Construction Notice for Elk-Vinton 138 kV Extension Project

PUCO Case No. 23-0986-EL-BNR

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

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

December 8, 2023

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Ohio Power Company
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Extension Project

4906-6-05

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

4906-6-5(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

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

The Company proposes to construct the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Extension Project (the "Project") in Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio. The purpose of the Project is to provide a 138 kV interconnection between the Company's Elk Station and an Independent Power Producer's ("IPP") solar facility (AC1-194). The Project will require installing approximately 0.1 mile of 138 kV line, extending north and east out of the Elk Station to connect to a proposed 138 kV transmission line that the IPP will be constructing from their solar facility, which will be filed under separate cover by the IPP. The Project is partially located on property owned by the Company, but will also require new right-of-way ("ROW") on private landowners. Figure 1 in Appendix A shows the location of the Project area in relation to the surrounding vicinity. Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the Project area for the transmission line installation.

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice ("CN") because it is within the types of projects defined by item (1)(a) of Appendix A to O.A.C. 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*. This item states:

> *(1) New construction, extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:*
>
> *(a) Line(s) not greater than 0.2 miles in length.*

The Project has been assigned PUCO Case No. 23-0986-EL-BNR

B(2) Statement of Need

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

In order to connect the IPP, the Company will remove one structure and install four new structures along the Elk Extension North 138 kV line (to be filed as a Letter of Notification in Case No. 23-0986-EL-BNR),

due to the Company expanding the non-jurisdictional Elk Station. The purpose of the expansion is to provide a 138 kV interconnection to an IPP solar facility. As a result, the Elk Extension North 138 kV transmission line must be adjusted to reconnect the double-circuit line to Elk Station. The expansion area is located on property partially owned by Ohio Power Company.

A new 0.1-mile 138 kV transmission line will be constructed from the substation expansion area and connect to the IPP's 138 kV transmission line, which is the subject of this filing.

The Project is related to the Company's obligation to connect (AC1-194) per the PJM IPP Tariff. The Project was listed in the Company's 2023 Long-Term Forecast Report (See Appendix B) and the N-Number for this project is N5676.2.

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 Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio. Figures 1 and 2 in Appendix A show the location of the proposed Project in relation to existing transmission facilities.

B(4) Alternatives Considered

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

The Project requires installing approximately 0.1-mile of 138 kV electric transmission line from Elk Station to a structure northeast of the station fence and will help to interconnect with an IPP solar facility. Due to the short nature of the extension, the expanded Elk Station, and the IPP's proposed transmission line interconnection, no other alternatives were considered. Other alternatives would require impacting additional neighboring properties and would add additional transmission length to the Project without any additional benefit. The proposed Project is not anticipated to impact streams or any known cultural resource areas eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two small portions of palustrine emergent wetlands may be temporarily impacted during construction but no permanent wetland impacts are anticipated. Therefore, the Project represents the most suitable location and is the most appropriate solution for meeting the Company and IPP's needs in the area.

B(5) Public Information Program

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

The Company maintains a website (http://aeptransmission.com/ohio/) on which an electronic copy of this CN is available. An electronic copy of the CN will be served to the public library and each political subdivision affected by this Project.

B(6) Construction Schedule

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

Construction is planned to start in March of 2024 and the anticipated in-service date will be December of 2024.

B(7) Area Map

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

Figure 1 in Appendix A provides a topographical map (McArthur, OH and Zaleski, OH topographic quadrangles) of existing and proposed facilities at 1:24,000, and Figure 2 in Appendix A provides an aerial image from 2021 showing roads and highways, clearly marked with Project components.

To visit the Project from Columbus, take US-33 E for 47.2 miles to Logan. Take the exit for OH-664. Take OH-93 S for 22.8 miles to E Main Street/US-50 E in McArthur. Take a left on E Main Street/US-50 E to Morgan Road (0.8 mi). Go north on Morgan Road for 0.5 miles. The Project will be on the left, east of Morgan Road. The latitude and longitude coordinates for the Project are 39°14'59.32"N and 82°27'42.51"W, respectively

B(8) Property Agreements

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

A list of properties for which the Company will need to obtain easements/options for the Project is provided in the table below.

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	Easement Agreement Obtained (Yes/No)
05-00397.000	Supplemental Easement	Yes
05-00397.005	Existing Easement	Yes
05-00166.000	New Easement	Yes

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	Easement Agreement Obtained (Yes/No)
05-00397.003	New Easement	No
05-00397.006	New Easement	Yes

B(9) Technical Features

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

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

The transmission line construction is estimated to include the following:

Voltage:	138 kV
Conductors:	556.5 KCM 26/7 ACSR Dove
Static Wire:	7#8 Alumoweld 7 strand
Insulators:	Polymer Dead End Insulators with Corona Ring
ROW Width:	100 Feet
Structure Types:	One (1) single circuit galvanized steel pole, running angle structure on drilled pier concrete foundation Two (2) single circuit galvanized steel poles, custom deadend structures on drilled pier 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.

This Project is not located within 100 feet of any occupied residences or institutions. Therefore, this section is not applicable.

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 $1,553,800 using a Class 4 estimate. The costs for this Project will be recovered through total reimbursement by the IPP.

B(10) Social and Economic 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.

The Project is located in Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio. The Vinton County Auditor website (https://www.vintoncountyauditor.org/) lists the land uses of these parcels as "IC - Industrial/Commercial" and "AG - Agricultural". Field observations indicated that the Project area is comprised of pasture (0.9 acre), new field (0.1 acre), graveled land (0.1 acre), early successional deciduous forest (less than 0.1 acre), and maintained lawn (less than 0.1 acre). The Company anticipates that limited early successional tree clearing, totaling less than 0.1 acre, will be required for new ROW.

No residences are located within 100 feet of the Project area. No cemeteries, churches, schools, or other community facilities are located within 1,000 feet of the Project area.

B(10)(b) Agricultural Land Information

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

The Project area consists of approximately 0.9 acre of pasture and approximately 0.1 acre of new field habitat. As verified by the Vinton County Auditor's Office on October 31, 2023, there are no parcels within the Project area that are enrolled in the Agricultural District Land program.

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.

Phase I archaeological and history/architectural surveys were conducted by the Company's consultant for the Project in May and August of 2023. No sites listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the Project area or adjacent portions of the parcels surveyed for cultural resources. Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") was received on September 15, 2023 and is included in Appendix C. The SHPO stated that they agree the Project will have no effect on historic properties and no further coordination 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.

Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented and maintained to minimize erosion and control sediment to protect surface water quality during storm events. A project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared for the Project and a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ("OEPA") for authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000006.

There are no streams or open waters located within the Project area. Two palustrine emergent wetlands (Wetland 1 and Wetland 2, each totaling less than 0.1 acre) were identified within the Project area (see Ecological Survey Report provided in Appendix D). No permanent impacts to the wetlands are proposed. Therefore, the Project will not require a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Ohio Environmnetal Protection Agency.

The Project is not crossed by Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") 100-year floodplains or floodways. Therefore, no floodplain permitting is required for the Project.

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

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

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

As part of the ecological study completed for the Project, a coordination letter was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") Ohio Ecological Services Field Office seeking technical assistance on the Project for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species. The October 12, 2022 response letter from the USFWS (Appendix C) identified the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat as potentially occurring within the Project area. The USFWS recommends that if no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥3 inches cannot be avoided, trees should be removed between October 1 and March 31 to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats during the brood-rearing months. Tree clearing anticipated for the Project will be less than 0.1 acre and is planned to take place between October 1 and March 31. Therefore, no impacts to the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat are anticipated.

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

An environmental review request letter was submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Office of Real Estate and a response letter was received on October 7, 2022 (Appendix D). According to the ODNR, the Indiana bat (state-listed endangered), little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*; state-listed endangered), northern long-eared bat (state-listed endangered), and tricolored bat (state-listed endangered) occur statewide in Ohio. These species also roost in trees during the summer months and the little brown bat and tricolored bat also roost in buildings. However, a limited amount of potentially suitable summer roosting and foraging habitat for these species (early successional deciduous forest) was identified within the Project area.

The ODNR also recommended 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. If a habitat assessment finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, the ODNR requested that this information be sent to them for project recommendations. As seen on Figure 4 in the Ecological Survey Report (Appendix D), one abandoned underground mine is mapped as being located within 0.25 miles of the Project area. Additional coordination regarding potential hibernacula was sent to the ODNR on September 25, 2023. A response was received on November 30, 2023 concurring that the Project is not likely to impact hibernating bats that may be present in the underground mine. No potential hibernacula were identified within the Project area. The Project is anticipated to require less than 0.1 acre of early successional deciduous forest clearing. As stated above, tree clearing required for the Project is planned to take place between October 1 and March 31. Additionally, no buildings will be removed as part of the Project. Therefore, no impacts to the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, or tricolored bat are anticipated.

The response letter received from the ODNR Office of Real Estate also states that the Project is within the range of the following aquatic state-listed endangered and/or threatened species: little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*; state-listed endangered), northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*; state-listed endangered), Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*; state-listed endangered), spotted darter (*Etheostoma maculatum*; state-listed endangered), and eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*; state-listed endangered and federal species of concern). However, due to the Project location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, the ODNR states that this Project is not likely to impact these species.

The ODNR also stated that the Project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*; state-listed endangered and federal species of concern), midland mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus diastictus*); state-listed threatened), and eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*; state-listed endangered). However, the ODNR response letter states that due to the location, type of habitat within the Project area, and the type of work proposed, the Project is not likely to impact these species.

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.

There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix C). Additionally, the ODNR Office of Real Estate response letter indicates that they are not aware of any unique ecological sites, geologic features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, state nature preserves, state or national parks, state or national forests, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas that are located within a one-mile radius of the Project area (Appendix C).

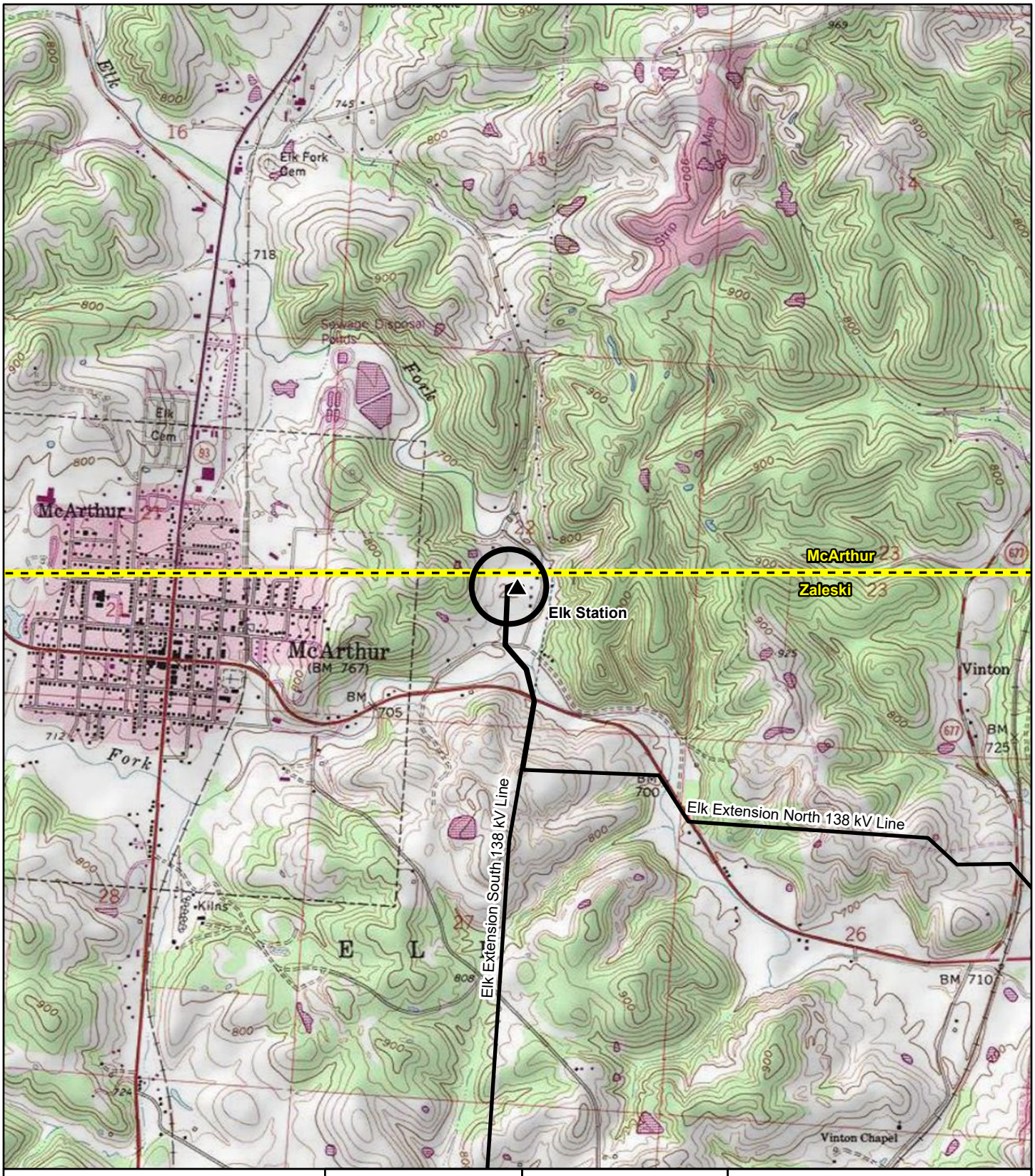
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map with coverage of the Project area was consulted to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped in the Project area (specifically, map number 3905530005B). Based on this map, no mapped FEMA floodplains or floodways are located within the Project area.

