

# Construction Notice for the Lamping- Rouse 138 kV Transmission Line Adjustment Project



PUCO Case No. 26-0389-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.

April 15, 2026

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE LAMPING-ROUSE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT**

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE**

**AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.**

**Lamping-Rouse 138 kV Transmission Line Adjustment Project**

**4906-6-05 Accelerated Application Requirements**

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the Company) provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in accordance with the accelerated application requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

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

**B(1) Project Description**

**Provide 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 letter of notification or construction notice application.**

The Company proposes the Lamping-Rouse 138 kV Transmission Line Adjustment Project (the "Project"), in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio. The existing Lamping-Rouse 138 kV Transmission Line (approved in OPSB Case No. 16-0701-EL-BTX) experienced slips approximately one mile northeast of the Company's Rouse Station and was temporarily relocated because of the slips (OPSB Case No. 25-0332-EL-BNR). The Project proposes replacement of two compromised structures along the original alignment following stabilization measures for the slips and returning the Lamping-Rouse 138 kV line to its original alignment. Structures are proposed to be shifted approximately five feet along the original centerline. The location of the Project is shown on **Figures 1 and 2** in **Appendix A**.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice (CN) as defined by Item 1(a) of Appendix A to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01, *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 Case No. 26-0389-EL-BNR.

# CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE LAMPING-ROUSE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT

## B(2) Statement of Need

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

The need for the project remains the same as filed under Case No. 16-0701-EL-BTX and is provided below.

AEP Ohio Transco, Ohio Power Company, Buckeye Power, Inc. (Buckeye), and Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Washington) have agreed to implement a long-term plan aimed at enhancing the reliability of the southeast Ohio area electric transmission and distribution network. This infrastructure has reached an age where it is in need of rebuild and redesign to meet the needs of the customers across this region. The companies have developed a multi-year construction plan that will replace much of the infrastructure in place today. The focus of the program is to rebuild the area's aged 23 kV infrastructure into a 138 kV network and redesign the system to improve reliability for customers across the region. Bringing additional power sources into the region will improve electric service reliability and provide the electrical capacity for future economic growth. Ultimately, the series of improvements and investments in the area will provide a looped transmission system from the proposed Lamping to Devola 138 kV substations. The Lamping-Devola line was provided on page 13 of the Company's 2025 Long Term Forecast Report (See **Appendix B.**)

## B(3) Project Location

**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 substations is shown on **Figure 1**, in **Appendix A.**

## B(4) Alternatives Considered

**Describe the alternatives considered and reasons why the proposed location or route is best suited for the proposed facility, including but not be limited to, impacts associated with socioeconomic, ecological, construction, or engineering aspects of the project.**

The Project proposes a permanent solution following the temporary relocation of the Lamping-Rouse 138 kV transmission line. Following repairs to the slips, the original structures will be replaced, and the alignment will be returned to its original location. Permanently shifting the line along the temporary centerline was considered, but the property owner was not amenable. Any other alternatives would add additional length to the Project without any additional benefit. The proposed alternative has minimal land use impacts, is located within existing ROW, and has no impacts to wetlands, streams, or known cultural resource areas. Therefore, this Project represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's needs in the area.

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**B(5) Public Information Program**

**Describe its public information program to inform affected property owners and residents of the nature of the project and the proposed timeframe for project construction and restoration activities.**

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

**B(6) Construction Schedule**

**Provide an anticipated construction schedule and proposed in-service date of the project.**

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in July 2026 with an anticipated in-service date of October 2026.

**B(7) Area Map**

**Provide a map of at least 1:24,000 scale clearly depicting the facility and proposed limits of disturbance with clearly marked streets, roads, and highways, and an aerial image.**

**Figure 1, in Appendix A**, identifies the location of the Project area on a United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 quadrangle map of Rinard Mills, Ohio. **Appendix A, Figure 2** displays the Project components on a 2022 aerial photograph.

**B(8) Property Agreements**

**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 are provided in **Table 1**, below.

**Table 1 – Property Agreements**

<b>Property Parcel Number</b>	<b>Agreement Type</b>	<b>Easement or Option Obtained (Yes/No)</b>
29-021005.0000	Existing ROW	Yes

# CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE LAMPING-ROUSE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT

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

**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 transmission line is estimated to include the following:

Voltage: 138kV  
Conductors: (3), 795 kcmil 26/7 DRAKE  
Static Wire: (1) OPGW 48CT  
Insulators: Polymer  
ROW Width: 100 feet  
Structure Type: Two (2) single circuit, H4 steel monopoles with alternating braced posts

### **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 \$800,000 using a Class 4 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.

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

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

### **B(10)(a) Land Use**

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

The Project is located in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio. Land use in the Project area is primarily wooded, agricultural, and residential along State Route 26. The proposed alignment is within existing ROW. An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as **Figure 2**. The Project does not anticipate the need to clear forested land.

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE LAMPING-ROUSE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT**

**B(10)(b) Agricultural Land**

**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 Area is characterized by existing ROW adjacent to a state highway. The Project will shift the temporarily relocated transmission line from a hay field to its original location that is not used for agriculture. No Ohio Department of Agriculture easements were identified on the parcel crossed by the Project.

Based on data received from the Monroe County Auditor’s office on April 1, 2026, there are no agricultural district parcels within the potential disturbance area of the Project.

**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.**

Cultural resource surveys and reports were conducted by the Company’s consultant for the Project in May and September 2024. Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) was received in June and October 2024, see **Appendix C**. The SHPO stated that that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties and that no further archaeological work is necessary.

**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 summary of anticipated permits and authorizations for the Project is provided in **Table 2**, below. There are no other known local, state, or federal requirements that must be met prior to commencement of the Project.

**Table 2 – Anticipated Permits**

<b>Permit/Authorization/Coordination</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Obtained November 2024
	Monroe County	

**CONSTRUCTION NOTICE FOR THE LAMPING-ROUSE 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ADJUSTMENT PROJECT**

Notice Criteria	Federal Aviation Administration	Submitted through Criteria Tool on 3/9/2026, no further action required
Clean Water Act Section 404/401	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Not Applicable
	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	
Archaeology/Architectural	Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Coordination complete 6/21/2024 and 10/28/2024, no additional work required
Threatened and Endangered Species	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultation complete 4/23/2024
Threatened and Endangered Species	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Consultation complete 5/13/2024
ROW Permit	Ohio Department of Transportation	Permits obtained November 2024 and extended in March 2025. Expires September 2026.

**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.**

In April 2024, coordination letters were submitted to the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Ohio Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) and Division of Wildlife (DOW), seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to state and/or federally protected species. ODNR and USFWS provided responses on April 23, 2024, and May 13, 2024, respectively. Copies of the agencies’ responses are presented in **Appendix C**.

**Table 5**, in **Appendix D** lists the federal and state threatened or endangered species in the Project area.

Based on the nature of the proposed Project activities and habitat characteristics of the surrounding vicinity, construction impacts to protected species are not anticipated.

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**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.**

The Company's consultant conducted a wetland and stream delineation survey for an extended corridor that includes the Project Area on April 12, 2024, and prepared an Ecological Survey Report, which is provided in **Appendix D**. The survey of the Project area identified no stream, no wetlands, and no ponds. Three upland drainage features were identified along State Route 26. The Project construction activities are not expected to result in discharge of fill in any delineated features.

Based on a review of the Protected Areas Database of the United States as well as the Conservation Easement Database, there are no state or national parks, forests, wildlife areas or mapped conservation easements in the vicinity of the Project.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM") was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map number 39111C0300C). Based on this mapping, no FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains are crossed by the proposed alignment. No floodplain permits are necessary.

**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
- Existing Station

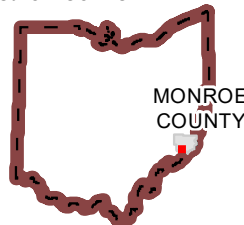
Data Sources:  
 ESRI USA Topographic Maps  
 Rinard Mills, Ohio

Ohio State Plane South  
 NAD 1983



April 06, 2026

**PROJECT LOCATION**



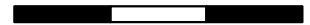
MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

**FIGURE 1  
 TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**

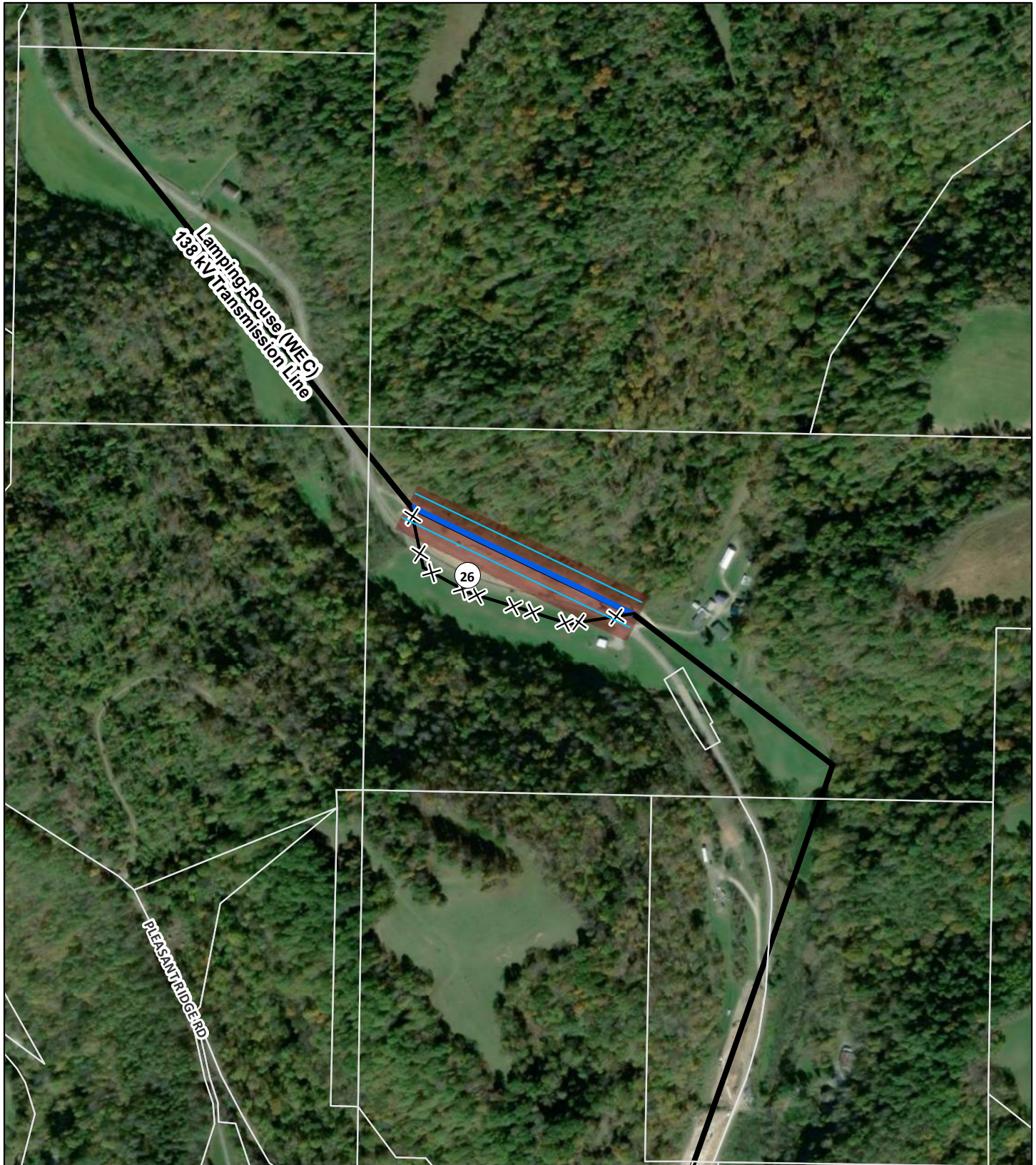


Lamping-Rouse  
 138 kV Transmission  
 Line Adjustment

0 1,000 2,000 3,000



Feet



- Proposed Transmission
- Project Corridor
- Proposed Right-of-way
- X Temporary Transmission Line to be Removed
- Existing Transmission
- Parcel Boundary

