

Case No. 22-1086-EL-BNR

Part 1 of 3

Construction Notice South Coshocton - Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line Cut- In and Salt Creek Switch Project



An **AEP** Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

PUCO Case No. 22-1086-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.

December 13, 2022

Construction Notice for South Coshocton – Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line Cut-In and Salt Creek Switch Project

Construction Notice

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
South Coshocton – Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line Cut-In and Salt Creek Switch Project

4906-6-05

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (the “Company”) provides the following information in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

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

The Company proposes the South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line Cut-In and Salt Creek Switch Project (the “Project”) in Prairie Township, Holmes County, Ohio. The Project is necessitated by a request from Buckeye Power, Inc., on behalf of Holmes Wayne Electric Cooperative (HWN), for a new delivery point on the South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line. The Project involves an approximately 0.2-mile cut-in along the South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line and the installation of a new three-way phase-over-phase (PoP) switch (the “Salt Creek Switch”). An approximately 0.8-mile greenfield 138 kV transmission line, which will connect the Salt Creek Switch to HWN's, non-jurisdictional, distribution stepdown Holmesville Station, will be filed with the OPSB under separate cover (Case No. 22-1087-EL-BLN).

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice (CN) because it is within the types of projects defined by item 2(a) of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01 Appendix A of the Application Requirement Matrix For Electric Power Transmission Lines:

- (2) Adding new circuits on existing structures designed for multiple circuit use, replacing conductors on existing structures with larger or bundled conductors, adding structures to an existing transmission line, or replacing structures with a different type of structure, for a distance of:
 - (a) Two miles or less.**

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 22-1086-EL-BNR

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B(2) Statement of Need

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

Buckeye Power, Inc. on behalf of HWN, requested the Company provide a new 138 kV delivery point along the South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV Transmission Line, specifically the eastern Wooster-West Millersburg 138 kV circuit, by mid-2023 to serve their new, non-jurisdictional Holmesville Station. The proposed HWN delivery point will have an expected peak demand of 4.4 MW and be used to serve growing commercial and light industrial load in the area. The delivery point will also be used to off-load HWN's existing Moreland Station, which has capacity concerns during peak periods. In order to install the new Salt Creek three-way switch and serve the HWN's customer, it is necessary to modify the existing South Coshocton – Wooster 138-kV Transmission Line. One structure to the north of the proposed Salt Creek Switch and one to the south will need to be replaced, due to design changes associated with the new switch placement and to meet necessary clearances.

Failure to move forward with the proposed project will result in the inability to serve the wholesale customer's load expectations as well as failing to address the capacity concerns experienced by the customer at their existing station in the area.

The need and solution for the entire customer project were presented and reviewed with stakeholders at the March 2021 and September 2021 PJM SRTEP meetings, respectively. The Project was subsequently assigned PJM supplemental number s2641. This Project was included in the Company's 2022 Long Term Forecast Report, and is located on page 104 and 120, see Appendix B.

B(3) Project Location

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

The Project is located in Holmes County, Ohio. Figure 1 in Appendix A shows the location of the proposed Project in relation to the existing utility infrastructure in the area.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

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

The Company considered two switch locations and three greenfield route options for the overall project. The selected switch location reduces tree clearing, access road length, and was preferred by the property owner. The selected greenfield route reduces impacts to undeveloped land for future land development; follows the roadside to reduce access road impacts, and environmental impacts; and was preferred by the property owner along the greenfield extension.

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The preferred location of the Project was dictated by existing infrastructure, the proposed placement of the Holmesville Station, minimizing impacts to property owners by locating the greenfield extension along road ROW, and minimizes impacts to the environment by avoiding tree clearing and impacts to streams and wetlands to the extent practicable. The preferred location of the Project minimizes impacts to the community and the environment, and represents the most suitable location and most appropriate solution for meeting the Company's needs.

B(5) Public Information Program

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

The Company will inform affected property owners and tenants about this Project through several different mediums. Within seven days of filing this CN, the Company will mail a letter, via first class mail, to affected landowners, tenants, contiguous owners and any other landowner the Company may approach for an easement necessary for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the Project. The notice will comply with all requirements of Ohio Revised Code ("OAC") Section 4906-6-08(A)(1-6) and OAC Section 4906-6-08(B). The Company maintains a website (<http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/>) which provides the public access to an electronic copy of this CN and the public notice for this CN. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library in each political subdivision for this Project. The Company retains ROW land agents that discuss Project timelines, construction and restoration activities and convey information to affected owners and tenants throughout the Project.

B(6) Construction Schedule

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

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in March 2023, and the anticipated in-service date will be July 2023.

B(7) Area Map

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

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Figure 1 provides the proposed Project area on a map of 1:24,000-scale (1-inch equals 2,000 feet) on the Holmesville United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map of the Project area. Figure 2 shows the Project area on ESRI World Imagery at a scale of 1:12,000 (1 inch equals 1,000 feet). The ESRI World Imagery is dated May 2021.

To visit the Project site from Columbus, Ohio, take I-71 North for approximately 68.4 miles. Take Exit 176 to merge onto U.S. 30 East toward Wooster. Follow U.S. 30 East for approximately 25.4 miles. Exit onto Ohio State Route 302 East/Madison Avenue and follow for approximately 1 mile, and then bear right onto Ohio State Route 83 South. Remain on Ohio State Route 83 South for approximately 10 miles. The approximate address of the Salt Creek Switch site is 8231 OH-83, Holmesville, Ohio 44633, at latitude 40.641390, longitude -81.933032.

B(8) Property Agreements

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

The proposed Project will be constructed within existing ROW but will require supplemental easements. A list of properties required for the Project are provided in the table below.

Parcel ID	Agreement Type	Easement Agreement Obtained (Yes/No)
1700370000	Greenfield Easement Agreement	Yes
1700370000	Supplemental Easement	No
1700370002	Supplemental Easement	No

* The Company may supplement existing rights under all blanket and defined easements identified above.

B(9) Technical Features

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

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

The transmission line cut-in is anticipated to include the following:

Voltage: 138kV
 Conductors: Three (3) 477 Kcm HAWK ACSR (26/7)

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Static Wire: Two (2) 5/16" Steel
Insulators: Ceramic/Glass
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: Two (2) Single circuit, monopole steel Davit Arm Structures with direct embedded foundations
One (1) H-frame steel single circuit structure (This structure is not being replaced, but will be modified with new insulators and adding line weights.)

The Salt Creek Switch is anticipated to include the following:

Voltage: 138kV
Conductors: Three (3) 795 Kcm DRAKE ACSR (26/7)
Static Wire: One (1) 7#8 Alumoweld
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: One (1) Single circuit, monopole steel GOAB switch with drilled shaft concrete foundations

B(9)(b) Electric and Magnetic Fields

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

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

B(9)(c) Project Cost

The estimated capital cost of the project.

The capital cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is approximately \$1.1 million using a Class 4 estimates. 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 Characteristics

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

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An aerial photograph of the Project vicinity is provided as Figure 2. The Project location and vicinity have historically been primarily agricultural land with scattered woodlots. The Project is mapped within Prairie Township in Holmes County. The Project vicinity is currently rural in nature, and is comprised primarily of open agricultural fields, forested land, scattered residences, and some industrial operations.

A small portion of the existing South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV transmission line is located within the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, a designated Ohio State Wildlife Area, that is managed by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR)-Division of Wildlife (DOW). Approximately 0.2 miles of the proposed Project extends into the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area. This segment of the Project will be accessed by helicopter, and no impact to the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area is proposed. No other parks, preserves, or wildlife management areas are located in the vicinity of the Project.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

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

The Holmes County Auditor maintains an online database of agricultural district land in Prairie Township. Holmes County was consulted on October 22, 2022, and there were no parcels within the Project ROW identified as agricultural district lands. As this Project is intended to replace existing transmission line infrastructure, including transmission poles, no new agricultural districts or other agricultural land uses would be converted as a result 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.