An ecological resources survey and wetland and waterbody delineation study was completed by the Company's consultant for the Project area in May and August of 2023. The Ecological Survey Report is included in Appendix D. No streams or open waters were observed in the Project area. Two palustrine emergent wetlands (Wetland 1 and Wetland 2, eaching totaling less than 0.1 acre) were identified within the Project area. See Appendix D for more information regarding these wetlands. No structures are proposed to be installed within these wetlands.

B(10)(g) 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



▲ Existing Substation
— Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
= = USGS Topographic Lines
○ Project Area

Data Sources: AEP, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles (McArthur, Zaleski)

Coordinate System and Datum
NAD 1983 State Plane Ohio North

December 01, 2023

FIGURE 1
TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

AEP OHIO
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

Elk-Vinton
138 kV Extension Project

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
Feet

Existing Distrbution Substation
Proposed IPP Transmission Line (Approximate)
Proposed Centerline
Existing 138kV Transmission Line
Proposed Non-Jurisdictional Substation Expansion Area
Parcel Boundary

Data Sources: AEP, HIFLD, NAIP Imagery, 2021

Coordinate System and Datum
NAD 1983 State Plane Ohio North

December 04, 2023

FIGURE 2
AERIAL MAP

AEP OHIO
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

Elk-Vinton
138 kV Extension Project

0 100 200
Feet

APPENDIX B Long Term Forecast Report

1	**LINE NAME AND NUMBER:**	Elk - Lemaster 138kV (AC1-194 TP2019174)
2	**POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION**	Elk - Lemaster INTERMEDIATE STATION - Bolins Mill & Mineral Switch
3	**RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS**	20.6 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit (0.1 miles of line work)
4	**VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE**	138 kV / 138 kV
5	**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:**	2023
6	**CONSTRUCTION:**	2023
7	**CAPITAL INVESTMENT:**	$0.33M (reimbursable)
8	**PLANNED SUBSTATION:**	Elk (Rebuild)
9	**SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:**	Steel
10	**PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES**	N/A
11	**PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE**	Connect and serve new generation customer
12	**CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION**	Generation deliverability limitation
13	**MISCELLANEOUS:**	

1	**LINE NAME AND NUMBER:**	Corwin - Elk 138kV (AC1-194 TP2019174)
2	**POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION**	Corwin - Elk INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3	**RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS**	12.6 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit (0.1 miles of line work)
4	**VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE**	138 kV / 138 kV
5	**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:**	2023
6	**CONSTRUCTION:**	2023
7	**CAPITAL INVESTMENT:**	$0.33M (reimbursable)
8	**PLANNED SUBSTATION:**	Elk (Rebuild)
9	**SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:**	Steel
10	**PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES**	N/A
11	**PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE**	Connect and serve new generation customer
12	**CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION**	Generation deliverability limitation
13	**MISCELLANEOUS:**	

1	**LINE NAME AND NUMBER:**	Elk - Vinton (IPP) 138kV (AC1-194 TP2019174)
2	**POINTS OF ORIGIN AND TERMINATION**	Elk - Vinton INTERMEDIATE STATION - N/A
3	**RIGHTS-OF-WAY: LENGTH / WIDTH / CIRCUITS**	0.1 mi / 100 ft / 1 circuit
4	**VOLTAGE: DESIGN / OPERATE**	138 kV / 138 kV
5	**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE:**	2023
6	**CONSTRUCTION:**	2023
7	**CAPITAL INVESTMENT:**	$0.37M (reimbursable)
8	**PLANNED SUBSTATION:**	Elk (Rebuild)
9	**SUPPORTING STRUCTURES:**	Steel
10	**PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER UTILITIES**	N/A
11	**PURPOSE OF THE PLANNED TRANSMISSION LINE**	Connect and serve new generation customer
12	**CONSEQUENCES OF LINE CONSTRUCTION DEFERMENT OR TERMINATION**	Generation deliverability limitation
13	**MISCELLANEOUS:**	

APPENDIX C 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

October 12, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0081503

Dear Mr. Godec:

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 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045), 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.

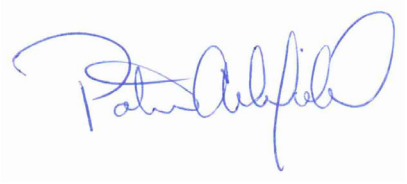
Stream and Wetland Avoidance: Over 90% of the wetlands in Ohio have been drained, filled, or modified by human activities, thus is it important to conserve the functions and values of the remaining wetlands in Ohio (https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/ohio_wetlands.pdf). We recommend avoiding and minimizing 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
Eileen Wyza, ODNR-DOW

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

October 7, 2022

Daniel Godec
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11687 Lebanon Road
Cincinnati OH 45241

Re: 22-0926; Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project: The proposed project involves extending the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Transmission Line to connect to a proposed gen-tie structure and independent power producer (IPP) transmission line north of Elk Station.

Location: The proposed project is located in Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio.

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

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

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

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

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

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

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

The project is within the range of little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*), a state endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*), a state endangered fish, the Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*), a state endangered fish, and the spotted darter (*Etheostoma maculatum*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), a state endangered species, and a federal species of concern. The timber rattlesnake is a woodland species. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake also utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices known as den sites for overwintering. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this 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 midland mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus diastictus*), a state threatened species. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, 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.

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

Shannon T Hemmerly

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:42 AM
To: Godec, Daniel
Cc: Shannon T Hemmerly
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Additional Coordination Regarding Potential Bat Hibernacula - 22-0926 Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Hi Dan,

Per review of the desktop survey provided for the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project (22-0926), the Ohio Division of Wildlife concurs with your assessment that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the project area. Additionally, because the project does not involve blasting or impacting the bedrock, the project is not likely to impact hibernating bats that may be present in the underground mines.

Should any reported conditions change before or during construction, please contact me for additional guidance.

Thank you,

Eileen Wyza, Ph.D.
Wildlife Biologist
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Phone: 614-265-6764
Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov

From: Godec, Daniel <Daniel.Godec@stantec.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Shannon T Hemmerly <sthemmerly@aep.com>
Subject: RE: Additional Coordination Regarding Potential Bat Hibernacula - 22-0926 Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Hello Eileen,

We can confirm that no blasting will be required for the transmission line installation. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks again for your help,

Dan

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Godec, Daniel <Daniel.Godec@stantec.com>
Cc: Shannon T Hemmerly <sthemmerly@aep.com>
Subject: RE: Additional Coordination Regarding Potential Bat Hibernacula - 22-0926 Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Hi Dan,

Apologies for these emails getting buried! For this project, is any subsurface disturbance that will reach bedrock (i.e., blasting, etc.) expected during the transmission line installation?

Thanks!

Eileen Wyza, Ph.D.
Wildlife Biologist
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Phone: 614-265-6764
Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov

Support Ohio's wildlife. Buy a license at wildohio.gov.

From: Godec, Daniel <Daniel.Godec@stantec.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Shannon T Hemmerly <sthemmerly@aep.com>
Subject: FW: Additional Coordination Regarding Potential Bat Hibernacula - 22-0926 Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Hello Eileen,

Just following up on this email from September as I never received a response from you.

Thanks in advance for your assistance!

Dan

From: Godec, Daniel
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Shannon T Hemmerly <sthemmerly@aep.com>
Subject: Additional Coordination Regarding Potential Bat Hibernacula - 22-0926 Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Hello Eileen,

As requested in the attached Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) environmental review request response letter and on behalf of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP), Stantec completed a bat hibernacula desktop study for the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project. As seen on the attached bat hibernacula desktop study map (Figure 4), no potential bat hibernacula are mapped as being present within this project area. Additionally, Stantec did not observe any potential bat hibernacula within the project area during our habitat assessment and wetland/waterbody delineation field surveys. As seen on the attached habitat assessment map (Figure 3), forested habitat is limited within the project area and consists of early successional deciduous forest (see attached Figure 3 habitat assessment map). However, as seen on Figure 4, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the project area. No impacts to the abandoned underground mine area will be required for the project. This transmission line will be installed north of and west of the existing Elk substation and less than 0.25 acre of tree clearing will be required. AEP plans to conduct all required tree clearing for the project between October 1 and March 31.

We are requesting your concurrence that the planned October 1 to March 31 seasonal tree clearing is acceptable for this project and that no tree clearing buffers on the abandoned underground mine area are warranted.

Thanks in advance for your help!

Dan

Dan Godec
Senior Environmental Project Manager
Direct: 513 842-8203
Mobile: 513 265-9763
Daniel.Godec@stantec.com

In reply, refer to
2023-VIN-58875

September 15, 2023

Ryan Weller
Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 W. Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
rweller@wellercrm.com

RE: Elk Station-Gen Line Project, Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weller:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received August 24, 2023 regarding the proposed Elk Station-Gen Line Project, Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4 & 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 Cultural Resource Management Investigations for the 1.0 ha (2.4 ac) Elk Station-Gen Line Project in Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio* by Ryan J. Weller and Scott McIntosh (Weller & Associates, Inc. 2023).

A literature review, visual inspection, and shovel test unit excavation was completed as part of the investigations. No previously identified archaeological sites are located in the project area. Two (2) new archaeological sites were identified during survey, Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) #33VI0852-33VI0853. Neither site it recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Our office agrees with this recommendation and no additional archaeological survey is needed.

A literature review and field survey were conducted as part of the investigations. A total of four (4) extant architectural resources fifty years of age or older were identified in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). It is Weller's recommendation that none of the architectural resources are eligible for listing in the NRHP. Our office agrees with Weller's recommendations of eligibility.

Based on the information provided, we agree the project as proposed will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination with this office is necessary, unless the project changes or unless new or additional historic properties are discovered during implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted. Our office is currently experiencing network issues that do now allow consultants to access our IForm software for the completion of archaeological inventory forms. We ask that when the capabilities are available again, Weller & Associates, Inc. needs to complete OAI forms for 33VI0852 and 33VI0853. Please notify our office when those forms are completed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 298-2022, or by e-mail at khorrocks@ohiohistory.org or Joy Williams at jwilliams@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Krista Horrocks, Project Reviews Manager
Resource Protection and Review

RPR Serial No: 1099537

APPENDIX D Ecological Survey Report

Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Ecological Survey Report

Prepared for:

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

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
10200 Alliance Road, Suite 300
Blue Ash, OH 45242

August 31, 2023

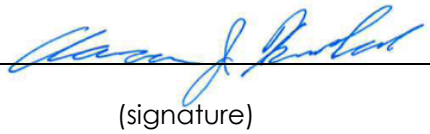
Sign-off Sheet

This document entitled Ecological Survey Report, Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. ("Stantec") for the account of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. Any reliance on this document by any third party is strictly prohibited. The material in it reflects Stantec's professional judgment in light of the scope, schedule and other limitations stated in the document and in the contract between Stantec and the Client. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the document was published and do not take into account any subsequent changes. In preparing the document, Stantec did not verify information supplied to it by others. Any use which a third party makes of this document is the responsibility of such third party. Such third party agrees that Stantec shall not be responsible for costs or damages of any kind, if any, suffered by it or any other third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on this document.

Prepared by 

(signature)

Malea Casey

Reviewed by 

(signature)

Aaron Kwolek

Reviewed by 

(signature)

Dan Godec

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. (AEP) is proposing construction activities associated with the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project. AEP plans to expand the existing Elk substation (Elk Station) on an approximate 5-acre property to accommodate additional equipment, modify and relocate 3 to 4 transmission line structures to accommodate the reconfigured station, and install a new transmission line to connect to the Independent Power Producer (IPP) customer's transmission line. The Project area was surveyed for wetlands, waterbodies, open water features, and potential threatened, endangered, and rare species habitat by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) biologists on May 11 and August 17, 2023. The approximate locations of features located up to 50 feet outside of the Project area were also recorded during the field surveys, where landowner access was permitted. However, no data forms were collected on features that did not extend into the Project area. The approximate locations of these features are shown on the Figure 2 maps in Appendix A as "approximate" wetlands, streams (waterways), open waters, and upland drainage features.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 WETLAND DELINEATION

Prior to completing the field surveys, a desktop review of the Project area was conducted using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapping, National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) mapping, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data, and aerial imagery mapping. Stantec completed a wetland delineation study in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (USACE 1987), the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE 2012). Wetland categories were classified using the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Version 5.0 (Mack 2001).

2.2 STREAM DELINEATION

Streams that demonstrated a continuously defined channel (bed and bank), ordinary high water mark (OHWM), and the disturbance of terrestrial vegetation were delineated within the Project area, per the protocols outlined in the USACE's Guidance on Ordinary High Water Mark Identification (Regulatory Guidance Letter, No. 05-05) (USACE 2005). Delineated streams were classified as ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial per definitions in the Federal Register/Vol. 67, No. 10 (USACE 2002) and determined as potential Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) in reference to the current guidance per interpretation of WOTUS that is consistent with the pre-2015 regulatory regime (40 CFR 230.3(s)) (USEPA 2022). Functional assessment of streams identified within the Project area was based on completion of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI; OEPA 2020) and/or Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI; OEPA 2006) data forms. The centerline of each waterway and/or the OHWM of each waterway was identified and surveyed using a handheld sub-meter accuracy global positioning system (GPS) unit and mapped with geographic information system (GIS) software. Additionally, the locations of ponds/open water features and upland drainage features (which lacked a continuously defined bed and bank/OHWM) identified within the Project area were also recorded with a sub-meter accuracy GPS unit during the field surveys.