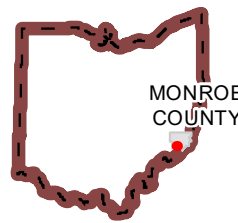
Data Sources: AEP,  
ESRI World Imagery, 2022

Ohio State Plane South  
NAD 1983



April 06, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION

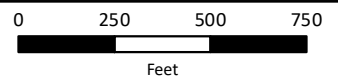


MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

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



Lamping-Rouse  
138 kV Transmission  
Line Adjustment



**Appendix B Long Term Forecast Report**

3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	~1.6 mi new construction / 100 ft / 2 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138kV / 138kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	2023
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2021-2026
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	Approximately \$2-3M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	NAME - Hopetown; TRANSMISSION VOLTAGE - 138kV / 12kV; ACREAGE - 6; LOCATION - Chillicothe, Ohio
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Combination of steel H-frame & monopole
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	N/A
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	The line will serve the new Hopetown station. Hopetown is needed to retire the Camp Sherman substation and the 69kV line that serves it.
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Increased risk of failure.
13	<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b>	N/A
1	<b>LINE NAME AND NUMBER:</b>	Lamping-Devola (s1160) TP2015057
2	<b>POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION</b>	Lamping, Devola; INTERMEDIATE STATION - Bell Ridge, Rouse
3	<b>RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS</b>	~26 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	<b>VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE</b>	138kV / 138kV
5	<b>APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:</b>	Full Application December, 2017
6	<b>CONSTRUCTION:</b>	2020-2021; Bell Ridge - Devola due to be constructed 2025
7	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT:</b>	\$65M
8	<b>PLANNED SUBSTATION:</b>	NAME - Rouse, Bell Ridge; TRANSMISSION VOLTAGE - 138 kV; ACREAGE - 6, 6; LOCATION - Marietta, Ohio
9	<b>SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:</b>	Steel H-frame
10	<b>PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES</b>	Buckeye Coop/WEC
11	<b>PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE</b>	This new 138kV line will serve the Washington Electric Rouse and Bell Ridge stations.
12	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION</b>	Foregoing this project would perpetuate the Marietta's 23kV reliability problems.

## Appendix C Agency Correspondence



In reply, refer to  
2024-MOE-61410

June 21, 2024

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

**RE: Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project, Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on May 23, 2024, regarding the proposed Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project, Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4 & 4906-5). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the 6.7 ha (17.2 ac) Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio* by Ryan J. Weller (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2024). The goal of this project is for slip repair to address slip issues and landform failures in two locations along the existing Lamping-Rouse transmission line corridor. A literature review, visual inspection, and shovel test unit excavations were completed as part of the investigations. Portions of the project area have been previously surveyed. Visual inspection noted areas of disturbance and steeply sloping conditions that precluded testing within portions of the project area. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project area and no new archaeological sites were identified during the survey. Our office agrees no additional archaeological investigation is needed.

Based on the information provided, our office agrees the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional archaeological resources are discovered during the implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at [cgullett@ohiohistory.org](mailto:cgullett@ohiohistory.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Gullett".

Catherine Gullett, Project Reviews Coordinator - Archaeology  
Resource Protection and Review  
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No: 1103327



In reply, refer to  
2024-MOE-61410

October 28, 2024

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

**RE: Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project, Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio – Addendum 1**

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on September 30, 2024, regarding the proposed Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project, Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4 & 4906-5). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *Addendum 1 – Additional Archaeological Investigations for the Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio (PO 81302589; BPID A21111069; WO T10646281002)* by Ryan J. Weller (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2024). The goal of this project is to address proposed access roads for the Lamping-Rouse Slip Repair Project. A literature review and visual inspection were completed as part of the investigations. Portions of the addendum project area have been previously surveyed. Visual inspection noted areas of disturbance, inundated soils, and steep slopes that precluded testing within the addendum project area. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the addendum project area and no new archaeological sites were identified during the survey. Our office agrees no additional archaeological investigation is needed.

Based on the information provided, our office agrees the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional archaeological resources are discovered during the implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at [cgullett@ohiohistory.org](mailto:cgullett@ohiohistory.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Gullett".

Catherine Gullett, Project Reviews Coordinator - Archaeology  
Resource Protection and Review  
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No: 1105049

# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



April 23, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0076219

Dear Joshua Holmes:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. We offer the following comments and recommendations to assist you in minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and 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.

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of northern long-eared bats. 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, and because the proposed project is  $\geq 1.5$  miles from the northern long-eared bat capture/detection location(s), a summer survey may be conducted to document the presence or absence of Indiana bats and

northern long-eared bats at the project site. The summer survey must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office. In Ohio, summer mist net surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15. We recommend that any Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats captured during the survey, especially reproductively active females and juveniles, be monitored through radio-tracking to determine roost locations.

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 also warranted. Portal surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office.

Survey results should be coordinated with this office prior to initiation of any work at the project area. Based on the results of the survey(s), we will evaluate potential impacts to the Indiana bat from the proposed project. If Indiana bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing may occur at any time of the year.

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 it is 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 cursive script that reads "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

May 13, 2024

Joshua Holmes  
AECOM  
707 Grant Street, 5th Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

**Re:** 24-0597\_AEP Lamping Rouse Slip Repair

**Project:** The proposed project involves the repair of two slips associated with the existing Lamping Rouse Transmission line right of way. The first slip is near Structures 49, 50, and 51, and the second slip is near Structure #56.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio.

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

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

Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*), SC  
Round Hickorynut (*Obovaria subrotunda*), T  
Round Pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*), SC

Conservation status abbreviations are as follows: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; U = state status under review; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federally endangered, and FT = federally threatened. The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. Features searched include locations of rare and endangered plants and animals determined to be of value to the conservation of their species, high quality plant communities, animal breeding assemblages, and outstanding geological features.

Location records for the species listed above are provided in a shapefile attachment to this letter. Species location information will not be disclosed, published, or distributed beyond the scope of your project.

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov)).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq$  20 if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS "[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 following listed fish species.

State Endangered

Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*)

State Threatened

American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)

river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

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

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment.

**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**

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# LAMPING ROUSE T LINE FAILURE PROJECT

## MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

### ECOLOGICAL REPORT

*Prepared for:*

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



*Prepared by:*

**AECOM**

525 Vine Street, Suite 1900  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Project #: 60729560

May 2024

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

American Electric Power, Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) is proposing to repair two slips associated with the existing Lamping Rouse Transmission line right of way. The slip locations are located near Structures 49, 50, and 51, and Structure 56 in Rinard Mills, Monroe County, Ohio (OH). The Project Survey Area associated with this Ecological Report is located on Rinard Mills, OH United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographical quadrangle as displayed on the Project Overview (**Figure 1**).

The purpose of the field survey was to assess the presence of wetlands and possible “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) that occur within the proposed Project Survey Area. Secondly, land uses were also recorded to classify and characterize potential habitat for threatened and endangered species. This report will be used to assist AEP Ohio Transco’s efforts to identify potential WOTUS as well as threatened and endangered species habitat present within the proposed Project Survey Area to avoid or minimize impacts during construction activities.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The field survey was completed within the Project Survey Area totaling approximately 17.27 acres, which encompasses the proposed work areas as well as the existing transmission line 100-ft wide right-of-way (ROW) one structure in each direction of the proposed work. Prior to conducting field surveys, digital United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data, USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year floodplain data, and USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps were reviewed to identify the occurrence and location of potential wetland areas and/or streams.

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

### 2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

The Project Survey Area was evaluated according to the procedures outlined in the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987) and *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE, 2012).

During field survey activities, AECOM utilized the routine on-site delineation method described in the 1987 manual and supplement that consisted of a pedestrian site reconnaissance, including identifying the vegetative communities, soils identification, a geomorphologic assessment of hydrology, and notation of disturbance. If a wetland was identified, AECOM completed a USACE Wetland Determination Data Form (USACE Data Form) within each unique wetland habitat to serve as a representative of the wetland hydrology, vegetative community, and soil characteristics. Adjacent to each wetland complex, AECOM completed an additional USACE Data Form as a representative of the upland community.

### **2.1.1 WETLAND CLASSIFICATION**

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

### **2.1.2 WETLAND ASSESSMENT**

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

## **2.2 STREAM ASSESSMENT**

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

### **2.2.1 OEPA PRIMARY HEADWATER HABITAT ASSESSMENT**

Stream assessments were conducted using the methods described in the OEPA's *Methods for Assessing Habitat in Flowing Waters: Using OEPA's Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI)* (Rankin, 2006) and in the OEPA's *Field Methods for Evaluating Primary Headwater Streams in Ohio* (OEPA, 2020). Streams associated with watershed area less than or equal to 1.0 square mile (259 hectares), and a maximum depth of water pools equal to or less than 15.75 inches were evaluated utilizing the Headwater Habitat Evaluation

Index (HHEI) methodology and all other streams assessed using the QHEI methodology. Flow regime (ephemeral, intermittent, perennial) was determined by the appropriate stream assessment score per OEPA manuals (OEPA, 2020) and by AECOM's professional opinion.

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

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

The OEPA has designated each watershed in the state on based on whether it may be ineligible for coverage under the OEPA's 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for Nationwide Permits (OEPA, 2017). Mapping provided by the OEPA illustrates the eligibility of streams in the area to fall under a Nationwide Permit for 401 certification or if an individual state WQC needs to be applied for. Impacts to streams within each watershed would then have eligibility for 401 WQC determined by the watershed category. The three categories are defined as:

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

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

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

### 2.2.3 UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURES

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

nearly flat slopes and typically have grass or other low-lying vegetation throughout the swale” (USACE, 2005).

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

In addition, UDF’s (including swales, ditches, and other erosional features) are generally not WOTUS except in certain circumstances, such as relocated streams.

### 2.3 RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

AECOM conducted a threatened and endangered species review and general field habitat surveys within the Project Survey Area. AECOM submitted requests to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Real Estate – Environmental Review Section and the USFWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office soliciting comments on the proposed Project. Agency-identified species of concern and available species-specific information was reviewed to identify the various habitat types that listed species are known to inhabit.

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

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

## 3.0 RESULTS

AECOM ecologists walked the Project Survey Area to conduct the wetland delineation, stream assessment and habitat survey on April 12, 2024. During the delineation within the Project Survey Area, AECOM delineated a total of five streams (four perennial, and one intermittent). AECOM did not identify any wetlands or ponds within the Project Survey Area. The delineated features are discussed in detail in the following section.

**3.1 WETLAND DELINEATION**

**3.1.1 PRELIMINARY SOILS EVALUATION**

According to the USDA/NRCS Web Soil Survey, a total of seven soil map units identified within the Project Survey Area. Of those, one soil map unit contains hydric inclusions. Soils indicated as having hydric inclusions are not predominately hydric soils and hydric soils are more likely to be found in topographic settings. **Table 1** below provides a detailed overview of all soil series and soil map units present within the Project Survey Area. Soil map units located in the Project Survey Area and vicinity are shown on **Figure 2**.