A cultural resource survey and report were conducted by the Company's consultant for the Project in November 2022. The Company's consultant indicated in the Phase I Archaeological Investigations report that two previously unrecorded archaeological sites (33HS0384 and 33HS0385) were identified during the November 2022 investigations. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") was completed on December 9, 2022 and the OHPO concurred with Weller's assessment that the two OAI sites identified by the project (OAI #33HS0384 and 33HS0385) were recommended for avoidance or Phase II investigations. The Company will continue coordination with the SHPO in order to complete Phase II work on both sites, prior to construction and following completion of coordination with the SHPO.

The Company's consultant also conducted a history/architecture investigation and indicated in the corresponding report that a total of seven resources older than fifty years of age were identified within the survey area. One resource is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Ref. 85001342). None of the remaining resources were recommended as eligible for NRHP listing. SHPO concurred that the Project would not impact the significance or integrity of the NRHP-listed resource in a way that would alter

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its National Register Status and the Project should have no impact on aboveground historic resources. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) was completed on December 9, 2022 and the OHPO concurred with Weller’s assessment that there are no adverse effect on above ground historic properties.

Correspondence from the SHPO was received on December 9, 2022 (Appendix C). The SHPO recommended Phase II archaeological work be completed on the impacted portion of archaeology sites 33HS0384 and 33HS0385.

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

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

A Notice of Intent will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHCD000005. The Company will also coordinate storm water permitting needs with local government agencies, as necessary. The Company will implement and maintain best management practices as outlined in the Project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize erosion control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events.

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

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

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

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ODNR-DOW were contacted to identify the federally and state-listed threatened and endangered species known to occur in Holmes County, respectively. In November 2021, coordination letters were sent to USFWS and ODNR-DOW soliciting responses. Separate letters were sent for each element of the Project, although the species identified are the same.

Responses were received from the USFWS on December 2, 2021. The USFWS advised that the Project area occurs within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The USFWS proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees ≥3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats, if suitable habitat occurs within the Project area. If

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seasonal tree cutting is implemented, adverse impacts to these species are not likely. If seasonal tree cutting is not possible, USFWS requests that a mist net survey be conducted between June 1 and August 15, prior to cutting. No tree clearing is anticipated for the Project.

Responses were received from the ODNR-DOW on December 28, 2021 and April 1, 2022. The ODNR-DOW advised that the Project area occurs within the range of the state and federally endangered Indiana bat, the state endangered and federally threatened northern long-eared bat, the state endangered little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), and the state endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). Presence of these bat species has been established in the Project area and summer tree clearing is not recommended. If trees must be cut during the summer months, ODNR-DOW recommends performing a mist net or acoustic survey between June 1 and August 15, in accordance with agency guidance for bat surveys and tree clearing. If state-listed bats are documented, ODNR-DOW recommends tree cutting between October 1 and March 31; however, the ODNR-DOW may accept limited tree cutting inside after further coordination. No tree clearing is anticipated for the Project.

The ODNR-DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment be conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, further coordination with ODNR-DOW is required. If potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile tree cutting and subsurface disturbance buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. If no tree cutting or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, the Project is not likely to impact these species. Desktop review in accordance with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (OH-Field Office) Joint Guidance for Bat Surveys and Tree Clearing, dated May 2022, identified no documented underground or surface mines and no mine entrances/openings within one-quarter mile of the project area. No tree clearing or subsurface disturbances are proposed as part of the Project.

The ODNR-DOW advised that the Project area occurs within the range of the state endangered snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a mussel species. Due to the location of the Project, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, the Project is not anticipated to impact this species.

The ODNR-DOW advised that the Project area occurs within the range of the state endangered Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*) and the state threatened lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), both state-listed fish species. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, the Project is not anticipated to impact these species.

The ODNR-DOW advised that the Project is within the range of the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*), a state endangered species and a federal species of concern. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size to provide suitable habitat, the Project is not anticipated to impact this species.

The ODNR-DOW advised that the Project is within the range of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird; black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), a state endangered bird; northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), a state endangered bird; sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), a state threatened bird; trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state threatened bird; and upland sandpiper (*Bartramia*

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longicauda), a state endangered bird. On February 3, 2022, the Company's consultant surveyed the Project area to identify potential habitat for sensitive species as identified in the ODNR correspondence located in Appendix C. No potentially suitable habitat was identified within the Project survey corridor, and impacts to these state-listed bird species are not anticipated.

Additional details regarding species are provided in the agency correspondence letters and in the Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Report, see Appendix C and Appendix D.

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 prepared a Wetland Delineation and Stream Assessment Report, see Appendix D. The ecological survey of the Project identified two wetlands and no streams or ponds within the survey corridor. The wetlands identified are classified as palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands. No temporary or permanent impact to the wetlands is anticipated.

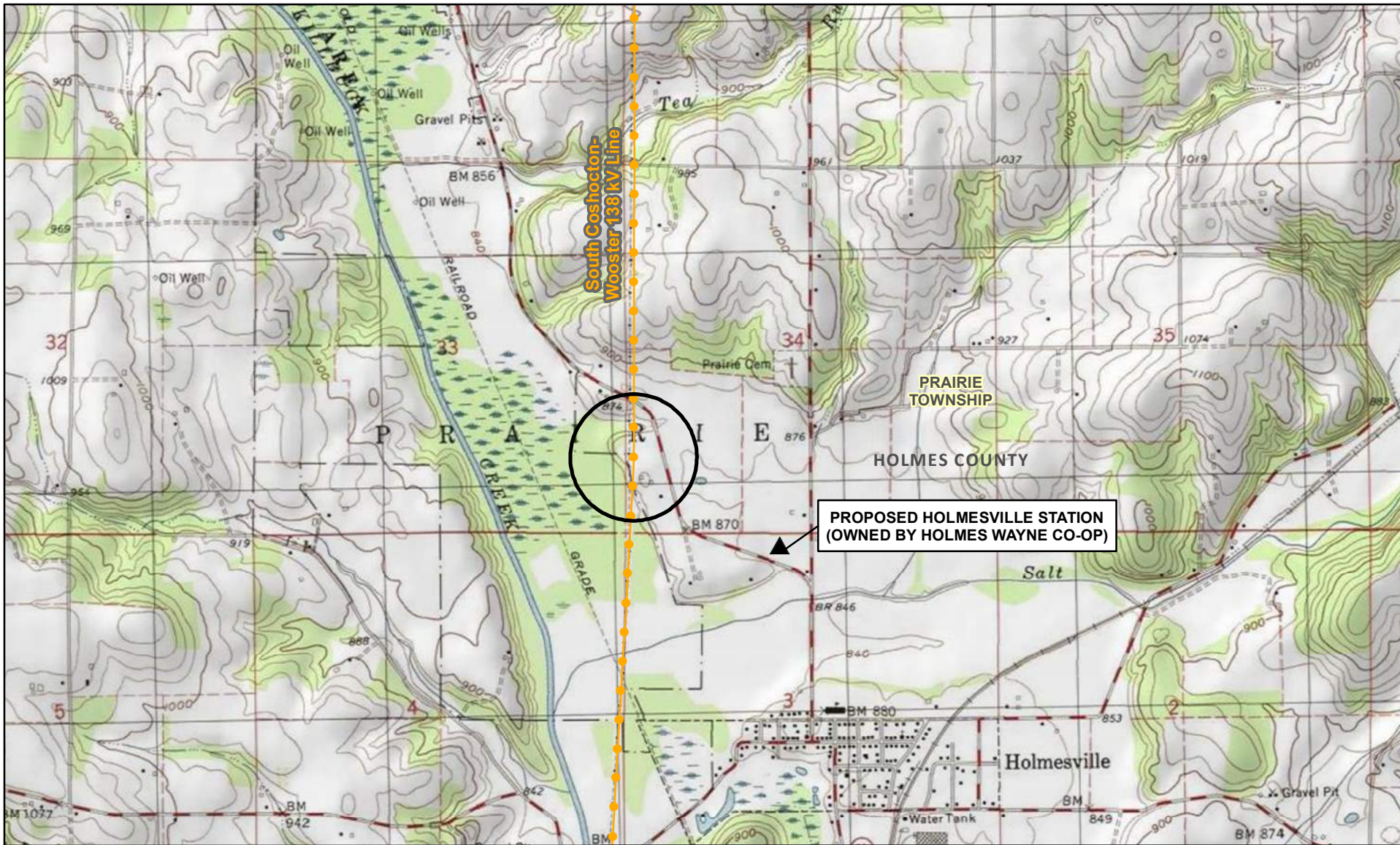
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated 100-year floodplains are located within and around the Project survey corridor. These floodplains are associated with Killbuck Creek, and are located near the southwest end of the Project. The floodplains are shown on Flood Map 39075C0068D from the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) datasets. No temporary or permanent impacts to the FEMA-regulated floodplain is anticipated.