2.3 RARE SPECIES

Prior to conducting the field surveys, Stantec contacted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for information regarding rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats of concern within the vicinity of the Project area (Appendix B – Agency Correspondence). To assess potential impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, Stantec scientists conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed Project area, collected information on existing habitats within the Project area, and assessed the potential for these habitats to be used by federally listed or state-listed species that have the potential to occur within Vinton County.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys for threatened and endangered species habitats on May 11 and August 17, 2023. Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the locations of vegetation communities/habitats and land cover types identified within the Project area and the locations of any identified rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat observed within the Project area during the time of the habitat assessment field surveys. Representative photographs of the vegetation communities/habitats and land cover types identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 3, Appendix A). Information regarding the vegetation communities/habitats/land cover types identified within the Project area is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types Found within the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Vinton County, Ohio

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within the Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
Early Successional Deciduous Forest	Moderate Disturbance/Natural Community (dominated by native woody and herbaceous species and/or opportunistic invaders). Common plant species included multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*).	No	0.60
Existing Gravel	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (little to no vegetation is present in these habitats).	No	1.50
Maintained Lawn	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis)*, common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and narrowleaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).	No	0.62
New Field	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included	No	2.46

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types within the Project Area	Degree of Human-Related Ecological Disturbance	Unique, Rare, or High Quality?	Approximate Acreage Within Project Area
	Kentucky bluegrass, azure bluet (*Houstonia caerulea)*, blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), narrowleaf plantain, Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*), Fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), and common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*).		
Pasture	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included Kentucky bluegrass, common dandelion, white clover, and narrowleaf plantain.	No	2.01
Existing Paved Roadway	Extreme Disturbance/existing paved road or other paved area (little to no vegetation is present in these habitats).	No	0.04
Palustrine Emergent Wetland	Moderate Disturbance/Natural Community (dominated by native herbaceous species). Common plant species included broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia),* sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis)*, swamp agrimony (*Agrimonia parviflora*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).	No	0.21
		TOTAL	**7.44**

3.2 WETLANDS

Stantec completed field surveys for wetlands within the Project area on May 11 and August 17, 2023. As a result of the field surveys, Stantec identified two wetlands within the Project area. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the location of the wetlands identified by Stantec within the Project area. Representative photographs of the wetlands identified within the Project area are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination data forms and ORAM data form are included in Appendix D. Information regarding the Cowardin classification and ORAM categories of wetlands identified within the Project area is provided in Table 2. No NWI-mapped wetlands are located within the Project area.

Table 2. Summary of Wetland Resources Found within the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Vinton County, Ohio

Wetland ID	Location		Isolated?[1]	Habitat Type[2]	Delineated Area (acre)	ORAM		Nearest Proposed Structure Number	Existing Structure Number in Wetland	Proposed Structure Number in Wetland	Structure Installation Method	Proposed Impacts	
	Latitude	Longitude				Score	Category					Temporary Matting Area (acre)	Permanent Impact Area (acre)
Wetland 1	39.249794	-82.461084	No	PEM[3]	0.01	11.5	1	TBD[4]	N/A	TBD[4]	TBD[4]	TBD[4]	TBD[4]
Wetland 2	39.249679	-82.461724	No	PEM[3]	0.21	25	1	TBD[4]	N/A	TBD[4]	TBD[4]	TBD[4]	TBD[4]
				TOTAL	**0.22**						**TOTAL**	TBD[4]	TBD[4]

[1]Preliminary jurisdictional determinations were made in concurrence with the U.S. Supreme Court decision following Rapanos v United States, prior to the establishment of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule.
[2]Wetland classification is based on Cowardin et al. (1979).
[3]PEM = Palustrine Emergent Wetland
[4]TBD = To be determined. Impact information and/or structure installation method is unknown at this time.

3.3 STREAMS

Stantec completed field surveys for streams (waterways) within the Project area on May 11 and August 17, 2023. No streams were identified within the Project area.

3.4 OPEN WATERS

No open water features were identified within the Project area during the field surveys that took place on May 11 and August 17, 2023.

3.5 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 3. Summary of Potential Federally Listed and Ohio State-Listed Species within the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project Area, Vinton County, Ohio

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Amphibians						
Midland Mud Salamander/*Pseudotriton montanus*	T	N/A	Muddy springs, slow floodplain streams, and swamps along slow streams; backwater ponds and marshes created by beaver activity (NatureServe 2023).	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the mud salamander. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the Project area, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. In addition, due to the location and type of habitat within the Project area, this Project is not likely to impact this species.
Eastern Hellbender/*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*	E	SOC	In Ohio, this species is found mostly in the unglaciated portions of the state and prefers large, swift flowing streams where they hide under larger rocks (ODNR 2018).	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR –** The Project is within the range of the eastern hellbender. 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. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No suitable habitat was observed in the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Eastern Spadefoot/*Scaphiopus holbrookii*	E	N/A	Eastern spadefoots occur in areas of sandy, gravelly, or soft, light soils in wooded or unwooded terrain. On land, they range up to at least several hundred meters from breeding sites. When inactive, they remain burrowed in the ground. Eggs and larvae develop in temporary pools formed by heavy rains. Breeding sites include temporary pools and areas flooded by heavy rains (NatureServe 2023).	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the eastern spadefoot. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Reptiles						
Timber Rattlesnake/*Crotalus horridus horridus*	E	SOC	In the central Midwest, optimum habitat is a high, dry ridge with oak-hickory forest interspersed with open areas. Hibernacula are typically located in a rocky area where underground crevices provide retreats for overwintering, such as a fissure in a ledge, a crevice between ledge and ground, and fallen rock associated or unassociated with cliffs (NatureServe 2023).	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the Project area, and the type of work proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Invertebrates						

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Little Spectaclecase/*Villosa lienosa*	E	N/A	This species typically inhabits small creeks to medium-sized rivers, usually along the banks in slower currents (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams or rivers) was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the little spectaclecase. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams or rivers) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Fish						
Spotted Darter/*Etheostoma maculatum*	E	N/A	This species is found in habitats that include large rubble and boulder areas, adjacent to or in swift deep riffles, in small to medium freshwater rivers. Adults apparently spend the winter in areas somewhat deeper and with slower current. Eggs are laid on underside of stones in quiet water areas near the heads of riffles in water 15-60 cm deep (NatureServe 2023).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams or rivers) was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the spotted darter. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat for this species was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Northern Brook Lamprey/*Ichthyomyzon fossor*	E	N/A	Adult northern brook lampreys are found in clear brooks with fast flowing water and sand or gravel bottoms. Juveniles are found in slow moving water buried in soft substrate in medium to large streams (ODNR 2018).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the northern brook lamprey. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts to this species are anticipated.
Ohio Lamprey/*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*	E	N/A	Typically, adults inhabit medium to larger streams, while larvae burrow near debris in muddy bottoms of quiet pools of creeks and small streams. Eggs are laid in a nest in gravel-bottomed riffles in small gravelly tributaries (NatureServe 2022).	No potentially suitable habitat (perennial streams) was observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The Project is within the range of the Ohio lamprey. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact this species. **USFWS** - No comments received.	No potentially suitable habitat for this species was observed within the Project area.
Mammals						
Indiana Bat/*Myotis sodalis*	E	E	The Indiana bat is likely distributed over the entire State of Ohio, though not uniformly. This species generally forages in openings and edge habitats within upland and floodplain forest, but they also forage over old fields and pastures (Brack et al. 2010). Natural roost structures include trees (live or dead) with exfoliating bark, and exposure to solar radiation. Other important factors for roost trees include relative location to other trees, a permanent water source and foraging areas; Dead trees are preferred as maternity roosts; however, live trees are often used as secondary roosts depending	Potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area (Figure 3, Appendix B). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat. If trees are present within the Project area and trees must be cut the ODNR 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 diameter at breast height (dbh) ≥ 20 if possible. If trees are present within the Project area, and trees must be cut during the summer months, the ODNR recommends a mist net	Potentially suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec and no potentially suitable hibernacula were mapped as being present within the Project area. However, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). No potentially

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
			on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2023b). Roosts have also occasionally been found to consist of cracks and hollows in trees, utility poles, buildings, and bat boxes. Primarily use caves for hibernacula, although are also known to hibernate in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).		survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by field a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for Project recommendations. **USFWS** - The Indiana bat occurs throughout the State of Ohio. 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. 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.	suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. **Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30**
Northern Long-eared Bat/*Myotis septentrionalis*	E	T	The northern long-eared bat is found throughout Ohio. This species generally forages in forested habitat and openings in forested habitat and utilizes cracks, cavities, and loose bark within live and dead trees, as	Potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional	**ODNR** - The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the northern long- eared bat. If trees are present within the Project area and trees must be cut the ODNR	Potentially suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
			well as buildings as roosting habitat (Brack et al. 2010; USFWS 2020). The species utilizes caves and abandoned mines as winter hibernacula. Various sized caves are used providing they have a constant temperature, high humidity, and little to no air current (Brack et al. 2010).	deciduous forest habitats within the Project area (Figure 3, Appendix B). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	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 ODNR recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by field a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for Project recommendations. **USFWS** - The northern long-eared bat occurs throughout the State of Ohio. 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 northern long-eared bats.	required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec and no potentially suitable hibernacula were mapped as being present within the Project area. However, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. **Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30**

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
Little Brown Bat/*Myotis lucifugus*	E	N/A	This bat uses a wide range of habitats and man-made structures for roosting, including buildings and attics. Less frequently, they use hollows of trees. Winter hibernation sites typically consist of caves, tunnels, abandoned mines. Foraging habitat for this species generally occurs over water, along the edges of lakes and streams or in woodlands near waterbodies (NatureServe 2023).	Potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area (Figure 3, Appendix B). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the little brown bat. If trees are present within the Project area and trees must be cut the ODNR 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 ODNR recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment, followed by field a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for Project recommendations. **USFWS** – No comments received.	Potentially suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec and no potentially suitable hibernacula were mapped as being present within the Project area. However, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. **Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30**
Tricolored Bat/*Perimyotis subflavus*	E	PE	This species is found throughout Ohio and is associated with forested landscapes, foraging near trees and along waterways. Maternity and summer roosts usually occur in dead or live tree foliage, or in the south, in clumps of Spanish moss. Maternity colonies may also use tree cavities or man-made structures, such as buildings or bridges. Caves, mines, and rock crevices may be used as night roosts between foraging (NatureServe 2023).	Potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area (Figure 3, Appendix B). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	**ODNR** - The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the tricolored bat. If trees are present within the Project area and trees must be cut the ODNR 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 ODNR recommends a mist net survey or acoustic survey be conducted from June 1 through August 15, prior to any cutting. In addition, ODNR recommends a desktop habitat assessment,	Potentially suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat was observed within early successional deciduous forest habitats within the Project area. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed accordingly with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec and no potentially suitable hibernacula were mapped as being present within the Project area. However, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). No potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec.

Common Name/ Scientific Name	State Listed Status[1,2]	Federally Listed Status[1,3]	Typical Habitat	Habitat Observed	Agency Comments (Appendix B)	Potential Impacts and Avoidance Dates
					followed by field a field assessment if needed, to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a habitat assessment finds that potential hibernacula are present within 0.25 miles of the Project area, please send this information to the ODNR for project recommendations. **USFWS** – No comments received.	**Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30**

[1]E=Endangered; T=Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered; SOC=Species of Concern; N/A= Not Applicable
[2]According to ODNR, State Listed Wildlife and Plant Species by County (ODNR 2023a).
[3]According to Information for Planning and Consultation website (USFWS 2023a).

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbody delineation and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species within the Project area on May 11 and August 17, 2023. Two palustrine emergent wetlands totaling approximately 0.22 acres were identified within the Project area. See Table 2 for more information regarding wetlands identified within the Project area, respectively. Data forms for the identified wetland features are provided in Appendix D and representative photographs are provided in Appendix C. No streams or open waters were identified within the Project area.

The information provided by Stantec regarding wetland boundaries is based on an analysis of the wetland and upland conditions present within the Project area at the time of the field work. The delineations were performed by experienced and qualified professionals using regulatory agency-accepted practices and sound professional judgment.

An ODNR Ohio Natural Heritage Program data request and environmental review request letter was sent to the ODNR Office of Real Estate on September 14, 2022. The ODNR Office of Real Estate response was received on October 7, 2022. Additionally, a technical assistance request letter was submitted to the USFWS on September 14, 2022. The USFWS response was received on October 12, 2022.

Potentially suitable summer foraging and roosting habitat (early successional deciduous forest) for the Indiana bat (state and federally listed endangered), northern long eared bat (state-listed endangered, federally listed endangered), tricolored bat (state-listed endangered, proposed federally endangered), and little brown bat (state-listed endangered) was observed within the Project area. AEP intends to clear trees between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing is required, AEP will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to these bat species.

Additionally, Stantec completed a desktop bat hibernacula habitat assessment in accordance with the 2023 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2023) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2023b) and locations of known or suspected karst geology (ODNR 2023c). No potentially suitable hibernacula were mapped as being present within the Project area. However, an abandoned underground mine area is mapped as being present within 0.25 miles of the Project area (Figure 4, Appendix A). No underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Therefore, no impacts to potential bat hibernacula are anticipated.

Other than potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat, no potentially suitable habitat for any other state-listed species, federally listed species, or federal species of concern was observed within the Project area.