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

Soil Series	Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Description	Topographic Setting	Hydric	Hydric Component (%)
Chagrin	Chg1AF	Chagrin silt loam. 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Flood Plains	Yes*	Melvin 2%
Guernsey	GrC2	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Hills	No	N/A
	GrD2	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Hills	No	N/A
	GrE2	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 18 to 35 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Hills	No	N/A
	GrG2	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Hills	No	N/A
	GsG	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 18 to 70 percent slopes, landslip	Hills	No	N/A
	GwE2	Guernsey-Upshur complex, 18 to 35 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Hills	No	N/A

Yes\* = Hydric inclusion present

**3.1.2 NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP REVIEW**

According to NWI data covering the Project location, the Project Survey Area contains two NWI mapped wetlands both identified as a Riverine, Intermittent, Stream Bed, Seasonally Flooded (R4SBC). The locations of NWI mapped features identified within the vicinity of the Project are provided on **Figure 2** and detailed within **Table 2** below.

**TABLE 2: NWI DISPOSTION SUMMARY TABLE WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA**

NWI Code	NWI Description	Related Field Inventoried Resource (Wetland ID/Stream ID)	Comments
R4SBC	Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed, Seasonally Flooded	S-EAC-002	Field verified as Perennial stream S-EAC-002
R4SBC	Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed, Seasonally Flooded	S-EAC-005	Field verified as Perennial Stream S-EAC-005

**3.1.3 DELINEATED WETLANDS**

During the field survey on April 12, 2024, AECOM did not identify any wetlands within the Project Survey Area. An upland data point was recorded within the Project Survey Area, and the representative data form is provided as **Appendix B**.

**3.2 STREAM DELINATION**

During the field survey, AECOM delineated five streams (four perennial, and one intermittent). Of these delineated streams, all were classified using HHEI evaluations, one was classified as Class II PHW streams and four as Modified Class II PHW.

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

**TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF DELINEATED STREAMS WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA**

Stream ID	Location		Stream Type	Stream Name	Delineated Length (feet)	Bankfull Width (feet)	OHWM Width (feet)	Field Evaluation			Ohio EPA 401 Eligibility	Stream Crossing ?	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude						Method	Score	Category / Rating / OAC Designation			Fill Type	Area (acre)
S-EAC-002	39.616516	-81.153552	Perennial	UNT to Straight Fork	62	7	4	HHEI	62	Modified Class II PHWH	Ineligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
S-EAC-003	39.616184	-81.153633	Perennial	UNT to Straight Fork	258	4.5	3	HHEI	55	Modified Class II PHWH	Ineligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
S-EAC-004	39.611951	-81.153915	Intermittent	UNT to Straight Fork	168	4.5	3	HHEI	57	Class II PHWH	Ineligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
S-EAC-005	39.609426	-81.155273	Perennial	UNT to Straight Fork	208	3.5	3	HHEI	56	Modified Class II PHWH	Ineligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
S-EAC-006	39.608575	-81.155823	Perennial	UNT to Straight Fork	186	4	3	HHEI	49	Modified Class II PHWH	Ineligible	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Total:</b>					<b>882</b>									<b>0.0</b>

### 3.2.1 OEPA STREAM ELIGIBILITY

OEPA stream eligibility for 401 WQC mapping was reviewed for the Project Survey Area. The Project occurs within one watershed, Straight Fork-Little Muskingum River (050302010605), that is designated by 401 WQC eligibility as “ineligible”. The OEPA stream eligibility mapping for the Project Survey Area is provided on **Figure 4**.

### 3.3 FEMA 100 YEAR FLOODPLAINS

No FEMA regulated floodways, or 100-year floodplains are located within the Project Survey Area (FEMA, 2011).

### 3.4 PONDS

During the field surveys, AECOM did not identify any ponds within the Project Survey Area.

### 3.5 UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURES

During the field survey, AECOM identified three upland drainage features within the Project Survey Area. The extent of the upland drainage feature is displayed on **Figures 2 and 3**. Photographs of all delineated upland drainage features are provided in **Appendix D**.

### 3.6 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

AECOM ecologists conducted a general habitat survey in conjunction with the stream and wetland field surveys. As described in **Table 3** below, the Project Survey Area contained woodlands, streams/wetlands, urban, scrub shrub, old field, pasture hayfield, and landscaped areas. Vegetative communities are depicted visually on aerial photography in **Figure 5**. Representative photographs of the vegetative communities in the Project Survey Area are provided as **Appendix E**.

**TABLE 4 - VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SURVEY AREA**

<b>Vegetative Community</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approximate Acreage Within the Project Survey Area</b>	<b>Approximate Percentage Within the Project Survey Area</b>
Old Field	Herbaceous cover exists alongside roads, field borders, and abandoned fields within the survey area of the Project in the form of successional old-field communities. These communities are the earliest stages of recolonization by plants following disturbance. This community type is typically short-lived, giving way progressively to shrub and forest communities unless periodically re-disturbed, in which case they remain as old fields. The old-field areas within the study corridors and adjacent areas are infrequently mowed areas of grasses, forbs, and occasional shrubs.	5.44	31.70%
Pasture/Hay Fields	Cattle and/or horse pasture, and hay fields, dominated by seasonally mowed and grazed areas of grasses and forbs.	5.43	31.00%
Scrub Shrub	Scrub-shrub habitats represent the successional stage between old-field and second growth forest, and often emerge in recently harvested forests responding to the lightness of the remaining canopy. Dominant species consist of herbaceous communities similar to that of old field habitat with 30% or greater coverage of woody species that are not trees (including sapling trees generally <3" dbh and <20' in height).	3.05	17.77%
Urban	Urban areas are areas developed with residential and commercial land uses, including roads, buildings and parking lots. These areas are generally devoid of significant woody and herbaceous vegetation.	1.56	9.09%
Landscaped	Landscaped areas, including residential properties and commercial properties, were observed within the Project vicinity. These landscaped areas within the Project Survey Area and adjacent areas are frequently mowed grasses and forbs.	1.24	7.23%
Woodlands (Deciduous)	Woodlands (floodplain, upland, successional-mixed, etc) are present along the Project Survey Area. Woody species dominating these areas included Northern Red Oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> ), and American Beech ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> )	0.36	2.10%
Streams/Wetlands	Streams and wetlands were observed both within and beyond the survey area for the Project.	0.19	1.11%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>17.27</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

***Protected Species Agency Consultation –***

On April 16, 2024, coordination letters were sent to USFWS and the ODNR Ohio Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) and Division of Wildlife (DOW), seeking an environmental review for the Project for potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Responses were received from the USFWS on April 23, 2024, and from the ODNR on May 13, 2024. According to a response letter received from the USFWS, two federally endangered bat species were identified within range of the Project area. Regarding state threatened and endangered species that may occur within the Project vicinity, nine species were listed by the ODNR. Correspondence letters from the USFWS and ODNR for the Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project are included as **Appendix F**.

**Table 4** provides a list of species of concern identified by the agencies as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the Project. Photographs of the habitat within the Project Survey Area are provided as **Appendix E**.

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

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
<b>Mammals</b>							
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Project Survey Area, trees were identified along edge of existing right-of-way that may provide suitable habitat for the species.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> <b>No</b> – Mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project area based off desktop review. <b>See Appendix A.</b></p> <p>Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area (2023 Joint Guidance) *.</p>	April 1 – September 30	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30).</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2023 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to no tree cutting or subsurface impacts proposed.</p>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	Endangered	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Project Survey Area, trees were identified along edge of existing right-of-way that may provide suitable habitat for the species.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> <b>No</b> – Mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project area based off desktop review. <b>See Appendix A.</b></p> <p>Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area (2023 Joint Guidance) *.</p>	April 1 – September 30	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30).</p> <p>Additionally, the ODNR indicated that there is a known presence of this species within the Project area and summer surveys would not constitute a presence or absence of this species.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2023 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.</p> <p>Additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence within the Project area for the Indiana bat.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to no tree cutting or subsurface impacts proposed.</p>
Little brown bat ( <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> )	Endangered	NA	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Project Survey Area, trees were identified along edge of existing right-of-way that may provide suitable habitat for the species.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> <b>No</b> – Mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project area based off desktop review. <b>See Appendix A.</b></p> <p>Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area (2023 Joint Guidance) *.</p>	April 1 – September 30	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30).</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2023 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to no tree cutting or subsurface impacts proposed.</p>

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

Common Name (Scientific Name)	State Status	Federal Status	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Avoidance Dates	Agency Comments	Potential Impacts
Tricolored bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Endangered	Proposed	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> During spring/summer, this bat species roosts in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in leaves.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> During winter, this species hibernates in humid mines, caves, and occasionally man-made structures.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Within the Project Survey Area, trees were identified along edge of existing right-of-way that may provide suitable habitat for the species.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> <b>No</b> – Mine openings and/or known caves were located within 0.25 miles of Project area based off desktop review. See <b>Appendix A</b>.</p> <p>Field evaluations did not identify any potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area (2023 Joint Guidance) *.</p>	April 1 – September 30	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> ODNR and USFWS recommends adherence to Avoidance Dates for Tree Clearing Activities (April 1 – September 30).</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> The ODNR DOW recommends a desktop habitat assessment to be conducted to identify potential hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project area. If habitat assessment finds potential hibernaculum within 0.25 miles, a revised seasonal tree clearing restriction (March 15 to November 15) is recommended (2023 Joint Guidance) *. If absence or no tree cutting or subsurface impacts are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact this species.</p>	<p><u>Summer habitat</u> Potential summer roosting habitat is present within the Project area and seasonal tree clearing, between October 1 and March 31, is recommended.</p> <p><u>Hibernaculum(a)</u> No impacts to winter hibernacula were identified due to no tree cutting or subsurface impacts proposed.</p>
<b>Fish</b>							
Ohio Lamprey ( <i>Ichthyomyzon bdellium</i> )	Threatened	None	Perennial Streams	Perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	March 15 – June 30	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 this or other aquatic species.	No
American Eel ( <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> )	Threatened	None	Perennial Streams	Perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	<u>In-Water Work</u> March 15 – June 30	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 this or other aquatic species.	No
Channel darter ( <i>Percina copelandi</i> )	Threatened	None	Perennial Streams	Perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	March 15 – June 30	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 this or other aquatic species.	No
River darter ( <i>Percina shumardi</i> )	Threatened	None	Perennial Streams	Perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	<u>In-Water Work</u> March 15 – June 30	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 this or other aquatic species.	No
<b>Amphibians</b>							
Eastern hellbender ( <i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i> )	Endangered	None	This entirely aquatic species utilizes perennial streams with large flat rocks	Perennial streams were identified within the Project area.	N/A	The DOW stated that due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient sized to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.	No

\*2023 Joint Guidance – Refers to the 2023 ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing, a copy of the guidance is provided within **Appendix G** of this memo.

### ***Protected Species Agency Summary***

No tree clearing is proposed as part of the Project. If tree clearing were to become part of the Project scope of work, the ODNR and the USFWS recommends implementations of seasonal tree clearing between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat. ODNR confirmed a known presence in the vicinity of the Project area for the northern long-eared bat. If trees must be cut during the summer months, the ODNR recommends that a mist net survey could be completed for the Indiana bat, little brown bat, and the tricolored bat between June 1 and August 15. However, additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence within the Project Survey Area for the northern long-eared bat. If summer tree clearing is needed, additional coordination would be completed with ODNR and the USFWS.

Regarding potential hibernaculum(a) within the Project area, a desktop hibernaculum(a) review was completed in accordance with the 2023 Ohio ODNR DOW and USFWS Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing within 0.25 miles of the Project survey (**Appendix G**). No karst features, underground mine openings, surface industrial minerals and historic coal mines were identified are within a 0.25-miles radius of the Project Area that are anticipated to provide suitable hibernacula for cave-dwelling bats as shown in **Appendix A**. Further evaluation and coordination with the ODNR and USFWS is not warranted.

No impacts are anticipated to occur to any fish, or amphibian species as no in-water work is proposed as part of the Project.

## **4.0 SUMMARY**

The ecological field survey of the Project Survey Area identified no wetlands or ponds. The survey did identify five streams and three UDFs within the Project Survey Area. Of the five streams, all were classified using HHEI evaluations that identified four streams as Modified Class II PHW and one as a Class II PHW.