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 Figures



Legend

- ▲ Proposed Station
- Existing Transmission Line (138-kV)
- Project Area

Data Sources: AEP (2022),
 ESRI (2013), PowerMap (2010)
 USGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangle
 (Holmesville)

Coordinate System:
 State Plane Ohio North
 NAD 83



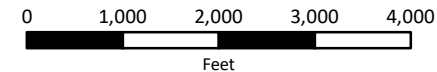
November 29, 2022

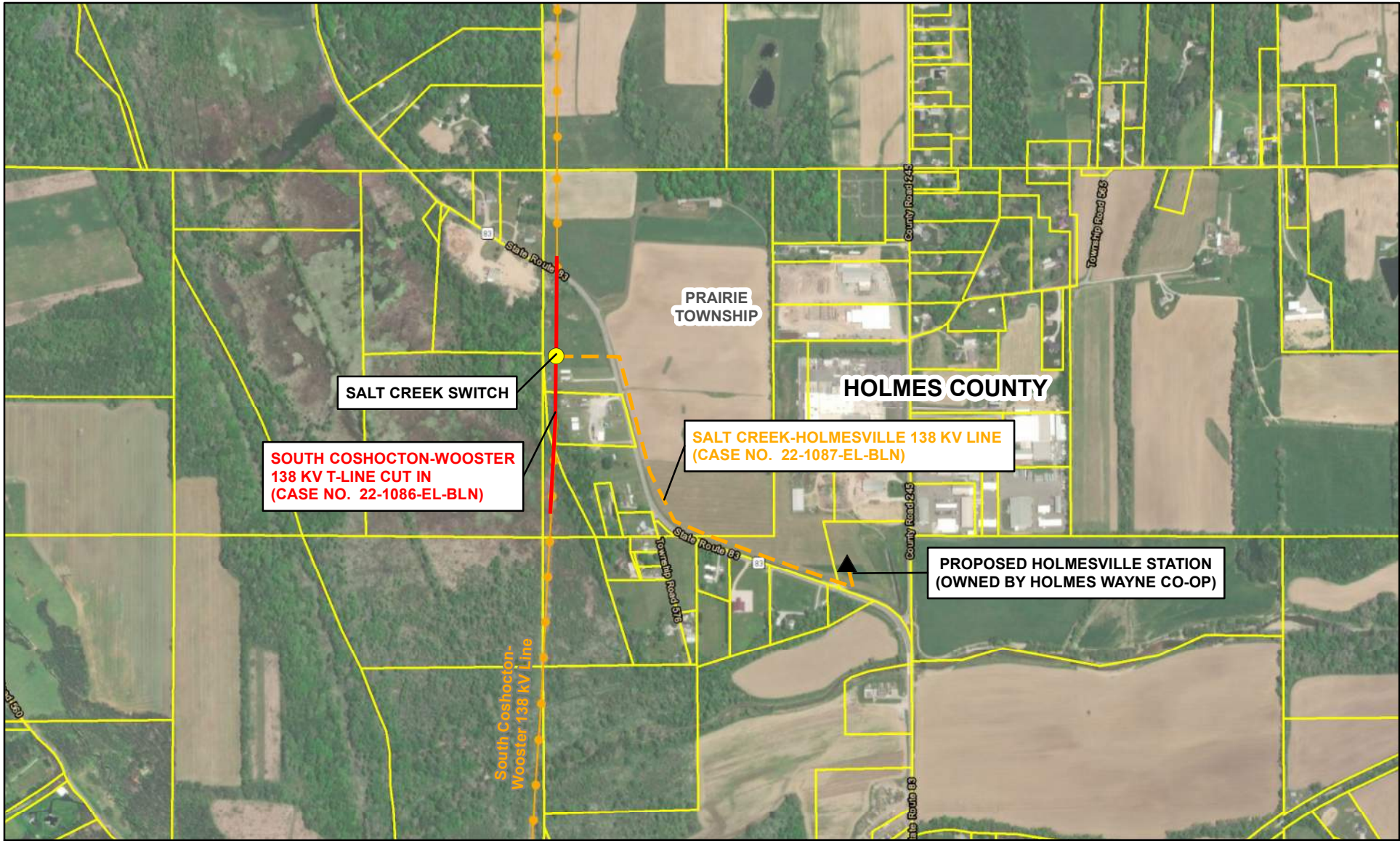


**FIGURE 1
 TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW**



South Coshocton-Wooster
 138 kV Transmission Line Cut-In
 and Salt Creek Switch Project





Legend

- ▲ Proposed Station
- Proposed Switch
- Salt Creek-Holmesville 138 kV Line (Case No. 22-1087-EL-BLN)
- South Coshocton-Wooster 138 kV T-Line Cut In (Case No. 22-1086-EL-BLN)
- Existing Transmission Line (138-kV)
- Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP (2022),
 USDA (2019), PowerMap (2010)
 USGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangle
 (Holmesville)

Coordinate System:
 State Plane Ohio North
 NAD 83



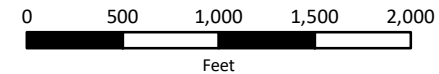
November 30, 2022



**FIGURE 2
 AERIAL MAP**



South Coshocton-Wooster
 138 kV Transmission Line Cut-In
 and Salt Creek Switch Project



Appendix B PJM Submittal and Long Term Forecast Report

PUCO Form FE-T9:
AEP Ohio
Specifications of Planned Transmission Lines

1.	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Salt Creek Extension (Wooster - West Millersburg 138kV) S2641 TP2021035
2.	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Salt Creek Switch - Holmes Wayne Coop Holmesville Station INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3.	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	0.75 mi / 100ft / 1 circuit (of new construction)
4.	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5.	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2022
6.	CONSTRUCTION:	2022 - 2023
7.	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$1.4M
8.	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Salt Creek Switch
9.	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10.	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11.	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	New 138 kV extension to serve co-op transmission delivery point
12.	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13.	MISCELLANEOUS:	

PUCO Form FE-T9:
AEP Ohio
Specifications of Planned Transmission Lines

1.	LINE NAME AND NUMBER:	Wooster - West Millersburg 138kV (S2641 TP2021035)
2.	POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION	Wooster - West Millersburg INTERMEDIATE STATION - Salt Creek Switch
3.	RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS	10.5 mi / 100ft / 1 circuit (0.1 mi of line work)
4.	VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE	138 kV / 138 kV
5.	APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:	2022
6.	CONSTRUCTION:	2022 - 2023
7.	CAPITAL INVESTMENT:	\$0.2M
8.	PLANNED SUBSTATION:	Salt Creek Switch
9.	SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:	Steel
10.	PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES	N/A
11.	PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE	Reconfiguring the existing West Millersburg – Wooster 138kV circuit to add in Salt Fork Switch.
12.	CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION	Unable to provide requested service to customer
13.	MISCELLANEOUS:	



AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Holmesville, Ohio

Need Number: AEP-2021-OH012

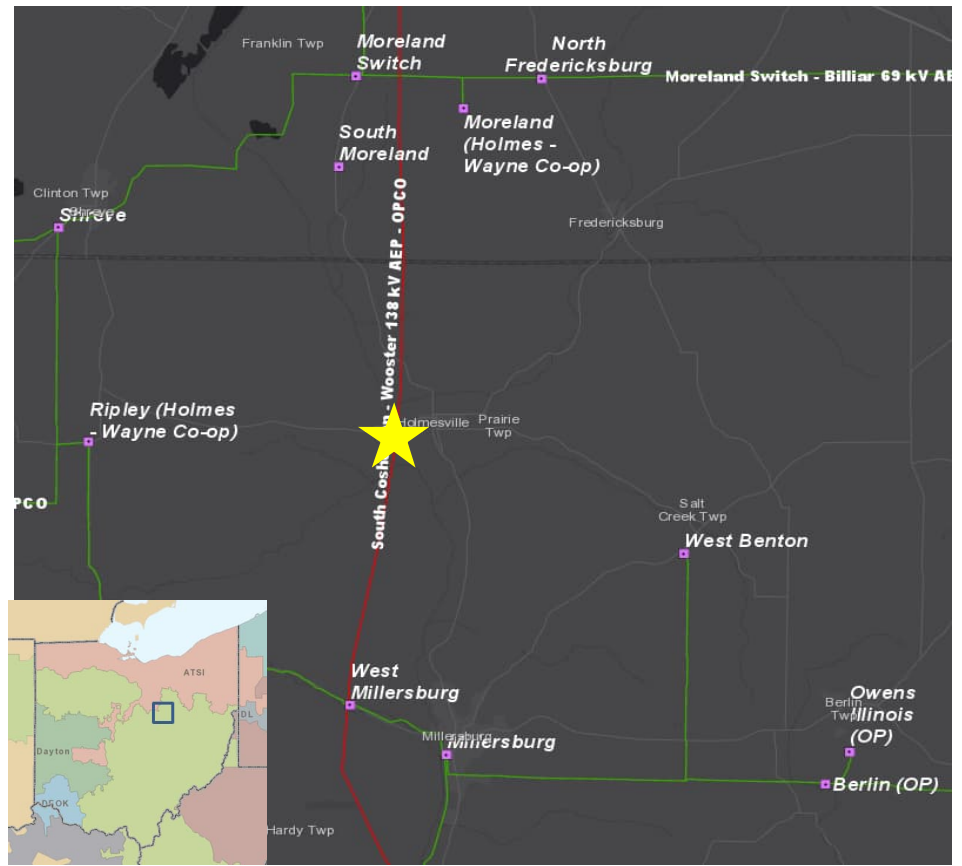
Process Stage: Need Meeting 3/19/2021

Supplemental Project Driver:
Customer Service

Specific Assumption Reference:
AEP Guidelines for Transmission Owner Identified Needs (AEP Assumptions slide 12)

Problem Statement:

- Buckeye is requesting, on behalf of Holmes- Wayne Electric co-op, a new 138kV delivery point on the West Millersburg- Wooster 138kV Circuit by August 2023. Anticipated load is 4.4 MW.





AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Holmesville, Ohio

Need Number: AEP-2021-OH012

Process Stage: Solutions Meeting 9/17/2021

Previously Presented: Needs Meeting 3/19/2021

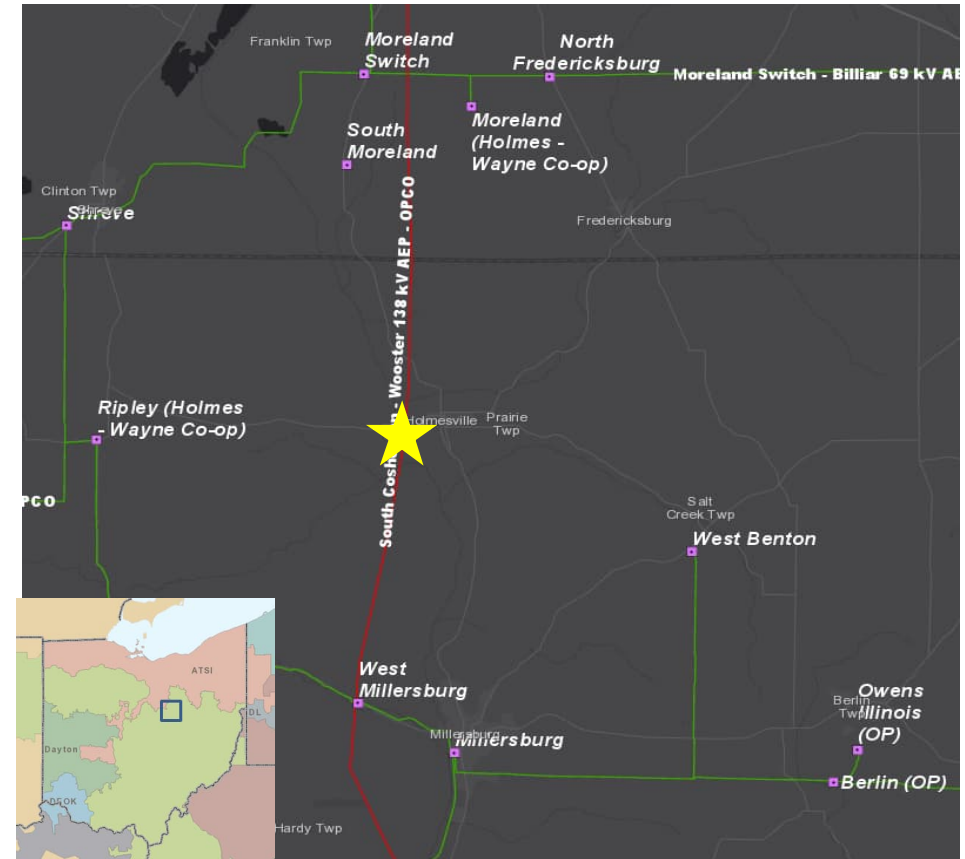
Supplemental Project Driver: Customer Service

Specific Assumption Reference:
AEP Guidelines for Transmission Owner Identified Needs (AEP Assumptions slide 8)

Problem Statement:

- Buckeye Power is requesting on behalf of Holmes- Wayne Electric co-op for a new 138kV delivery point on the West Millersburg- Wooster 138kV Circuit by August 2023. Anticipated load is 4.4 MW.

Model: PJM 2025 RTEP Series Cases





AEP Transmission Zone M-3 Process Seneca County, Ohio

Need Number: AEP-2021-OH012

Process Stage: Solutions Meeting 9/17/2021

Proposed Solution:

- Reconfiguring the existing West Millersburg – Wooster 138kV circuit to add in Salt Fork Switch. \$0.2 M
- Install a new 138kV three- way phase over phase switch named Salt Fork Switch. \$0.87 M
- Construct ~ 0.75 miles of new 138 kV line between Salt Fork Switch and Holmesville delivery point using 556 ACSR conductor. \$1.4 M
- Install new customer metering at Holmesville for Holmes Wayne Cooperative. \$0.009 M

Cost estimate: \$2.48 M

Ancillary Benefits:

