED BY: ODS	DATE: 06/19/2024	BASE LAYER: Aerial Imagery (2022)	SITE: Fulton Station Morrow County, Ohio
Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"	SCALE: See Scale Bar			



**Legend**

-  Environmental Study Area
-  Data Point
-  Existing Utility
-  Existing Fence

 619 N. Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 317.423.0690 phone www.v3co.com	PROJECT NO.: 210180.204	CLIENT: American Electric Power 8600 Smiths Mill Road New Albany, Ohio 43054	TITLE: <b>WETLAND DELINEATION MAP</b>	
	CREATED BY: ODS	DATE: 06/21/2024	BASE LAYER: Aerial Imagery (2022)	SITE: Fulton Station Morrow County, Ohio
Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"	SCALE: See Scale Bar			

Appendix A

*ETR Species Correspondence Letters*





## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office  
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104  
Columbus, OH 43230-8355  
Phone: (614) 416-8993 Fax: (614) 416-8994

In Reply Refer To:

04/10/2024 15:00:12 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0075084

Project Name: V3 - AEP - Fulton Station - 210180.204

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Ohio Ecological Services Field Office**

4625 Morse Road, Suite 104

Columbus, OH 43230-8355

(614) 416-8993

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0075084

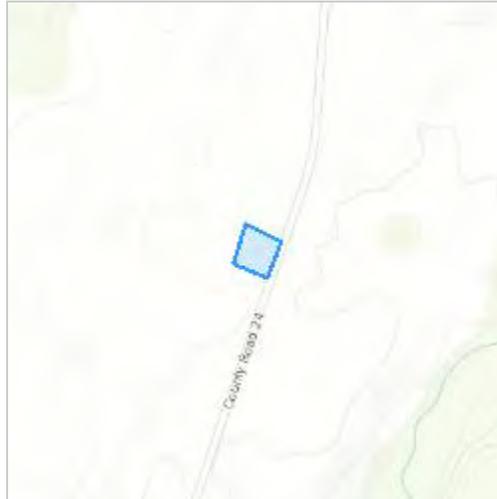
Project Name: V3 - AEP - Fulton Station - 210180.204

Project Type: Transmission Line - Maintenance/Modification - Above Ground

Project Description: The project involves removing an existing guyed wooden structure and replacing with new POD bay at the existing Fulton Station.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@40.45366265,-82.84279773805359,14z>



Counties: Morrow County, Ohio

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This species only needs to be considered if the project includes wind turbine operations.</li> </ul> Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

## CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Salamander Mussel <i>Simpsonaias ambigua</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6208">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6208</a>	Proposed Endangered

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

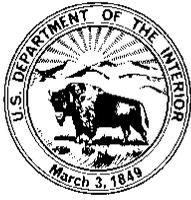
## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: V3 Companies  
Name: Olivia Speckman  
Address: 619 N Pennsylvania Street  
City: Indianapolis  
State: IN  
Zip: 46204  
Email: ospeckman@v3co.com  
Phone: 3174230690



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



June 11, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0075084

Dear Olivia Speckman:

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, endangered, and proposed 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 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  $\geq 3$  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.

Federally Proposed Species: On September 14, 2022, the Service proposed to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) as endangered under the ESA. The bat faces extinction due to the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. During spring, summer, and fall, this species roosts primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead trees, emerging at dusk to hunt for insects over waterways and forest edges. While white-nose syndrome is by far the most serious threat to the tricolored bat, other threats now have an increased significance due to the dramatic decline in the species' population. These threats include disturbance to bats in roosting, foraging, commuting, and over-wintering habitats. Mortality due to collision with wind turbines, especially during migration, has also been documented across their range. Conservation measures for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat will also help to conserve the tricolored bat.

*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.

If implementation of this seasonal tree cutting recommendation is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared 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](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, Environmental Services Administrator, at (614) 265-6387 or at [mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:mike.pettegrew@dnr.ohio.gov).