AECOM has preliminary determined that the assessed streams within the Project Survey Area appear to be jurisdictional (i.e., WOTUS). The reported results of the ecological survey conducted by AECOM on this Project are limited to the areas within the Project Survey Area provided on **Figure 3**. Areas that fall outside of the Project Survey Area were not evaluated in the field and are not included in the reporting of this survey.

Of the nine state and/or federally listed threatened and endangered species within range of the Project Survey Area, none of the species or their critical habitat were identified for the fish or amphibian species. Trees along the edge of the existing right-of-way may provide suitable habitat for the bat species; however, no tree clearing is anticipated to be required for this Project. Therefore, no further coordination is anticipated to be required to the USFWS and/or ODNR.

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

## 5.0 REFERENCES

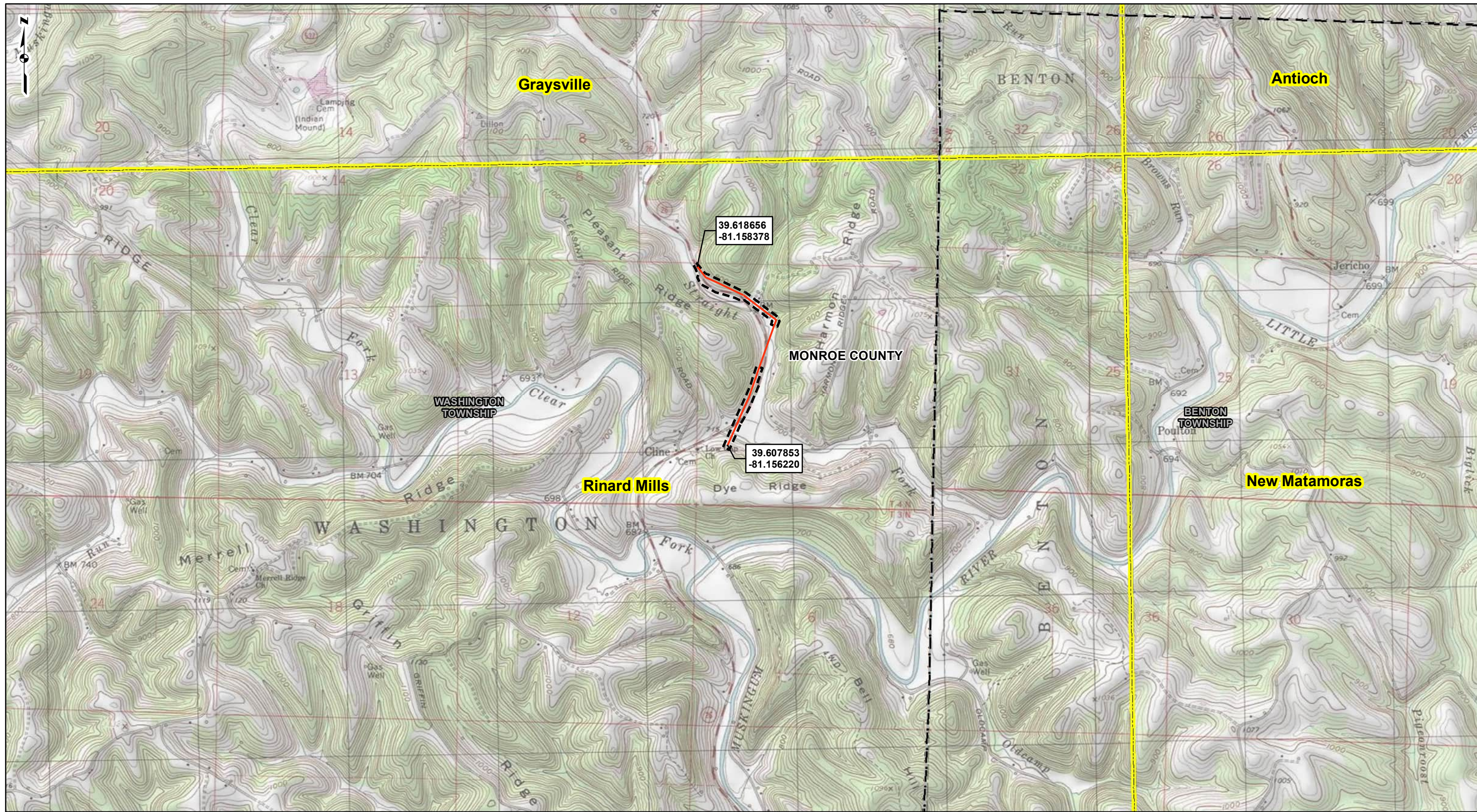
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REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: RINARD MILLS, OHIO, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 05/2024.

**5/21/2024**

**LEGEND**

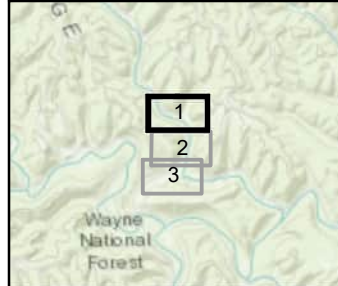
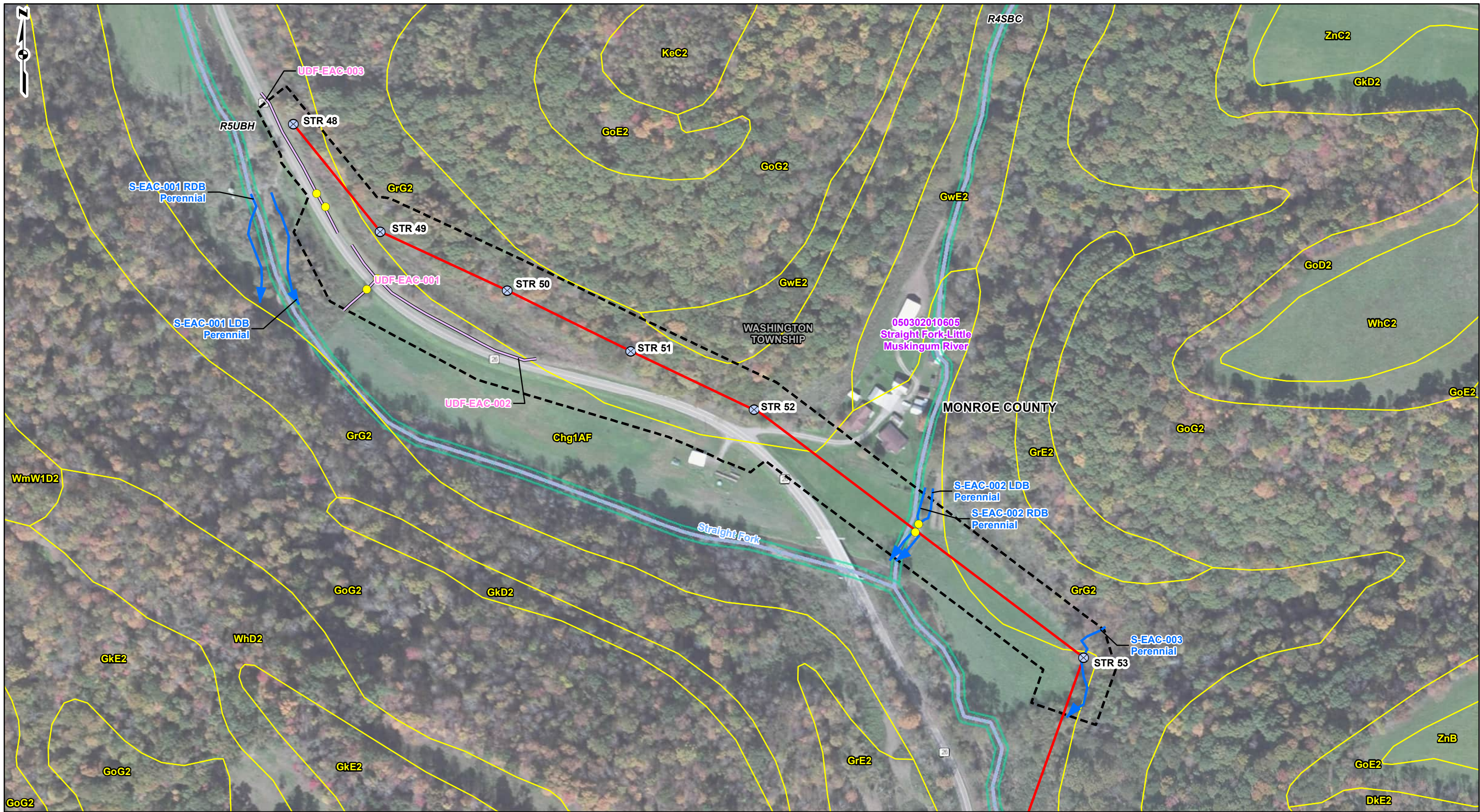
- LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR
- PROJECT SURVEY AREA
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- OHIO USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

**FIGURE 1  
PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

**AECOM** LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR PROJECT

DRAWN BY: CJT      DATE: 5/21/2024  
 CHECKED: BM      APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY), ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 05/2024. SOIL SURVEY GEOGRAPHIC (SSURGO), USDA/NRCS, 2024.

**5/21/2024**

**LEGEND**

- EXISTING CULVERT
- ▶ DELINEATED PERENNIAL STREAM
- DELINEATED UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURE
- LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR
- NHD STREAM (USGS)
- PROJECT SURVEY AREA
- NWI WETLAND (USFWS)
- HUC 12 WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- SOIL MAP UNIT

**SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION**

- Chg1AF: CHAGRIN SILT LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES, FREQUENTLY FLOODED
- GrG2: GUERNSEY-UPSHUR COMPLEX, 35 TO 70 PERCENT SLOPES, MODERATELY ERODED
- GwE2: GUERNSEY-WESTMORE SILT LOAMS, 18 TO 35 PERCENT SLOPES, MODERATELY ERODED