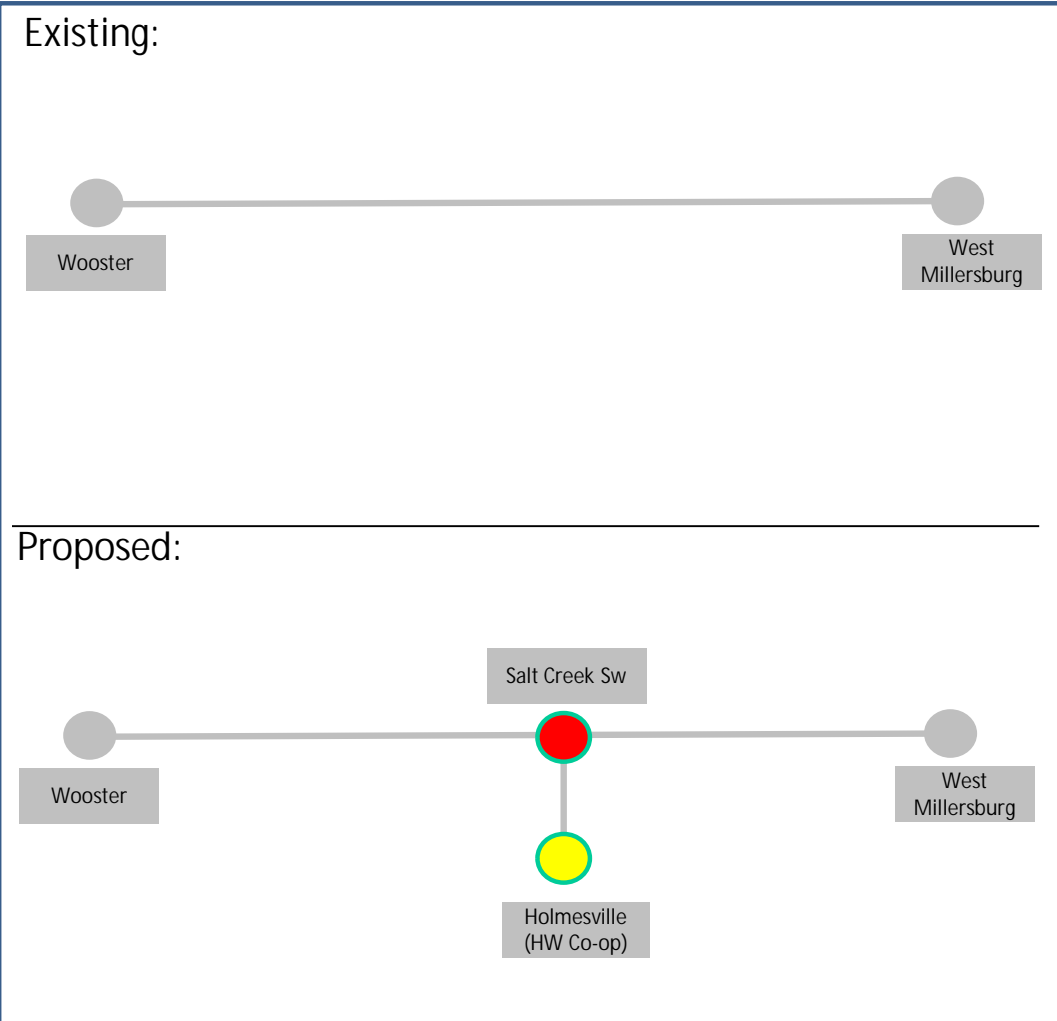
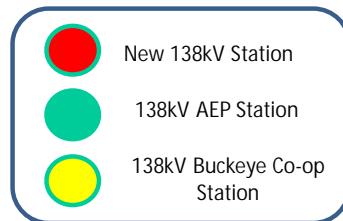
Provides Holmes- Wayne Electric Cooperative the ability to have supplementary service to the growing community and load demands as well as help to aid the loads currently served out of the Moreland delivery point.

Alternatives Considered:

N/A

Projected In-Service: 7/31/2023

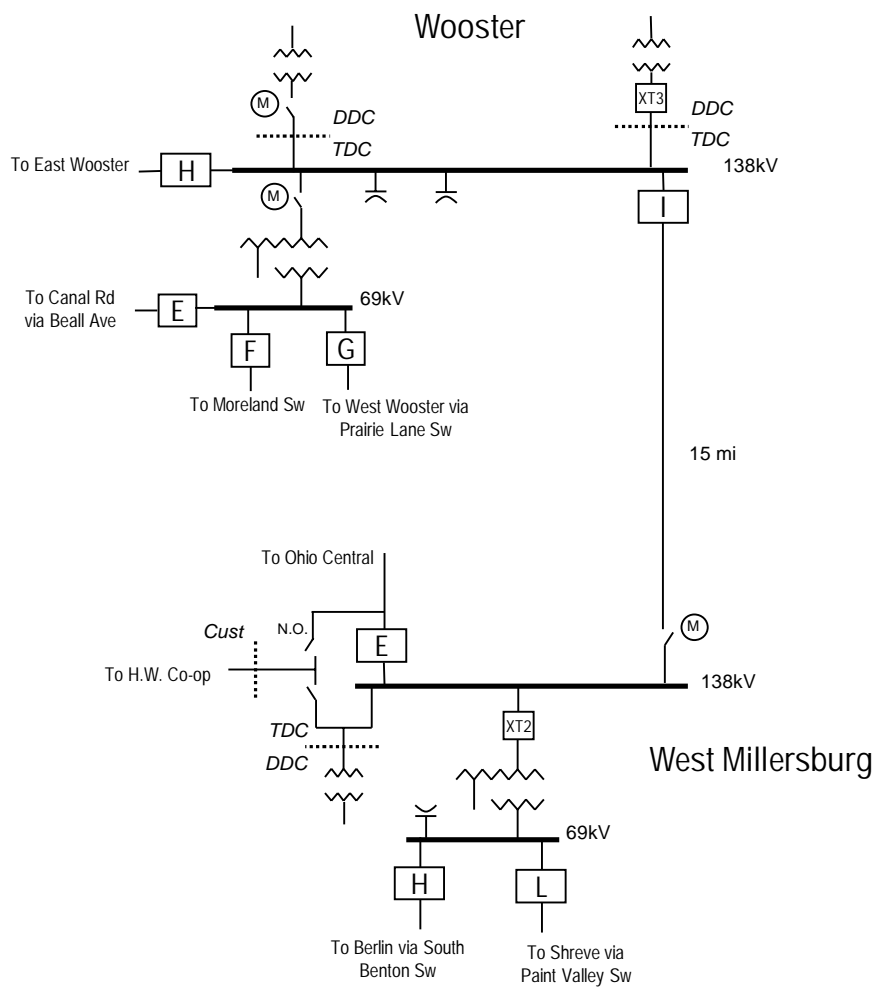
Project Status: Engineering





Master Project System Electrical Diagram (Existing)

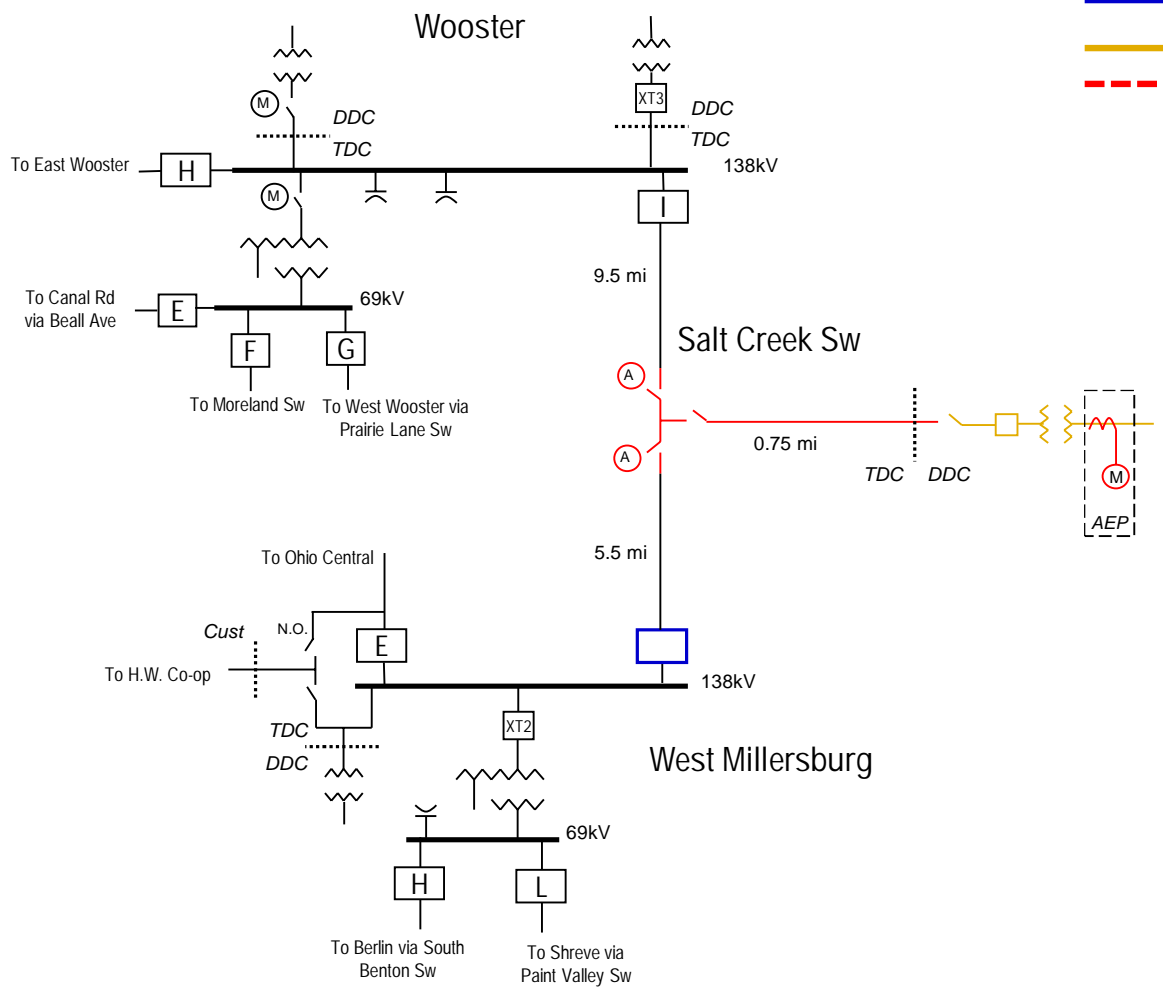
- Existing
- Proposed
- Related Projects
- - - Future Projects