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](mailto:ohio@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Knoll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Erin Knoll  
Field Office Supervisor

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



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

**Office of Real Estate**  
*Tara Paciorek, Chief*  
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Phone: (614) 265-6661  
Fax: (614) 267-4764

June 26, 2024

Olivia Speckman  
V3 Companies  
619 North Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Re:** 24-0817\_Fulton Station

**Project:** The proposed project involves removing an existing guyed wooden structure and replacing with new POD bay at the existing Fulton Station.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Lincoln Township, Morrow County, Ohio.

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

**Natural Heritage Database:** A review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates there are no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the specified project area. Records searched date from 1980.

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

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

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

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species of bats predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure

surrounding roost trees. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq 20$  if possible. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the "[OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING](#)". If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov)).

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#)." If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT & NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES](#)." If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the project area, please send this information to Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance, however, limited summer or winter tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), a state endangered fish, and the lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), a state threatened fish. The DOW recommends no in-water work in perennial streams from March 15 through June 30 to reduce impacts to indigenous aquatic species and their habitat. If no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these or other aquatic species.

The project is within the range of the northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), 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, the project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

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

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

Mike Pettegrew  
Environmental Services Administrator

Appendix B

*SITE Photographs*



**Photo: 1**

Data Point 1

**Direction of View:**

West

**Date:**

19 June 2024



**Photo: 2**

Data Point 1

**Direction of View:**

East

**Date:**

19 June 2024



**Photo: 3**

Data Point 2

**Direction of View:**

West

**Date:**

19 June 2024



**Photo: 4**

Data Point 2

**Direction of View:**

South

**Date:**

19 June 2024



**Photo: 5**

Data Point 3

**Direction of View:**

North

**Date:**

19 June 2024



**Photo: 6**

Data Point 3

**Direction of View:**

East

**Date:**

19 June 2024



## Appendix C

### *Data Forms*



**WETLAND DETERMINATION FORM-MIDWEST REGION**

Site: Fulton Station City/County: Morrow County Date: 19 Jun 2024 Data Point: DP 1  
 Client: American Electric Power State: OH Section, Township, Range: Sec Q SE, T 7N, R 17W  
 Investigator(s): N. Houk Landform: Till Plains Local Relief: Convex  
 Slope (%): 1-3 Lat. 40.453989 Long. -82.843629 Datum: NAD83 NWI Class: N/A  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Glynwood clay loam, end moraines, 2 to 6 percent slopes  
 Climatic/hydrologic conditions typical for time of year? Y/N Y  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            significantly disturbed  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            naturally problematic  
 Are Normal Circumstances Present? Yes X No           

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Is the DP within a Wetland? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	

Remarks: **Does not meet all wetland criteria**

**VEGETATION**

Tree Stratum	Plot size:	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test Worksheet</b> Number of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> Total number of dominant species across all strata: <u>1</u> Percent of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0.00</u> <b>Prevalence Index Worksheet</b> Total % cover of: OBL species <u>0</u> x <u>1</u> = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>0</u> x <u>2</u> = <u>0</u> FAC species <u>0</u> x <u>3</u> = <u>0</u> FACU species <u>0</u> x <u>4</u> = <u>0</u> UPL species <u>40</u> x <u>5</u> = <u>200</u> Total <u>40</u> = <u>200</u> Prevalence Index: <u>5.00</u> <b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Veg. <u>          </u> Dominance Test is >50% <u>          </u> Prevalence Index is ≤3.0* <u>          </u> Morphological Adaptations* <u>          </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation* <u>          </u> *Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic <b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
1. <u>          </u>	<u>30'</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
Shrub Stratum	Plot size: <u>15'</u>				
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
Herb Stratum	Plot size: <u>5'</u>				
1. <u>Glycine max</u>		<u>40</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL 5</u>	
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>					
6. <u>          </u>					
7. <u>          </u>					
8. <u>          </u>		<u>40</u>	Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum	Plot size: <u>5'</u>				
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		