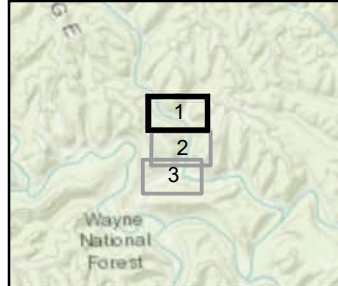
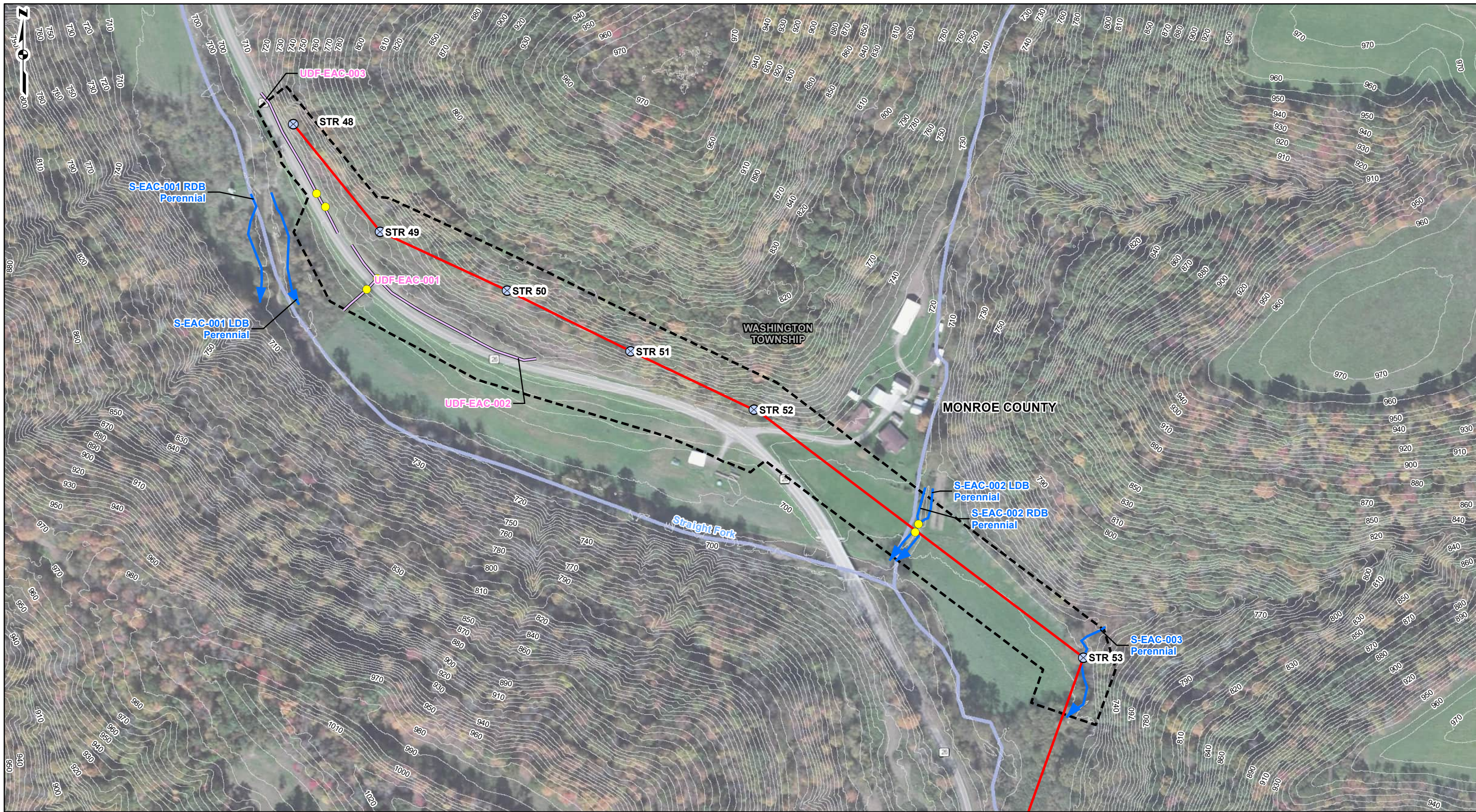
0 100 200 400 Feet

**FIGURE 2  
SOIL MAP AND  
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP**

**LAMPING ROUSE  
SLIP REPAIR PROJECT  
SHEET 1 OF 3**

**AECOM**

DRAWN BY: CJT      DATE: 5/21/2024  
 CHECKED: BM      APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY), ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 05/2024.  
 OGRIP 5FT CONTOURS, ACCESSED 05/2024.  
 NHS, USGS 2024.

**5/21/2024**

**LEGEND**

EXISTING CULVERT	NHD STREAM (USGS)
EXISTING STRUCTURE	CONTOURS 5FT
DELINEATED PERENNIAL STREAM	PROJECT SURVEY AREA
DELINEATED UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURE	
LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR	

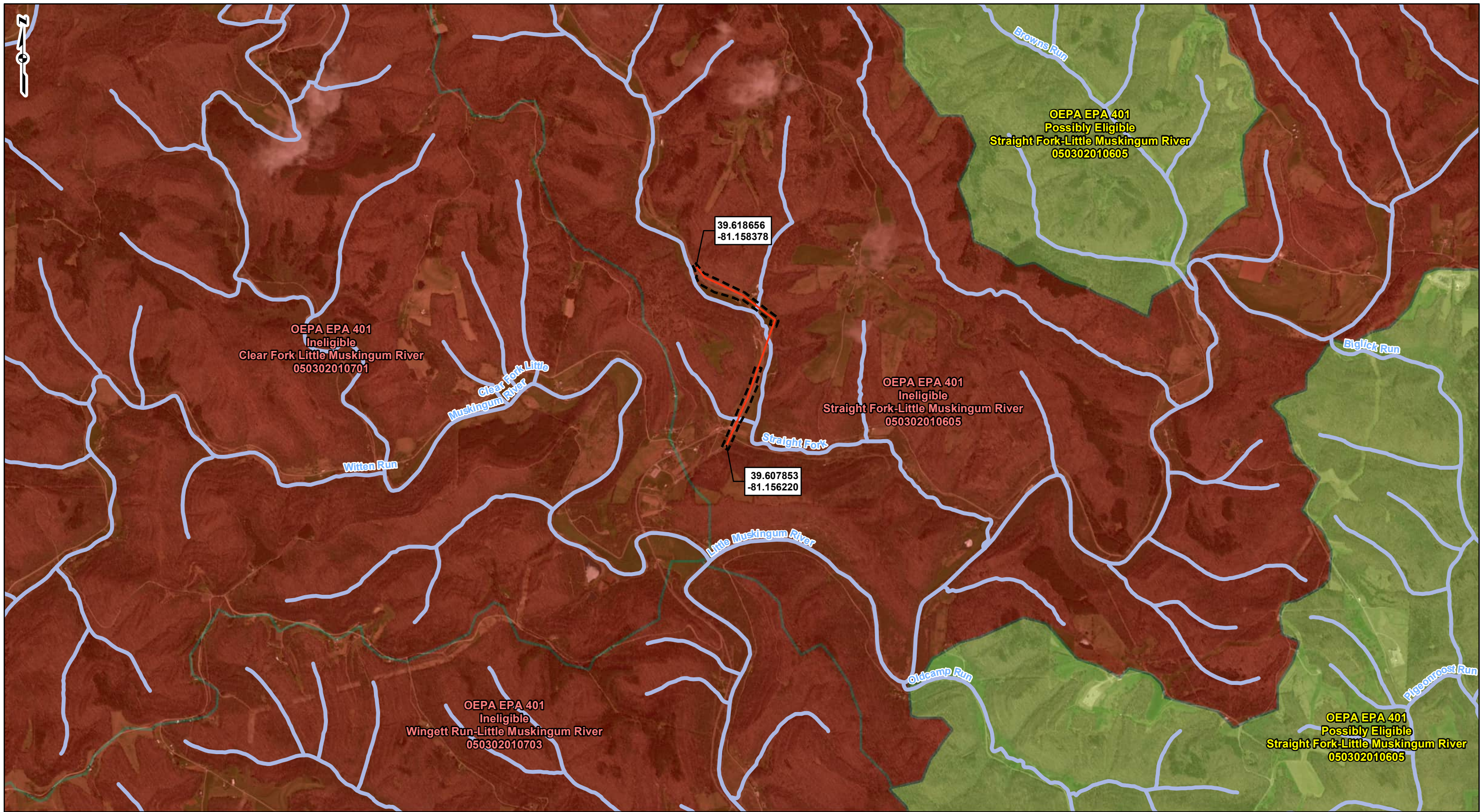
0 100 200 400 Feet

**FIGURE 3**  
**WETLAND DELINEATION AND**  
**STREAM ASSESSMENT MAP**

**AECOM**  
 LAMPING ROUSE  
 SLIP REPAIR PROJECT  
 SHEET 1 OF 3

DRAWN BY: CJT  
 CHECKED: BM

DATE: 5/21/2024  
 APPROVED:



**PROJECT LOCATION**

MONROE COUNTY, OHIO

REFERENCE: USGS 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES: RINARD MILLS, OHIO, OBTAINED THROUGH ESRI USA TOPO MAPS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TOPO AND USGS, ACCESSED 05/2024. OEPA ELIGIBLE WATERSHEDS, OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, 2024.

**5/21/2024**

**LEGEND**

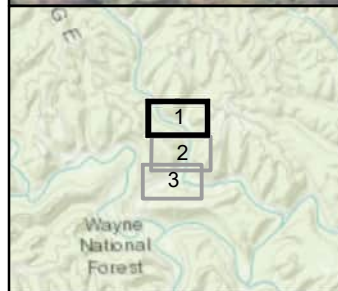
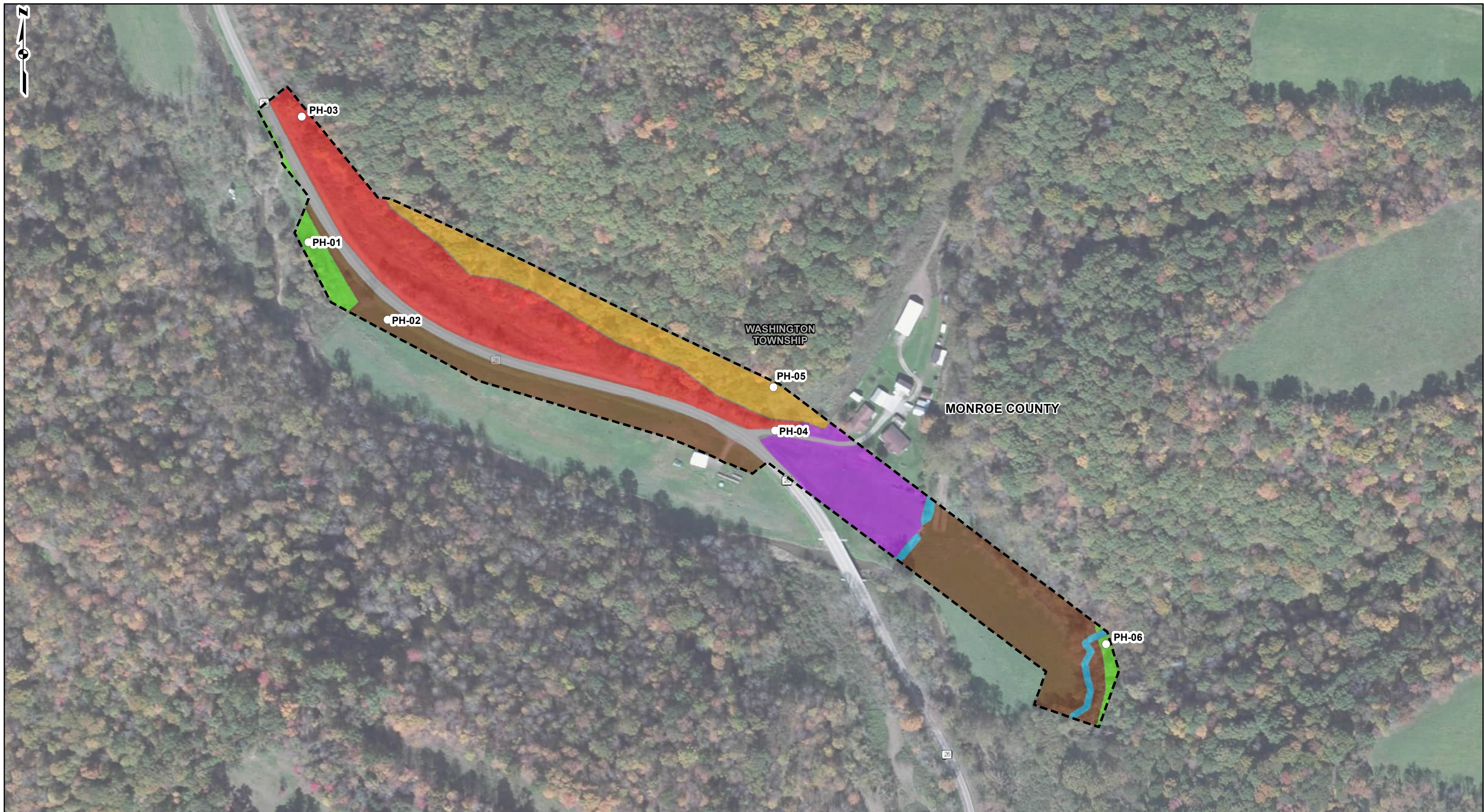
LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR	OEPA ELIGIBILITY: ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE
PROJECT SURVEY AREA	POSSIBLY ELIGIBLE	
NHD STREAM (USGS)		

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

**FIGURE 4**  
**STREAM ELIGIBILITY MAP**

**AECOM** LAMPING ROUSE SLIP REPAIR PROJECT

DRAWN BY: CJT      DATE: 5/21/2024  
CHECKED: BM      APPROVED:



REFERENCE: WORLD IMAGERY (CLARITY),  
 ESRI, ARCGIS ONLINE, ACCESSED 05/2024.  
 SOIL SURVEY GEOGRAPHIC (SSURGO),  
 USDA/NRCS, 2024.