Master Project System Electrical Diagram (Proposed)

- Existing
- Proposed
- TP-2020-009
- HW Co-op Build
- - - Future Projects



Appendix C Agency Coordination

Cooper, Brian

From: Ohio, FW3 <ohio@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2021 11:23 AM
To: Cooper, Brian
Cc: nathan.reardon@dnr.state.oh.us; Parsons, Kate; McKnight, Carol; ajtoohey@aep.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AEP - Salt Creek Switch Install Project, Holmes County, Ohio



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230
(614) 416-8993 / Fax (614) 416-8994



TAILS# 03E15000-2022-TA-0348

Dear Mr. Cooper,

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

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

Seasonal Tree Clearing for Federally Listed Bat Species: Should the proposed project site contain trees ≥ 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 ≥ 3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, we recommend removal of any trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. Seasonal clearing is recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. While incidental take of northern long-eared bats from most tree clearing is exempted by a 4(d) rule (see <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>), incidental take of Indiana bats is still prohibited without a project-specific exemption. Thus, seasonal clearing is recommended where Indiana bats are assumed present.

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

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

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

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

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

If you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact our office at (614) 416-8993 or ohio@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Nathan Reardon, ODNR-DOW
Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW



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

November 23, 2021

Attention: Ms. Patrice Ashfield
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ohio Ecological Field Office
4525 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, Ohio 43230

Via email: ohio@fws.gov

Reference: Request for Technical Assistance
Salt Creek Switch Install Project
Holmes County, Ohio

Dear Ms. Ashfield:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), is formally requesting that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) complete a review for the Salt Creek Switch Install Project (Project) in Holmes County, Ohio. The Project is located within the Holmesville, Ohio U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5' topographical quadrangle and is shown on the attached Project Overview Map (Figure 1).

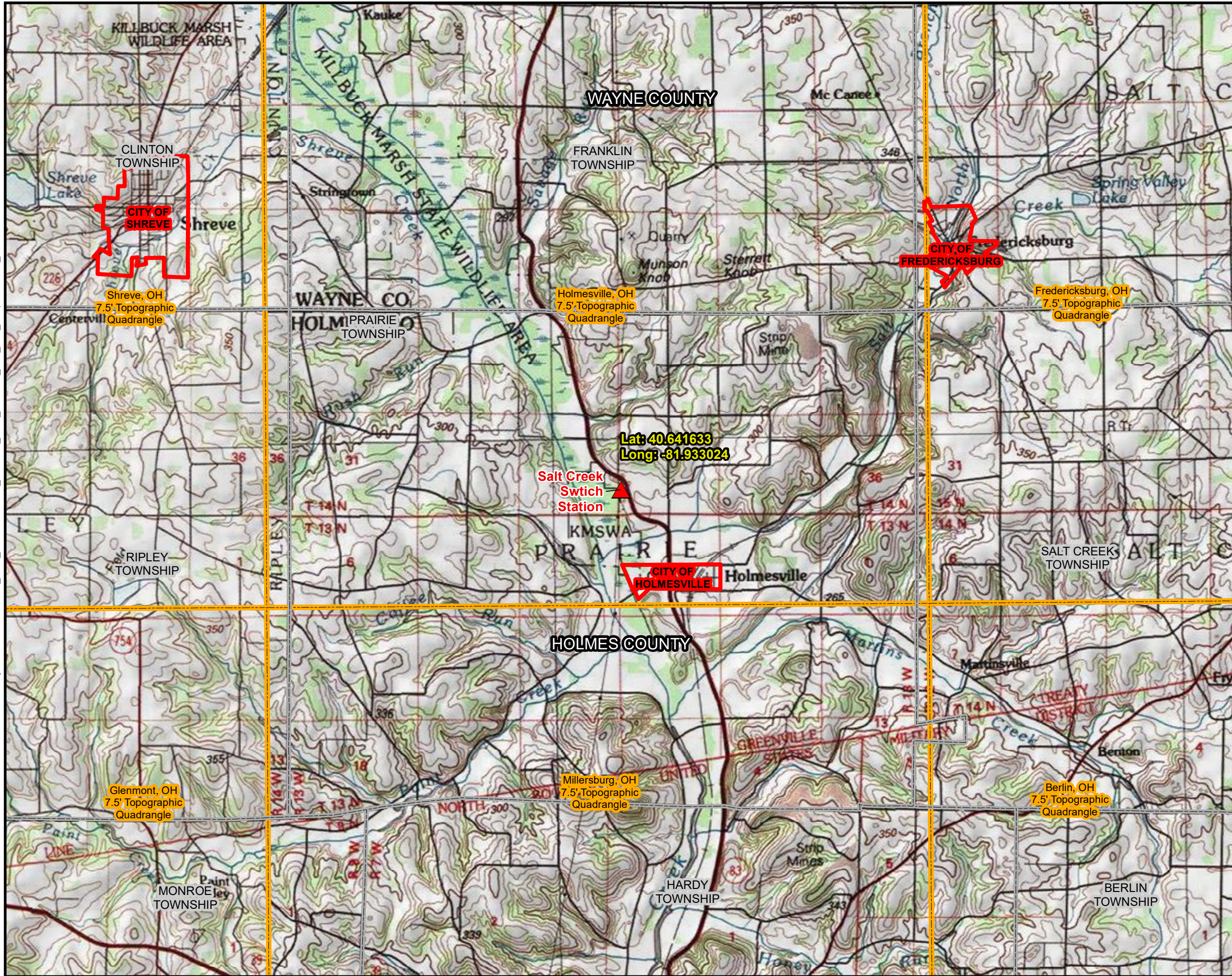
Please provide us with the results of the USFWS's environmental review at your earliest convenience. If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact me at the phone number or email below. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

Environmental Project Manager
Phone: (717-304-0578)
brian.cooper@aecom.com

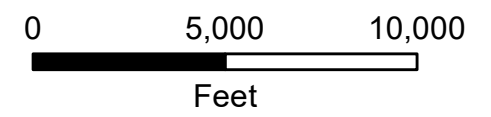
Attachments: Figure 1 – Project Location Map
Electronic Shapefiles (.shp)

Cc: Amy J. Toohey
Environmental Specialist-Consultant
Phone: (614-565-1480)
ajtoohey@aep.com



Legend

- Existing Substation
- City or Town Boundary
- Township Boundary
- 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Boundary
- County Boundary



BASE MAP SOURCE:
ArcGIS Online, USA Topo Maps

Salt Creek Switch

**FIGURE 1
PROJECT OVERVIEW**

DATE: 11/10/2021	1 inch = 5,000 feet
CREATED BY: TCC	CHECKED BY: BC
Job No. 60661200	AECOM



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
John Kessler, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6621
Fax: (614) 267-4764

April 1, 2022

Brian Cooper
AECOM
6 Foster Plaza, 681 Andersen Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

Re: 22-0248; AEP - South Coshocton-Wooster 138-kV T-line Cut In

Project: The proposed project involves a 138 kV T-line cut in.