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Appendix A FIGURES

A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

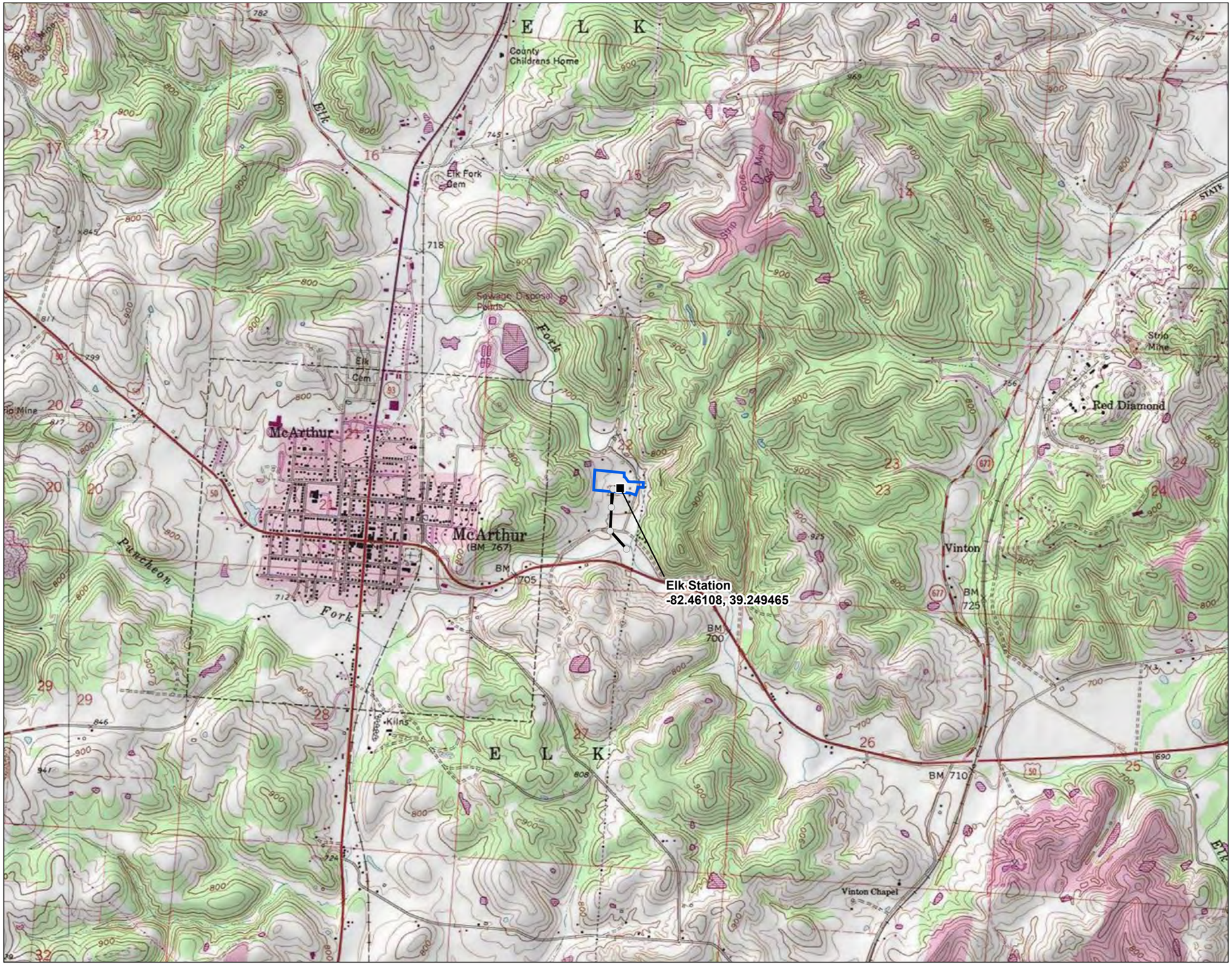


Figure No.

1

Title

Project Location Map

Client/Project 193709143

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project Location
Vinton County, Ohio

Prepared by JDS on 2022-08-29
TR by RA on 2022-08-29
IR by DJG on 2022-09-09

N

0 1,000 2,000 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:24,000

Legend
- Existing Substation
- Existing Structure
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Project Area

Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS
3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles - McArthur, OH (1985), Zaleski, OH (1985)

Stantec

A.2 FIGURE 2 – WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP

Figure No.

2

Title

Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Map

Client/Project 193709143

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project Location
Vinton County, Ohio

Prepared by JDS on 2022-08-29
TR by RA on 2022-08-29
IR by DJG on 2022-09-09

N

0 50 100 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:1,200

Legend

- Existing Substation
- Existing Structure
- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Project Area
- Photo Location
- Culvert
- Wetland Determination Sample Point
- Upland Drainage Feature
- Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
- Approximate Wetland
- National Wetlands Inventory Feature

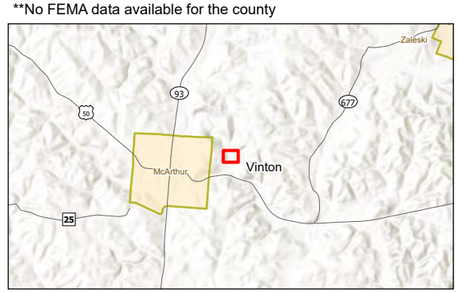
National Hydrography Dataset

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream*
- Waterbody*

FEMA Flood Hazard Area**

- 100-year Floodplain
- Floodway

*No features within data frame
**No FEMA data available for the county



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, USFWS, FEMA, NADS, OGRIP
3. Background: Esri World Imagery

Stantec

A.3 FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

Figure No.
3

Title
Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

193709143

Project Location
Vinton County, Ohio

Prepared by JDS on 2022-08-29
TR by RA on 2022-08-29
IR by DJG on 2022-09-09

N

0 50 100 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:1,200

Legend

- Existing 138 kV Transmission Line
- Existing Structure
- Existing Substation
- Project Area
- Culvert
- Photo Location
- Upland Drainage Feature
- Field Delineated Emergent Wetland
- Approximate Wetland

Habitat Area

- Early Successional Deciduous Forest
- Gravel
- Maintained Lawn
- New Field
- Pasture
- Paved Road

*No features within data frame

Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, NADS
3. Orthophotography: Esri World Imagery

Stantec

A.4 FIGURE 4 – BAT HIBERNACULA DESKTOP STUDY MAP

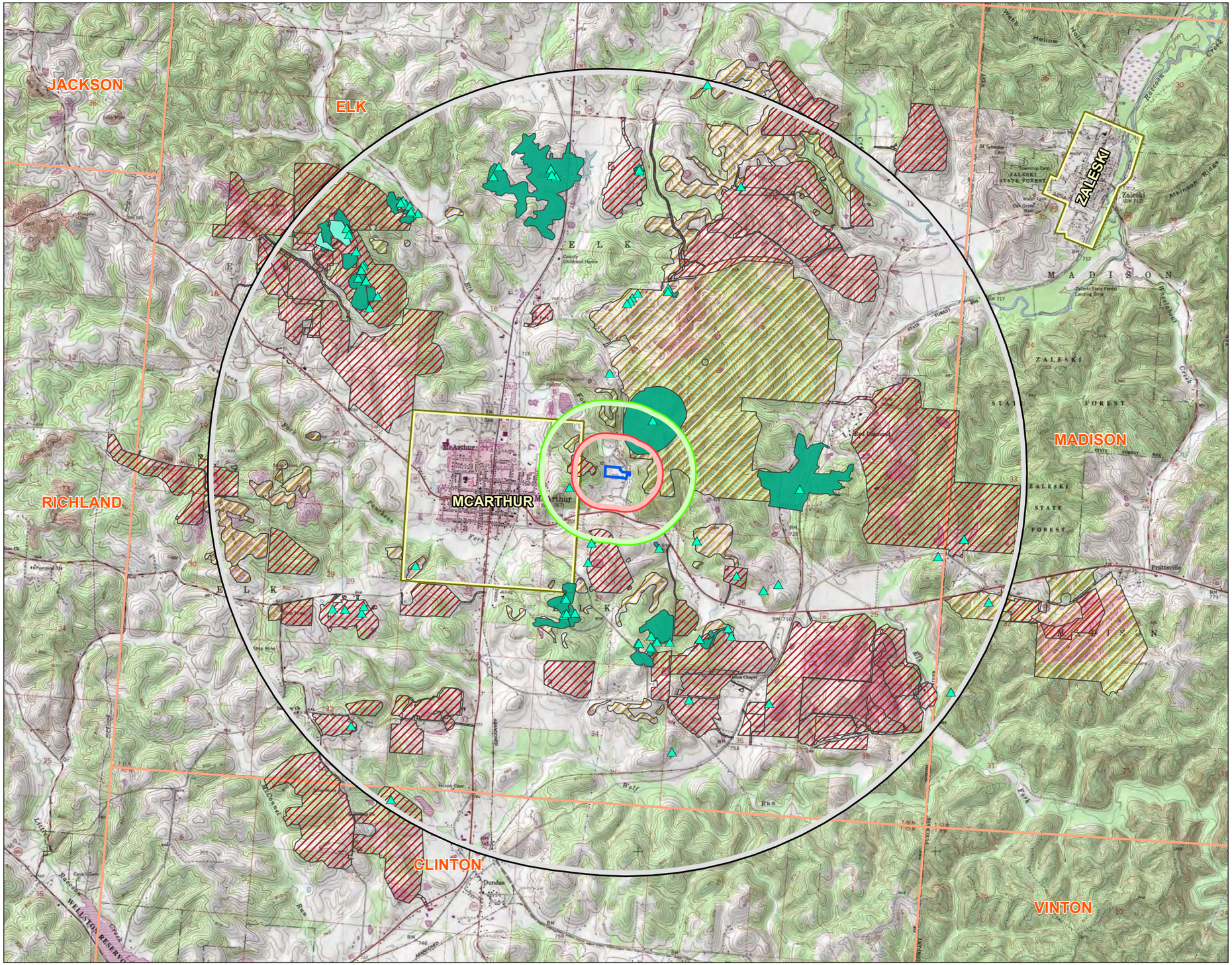


Figure No.
4

Title
Bat Hibernacula Desktop Study Map

Client/Project 193709143
AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project Location
Vinton County, Ohio

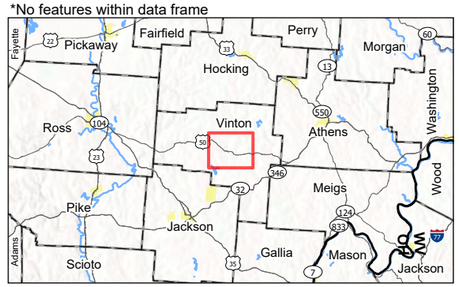
Prepared by DP on 2023-05-19
TR by DG on 2023-05-19
IR by KLB on 2023-05-19

N

0 2,000 4,000 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:48,000

Legend
- Project Area
- 0.25-Mile Project Area Buffer
- 0.5-Mile Project Area Buffer
- 3-Mile Project Area Buffer
- Karst Feature*
- Area of Karst Geology*
- Abandoned Underground Mine
- Inactive Mine*
- Active Surface Mine*
- Abandoned Surface Mine Area
- Abandoned Underground Mine Area
- Inactive Surface Mine Area
- Active Surface Mine Area
- Surface Mine Area (Unknown Status)*

*No features within data frame



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio South FIPS 3402 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, AEP, USGS, ODNR, NADS
3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles - McArthur, OH (1985), Zaleski, OH(1985)

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Appendix B AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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

October 7, 2022

Daniel Godec
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
11687 Lebanon Road
Cincinnati OH 45241

Re: 22-0926; Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project

Project: The proposed project involves extending the Elk-Vinton 138 kV Transmission Line to connect to a proposed gen-tie structure and independent power producer (IPP) transmission line north of Elk Station.

Location: The proposed project is located in Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio.

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

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

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

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

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

The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

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

The project is within the range of little spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*), a state endangered mussel. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the northern brook lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*), a state endangered fish, the Ohio lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon bdellium*), a state endangered fish, and the spotted darter (*Etheostoma maculatum*), a state endangered fish. Due to the location, and that there is no in-water work proposed in a perennial stream, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), a state endangered species, and a federal species of concern. The timber rattlesnake is a woodland species. In addition to using wooded areas, the timber rattlesnake also utilizes sunlit gaps in the canopy for basking and deep rock crevices known as den sites for overwintering. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this 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 midland mud salamander (*Pseudotriton montanus diastictus*), a state threatened species. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, this project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*), a state endangered species. This species is found in areas of sandy soils that are associated with river valleys. Breeding habitats may include flooded agricultural fields or other water holding depressions. Due to the location, the type of habitat within the project area, and the type of work proposed, 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.

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

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

October 12, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0081503

Dear Mr. Godec:

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 https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045), 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.

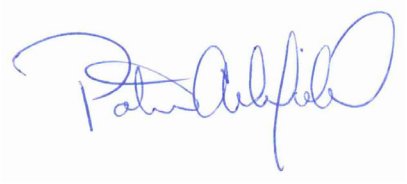
Stream and Wetland Avoidance: Over 90% of the wetlands in Ohio have been drained, filled, or modified by human activities, thus is it important to conserve the functions and values of the remaining wetlands in Ohio (https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/47/facts/ohio_wetlands.pdf). We recommend avoiding and minimizing 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
Eileen Wyza, ODNR-DOW

Appendix C REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

C.1 WETLAND AND WATERBODY PHOTOGRAPHS

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project
Vinton County, Ohio

Photograph Location 1. Photo of Wetland 1. Photo taken facing north.

Photograph Location 1. Photo of Wetland 1. Photo taken facing east.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project
Vinton County, Ohio

Photograph Location 1. Photo of Wetland 1. Photo taken facing south.

Photograph Location 1. Photo of Wetland 1. Photo taken facing west.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project
Vinton County, Ohio

Photograph Location 1. Representative view of soil profile at wetland determination sample point SP01.

Photograph Location 2. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP02. Photo taken facing east.

Photograph Location 2. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP02. Photo taken facing west.

Photograph Location 3. View of Wetland 2. Photo taken facing north.

Photograph Location 3. View of Wetland 2. Photo taken facing east.

Photograph Location 3. View of Wetland 2. Photo taken facing south.

Photograph Location 3. View of Wetland 2. Photo taken facing west.

Photograph Location 3. Representative view of soil profile at wetland determination sample point SP03.

Photograph Location 4. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP04. Photo taken facing east.

Photograph Location 4. View of upland (new field habitat) at wetland determination sample point SP04. Photo taken facing west.

Photograph Location 5. Representative view of existing culvert/storm drain within the Project area.

Photograph Location 6. Representative view of an upland drainage feature within the Project area. Photo taken facing east.

Photograph Location 6. Representative view of an upland drainage feature within the Project area. Photo taken facing west.

Photograph Location 7. View of upland (pasture habitat) within the Project area. Photograph taken facing north.