**4/24/2024**

**LEGEND**

○ PHOTO LOCATION	OLD FIELD	WOODLANDS
▭ PROJECT SURVEY AREA	PASTURE/HAY FIELDS	
<b>VEGETATIVE COMMUNITY TYPE</b>	SCRUB/SHRUB	
▭ LANDSCAPED	STREAMS/WETLANDS	
	URBAN	

0 100 200 400 Feet

**FIGURE 5**  
**VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES**  
**ASSESSMENT MAP**

**AECOM** LAMPING ROUSE  
 SLIP REPAIR PROJECT  
 SHEET 1 OF 3

DRAWN BY: CJT DATE: 5/21/2024  
 CHECKED: BM APPROVED:

**APPENDIX A**  
**DESKTOP ASSESSMENT FOR WINTER BAT HABITAT**



American Electric Power  
8600 Smith's Mill Road  
New Albany, OH 43054;  
ajtoohey@aep.com

April 16, 2024/16/2024

Attention: Mr. Mike Pettegrew  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Transmitted via email: [environmentalreviewrequest@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:environmentalreviewrequest@dnr.ohio.gov);  
[NHDRequest@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:NHDRequest@dnr.ohio.gov)

Reference: Project Review Request  
Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project, Monroe County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Pettegrew:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), is formally requesting that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) completes an environmental review and a Natural Heritage Database (NHD) search request for the proposed Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project (Project) located in Monroe County, Ohio (OH). The project involves the repair of two slips associated with the existing Lamping Rouse Transmission line right of way. The slip locations are located near Structures 49, 50, and 51, and Structure 56. The Project is located on the Rinard Mills OH United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographical quadrangle as displayed on the Topographic Project Overview (Figure 1).

AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) completed a desktop review of publicly available data resources and aerial imagery to identify the potential for known bat winter hibernacula within 0.25 miles of the Project area. The data sources utilized included USGS topographical maps, aerial photography, and the ODNR's Division of Mineral Resources and Geological Survey Data for Known Mining Activity and Karst Geology/Sinkholes as shown on Figures 1 and 2. Based on the available desktop resources, there are no karst features or surface mine operations located within a 0.25 miles radius of the Project area that are anticipated to provide suitable hibernacula for cave-dwelling bats. Due to lack of known karst features, sub-surface mining activities (portals or openings) known to occur within 0.25 miles of the Project area, disturbances to winter hibernacula are not anticipated for this Project.

AECOM respectfully requests the results of the ODNR's environmental review, including results of the ODNR Natural Heritage Database search (see attached NHD Request Form) at your earliest convenience. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact me at the phone number or email below. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

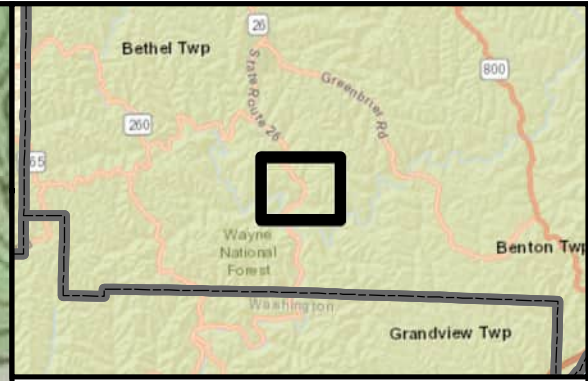
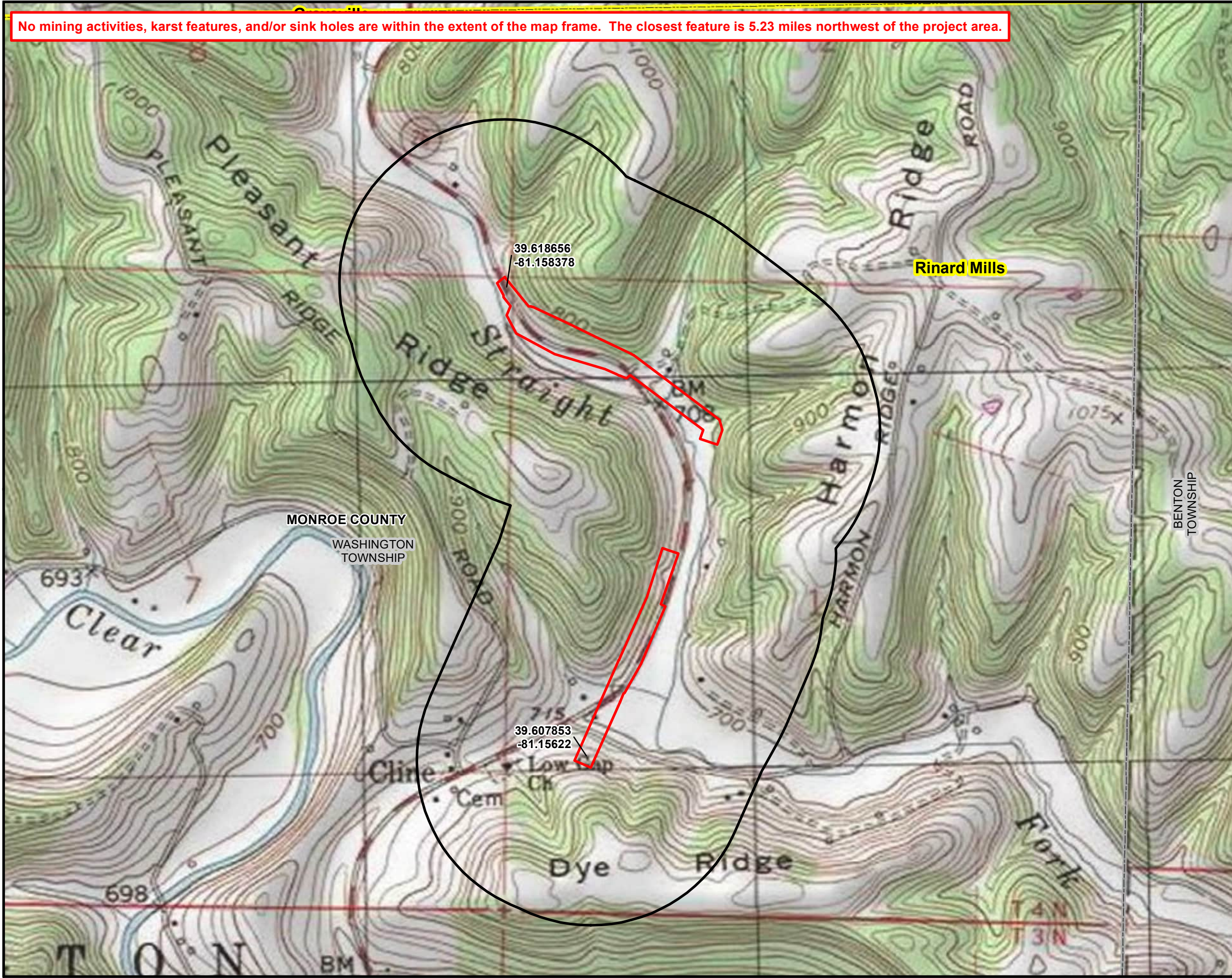
Joshua M. Holmes  
Environmental Project Manager  
Phone: (724-882-6958); [joshua.holmes@aecom.com](mailto:joshua.holmes@aecom.com)

CC: Amy J. Toohey  
Environmental Specialist-Consultant  
Phone: (614-565-1480); [ajtoohey@aep.com](mailto:ajtoohey@aep.com)

Attachments (4): Figure 1 – Topographic Project Overview; Figure 2 – Aerial Project Overview; Natural Heritage Data Request Form; Electronic Shapefiles (.shp)

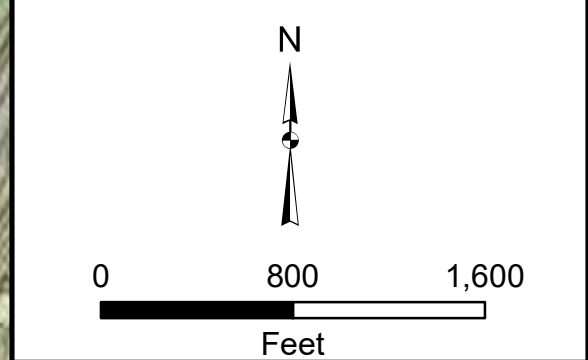
BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

No mining activities, karst features, and/or sink holes are within the extent of the map frame. The closest feature is 5.23 miles northwest of the project area.



**Legend**

- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Ohio USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle



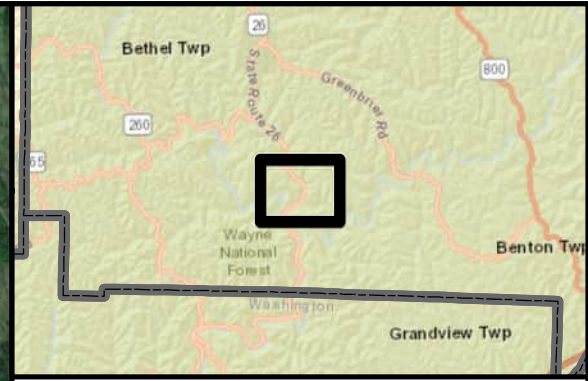
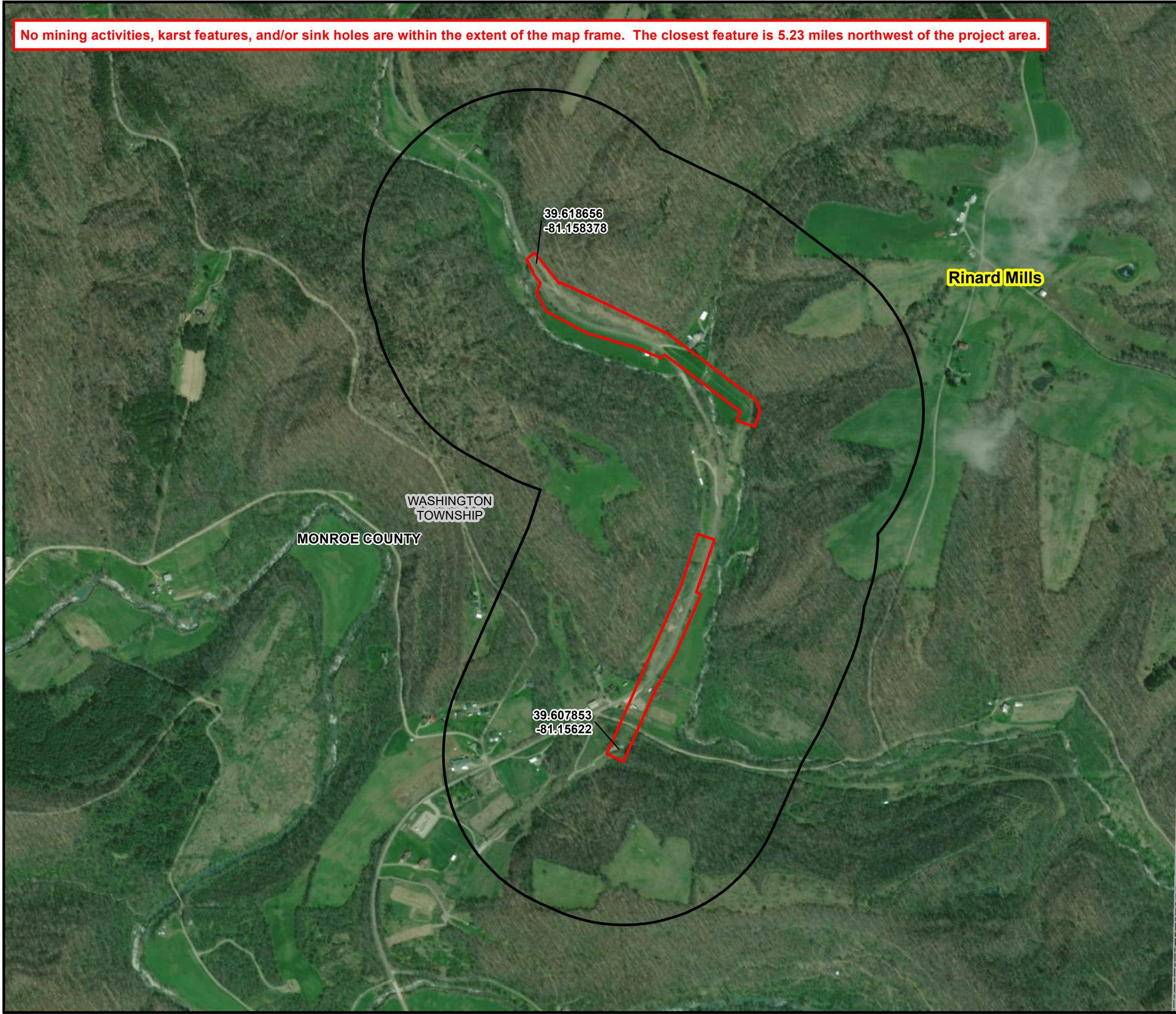
Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project