Location: The proposed project is located in Prairie Township, Holmes 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:

American Sweet-flag (*Acorus americanus*), P
Great St. John's-wort (*Hypericum ascyron* ssp. *pyramidatum*), T
Northern Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum pusillum*), T
Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), T, FT
Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*), T
Lake Chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), T
Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), SC
Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), T
Buttonbush shrub swamp Plant Community
Mixed emergent marsh Plant Community

The review was performed on the project area specified in the request as well as an additional one-mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. 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.

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. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

A search for unique ecological sites, scenic rivers, state nature preserves, wildlife areas, national wildlife refuges, parks, forests, and other protected natural areas indicates that the following sites occur within or adjacent to the project area:

Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area – ODNR Division of Wildlife

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

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

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally threatened species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these species of bats predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in the leaves. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut, the DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with DBH ≥ 20 if possible. If trees are present within the project area, and trees must be cut during the summer months, the DOW recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. Mist net and acoustic surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most recent version of the “OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS AND TREE CLEARING”. If state listed bats are documented, DOW recommends cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31. However, limited summer tree cutting may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW (contact Erin Hazelton at Erin.hazelton@dnr.ohio.gov).

The DOW also recommends that a desktop habitat assessment is conducted, followed by a field assessment if needed, to determine if a potential hibernaculum is present within the project area. Direction on how to conduct habitat assessments can be found in the current USFWS “Range-wide Indiana Bat 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 Erin Hazelton 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 snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

The project is within the range of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird. Nesting bitterns prefer large undisturbed wetlands that have scattered small pools amongst dense vegetation. They occasionally occupy bogs, large wet meadows, and dense shrubby swamps. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 1 through July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), a state endangered bird. The black tern prefers large, undisturbed inland marshes with fairly dense vegetation and pockets of open water. They nest in various kinds of marsh vegetation, but cattail marshes are generally favored. Nests are built on top of muskrat houses or on top of floating vegetation. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat from April 1 through June 30 to reduce impacts to this species. If no wetland habitat will be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

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

The project is within the range of the sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), a state threatened species. Sandhill cranes are primarily a wetland-dependent species. On their wintering grounds, they will utilize agricultural fields; however, they roost in shallow, standing water or moist bottomlands. On breeding grounds they require a rather large tract of wet meadow, shallow marsh, or bog for nesting. If grassland, prairie, or wetland habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 1 through August 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state threatened bird. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They

like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through June 15. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

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

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

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

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

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

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator



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

March 8, 2022

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

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

Reference: Request for Technical Assistance
South Coshocton – Wooster 138-kV T-Line Cut In Project
Holmes County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Pettegrew:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), is formally requesting that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) complete a review for the proposed South Coshocton – Wooster 138-kV T-Line Cut In Project (Project) in Holmes County, Ohio. The Project is located within the Holmsville, Ohio U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5' topographical quadrangle and is shown on the attached Project Overview Map (Figure 1).

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

Sincerely,

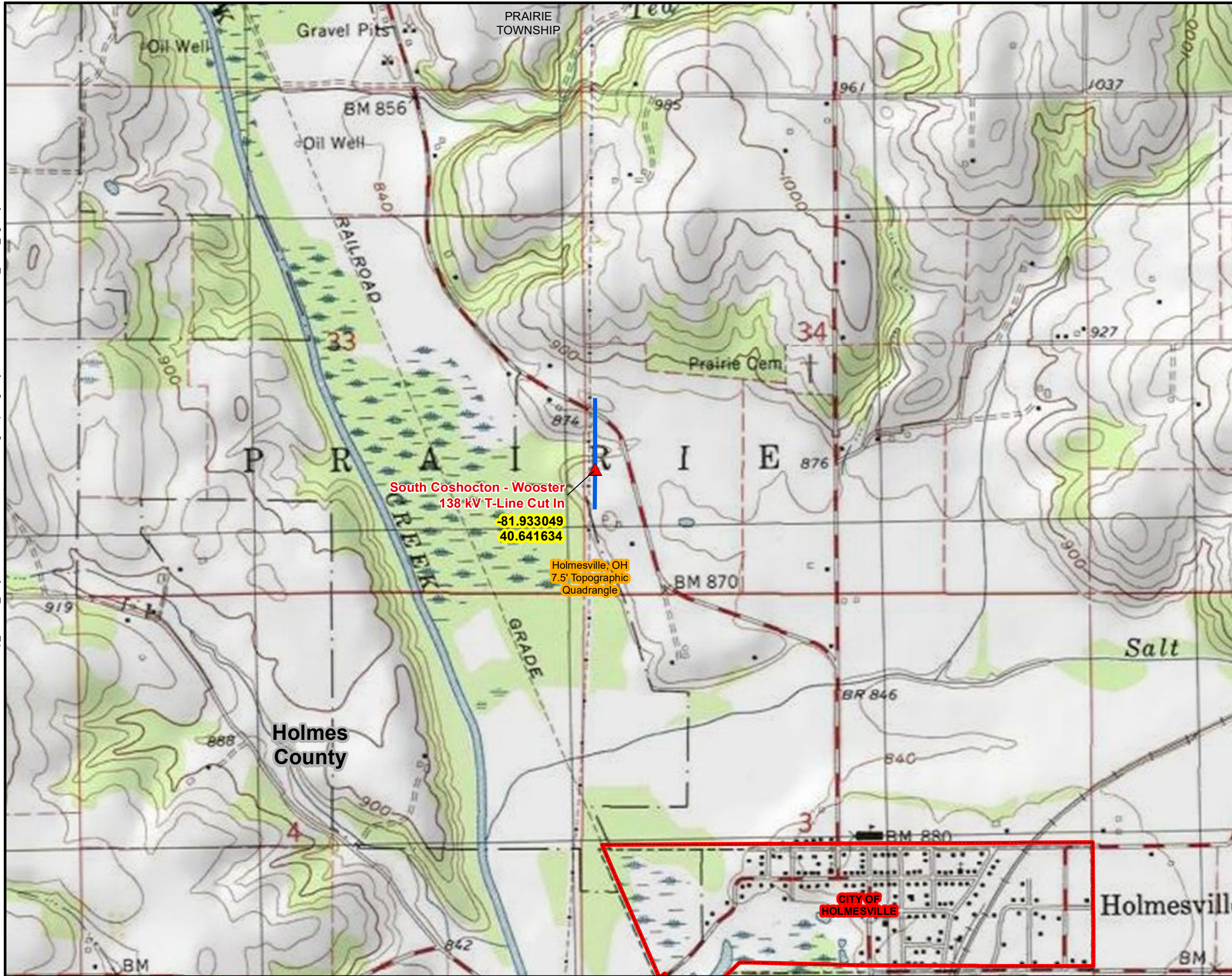
Brian Cooper

Phone: (717-304-0578)
brian.cooper@aecom.com






Attachments: Figure 1 – Project Location Map
Electronic Shapefiles (.shp)

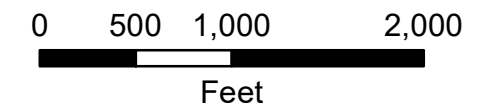
Cc: Amy J. Toohey
Environmental Specialist-Consultant
Phone: (614-565-1480)
ajtoohy@aep.com

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™



Legend

-  T-Line Cut In
-  South Coshocton - Wooster 138 kV T-Line Cut In
-  City or Town Boundary
-  Township Boundary
-  7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Boundary



 South Coshocton - Wooster
138 kV T-Line Cut In

FIGURE 1
PROJECT OVERVIEW

DATE: 2/22/2022	1 inch = 1,000 feet
CREATED BY: BSF	CHECKED BY: BC
Job No. 60661205	AECOM



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Office of Real Estate
John Kessler, Chief
2045 Morse Road – Bldg. E-2
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6621
Fax: (614) 267-4764

December 28, 2021

Brian Cooper
AECOM
715 Washington Boulevard
Williamsport, PA 17701

Re: 21-1069; AEP - Salt Creek Switch Install

Project: The proposed project involves installation of a transfer switch.