C.2 HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project
Vinton County, Ohio

Photograph Location 1. Representative view of new field and early successional deciduous forest habitat within the Project area. Photo taken facing south.

Photograph Location 2. Representative view of pasture habitat within the Project area. Photo taken facing northwest.

Photograph Location 3. Representative view of graveled substation within the Project area. Photo taken facing north.

Photograph Location 4. Representative view of maintained lawn habitat within the Project area. Photo taken facing southeast.

AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.
Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project
Vinton County, Ohio

Photograph Location 5. Representative view of pasture habitat within the Project area. Photo taken facing north.

Appendix D DATA FORMS

D.1 WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORMS

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project City/County: Vinton County Sampling Date: 05/11/2023

Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: Ohi Sampling Point: SP01

Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Aaron Kwolek Section, Township, Range: T011N, R017W, S22

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope %: 0

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR N MLRA 124 Lat: 39.24974 Long: -82.461001 Datum: WGS84

Soil Map Unit Name: Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes NWI classification: None

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes X	No ____	**Is the Sampled Area**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ____	**within a Wetland?** **Yes** X **No** ____
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No ____	If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: MCAKW01 Wetland 1

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- X Surface Water (A1)
- X High Water Table (A2)
- X Saturation (A3)
- ____ Water Marks (B1)
- ____ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ____ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ____ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ____ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ____ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ____ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ____ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ____ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ____ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ____ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ____ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- X Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ____ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ____ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present	Yes X	No ____	Depth (inches): 1
Water Table Present	Yes X	No ____	Depth (inches): 0
Saturation Present (includes capillary fringe)	Yes X	No ____	Depth (inches): 0

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** X **No** ____

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

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants. Sampling Point: SP01

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status
1. Salix nigra	2	No	OBL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	2 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft)			
1. Salix nigra	4	No	OBL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	4 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft)			
1. Typha latifolia	45	Yes	OBL
2. Carex sp.	15	Yes	FACW
3. Juncus effusus	4	No	FACW
4. Asclepias incarnata	4	No	OBL
5. Rubus flagellaris	3	No	FACU
6. Eupatorium perfoliatum	2	No	FACW
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
	73 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0 = Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	55	x 1 =	55
FACW species	21	x 2 =	42
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	3	x 4 =	12
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	64 (A)		109 (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =			1.70

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

X- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

X- 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

X 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/shrub – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vines – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP01

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

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	2.5Y 5/2	80	10YR 5/8	15	C	M	Silty Clay	
			5YR 4/6	5	C		Silty Clay	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) **(LRR N, MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- X Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 136, 122)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 146, 147)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks:

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project City/County: Vinton County Sampling Date: 05/11/2023

Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: Ohi Sampling Point: SP02

Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Aaron Kwolek Section, Township, Range: T011N, R017W, S22

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Terrace Local relief (concave, convex, none): Convex Slope %: 1-2

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR N MLRA 124 Lat: 39.249870 Long: -82.461197 Datum: WGS84

Soil Map Unit Name: Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ____	**within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: ____

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ____ Surface Water (A1)
- ____ High Water Table (A2)
- ____ Saturation (A3)
- ____ Water Marks (B1)
- ____ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ____ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ____ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ____ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ____ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ____ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ____ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ____ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ____ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ____ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ____ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- ____ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ____ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ____ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- ____ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____
Saturation Present (includes capillary fringe)	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

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

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants. Sampling Point: SP02

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft)			
1. Poa pratensis	60	Yes	FACU
2. Achillea millefolium	12	Yes	FACU
3. Solidago canadensis	7	Yes	FACU
4. Agrimonia parviflora	4	No	FACW
5. Rubus flagellaris	2	No	FACU
6. Onoclea sensibilis	2	No	FACW
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
	87 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0 = Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 0 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	6	x 2 =	12
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	81	x 4 =	324
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	87 (A)		336 (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =			3.86

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/shrub – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vines – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ____ No X

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP02

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

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-10	10YR 4/2	97					Clay Loam	
10-18	2.5Y 5/2	93	7.5YR 4/6	7	C		Clay Loam	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) **(LRR N, MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- X Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 136, 122)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 146, 147)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks:

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project City/County: Vinton County Sampling Date: 05/11/2023

Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: Ohi Sampling Point: SP03

Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Aaron Kwolek Section, Township, Range: T011N, R017W, S22

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope %: 0

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR N MLRA 124 Lat: 39.249743 Long: -82.461693 Datum: WGS84

Soil Map Unit Name: Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes X	No ____	**Is the Sampled Area**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No ____	**within a Wetland?** **Yes** X **No** ____
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No ____	If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: MCAKW02

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ____ Surface Water (A1)
- X High Water Table (A2)
- X Saturation (A3)
- ____ Water Marks (B1)
- ____ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ____ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ____ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ____ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ____ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ____ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ____ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ____ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ____ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ____ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ____ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- X Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ____ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ____ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present	Yes X	No ____	Depth (inches): 10
Saturation Present (includes capillary fringe)	Yes X	No ____	Depth (inches): 3

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** X **No** ____

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

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants. Sampling Point: SP03

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft)			
1. Onoclea sensibilis	35	Yes	FACW
2. Agrimonia parviflora	15	Yes	FACW
3. Dichanthelium clandestinum	15	Yes	FAC
4. Apocynum cannabinum	12	Yes	FACU
5. Poa pratensis	7	Yes	FACU
6. Phalaris arundinacea	5	No	FACW
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
	89 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0 = Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 3 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 5 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 60 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	55	x 2 =	110
FAC species	15	x 3 =	45
FACU species	19	x 4 =	76
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	89 (A)		231 (B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =			2.6

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- X 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- X 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- ___ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/shrub – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vines – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP03

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

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	10YR 6/1	85	5YR 4/6	15	C	M	Clay Loam	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) **(LRR N, MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- X Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 136, 122)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 146, 147)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** X **No** ___

Remarks:

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region

Project/Site: Elk-Vinton 138 kV Line Extension Project City/County: Vinton County Sampling Date: 05/11/2023

Applicant/Owner: AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc. State: Ohi Sampling Point: SP04

Investigator(s): Malea Casey, Aaron Kwolek Section, Township, Range: T011N, R017W, S22

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Hillside Local relief (concave, convex, none): Convex Slope %: 2-3

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR N MLRA 124 Lat: 39.249879 Long: -82.461951 Datum: WGS84

Soil Map Unit Name: Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No ____

Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No X	**Is the Sampled Area**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No X	**within a Wetland?** **Yes** ____ **No** X
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No X	If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: ____

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ____ Surface Water (A1)
- ____ High Water Table (A2)
- ____ Saturation (A3)
- ____ Water Marks (B1)
- ____ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ____ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ____ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ____ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ____ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ____ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ____ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ____ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ____ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ____ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ____ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- ____ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ____ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ____ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- ____ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____
Saturation Present (includes capillary fringe)	Yes ____	No X	Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

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

Remarks:

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants. Sampling Point: SP04

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft)			
1. Dichanthelium clandestinum	65	Yes	FAC
2. Solidago altissima	7	Yes	FACU
3. Agrimonia parviflora	5	No	FACW
4. Achillea millefolium	4	No	FACU
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
	81 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0 = Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 2 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 50 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species	x 1 =
FACW species	x 2 =
FAC species	x 3 =
FACU species	x 4 =
UPL species	x 5 =
Column Totals: (A)	(B)
Prevalence Index = B/A =	

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

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Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody vines – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ____ **No** X

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: SP04

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

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	10YR 4/3	100					Clay Loam	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) **(LRR N, MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 136, 122)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 146, 147)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** X

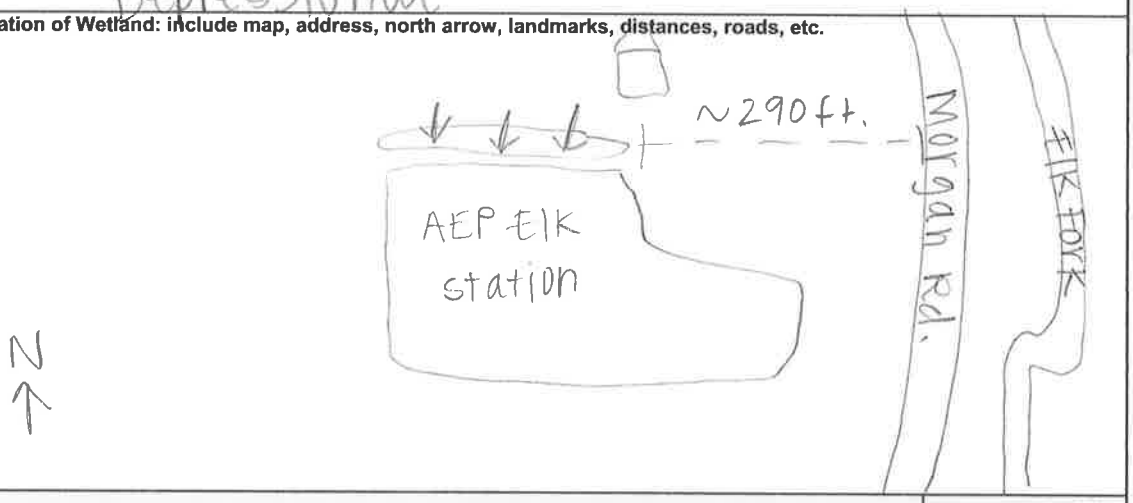
Remarks:

D.2 ORAM DATA FORMS

Background Information

Name:	Malea Casey
Date:	05/11/2023
Affiliation:	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Address:	10200 Alliance Road Suite 300 Blue Ash, OH 45242
Phone Number:	(513) 526-4084
e-mail address:	malea.casey@stantec.com
Name of Wetland:	Wetland 1
Vegetation Communit(ies):	Emergent
HGM Class(es):	Depressional

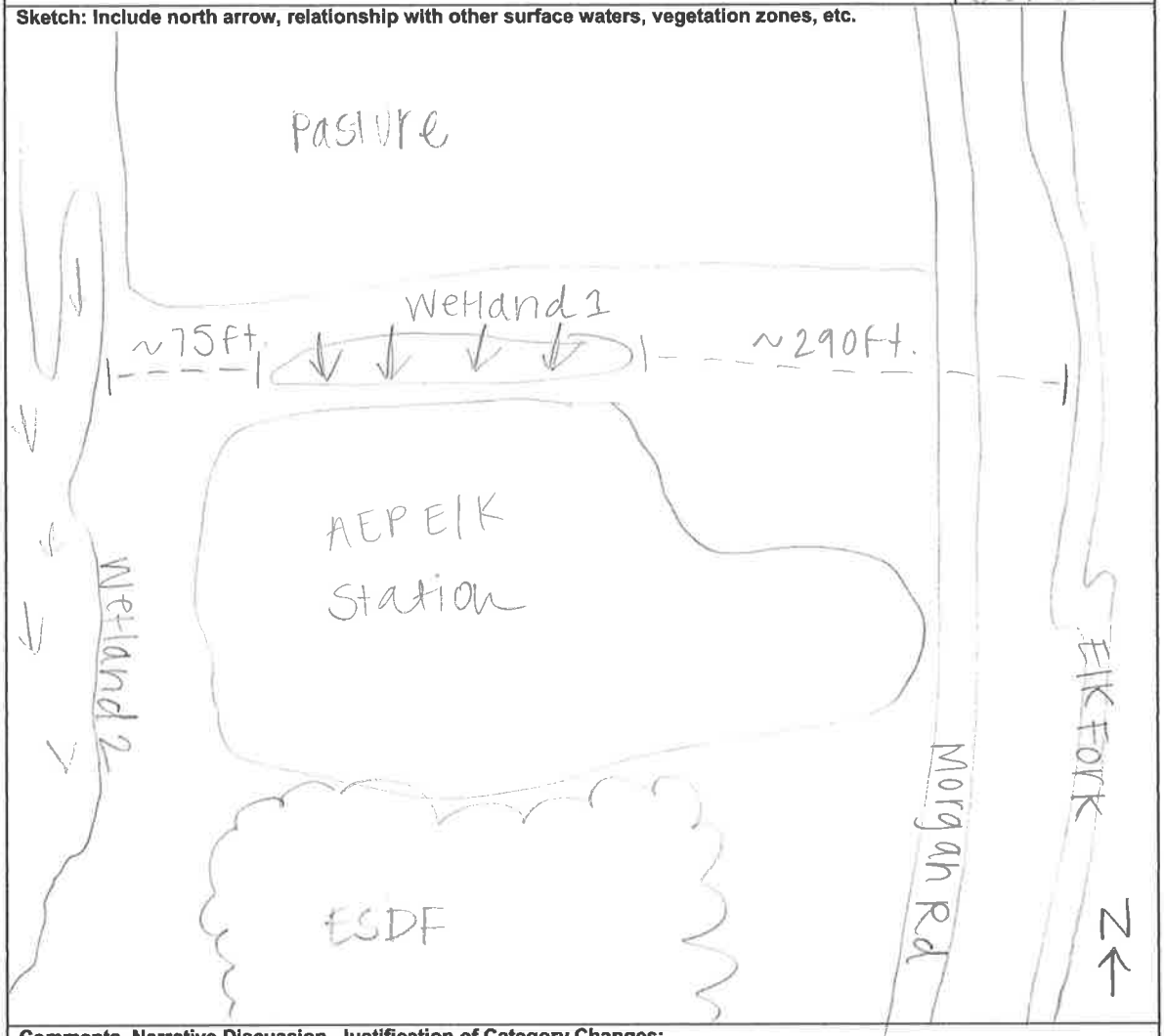
Location of Wetland: include map, address, north arrow, landmarks, distances, roads, etc.



Lat/Long or UTM Coordinate	39.249794, -82.461084
USGS Quad Name	McArthur, OH
County	Vinton
Township	—
Section and Subsection	—
Hydrologic Unit Code	5090101030 2
Site Visit	5/11/2023
National Wetland Inventory Map	N/a
Ohio Wetland Inventory Map	N/a
Soil Survey	OmuB1: Omulga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Delineation report/map	see Ecological Survey Report.

Name of Wetland: Wetland 1	
Wetland Size (acres, hectares):	0.0 ac.