**FIGURE 1**  
TOPOGRAPHIC PROJECT OVERVIEW

DATE: 4/11/2024	1 INCH = 800 FEET
CREATED BY: CJT	CHECKED BY: BG
JOB NO.: 60720435	<b>AECOM</b>

Date Saved: 4/11/2024  
Document Path: X:\DCS\GIS\ArcMap\_GeoDB\_Projects\ENVAEP\_Lamping\_Rouse2\_MXD\0\_TELampingRouse\_ODNRFigure1\_Topo\_Overview.mxd

No mining activities, karst features, and/or sink holes are within the extent of the map frame. The closest feature is 5.23 miles northwest of the project area.



**Legend**

- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Ohio USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle

N

0 800 1,600

Feet

Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project

**FIGURE 2**  
AERIAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

DATE: 4/11/2024	1 INCH = 800 FEET
CREATED BY: CJT	CHECKED BY: BG
JOB NO.: 60720435	<b>AECOM</b>

Date Saved: 4/11/2024  
Document Path: X:\DCS\GIS\ArcMap\_GeoDB\_Projects\ENVAEP\_Lamping\_Rouse2\_MXD\0\_TELampingRouse\_ODNRFigure2\_Aerial\_Overview.mxd

**APPENDIX C**

**OEPA STREAM DATA FORMS / DELINEATED FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS**



# Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Form

## HHEI Score (sum of metrics 1+2+3)

62

SITE NAME/LOCATION Lamping Rouse Slip Monitoring  
 SITE NUMBER S-EAC-002 PER RIVER BASIN Ohio River RIVER CODE HUC 05030201 DRAINAGE AREA (mi<sup>2</sup>) 0.39 sq mi  
 LENGTH OF STREAM REACH (ft) 190 LAT 39.616516 LONG -81.153552 RIVER MILE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE 04/12/2024 SCORER EAC COMMENTS Flows through culvert (residential area drainage). Modified Class II PHW

NOTE: Complete All Items On This Form - Refer to "Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Manual" for Instructions

STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS:  NONE / NATURAL CHANNEL  RECOVERED  RECOVERING  RECENT OR NO RECOVERY

<b>1. SUBSTRATE (Estimate percent of every type present).</b> Check ONLY two predominant substrate TYPE boxes. (Max of 32). Add total number of significant substrate types found (Max of 8). Final metric score is sum of boxes A & B		<b>HHEI Metric Points</b> Substrate Max = 40  17 A + B																																																					
<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>BLDR SLABS [16 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>SILT [3 pt]</td><td>_____</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>BOULDER (&gt;256 mm) [16 pts]</td><td>5</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>BEDROCK [16 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]</td><td>20</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]</td><td>25</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>MUCK [0 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>SAND (&lt;2 mm) [6 pts]</td><td>25</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	BLDR SLABS [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SILT [3 pt]	_____	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BEDROCK [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	_____	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MUCK [0 pts]	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	_____	_____
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<b>2. Maximum Pool Depth (Measure the maximum pool depth within the 61 meter (200 feet) evaluation reach at the time of evaluation. Avoid plunge pools from road culverts or storm water pipes) (Check ONLY one box):</b>		<b>Pool Depth Max = 30</b>  25																																																					
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COMMENTS _____ MAXIMUM POOL DEPTH (centimeters): <input type="text" value="22"/>																																																							
<b>3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3 - 4 measurements) (Check ONLY one box):</b>		<b>Bankfull Width Max=30</b>  20																																																					
<table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>&gt; 4.0 meters (&gt; 13') [30 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>&gt; 1.0 m - 1.5 m (&gt; 3' 3" - 4' 8") [15 pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>&gt; 3.0 m - 4.0 m (&gt; 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>≤ 1.0 m (≤ 3' 3") [5 pts]</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>&gt; 1.5 m - 3.0 m (&gt; 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/>	> 4.0 meters (> 13') [30 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/>	> 1.0 m - 1.5 m (> 3' 3" - 4' 8") [15 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/>	> 3.0 m - 4.0 m (> 9' 7" - 13') [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/>	≤ 1.0 m (≤ 3' 3") [5 pts]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	> 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]																																											
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	> 1.5 m - 3.0 m (> 4' 8" - 9' 7") [20 pts]																																																						
COMMENTS _____ AVERAGE BANKFULL WIDTH (meters): <input type="text" value="2.1"/>																																																							

This information must also be completed

RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY ★ NOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R) as looking downstream★

<b>RIPARIAN WIDTH (Per Bank)</b>		<b>FLOODPLAIN QUALITY (Most Predominant per Bank)</b>	
L	R	L	R
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wide >10m		Mature Forest, Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Immature Forest, Shrub or Old Field	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moderate 5-10m		Residential, Park, New Field	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fenced Pasture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrow <5m		Conservation Tillage	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban or Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
None		Open Pasture, Row Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mining or Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

FLOW REGIME (At Time of Evaluation) (Check ONLY one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stream Flowing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moist Channel, isolated pools, no flow (intermittent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsurface flow with isolated pools (interstitial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dry channel, no water (ephemeral)

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

SINUOSITY (Number of bends per 61 m (200 ft) of channel) (Check ONLY one box):

<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	0.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	>3

STREAM GRADIENT ESTIMATE

Flat (0.5 ft/100 ft)  Flat to Moderate  Moderate (2 ft/100 ft)  Moderate to Severe  Severe (10 ft/100 ft)

**ADDITIONAL STREAM INFORMATION (This Information Must Also be Completed):**

QHEI PERFORMED?  Yes  No QHEI Score \_\_\_\_\_ (If Yes, Attach Completed QHEI form)

DOWNSTREAM DESIGNATED USE(S)

- WWH Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from Evaluated Stream \_\_\_\_\_  
 CWH Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from Evaluated Stream \_\_\_\_\_  
 EWH Name: Straight Fork Distance from Evaluated Stream 286

MAPPING: ATTACH COPIES OF MAPS, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE WATERSHED AREA. CLEARLY MARK THE SITE LOCATION.

USGS Quadrangle Name: Washington Quadrangle NRCS Soil Map Page: \_\_\_\_\_ NRCS Soil Map Stream Order: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Monroe Township/City: Cline

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Base Flow Conditions? (Y/N): n Date of last precipitation: Actively raining at time of sample Quantity: >1 inch

Photo-documentation Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevated Turbidity?(Y/N): y Canopy (% open): 95

Were samples collected for water chemistry?(Y/N): n Lab Sample # or ID (attach results): \_\_\_\_\_

Field Measures: Temp (°C) \_\_\_\_\_ Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l) \_\_\_\_\_ pH (S.U.) \_\_\_\_\_ Conductivity (umhos/cm) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the sampling reach representative of the stream (Y/N) y If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments/description of pollution impacts: \_\_\_\_\_

**BIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS**

(Record all observations below)

Fish Observed? (Y/N) n Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Frogs or Tadpoles Observed? (Y/N) n Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

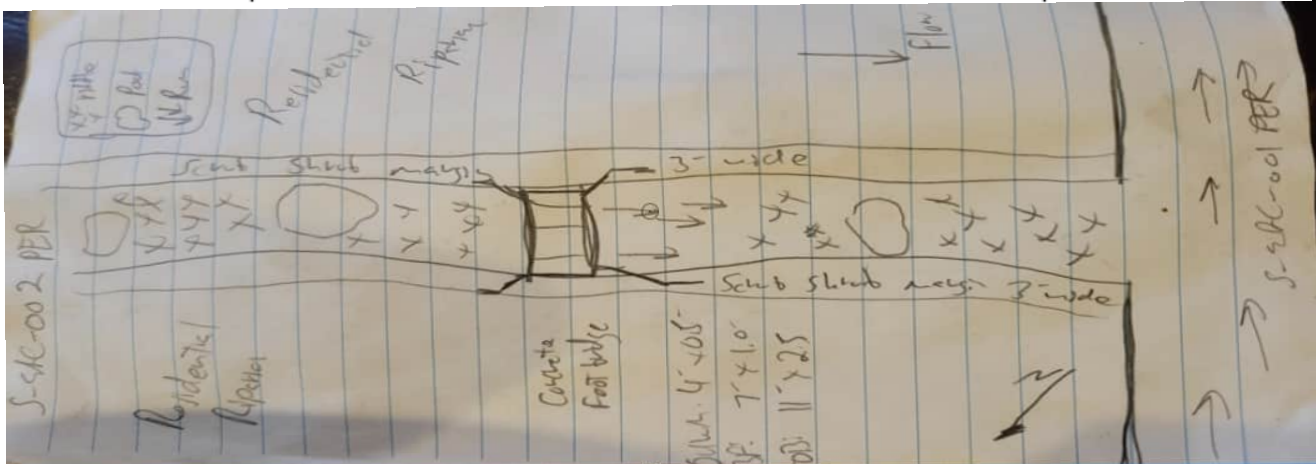
Salamanders Observed? (Y/N) n Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Observed? (Y/N) n Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Regarding Biology: \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAWING AND NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF STREAM REACH (This must be completed)**

Include important landmarks and other features of interest for site evaluation and a narrative description of the stream's location





# Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Form

## HHEI Score (sum of metrics 1+2+3)

55

SITE NAME/LOCATION Lamping Rouse Slip Monitoring  
 SITE NUMBER S-EAC-003 PER PER RIVER BASIN Ohio River RIVER CODE HUC 05030201 DRAINAGE AREA (mi<sup>2</sup>) 0.39  
 LENGTH OF STREAM REACH (ft) 200 LAT 39.616184 LONG -81.153633 RIVER MILE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE 04/12/2024 SCORER EAC COMMENTS Class II PHW Perennial stream, pasture adjacent

NOTE: Complete All Items On This Form - Refer to "Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index Field Manual" for Instructions

STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATIONS:  NONE / NATURAL CHANNEL  RECOVERED  RECOVERING  RECENT OR NO RECOVERY