Remarks:           

**SOIL**

**Profile Description: (Describe to depth needed to document the indicator or confirm absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color	%	Color	%	Type*	Loc**		
0-18	10YR 4/2	100					SiL	

\*Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Coated Sand grains \*\*Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

**Hydric Soil Indicators:**

<u>          </u> Histosol (A1)	<u>          </u> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	<u>          </u> Redox Dark Surface (F6)
<u>          </u> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<u>          </u> 5cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<u>          </u> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
<u>          </u> Black Histic (A3)	<u>          </u> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	<u>          </u> Redox Depressions (F8)
<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<u>          </u> Sandy Redox (S5)	<b>Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils</b>
<u>          </u> Stratified Layers (A5)	<u>          </u> Stripped Matrix (S6)	<u>          </u> Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
<u>          </u> 2 cm Muck (A10)	<u>          </u> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	<u>          </u> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
<u>          </u> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	<u>          </u> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	<u>          </u> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F12)
<u>          </u> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	<u>          </u> Depleted Matrix (F3)	<u>          </u> Other

<b>Restrictive Layer (if observed):</b> Type: <u>          </u>	Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Depth (Inches) <u>          </u>	

Remarks:           

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (check all that apply)		Secondary Indicators
<u>          </u> Surface Water (A1)	<u>          </u> Water Stained Leaves (B9)	<u>          </u> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
<u>          </u> High Water Table (A2)	<u>          </u> Aquatic Fauna (B13)	<u>          </u> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<u>          </u> Saturation (A3)	<u>          </u> True Aquatic Plants (B14)	<u>          </u> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<u>          </u> Water Marks (B1)	<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<u>          </u> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<u>          </u> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<u>          </u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots	<u>          </u> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<u>          </u> Drift Deposits (B3)	<u>          </u> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<u>          </u> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
<u>          </u> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<u>          </u> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soil (C6)	<u>          </u> Geomorphic Position (D2)
<u>          </u> Iron Deposits (B5)	<u>          </u> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<u>          </u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<u>          </u> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery	<u>          </u> Gauge or Well Data (D9)	
<u>          </u> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<u>          </u> Other	

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	Hydrology Indicators Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Water Table Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	
Saturation Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

**WETLAND DETERMINATION FORM-MIDWEST REGION**

Site: Fulton Station City/County: Morrow County Date: 19 Jun 2024 Data Point: DP 2  
 Client: American Electric Power State: OH Section, Township, Range: Sec Q SE, T 7N, R 17W  
 Investigator(s): N. Houk Landform: Till Plains Local Relief: Convex  
 Slope (%): 1-3 Lat. 40.453449 Long. -82.843118 Datum: NAD83 NWI Class: N/A  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Glynwood clay loam, end moraines, 2 to 6 percent slopes  
 Climatic/hydrologic conditions typical for time of year? Y/N Y Y  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            significantly disturbed  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            naturally problematic  
 Are Normal Circumstances Present? Yes X No           

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Is the DP within a Wetland? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	

Remarks: **Does not meet all wetland criteria**

**VEGETATION**

Tree Stratum	Plot size: 30'	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test Worksheet</b> Number of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> Total number of dominant species across all strata: <u>3</u> Percent of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0.00</u> <b>Prevalence Index Worksheet</b> Total % cover of: OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 <u>0</u> FACW species <u>0</u> x 2 <u>0</u> FAC species <u>15</u> x 3 <u>45</u> FACU species <u>85</u> x 4 <u>340</u> UPL species <u>0</u> x 5 <u>0</u> Total <u>100</u> <u>385</u> Prevalence Index: <u>3.85</u>
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
Shrub Stratum	Plot size: 15'				
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
Herb Stratum	Plot size: 5'				
1. <u>Phleum pratense</u>		<u>30</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
2. <u>Schedonorus arundinaceus</u>		<u>25</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
3. <u>Dactylis glomerata</u>		<u>25</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
4. <u>Apocynum cannabinum</u>		<u>15</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u> <u>3</u>	
5. <u>Trifolium pratense</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
6. <u>          </u>					
7. <u>          </u>					
8. <u>          </u>					
		<u>100</u>	Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum	Plot size: 5'				
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		