Sketch: Include north arrow, relationship with other surface waters, vegetation zones, etc.



Comments, Narrative Discussion, Justification of Category Changes:

Final score : 11.5	**Category:** 1

Scoring Boundary Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS. The initial step in completing the ORAM is to identify the "scoring boundaries" of the wetland being rated. In many instances this determination will be relatively easy and the scoring boundaries will coincide with the "jurisdictional boundaries." For example, the scoring boundary of an isolated cattail marsh located in the middle of a farm field will likely be the same as that wetland's jurisdictional boundaries. In other instances, however, the scoring boundary will not be as easily determined. Wetlands that are small or isolated from other surface waters often form large contiguous areas or heterogeneous complexes of wetland and upland. In separating wetlands for scoring purposes, the hydrologic regime of the wetland is the main criterion that should be used. Boundaries between contiguous or connected wetlands should be established where the volume, flow, or velocity of water moving through the wetland changes significantly. *Areas with a high degree of hydrologic interaction should be scored as a single wetland.* In determining a wetland's scoring boundaries, use the guidelines in the ORAM Manual Section 5.0. In certain instances, it may be difficult to establish the scoring boundary for the wetland being rated. These problem situations include wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, wetlands divided by artificial boundaries like property fences, roads, or railroad embankments, wetlands that are contiguous with streams, lakes, or rivers, and estuarine or coastal wetlands. These situations are discussed below, however, it is recommended that Rater contact Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401/Wetlands Section if there are additional questions or a need for further clarification of the appropriate scoring boundaries of a particular wetland.

#	Steps in properly establishing scoring boundaries	done?	not applicable
Step 1	Identify the wetland area of interest. This may be the site of a proposed impact, a reference site, conservation site, etc.	√	
Step 2	Identify the locations where there is physical evidence that hydrology changes rapidly. Such evidence includes both natural and human-induced changes including, constrictions caused by berms or dikes, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, or other factors that may restrict hydrologic interaction between the wetlands or parts of a single wetland.	√	
Step 3	Delineate the boundary of the wetland to be rated such that all areas of interest that are contiguous to and within the areas where the hydrology does not change significantly, i.e. areas that have a high degree of hydrologic interaction are included within the scoring boundary.	√	
Step 4	Determine if artificial boundaries, such as property lines, state lines, roads, railroad embankments, etc., are present. These should not be used to establish scoring boundaries unless they coincide with areas where the hydrologic regime changes.	√	
Step 5	In all instances, the Rater may enlarge the minimum scoring boundaries discussed here to score together wetlands that could be scored separately.		X
Step 6	Consult ORAM Manual Section 5.0 for how to establish scoring boundaries for wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, divided by artificial boundaries, contiguous to streams, lakes or rivers, or for dual classifications.	√	

End of Scoring Boundary Determination. Begin Narrative Rating on next page.

Narrative Rating

INSTRUCTIONS. Answer each of the following questions. Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be answered based on information obtained from the site visit or the literature *and* by submitting a Data Services Request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Natural Heritage Data Services, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Building F-1, Columbus, Ohio 43224, 614-265-6453 (phone), 614-265-3096 (fax), http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap . The remaining questions are designed to be answered primarily by the results of the site visit. Refer to the User's Manual for descriptions of these wetland types. Note: "Critical habitat" is legally defined in the Endangered Species Act and is the geographic area containing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species or as an area that may require special management considerations or protection. The Rater should contact the Region 3 Headquarters or the Columbus Ecological Services Office for updates as to whether critical habitat has been designated for other federally listed threatened or endangered species. "Documented" means the wetland is listed in the appropriate State of Ohio database.

#	Question	Circle one	
1	**Critical Habitat.** Is the wetland in a township, section, or subsection of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle that has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for any threatened or endangered plant or animal species? Note: as of January 1, 2001, of the federally listed endangered or threatened species which can be found in Ohio, the Indiana Bat has had critical habitat designated (50 CFR 17.95(a)) and the piping plover has had critical habitat proposed (65 FR 41812 July 6, 2000).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 2	NO Go to Question 2
2	**Threatened or Endangered Species.** Is the wetland known to contain an individual of, or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 3	NO Go to Question 3
3	**Documented High Quality Wetland.** Is the wetland on record in Natural Heritage Database as a high quality wetland?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 4	NO Go to Question 4
4	**Significant Breeding or Concentration Area.** Does the wetland contain documented regionally significant breeding or nonbreeding waterfowl, neotropical songbird, or shorebird concentration areas?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 5	NO Go to Question 5
5	**Category 1 Wetlands.** Is the wetland less than 0.5 hectares (1 acre) in size and **hydrologically isolated** and either 1) comprised of vegetation that is dominated (greater than eighty per cent areal cover) by *Phalaris arundinacea, Lythrum salicaria,* or *Phragmites australis*, or 2) an acidic pond created or excavated on mined lands that has little or no vegetation?	YES Wetland is a Category 1 wetland Go to Question 6	NO Go to Question 6
6	**Bogs.** Is the wetland a peat-accumulating wetland that 1) has no significant inflows or outflows, 2) supports acidophilic mosses, particularly *Sphagnum* spp., 3) the acidophilic mosses have >30% cover, 4) at least one species from Table 1 is present, and 5) the cover of invasive species (see Table 1) is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 7	NO Go to Question 7
7	**Fens.** Is the wetland a carbon accumulating (peat, muck) wetland that is saturated during most of the year, primarily by a discharge of free flowing, mineral rich, ground water with a circumneutral ph (5.5-9.0) and with one or more plant species listed in Table 1 and the cover of invasive species listed in Table 1 is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 8a	NO Go to Question 8a
8a	**"Old Growth Forest."** Is the wetland a forested wetland and is the forest characterized by, but not limited to, the following characteristics: overstory canopy trees of great age (exceeding at least 50% of a projected maximum attainable age for a species); little or no evidence of human-caused understory disturbance during the past 80 to 100 years; an all-aged structure and multilayered canopies; aggregations of canopy trees interspersed with canopy gaps; and significant numbers of standing dead snags and downed logs?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 8b	NO Go to Question 8b

8b	**Mature forested wetlands.** Is the wetland a forested wetland with 50% or more of the cover of upper forest canopy consisting of deciduous trees with large diameters at breast height (dbh), generally diameters greater than 45cm (17.7in) dbh?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status. Go to Question 9a	NO Go to Question 9a
9a	**Lake Erie coastal and tributary wetlands.** Is the wetland located at an elevation less than 575 feet on the USGS map, adjacent to this elevation, or along a tributary to Lake Erie that is accessible to fish?	YES Go to Question 9b	NO Go to Question 10
9b	Does the wetland's hydrology result from measures designed to prevent erosion and the loss of aquatic plants, i.e. the wetland is partially hydrologically restricted from Lake Erie due to lakeward or landward dikes or other hydrological controls?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9c
9c	Are Lake Erie water levels the wetland's primary hydrological influence, i.e. the wetland is hydrologically unrestricted (no lakeward or upland border alterations), or the wetland can be characterized as an "estuarine" wetland with lake and river influenced hydrology. These include sandbar deposition wetlands, estuarine wetlands, river mouth wetlands, or those dominated by submersed aquatic vegetation.	YES Go to Question 9d	NO Go to Question 10
9d	Does the wetland have a predominance of native species within its vegetation communities, although non-native or disturbance tolerant native species can also be present?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9e
9e	Does the wetland have a predominance of non-native or disturbance tolerant native plant species within its vegetation communities?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 10
10	**Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings)** Is the wetland located in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, or Wood Counties and can the wetland be characterized by the following description: the wetland has a sandy substrate with interspersed organic matter, a water table often within several inches of the surface, and often with a dominance of the gramineous vegetation listed in Table 1 (woody species may also be present). The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can provide assistance in confirming this type of wetland and its quality.	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 11	NO Go to Question 11
11	**Relict Wet Prairies.** Is the wetland a relict wet prairie community dominated by some or all of the species in Table 1. Extensive prairies were formerly located in the Darby Plains (Madison and Union Counties), Sandusky Plains (Wyandot, Crawford, and Marion Counties), northwest Ohio (e.g. Erie, Huron, Lucas, Wood Counties), and portions of western Ohio Counties (e.g. Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Van Wert etc.).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Complete Quantitative Rating	NO Complete Quantitative Rating

Table 1. Characteristic plant species.

invasive/exotic spp	fen species	bog species	0ak Opening species	wet prairie species
Lythrum salicaria	*Zygadenus elegans var. glaucus*	*Calla palustris*	*Carex cryptolepis*	*Calamagrostis canadensis*
Myriophyllum spicatum	*Cacalia plantaginea*	*Carex atlantica var. capillacea*	*Carex lasiocarpa*	*Calamogrostis stricta*
Najas minor	*Carex flava*	*Carex echinata*	*Carex stricta*	*Carex atherodes*
Phalaris arundinacea	*Carex sterilis*	*Carex oligosperma*	*Cladium mariscoides*	*Carex buxbaumii*
Phragmites australis	*Carex stricta*	*Carex trisperma*	*Calamagrostis stricta*	*Carex pellita*
Potamogeton crispus	*Deschampsia caespitosa*	*Chamaedaphne calyculata*	*Calamagrostis canadensis*	*Carex sartwellii*
Ranunculus ficaria	*Eleocharis rostellata*	*Decodon verticillatus*	*Quercus palustris*	*Gentiana andrewsii*
Rhamnus frangula	*Eriophorum viridicarinatum*	*Eriophorum virginicum*		*Helianthus grosseserratus*
Typha angustifolia	*Gentianopsis spp.*	*Larix laricina*		*Liatris spicata*
Typha xglauca	*Lobelia kalmii*	*Nemopanthus mucronatus*		*Lysimachia quadriflora*
	Parnassia glauca	*Schechzeria palustris*		*Lythrum alatum*
	Potentilla fruticosa	*Sphagnum spp.*		*Pycnanthemum virginianum*
	Rhamnus alnifolia	*Vaccinium macrocarpon*		*Silphium terebinthinaceum*
	Rhynchospora capillacea	*Vaccinium corymbosum*		*Sorghastrum nutans*
	Salix candida	*Vaccinium oxycoccos*		*Spartina pectinata*
	Salix myricoides	*Woodwardia virginica*		*Solidago riddellii*
	Salix serissima	*Xyris difformis*		
	Solidago ohioensis			
	Tofieldia glutinosa			
	Triglochin maritimum			
	Triglochin palustre			

End of Narrative Rating. Begin Quantitative Rating on next page.

ORAM v. 5.0 Field Form Quantitative Rating

Site: Wetland 1	Rater(s): M. Casey	Date: 05/11/23

Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

0 (max 6 pts.) | 0 (subtotal)

Select one size class and assign score.

- [ ] >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
- [ ] 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
- [ ] 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
- [ ] 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
- [ ] 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
- [ ] 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
- [X] <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

2 (max 14 pts.) | 2 (subtotal)

2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.

- [ ] WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
- [ ] MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
- [ ] NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
- [X] VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)

2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.

- [ ] VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
- [ ] LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
- [X] MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
- [X] HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

2

Metric 3. Hydrology.

6 (max 30 pts.) | 8 (subtotal)

3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.

- [ ] High pH groundwater (5)
- [ ] Other groundwater (3)
- [X] Precipitation (1)
- [ ] Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
- [ ] Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)

3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.

- [ ] 100 year floodplain (1)
- [ ] Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
- [X] Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
- [ ] Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)

3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.

- [ ] >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
- [ ] 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
- [X] <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)

3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.

- [ ] Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
- [ ] Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
- [ ] Seasonally inundated (2)
- [X] Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)

3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (12)
- [ ] Recovered (7)
- [X] Recovering (3)
- [X] Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- [ ] ditch
- [ ] tile
- [ ] dike
- [ ] weir
- [X] stormwater input
- [ ] point source (nonstormwater)
- [ ] filling/grading
- [ ] road bed/RR track
- [ ] dredging
- [ ] other_____

Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

4.5 (max 20 pts.) | 12.5 (subtotal)

4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (4)
- [ ] Recovered (3)
- [X] Recovering (2)
- [X] Recent or no recovery (1)

1.5

4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.

- [ ] Excellent (7)
- [ ] Very good (6)
- [ ] Good (5)
- [ ] Moderately good (4)
- [ ] Fair (3)
- [X] Poor to fair (2)
- [ ] Poor (1)

4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (9)
- [ ] Recovered (6)
- [ ] Recovering (3)
- [X] Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- [X] mowing
- [ ] grazing
- [ ] clearcutting
- [ ] selective cutting
- [ ] woody debris removal
- [ ] toxic pollutants
- [ ] shrub/sapling removal
- [ ] herbaceous/aquatic bed removal
- [ ] sedimentation
- [ ] dredging
- [ ] farming
- [ ] nutrient enrichment

12.5 subtotal this page

last revised 1 February 2001 jjm

Site: Wetland 1	Rater(s): M. Casey	Date: 05/11/23

12.5
subtotal first page

Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

0 (max 10 pts.) | 12.5 (subtotal)

Check all that apply and score as indicated.

- [ ] Bog (10)
- [ ] Fen (10)
- [ ] Old growth forest (10)
- [ ] Mature forested wetland (5)
- [ ] Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- [ ] Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- [ ] Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- [ ] Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- [ ] Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- [ ] Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- [ ] Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersion, microtopography.

-1 (max 20 pts.) | 11.5 (subtotal)

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.
Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- [ ] Aquatic bed
- [1] Emergent
- [ ] Shrub
- [ ] Forest
- [ ] Mudflats
- [ ] Open water
- [ ] Other_____

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersion.
Select only one.

- [ ] High (5)
- [ ] Moderately high(4)
- [ ] Moderate (3)
- [ ] Moderately low (2)
- [X] Low (1)
- [ ] None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- [ ] Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- [X] Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- [ ] Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- [ ] Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- [ ] Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.
Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- [0] Vegetated hummucks/tussucks
- [0] Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- [0] Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- [0] Amphibian breeding pools

Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

11.5

End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.