<b>1. SUBSTRATE (Estimate percent of every type present). Check ONLY two predominant substrate TYPE boxes.</b> (Max of 32). Add total number of significant substrate types found (Max of 8). Final metric score is sum of boxes A & B		<b>HHEI Metric Points</b> Substrate Max = 40 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">25</div> A + B																											
<table border="0"> <tr> <th>TYPE</th> <th>PERCENT</th> <th>TYPE</th> <th>PERCENT</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bldr Slabs [16 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pt]</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (&gt;256 mm) [16 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]</td> <td>30</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]</td> <td>30</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> SAND (&lt;2 mm) [6 pts]</td> <td>30</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	TYPE		PERCENT	TYPE	PERCENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Bldr Slabs [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SILT [3 pt]	10	<input type="checkbox"/> BOULDER (>256 mm) [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> LEAF PACK/WOODY DEBRIS [3 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> BEDROCK [16 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> FINE DETRITUS [3 pts]	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COBBLE (65-256 mm) [12 pts]	30	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAY or HARDPAN [0 pt]	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL (2-64 mm) [9 pts]	30	<input type="checkbox"/> MUCK [0 pts]	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	30	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	_____
TYPE	PERCENT	TYPE	PERCENT																										
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<input type="checkbox"/> SAND (<2 mm) [6 pts]	30	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL [3 pts]	_____																										
Total of Percentages of Bldr Slabs, Boulder, Cobble, Bedrock <u>30</u> (A) <u>21</u> (B) <u>4</u> <b>SCORE OF TWO MOST PREDOMINATE SUBSTRATE TYPES: 21 TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBSTRATE TYPES: 4</b>																													
<b>2. Maximum Pool Depth (Measure the maximum pool depth within the 61 meter (200 feet) evaluation reach at the time of evaluation. Avoid plunge pools from road culverts or storm water pipes) (Check ONLY one box):</b>		<b>Pool Depth Max = 30</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">15</div>																											
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<input type="checkbox"/> > 10 - 22.5 cm [25 pts]	<input type="checkbox"/> NO WATER OR MOIST CHANNEL [0pts]																												
COMMENTS <u>High flow stage present</u> <b>MAXIMUM POOL DEPTH (centimeters): 10</b>																													
<b>3. BANK FULL WIDTH (Measured as the average of 3 - 4 measurements) (Check ONLY one box):</b>		<b>Bankfull Width Max=30</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">15</div>																											
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COMMENTS _____ <b>AVERAGE BANKFULL WIDTH (meters) 1.4</b>																													

This information must also be completed

RIPARIAN ZONE AND FLOODPLAIN QUALITY ★ NOTE: River Left (L) and Right (R) as looking downstream★

RIPARIAN WIDTH (Per Bank)		FLOODPLAIN QUALITY (Most Predominant per Bank)	
L	R	L	R
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

FLOW REGIME (At Time of Evaluation) (Check ONLY one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream Flowing	<input type="checkbox"/> Moist Channel, isolated pools, no flow (intermittent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Subsurface flow with isolated pools (interstitial)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry channel, no water (ephemeral)

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

SINUOSITY (Number of bends per 61 m (200 ft) of channel) (Check ONLY one box):

<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0
<input type="checkbox"/> 0.5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5	<input type="checkbox"/> >3

STREAM GRADIENT ESTIMATE

Flat (0.5 ft/100 ft)  Flat to Moderate  Moderate (2 ft/100 ft)  Moderate to Severe  Severe (10 ft/100 ft)

**ADDITIONAL STREAM INFORMATION (This Information Must Also be Completed):**

**QHEI PERFORMED?**  Yes  No QHEI Score \_\_\_\_\_ (If Yes, Attach Completed QHEI form)

**DOWNSTREAM DESIGNATED USE(S)**

- WWH Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from Evaluated Stream \_\_\_\_\_  
 CWH Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from Evaluated Stream \_\_\_\_\_  
 EWH Name: Straight Fork Distance from Evaluated Stream 150

**MAPPING: ATTACH COPIES OF MAPS, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE WATERSHED AREA. CLEARLY MARK THE SITE LOCATION.**

USGS Quadrangle Name: Washington Quadrangle NRCS Soil Map Page: \_\_\_\_\_ NRCS Soil Map Stream Order: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Monroe Township/City: Cline

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Base Flow Conditions? (Y/N): N Date of last precipitation: Currently Raining Quantity: >1 inch

Photo-documentation Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevated Turbidity?(Y/N): Y Canopy (% open): 100%

Were samples collected for water chemistry?(Y/N): N Lab Sample # or ID (attach results): \_\_\_\_\_

Field Measures: Temp (°C) \_\_\_\_\_ Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l) \_\_\_\_\_ pH (S.U.) \_\_\_\_\_ Conductivity (umhos/cm) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the sampling reach representative of the stream (Y/N) Y If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments/description of pollution impacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel flow from hillside outside of survey to the toe of slope along the survey are where the gradient decreases and sinuosity increases.

**BIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS**

(Record all observations below)

Fish Observed? (Y/N) N Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Frogs or Tadpoles Observed? (Y/N) N Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Salamanders Observed? (Y/N) N Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

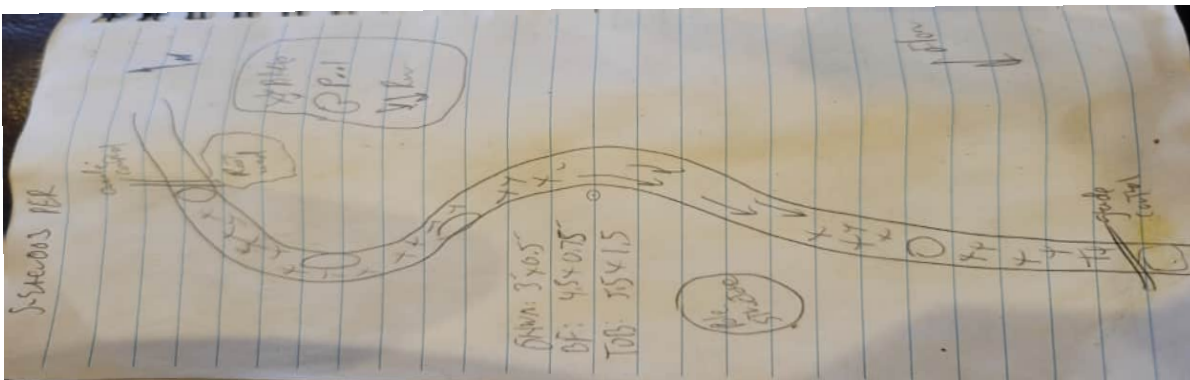
Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Observed? (Y/N) N Species observed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Regarding Biology: \_\_\_\_\_

High Flow status precludes biological sampling.

**DRAWING AND NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF STREAM REACH (This must be completed)**

Include important landmarks and other features of interest for site evaluation and a narrative description of the stream's location



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>S-EAC-002</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Perennial Facing Upstream



<b>S-EAC-002</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Perennial Facing Downstream



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>S-EAC-002</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Perennial Substrate



<b>S-EAC-003</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Perennial Facing Upstream



**Client Name:**  
AEP Transco Ohio

**Site Location:**  
Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project

**Project No.**  
60729560

**S-EAC-003**

**Date:**

April 12, 2024

**Description:**

Perennial

Facing Downstream



**S-EAC-003**

**Date:**

April 12, 2024

**Description:**

Perennial

Substrate



**APPENDIX D**

**UPLAND DRAINAGE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.</b> 60729560
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<b>UDF-EAC-001</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Up	

<b>UDF-EAC-001</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Down	

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.</b> 60729560
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<b>UDF-EAC-001</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Substrate	

<b>UDF-EAC-002</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Up	

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.</b> 60729560
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<b>UDF-EAC-002</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Down	

<b>UDF-EAC-002</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Substrate	

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.</b> 60729560
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<b>UDF-EAC-003</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Up	

<b>UDF-EAC-003</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Down	

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Transco Ohio	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.</b> 60729560
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<b>UDF-EAC-003</b>	
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024	
<b>Description:</b> Upland Drainage Feature Facing Substrate	

**APPENDIX E**  
**HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Ohio Transco	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>PH-01</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Woodlands Facing South



<b>PH-02</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Pasture/Hay Fields Facing South



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Ohio Transco	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>PH-03</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Old Field Facing East



<b>PH-04</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Urban Facing North



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Ohio Transco	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>PH-05</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Scrub/Shrub Facing South



<b>PH-06</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Woodlands Facing East



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Ohio Transco	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>PH-07</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Scrub/Shrub Facing West



<b>PH-08</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Old Field Facing West



<b>Client Name:</b> AEP Ohio Transco	<b>Site Location:</b> Lamping Rouse T Line Failure Project	<b>Project No.:</b> 60729560
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<b>PH-09</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Landscaped Facing North



<b>PH-10</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2024
<b>Description:</b> Pasture/Hay Fields Facing South



**APPENDIX F**  
**AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**

# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



April 23, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0076219

Dear Joshua Holmes:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your recent correspondence requesting information about the subject proposal. We offer the following comments and recommendations to assist you in minimizing and avoiding adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and 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.

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: The proposed project is in the vicinity of one or more confirmed records of northern long-eared bats. 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, and because the proposed project is  $\geq 1.5$  miles from the northern long-eared bat capture/detection location(s), a summer survey may be conducted to document the presence or absence of Indiana bats and

northern long-eared bats at the project site. The summer survey must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office. In Ohio, summer mist net surveys may only be conducted between June 1 and August 15. We recommend that any Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats captured during the survey, especially reproductively active females and juveniles, be monitored through radio-tracking to determine roost locations.

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 also warranted. Portal surveys must be conducted by an approved surveyor and be designed and conducted in coordination with the Ohio Field Office.

Survey results should be coordinated with this office prior to initiation of any work at the project area. Based on the results of the survey(s), we will evaluate potential impacts to the Indiana bat from the proposed project. If Indiana bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing may occur at any time of the year.

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 it is 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 cursive script that reads "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

May 13, 2024

Joshua Holmes  
AECOM  
707 Grant Street, 5th Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

**Re:** 24-0597\_AEP Lamping Rouse Slip Repair

**Project:** The proposed project involves the repair of two slips associated with the existing Lamping Rouse Transmission line right of way. The first slip is near Structures 49, 50, and 51, and the second slip is near Structure #56.

**Location:** The proposed project is located in Washington Township, Monroe County, Ohio.

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

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

Creek Heelsplitter (*Lasmigona compressa*), SC  
Round Hickorynut (*Obovaria subrotunda*), T  
Round Pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*), SC

Conservation status abbreviations are as follows: E = state endangered; T = state threatened; P = state potentially threatened; SC = state species of concern; SI = state special interest; U = state status under review; X = presumed extirpated in Ohio; FE = federally endangered, and FT = federally threatened. The review was performed on the specified project area as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. Features searched include locations of rare and endangered plants and animals determined to be of value to the conservation of their species, high quality plant communities, animal breeding assemblages, and outstanding geological features.

Location records for the species listed above are provided in a shapefile attachment to this letter. Species location information will not be disclosed, published, or distributed beyond the scope of your project.

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree cutting is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree cutting inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at [Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov)).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH  $\geq$  20 if possible.

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS “[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 following listed fish species.

State Endangered

Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*)

State Threatened

American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

channel darter (*Percina copelandi*)

river darter (*Percina shumardi*)

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

The project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. This long-lived, entirely aquatic salamander inhabits perennial streams with large flat rocks. In-water work in hellbender streams can reduce availability of large cover rocks and can destroy hellbender nests and/or kill adults and juveniles. The contribution of additional sediment to hellbender streams can smother large cover rocks and gravel/cobble substrate (used by juveniles), making them unsuitable for refuge and nesting. Projects that contribute to altered flow regimes (e.g., by increasing areas of impervious surfaces or modifying the floodplain) can also adversely affect hellbender habitat. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment.

**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