Remarks:           

**SOIL**

**Profile Description: (Describe to depth needed to document the indicator or confirm absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color	%	Color	%	Type*	Loc**		
0-18	10YR 3/2	100					SiL	

\*Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Coated Sand grains \*\*Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

**Hydric Soil Indicators:**

<u>          </u> Histosol (A1)	<u>          </u> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	<u>          </u> Redox Dark Surface (F6)
<u>          </u> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<u>          </u> 5cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<u>          </u> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
<u>          </u> Black Histic (A3)	<u>          </u> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	<u>          </u> Redox Depressions (F8)
<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<u>          </u> Sandy Redox (S5)	<b>Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils</b>
<u>          </u> Stratified Layers (A5)	<u>          </u> Stripped Matrix (S6)	<u>          </u> Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
<u>          </u> 2 cm Muck (A10)	<u>          </u> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	<u>          </u> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
<u>          </u> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	<u>          </u> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	<u>          </u> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F12)
<u>          </u> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	<u>          </u> Depleted Matrix (F3)	<u>          </u> Other

<b>Restrictive Layer (if observed):</b> Type: <u>          </u>	Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Depth (Inches) <u>          </u>	

Remarks:           

**HYDROLOGY**

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:				Hydrology Indicators Present?		
Primary Indicators (check all that apply)		Secondary Indicators		Yes	No	X
<u>          </u> Surface Water (A1)	<u>          </u> Water Stained Leaves (B9)	<u>          </u> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)				
<u>          </u> High Water Table (A2)	<u>          </u> Aquatic Fauna (B13)	<u>          </u> Drainage Patterns (B10)				
<u>          </u> Saturation (A3)	<u>          </u> True Aquatic Plants (B14)	<u>          </u> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)				
<u>          </u> Water Marks (B1)	<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<u>          </u> Crayfish Burrows (C8)				
<u>          </u> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<u>          </u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots	<u>          </u> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)				
<u>          </u> Drift Deposits (B3)	<u>          </u> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<u>          </u> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)				
<u>          </u> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<u>          </u> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soil (C6)	<u>          </u> Geomorphic Position (D2)				
<u>          </u> Iron Deposits (B5)	<u>          </u> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<u>          </u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)				
<u>          </u> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery	<u>          </u> Gauge or Well Data (D9)					
<u>          </u> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<u>          </u> Other					

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

**WETLAND DETERMINATION FORM-MIDWEST REGION**

Site: Fulton Station City/County: Morrow County Date: 19 Jun 2024 Data Point: DP 3  
 Client: American Electric Power State: OH Section, Township, Range: Sec Q SE, T 7N, R 17W  
 Investigator(s): N. Houk Landform Till Plains Local Relief Convex  
 Slope (%): 1-3 Lat. 40.453809 Long. -82.842690 Datum NAD83 NWI Class: N/A  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Glynwood clay loam, end moraines, 2 to 6 percent slopes  
 Climatic/hydrologic conditions typical for time of year? Y/N Y Y  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            significantly disturbed  
 Vegetation           , Soil            or Hydrology            naturally problematic  
 Are Normal Circumstances Present? Yes X No           

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	Is the DP within a Wetland? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u>	