Location: The proposed project is located in Prairie Township, Holmes 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 a one-mile radius of the project area:

American sweet-flag (*Acorus americanus*), P
Great St. John's-wort (*Hypericum ascyron* ssp. *pyramidatum*), T
Northern adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum pusillum*), T
Prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), T, FT
Mixed emergent marsh plant community
Lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), T
Sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*), T
Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area – ODNR Division of Wildlife

The review was performed on the project area specified in the request as well as an additional one mile radius. Records searched date from 1980. This information is provided to inform you of features present within your project area and vicinity. Additional comments on some of the features may be found in pertinent sections below.

Please note that Ohio has not been completely surveyed and we rely on receiving information from many sources. Therefore, a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species or unique features are absent from that area. Although all types of plant communities have been surveyed, we only maintain records on the highest quality areas.

Statuses are defined as: 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 = federal endangered, and FT = federal threatened.

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.

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The project is within the range of the snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), a state endangered and federally endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream of sufficient size, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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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.

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The project is within the range of the sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), a state threatened species. Sandhill cranes are primarily a wetland-dependent species. On their wintering grounds, they will utilize agricultural fields; however, they roost in shallow, standing water or moist bottomlands. On breeding grounds they require a rather large tract of wet meadow, shallow marsh, or bog for nesting. If grassland, prairie, or wetland habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 1 through August 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), a state threatened bird. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes and lakes ranging in size from 40 to 150 acres. They like shallow wetlands one to three feet deep with a diverse mix of plenty of emergent and submergent vegetation and open water. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through June 15. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

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

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

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project. Your local floodplain administrator contact information can be found at the website below.

http://water.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/floodplain/Floodplain%20Manager%20Community%20Contact%20List_8_16.pdf

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

Mike Pettegrew
Environmental Services Administrator (Acting)



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

November 23, 2021

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

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

Reference: Request for Technical Assistance
Salt Creek Switch Install Project
Holmes County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Pettegrew:

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), is formally requesting that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) complete a review for the proposed Salt Creek Switch Install (Project) in Holmes County, Ohio. The Project is located within the Holmesville, Ohio U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5' topographical quadrangle and is shown on the attached Project Overview Map (Figure 1).

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

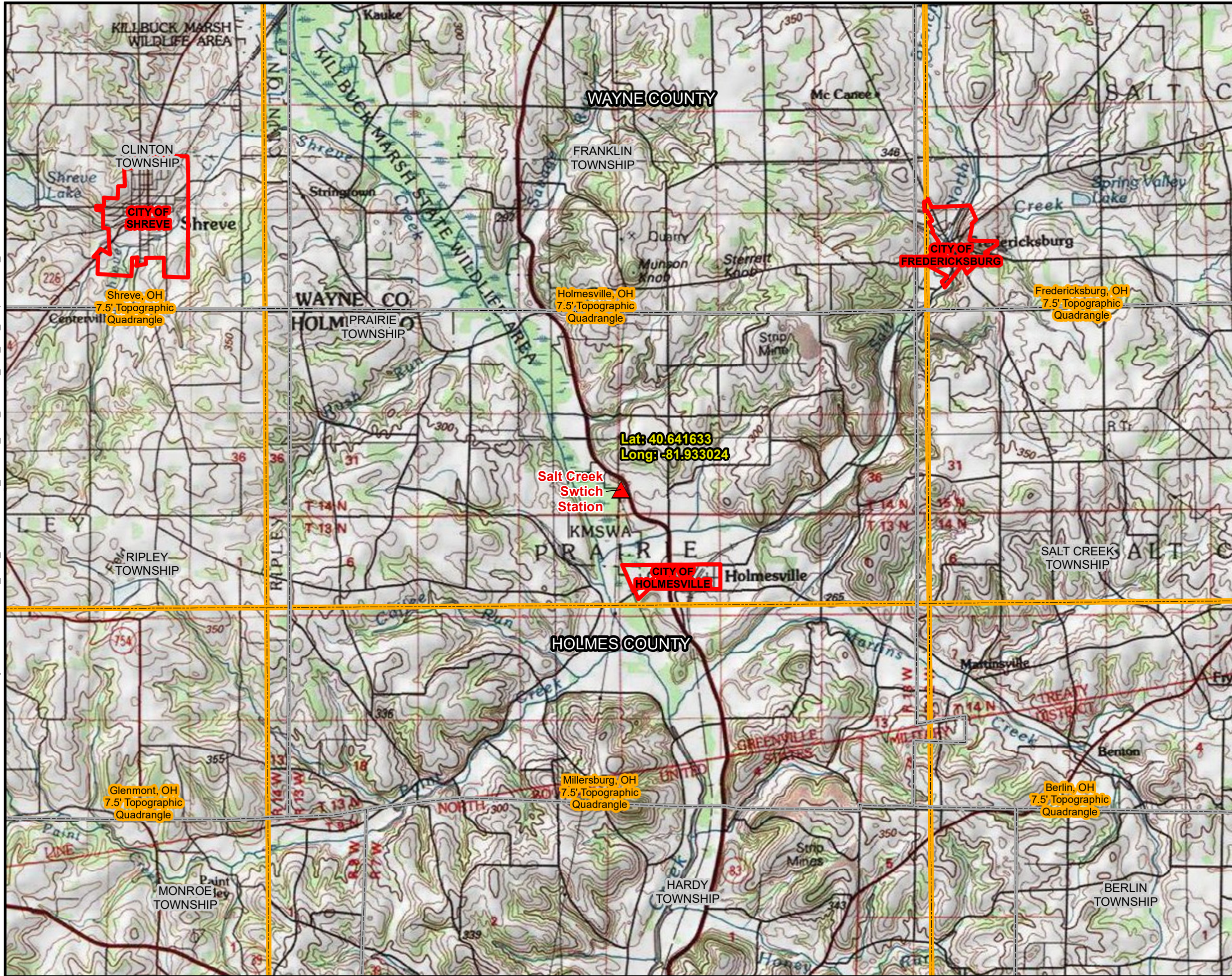
Sincerely,

Brian Cooper






Phone: (717-304-0578)
brian.cooper@aecom.com

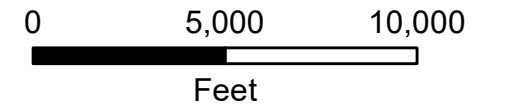
Attachments: Figure 1 – Project Location Map
Electronic Shapefiles (.shp)

Cc: Amy J. Toohey
Environmental Specialist-Consultant
Phone: (614-565-1480)
ajtoohey@aep.com



Legend

-  Existing Substation
-  City or Town Boundary
-  Township Boundary
-  7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Boundary
-  County Boundary



BASE MAP SOURCE:
ArcGIS Online, USA Topo Maps



Salt Creek
Switch

**FIGURE 1
PROJECT OVERVIEW**

DATE: 11/10/2021	1 inch = 5,000 feet
CREATED BY: TCC	CHECKED BY: BC
Job No. 60661200	AECOM