ORAM Summary Worksheet

		circle answer or insert score	Result
Narrative Rating	Question 1 Critical Habitat	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 2. Threatened or Endangered Species	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 3. High Quality Natural Wetland	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 4. Significant bird habitat	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 5. Category 1 Wetlands	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 1.
	Question 6. Bogs	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 7. Fens	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8a. Old Growth Forest	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8b. Mature Forested Wetland	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9b. Lake Erie Wetlands - Restricted	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9d. Lake Erie Wetlands – Unrestricted with native plants	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3
	Question 9e. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with invasive plants	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 10. Oak Openings	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3
	Question 11. Relict Wet Prairies	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
Quantitative Rating	Metric 1. Size	0	
	Metric 2. Buffers and surrounding land use	2	
	Metric 3. Hydrology	6	
	Metric 4. Habitat	4.5	
	Metric 5. Special Wetland Communities	0	
	Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersion, microtopography	-1	
	TOTAL SCORE	11.5	Category based on score breakpoints Category 1

Complete Wetland Categorization Worksheet.

Wetland Categorization Worksheet

Choices	Circle one		Evaluation of Categorization Result of ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8a, 9d, 10	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 3 wetland	NO	Is quantitative rating score *less* than the Category 2 scoring threshold (*excluding* gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been over-categorized by the ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 1, 8b, 9b, 9e, 11	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status	NO	Evaluate the wetland using the 1) narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and 2) the quantitative rating score. If the wetland is determined to be a Category 3 wetland using either of these, it should be categorized as a Category 3 wetland. Detailed biological and/or functional assessments may also be used to determine the wetland's category.
Did you answer "Yes" to Narrative Rating No. 5	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 1 wetland	NO	Is quantitative rating score *greater* than the Category 2 scoring threshold *(including* any gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been under-categorized by the ORAM
Does the quantitative score fall within the scoring range of a Category 1, 2, or 3 wetland?	YES Wetland is assigned to the appropriate category based on the scoring range	NO	If the score of the wetland is located within the scoring range for a particular category, the wetland should be assigned to that category. In all instances however, the narrative criteria described in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) can be used to clarify or change a categorization based on a quantitative score.
Does the quantitative score fall with the *"gray zone"* for Category 1 or 2 or Category 2 or 3 wetlands?	YES Wetland is assigned to the higher of the two categories or assigned to a category based on detailed assessments and the narrative criteria	NO	Rater has the option of assigning the wetland to the higher of the two categories or to assign a category based on the results of a nonrapid wetland assessment method, e.g. functional assessment, biological assessment, etc, and a consideration of the narrative criteria in OAC rule 3745-1-54(C).
Does the wetland otherwise exhibit *moderate OR superior* hydrologic OR habitat, OR recreational functions AND the wetland was *not* categorized as a Category 2 wetland (in the case of moderate functions) or a Category 3 wetland (in the case of superior functions) by this method?	YES Wetland was undercategorized by this method. A written justification for recategorization should be provided on Background Information Form	NO Wetland is assigned to category as determined by the ORAM.	A wetland may be undercategorized using this method, but still exhibit one or more superior functions, e.g. a wetland's biotic communities may be degraded by human activities, but the wetland may still exhibit superior hydrologic functions because of its type, landscape position, size, local or regional significance, etc. In this circumstance, the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) and (3) are controlling, and the under-categorization should be corrected. A written justification with supporting reasons or information for this determination should be provided.

Final Category			
Choose one	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3

End of Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands.

Background Information

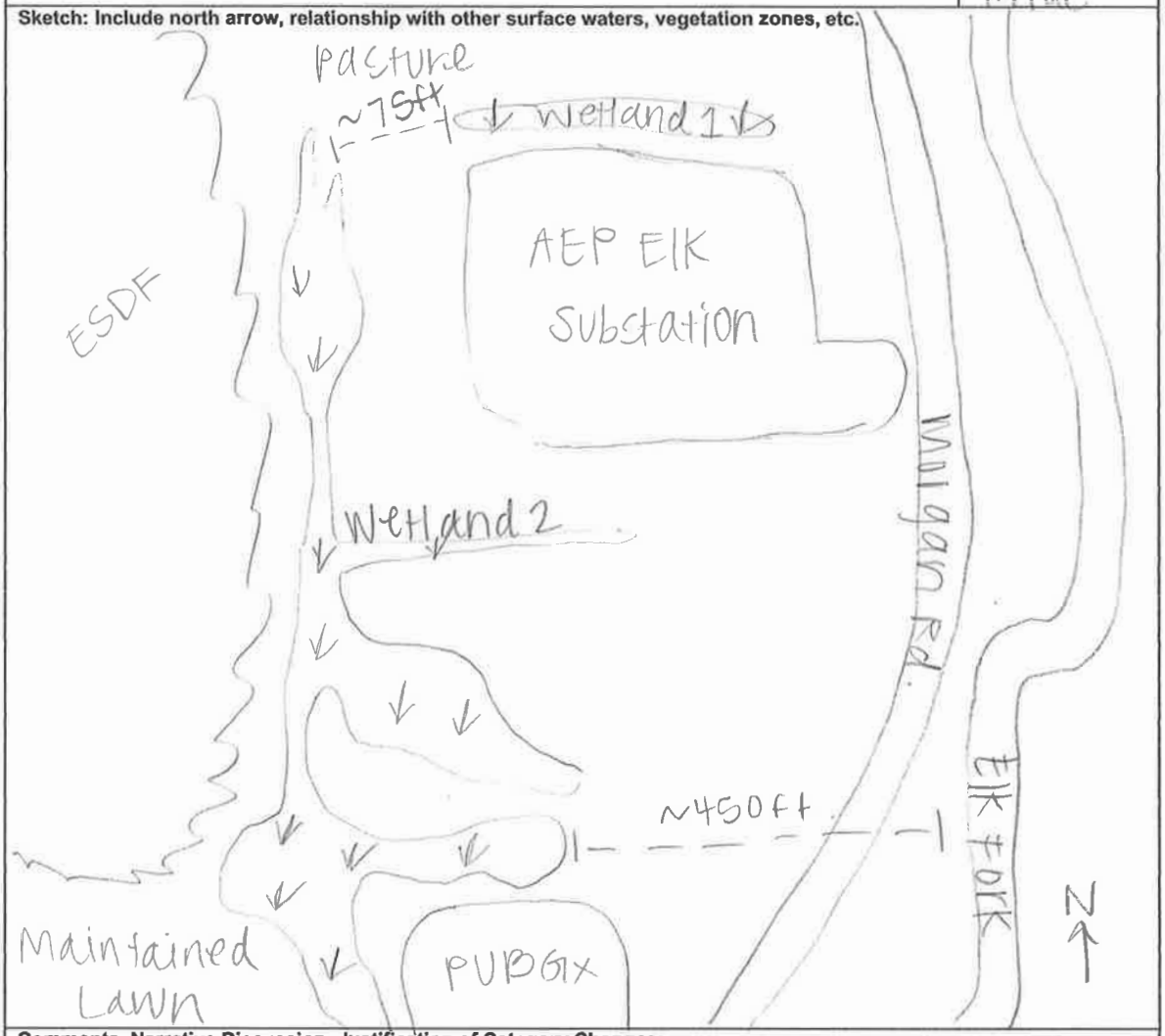
Name:	Malea Casey
Date:	05/11/2023
Affiliation:	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Address:	10200 Alliance Road Suite 300 Blue Ash, OH 45242
Phone Number:	(513) 526-4094
e-mail address:	malea.casey@stantec.com
Name of Wetland:	Wetland 2
Vegetation Communit(ies):	Emergent
HGM Class(es):	Depressional

Location of Wetland: include map, address, north arrow, landmarks, distances, roads, etc.

Lat/Long or UTM Coordinate	39.249794, -82.461084
USGS Quad Name	Zaleski, OH
County	Vinton
Township	—
Section and Subsection	—
Hydrologic Unit Code	5090101030 2
Site Visit	05/11/2023
National Wetland Inventory Map	N/a
Ohio Wetland Inventory Map	N/a
Soil Survey	OmvlB1: Omvlga silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
Delineation report/map	See Ecological Survey Report

Name of Wetland: Wetland 2	
Wetland Size (acres, hectares):	1.11ac

Sketch: Include north arrow, relationship with other surface waters, vegetation zones, etc.



Comments, Narrative Discussion, Justification of Category Changes:

Final score : 25	**Category:** 1

Scoring Boundary Worksheet

INSTRUCTIONS. The initial step in completing the ORAM is to identify the "scoring boundaries" of the wetland being rated. In many instances this determination will be relatively easy and the scoring boundaries will coincide with the "jurisdictional boundaries." For example, the scoring boundary of an isolated cattail marsh located in the middle of a farm field will likely be the same as that wetland's jurisdictional boundaries. In other instances, however, the scoring boundary will not be as easily determined. Wetlands that are small or isolated from other surface waters often form large contiguous areas or heterogeneous complexes of wetland and upland. In separating wetlands for scoring purposes, the hydrologic regime of the wetland is the main criterion that should be used. Boundaries between contiguous or connected wetlands should be established where the volume, flow, or velocity of water moving through the wetland changes significantly. *Areas with a high degree of hydrologic interaction should be scored as a single wetland.* In determining a wetland's scoring boundaries, use the guidelines in the ORAM Manual Section 5.0. In certain instances, it may be difficult to establish the scoring boundary for the wetland being rated. These problem situations include wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, wetlands divided by artificial boundaries like property fences, roads, or railroad embankments, wetlands that are contiguous with streams, lakes, or rivers, and estuarine or coastal wetlands. These situations are discussed below, however, it is recommended that Rater contact Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401/Wetlands Section if there are additional questions or a need for further clarification of the appropriate scoring boundaries of a particular wetland.

#	Steps in properly establishing scoring boundaries	done?	not applicable
Step 1	Identify the wetland area of interest. This may be the site of a proposed impact, a reference site, conservation site, etc.	√	
Step 2	Identify the locations where there is physical evidence that hydrology changes rapidly. Such evidence includes both natural and human-induced changes including, constrictions caused by berms or dikes, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, or other factors that may restrict hydrologic interaction between the wetlands or parts of a single wetland.	√	
Step 3	Delineate the boundary of the wetland to be rated such that all areas of interest that are contiguous to and within the areas where the hydrology does not change significantly, i.e. areas that have a high degree of hydrologic interaction are included within the scoring boundary.	√	
Step 4	Determine if artificial boundaries, such as property lines, state lines, roads, railroad embankments, etc., are present. These should not be used to establish scoring boundaries unless they coincide with areas where the hydrologic regime changes.	√	
Step 5	In all instances, the Rater may enlarge the minimum scoring boundaries discussed here to score together wetlands that could be scored separately.		X
Step 6	Consult ORAM Manual Section 5.0 for how to establish scoring boundaries for wetlands that form a patchwork on the landscape, divided by artificial boundaries, contiguous to streams, lakes or rivers, or for dual classifications.	√	

End of Scoring Boundary Determination. Begin Narrative Rating on next page.

Narrative Rating

INSTRUCTIONS. Answer each of the following questions. Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be answered based on information obtained from the site visit or the literature *and* by submitting a Data Services Request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Natural Heritage Data Services, 1889 Fountain Square Court, Building F-1, Columbus, Ohio 43224, 614-265-6453 (phone), 614-265-3096 (fax), http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap . The remaining questions are designed to be answered primarily by the results of the site visit. Refer to the User's Manual for descriptions of these wetland types. Note: "Critical habitat" is legally defined in the Endangered Species Act and is the geographic area containing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species or as an area that may require special management considerations or protection. The Rater should contact the Region 3 Headquarters or the Columbus Ecological Services Office for updates as to whether critical habitat has been designated for other federally listed threatened or endangered species. "Documented" means the wetland is listed in the appropriate State of Ohio database.