Remarks: **Does not meet all wetland criteria**

**VEGETATION**

Tree Stratum	Plot size:	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test Worksheet</b> Number of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>1</u> Total number of dominant species across all strata: <u>3</u> Percent of dominant species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>33.33</u> <b>Prevalence Index Worksheet</b> Total % cover of: OBL species <u>0</u> x <u>1</u> = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>45</u> x <u>2</u> = <u>90</u> FAC species <u>0</u> x <u>3</u> = <u>0</u> FACU species <u>45</u> x <u>4</u> = <u>180</u> UPL species <u>0</u> x <u>5</u> = <u>0</u> Total <u>90</u> Prevalence Index: <u>3.00</u>
1. <u>          </u>	<u>30'</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
<b>Shrub Stratum</b> Plot size: <u>15'</u>					
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
3. <u>          </u>					
4. <u>          </u>					
5. <u>          </u>		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		
<b>Herb Stratum</b> Plot size: <u>5'</u>					
1. <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u>		<u>35</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u> <u>2</u>	
2. <u>Solidago canadensis</u>		<u>25</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
3. <u>Schedonorus arundinaceus</u>		<u>20</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u> <u>4</u>	
4. <u>Urtica dioica</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACW</u> <u>2</u>	
5. <u>Carex vulpinoidea</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACW</u> <u>2</u>	
6. <u>          </u>					
7. <u>          </u>					
8. <u>          </u>					
		<u>90</u>	Total Cover		
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> Plot size: <u>5'</u>					
1. <u>          </u>					
2. <u>          </u>					
		<u>0</u>	Total Cover		

Remarks:           

**SOIL**

**Profile Description: (Describe to depth needed to document the indicator or confirm absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color	%	Color	%	Type*	Loc**		
0-18	10YR 5/2	100					SiL	

\*Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Coated Sand grains \*\*Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix

**Hydric Soil Indicators:**

<u>          </u> Histosol (A1)	<u>          </u> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	<u>          </u> Redox Dark Surface (F6)
<u>          </u> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<u>          </u> 5cm Mucky Peat or Peat	<u>          </u> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
<u>          </u> Black Histic (A3)	<u>          </u> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	<u>          </u> Redox Depressions (F8)
<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<u>          </u> Sandy Redox (S5)	<b>Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils</b>
<u>          </u> Stratified Layers (A5)	<u>          </u> Stripped Matrix (S6)	<u>          </u> Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
<u>          </u> 2 cm Muck (A10)	<u>          </u> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	<u>          </u> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
<u>          </u> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	<u>          </u> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	<u>          </u> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F12)
<u>          </u> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	<u>          </u> Depleted Matrix (F3)	<u>          </u> Other

<b>Restrictive Layer (if observed):</b> Type: <u>          </u>	Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Depth (Inches) <u>          </u>	

**HYDROLOGY**

**Wetland Hydrology Indicators:**

Primary Indicators (check all that apply)		Secondary Indicators	
<u>          </u> Surface Water (A1)	<u>          </u> Water Stained Leaves (B9)	<u>          </u> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	
<u>          </u> High Water Table (A2)	<u>          </u> Aquatic Fauna (B13)	<u>          </u> Drainage Patterns (B10)	
<u>          </u> Saturation (A3)	<u>          </u> True Aquatic Plants (B14)	<u>          </u> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)	
<u>          </u> Water Marks (B1)	<u>          </u> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<u>          </u> Crayfish Burrows (C8)	
<u>          </u> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<u>          </u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots	<u>          </u> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)	
<u>          </u> Drift Deposits (B3)	<u>          </u> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<u>          </u> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)	
<u>          </u> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<u>          </u> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soil (C6)	<u>          </u> Geomorphic Position (D2)	
<u>          </u> Iron Deposits (B5)	<u>          </u> Thin Muck Surface (C7)	<u>          </u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)	
<u>          </u> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery	<u>          </u> Gauge or Well Data (D9)		
<u>          </u> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface	<u>          </u> Other		

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u> Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	Hydrology Indicators Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>          </u> X <u>          </u>
Water Table Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u> Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	
Saturation Present? Yes <u>          </u> No <u>X</u> Depth (inches) <u>          </u>	

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

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

**7/22/2024 5:18:42 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 24-0711-EL-BNR**

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