#	Question	Circle one	
1	**Critical Habitat.** Is the wetland in a township, section, or subsection of a United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute Quadrangle that has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "critical habitat" for any threatened or endangered plant or animal species? Note: as of January 1, 2001, of the federally listed endangered or threatened species which can be found in Ohio, the Indiana Bat has had critical habitat designated (50 CFR 17.95(a)) and the piping plover has had critical habitat proposed (65 FR 41812 July 6, 2000).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 2	NO Go to Question 2
2	**Threatened or Endangered Species.** Is the wetland known to contain an individual of, or documented occurrences of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 3	NO Go to Question 3
3	**Documented High Quality Wetland.** Is the wetland on record in Natural Heritage Database as a high quality wetland?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 4	NO Go to Question 4
4	**Significant Breeding or Concentration Area.** Does the wetland contain documented regionally significant breeding or nonbreeding waterfowl, neotropical songbird, or shorebird concentration areas?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 5	NO Go to Question 5
5	**Category 1 Wetlands.** Is the wetland less than 0.5 hectares (1 acre) in size and **hydrologically isolated** and either 1) comprised of vegetation that is dominated (greater than eighty per cent areal cover) by *Phalaris arundinacea, Lythrum salicaria,* or *Phragmites australis*, or 2) an acidic pond created or excavated on mined lands that has little or no vegetation?	YES Wetland is a Category 1 wetland Go to Question 6	NO Go to Question 6
6	**Bogs.** Is the wetland a peat-accumulating wetland that 1) has no significant inflows or outflows, 2) supports acidophilic mosses, particularly *Sphagnum* spp., 3) the acidophilic mosses have >30% cover, 4) at least one species from Table 1 is present, and 5) the cover of invasive species (see Table 1) is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 7	NO Go to Question 7
7	**Fens.** Is the wetland a carbon accumulating (peat, muck) wetland that is saturated during most of the year, primarily by a discharge of free flowing, mineral rich, ground water with a circumneutral ph (5.5-9.0) and with one or more plant species listed in Table 1 and the cover of invasive species listed in Table 1 is <25%?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 8a	NO Go to Question 8a
8a	**"Old Growth Forest."** Is the wetland a forested wetland and is the forest characterized by, but not limited to, the following characteristics: overstory canopy trees of great age (exceeding at least 50% of a projected maximum attainable age for a species); little or no evidence of human-caused understory disturbance during the past 80 to 100 years; an all-aged structure and multilayered canopies; aggregations of canopy trees interspersed with canopy gaps; and significant numbers of standing dead snags and downed logs?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 8b	NO Go to Question 8b

8b	**Mature forested wetlands.** Is the wetland a forested wetland with 50% or more of the cover of upper forest canopy consisting of deciduous trees with large diameters at breast height (dbh), generally diameters greater than 45cm (17.7in) dbh?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status. Go to Question 9a	NO Go to Question 9a
9a	**Lake Erie coastal and tributary wetlands.** Is the wetland located at an elevation less than 575 feet on the USGS map, adjacent to this elevation, or along a tributary to Lake Erie that is accessible to fish?	YES Go to Question 9b	NO Go to Question 10
9b	Does the wetland's hydrology result from measures designed to prevent erosion and the loss of aquatic plants, i.e. the wetland is partially hydrologically restricted from Lake Erie due to lakeward or landward dikes or other hydrological controls?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9c
9c	Are Lake Erie water levels the wetland's primary hydrological influence, i.e. the wetland is hydrologically unrestricted (no lakeward or upland border alterations), or the wetland can be characterized as an "estuarine" wetland with lake and river influenced hydrology. These include sandbar deposition wetlands, estuarine wetlands, river mouth wetlands, or those dominated by submersed aquatic vegetation.	YES Go to Question 9d	NO Go to Question 10
9d	Does the wetland have a predominance of native species within its vegetation communities, although non-native or disturbance tolerant native species can also be present?	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 9e
9e	Does the wetland have a predominance of non-native or disturbance tolerant native plant species within its vegetation communities?	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Go to Question 10	NO Go to Question 10
10	**Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings)** Is the wetland located in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, or Wood Counties and can the wetland be characterized by the following description: the wetland has a sandy substrate with interspersed organic matter, a water table often within several inches of the surface, and often with a dominance of the gramineous vegetation listed in Table 1 (woody species may also be present). The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can provide assistance in confirming this type of wetland and its quality.	YES Wetland is a Category 3 wetland. Go to Question 11	NO Go to Question 11
11	**Relict Wet Prairies.** Is the wetland a relict wet prairie community dominated by some or all of the species in Table 1. Extensive prairies were formerly located in the Darby Plains (Madison and Union Counties), Sandusky Plains (Wyandot, Crawford, and Marion Counties), northwest Ohio (e.g. Erie, Huron, Lucas, Wood Counties), and portions of western Ohio Counties (e.g. Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Van Wert etc.).	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status Complete Quantitative Rating	NO Complete Quantitative Rating

Table 1. Characteristic plant species.

invasive/exotic spp	fen species	bog species	0ak Opening species	wet prairie species
Lythrum salicaria	*Zygadenus elegans var. glaucus*	*Calla palustris*	*Carex cryptolepis*	*Calamagrostis canadensis*
Myriophyllum spicatum	*Cacalia plantaginea*	*Carex atlantica var. capillacea*	*Carex lasiocarpa*	*Calamogrostis stricta*
Najas minor	*Carex flava*	*Carex echinata*	*Carex stricta*	*Carex atherodes*
Phalaris arundinacea	*Carex sterilis*	*Carex oligosperma*	*Cladium mariscoides*	*Carex buxbaumii*
Phragmites australis	*Carex stricta*	*Carex trisperma*	*Calamagrostis stricta*	*Carex pellita*
Potamogeton crispus	*Deschampsia caespitosa*	*Chamaedaphne calyculata*	*Calamagrostis canadensis*	*Carex sartwellii*
Ranunculus ficaria	*Eleocharis rostellata*	*Decodon verticillatus*	*Quercus palustris*	*Gentiana andrewsii*
Rhamnus frangula	*Eriophorum viridicarinatum*	*Eriophorum virginicum*		*Helianthus grosseserratus*
Typha angustifolia	*Gentianopsis spp.*	*Larix laricina*		*Liatris spicata*
Typha xglauca	*Lobelia kalmii*	*Nemopanthus mucronatus*		*Lysimachia quadriflora*
	Parnassia glauca	*Schechzeria palustris*		*Lythrum alatum*
	Potentilla fruticosa	*Sphagnum spp.*		*Pycnanthemum virginianum*
	Rhamnus alnifolia	*Vaccinium macrocarpon*		*Silphium terebinthinaceum*
	Rhynchospora capillacea	*Vaccinium corymbosum*		*Sorghastrum nutans*
	Salix candida	*Vaccinium oxycoccos*		*Spartina pectinata*
	Salix myricoides	*Woodwardia virginica*		*Solidago riddellii*
	Salix serissima	*Xyris difformis*		
	Solidago ohioensis			
	Tofieldia glutinosa			
	Triglochin maritimum			
	Triglochin palustre			

End of Narrative Rating. Begin Quantitative Rating on next page.

ORAM v. 5.0 Field Form Quantitative Rating

Site: Wetland 2	Rater(s): M. Casey	Date: 05/11/23

Metric 1. Wetland Area (size).

2 (max 6 pts.) | 2 (subtotal)

Select one size class and assign score.

- [ ] >50 acres (>20.2ha) (6 pts)
- [ ] 25 to <50 acres (10.1 to <20.2ha) (5 pts)
- [ ] 10 to <25 acres (4 to <10.1ha) (4 pts)
- [ ] 3 to <10 acres (1.2 to <4ha) (3 pts)
- [x] 0.3 to <3 acres (0.12 to <1.2ha) (2pts)
- [ ] 0.1 to <0.3 acres (0.04 to <0.12ha) (1 pt)
- [ ] <0.1 acres (0.04ha) (0 pts)

Metric 2. Upland buffers and surrounding land use.

4 (max 14 pts.) | 6 (subtotal)

2a. Calculate average buffer width. Select only one and assign score. Do not double check.

- [ ] WIDE. Buffers average 50m (164ft) or more around wetland perimeter (7)
- [ ] MEDIUM. Buffers average 25m to <50m (82 to <164ft) around wetland perimeter (4)
- [x] NARROW. Buffers average 10m to <25m (32ft to <82ft) around wetland perimeter (1)
- [ ] VERY NARROW. Buffers average <10m (<32ft) around wetland perimeter (0)

2b. Intensity of surrounding land use. Select one or double check and average.

- [ ] VERY LOW. 2nd growth or older forest, prairie, savannah, wildlife area, etc. (7)
- [ ] LOW. Old field (>10 years), shrub land, young second growth forest. (5)
- [x] MODERATELY HIGH. Residential, fenced pasture, park, conservation tillage, new fallow field. (3)
- [ ] HIGH. Urban, industrial, open pasture, row cropping, mining, construction. (1)

Metric 3. Hydrology.

7 (max 30 pts.) | 13 (subtotal)

3a. Sources of Water. Score all that apply.

- [ ] High pH groundwater (5)
- [ ] Other groundwater (3)
- [x] Precipitation (1)
- [ ] Seasonal/Intermittent surface water (3)
- [ ] Perennial surface water (lake or stream) (5)

3b. Connectivity. Score all that apply.

- [ ] 100 year floodplain (1)
- [ ] Between stream/lake and other human use (1)
- [x] Part of wetland/upland (e.g. forest), complex (1)
- [ ] Part of riparian or upland corridor (1)

3c. Maximum water depth. Select only one and assign score.

- [ ] >0.7 (27.6in) (3)
- [ ] 0.4 to 0.7m (15.7 to 27.6in) (2)
- [x] <0.4m (<15.7in) (1)

3d. Duration inundation/saturation. Score one or dbl check.

- [ ] Semi- to permanently inundated/saturated (4)
- [ ] Regularly inundated/saturated (3)
- [ ] Seasonally inundated (2)
- [x] Seasonally saturated in upper 30cm (12in) (1)

3e. Modifications to natural hydrologic regime. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (12)
- [ ] Recovered (7)
- [x] Recovering (3)
- [ ] Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- [ ] ditch
- [ ] tile
- [ ] dike
- [ ] weir
- [ ] stormwater input
- [ ] point source (nonstormwater)
- [ ] filling/grading
- [ ] road bed/RR track
- [ ] dredging
- [ ] other_____

Metric 4. Habitat Alteration and Development.

8 (max 20 pts.) | 21 (subtotal)

4a. Substrate disturbance. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (4)
- [ ] Recovered (3)
- [x] Recovering (2)
- [ ] Recent or no recovery (1)

4b. Habitat development. Select only one and assign score.

- [ ] Excellent (7)
- [ ] Very good (6)
- [ ] Good (5)
- [ ] Moderately good (4)
- [x] Fair (3)
- [ ] Poor to fair (2)
- [ ] Poor (1)

4c. Habitat alteration. Score one or double check and average.

- [ ] None or none apparent (9)
- [ ] Recovered (6)
- [x] Recovering (3)
- [ ] Recent or no recovery (1)

Check all disturbances observed

- [ ] mowing
- [ ] grazing
- [ ] clearcutting
- [ ] selective cutting
- [ ] woody debris removal
- [ ] toxic pollutants
- [ ] shrub/sapling removal
- [ ] herbaceous/aquatic bed removal
- [ ] sedimentation
- [ ] dredging
- [ ] farming
- [ ] nutrient enrichment

21 subtotal this page

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Site: Wetland 2	Rater(s): M Casey	Date: 05/11/23

21
subtotal first page

0	21
max 10 pts.	subtotal

Metric 5. Special Wetlands.

Check all that apply and score as indicated.

- [ ] Bog (10)
- [ ] Fen (10)
- [ ] Old growth forest (10)
- [ ] Mature forested wetland (5)
- [ ] Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-unrestricted hydrology (10)
- [ ] Lake Erie coastal/tributary wetland-restricted hydrology (5)
- [ ] Lake Plain Sand Prairies (Oak Openings) (10)
- [ ] Relict Wet Prairies (10)
- [ ] Known occurrence state/federal threatened or endangered species (10)
- [ ] Significant migratory songbird/water fowl habitat or usage (10)
- [ ] Category 1 Wetland. See Question 1 Qualitative Rating (-10)

4	25
max 20 pts.	subtotal

Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersion, microtopography.

6a. Wetland Vegetation Communities.
Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- [ ] Aquatic bed
- [1] Emergent
- [1] Shrub
- [ ] Forest
- [ ] Mudflats
- [ ] Open water
- [ ] Other_____

6b. horizontal (plan view) Interspersion.
Select only one.

- [ ] High (5)
- [ ] Moderately high(4)
- [ ] Moderate (3)
- [X] Moderately low (2)
- [ ] Low (1)
- [ ] None (0)

6c. Coverage of invasive plants. Refer to Table 1 ORAM long form for list. Add or deduct points for coverage

- [ ] Extensive >75% cover (-5)
- [ ] Moderate 25-75% cover (-3)
- [X] Sparse 5-25% cover (-1)
- [ ] Nearly absent <5% cover (0)
- [ ] Absent (1)

6d. Microtopography.
Score all present using 0 to 3 scale.

- [1] Vegetated hummucks/tussucks
- [ ] Coarse woody debris >15cm (6in)
- [ ] Standing dead >25cm (10in) dbh
- [ ] Amphibian breeding pools

Vegetation Community Cover Scale

0	Absent or comprises <0.1ha (0.2471 acres) contiguous area
1	Present and either comprises small part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality, or comprises a significant part but is of low quality
2	Present and either comprises significant part of wetland's vegetation and is of moderate quality or comprises a small part and is of high quality
3	Present and comprises significant part, or more, of wetland's vegetation and is of high quality

Narrative Description of Vegetation Quality

low	Low spp diversity and/or predominance of nonnative or disturbance tolerant native species
mod	Native spp are dominant component of the vegetation, although nonnative and/or disturbance tolerant native spp can also be present, and species diversity moderate to moderately high, but generally w/o presence of rare threatened or endangered spp
high	A predominance of native species, with nonnative spp and/or disturbance tolerant native spp absent or virtually absent, and high spp diversity and often, but not always, the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered spp

Mudflat and Open Water Class Quality

0	Absent <0.1ha (0.247 acres)
1	Low 0.1 to <1ha (0.247 to 2.47 acres)
2	Moderate 1 to <4ha (2.47 to 9.88 acres)
3	High 4ha (9.88 acres) or more

Microtopography Cover Scale

0	Absent
1	Present very small amounts or if more common of marginal quality
2	Present in moderate amounts, but not of highest quality or in small amounts of highest quality
3	Present in moderate or greater amounts and of highest quality

25

End of Quantitative Rating. Complete Categorization Worksheets.

ORAM Summary Worksheet

		circle answer or insert score	Result
Narrative Rating	Question 1 Critical Habitat	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 2. Threatened or Endangered Species	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 3. High Quality Natural Wetland	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 4. Significant bird habitat	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 5. Category 1 Wetlands	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 1.
	Question 6. Bogs	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 7. Fens	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8a. Old Growth Forest	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3.
	Question 8b. Mature Forested Wetland	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9b. Lake Erie Wetlands - Restricted	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 9d. Lake Erie Wetlands – Unrestricted with native plants	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3
	Question 9e. Lake Erie Wetlands - Unrestricted with invasive plants	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
	Question 10. Oak Openings	YES (NO)	If yes, Category 3
	Question 11. Relict Wet Prairies	YES (NO)	If yes, evaluate for Category 3; may also be 1 or 2.
Quantitative Rating	Metric 1. Size	2	
	Metric 2. Buffers and surrounding land use	4	
	Metric 3. Hydrology	7	
	Metric 4. Habitat	8	
	Metric 5. Special Wetland Communities	0	
	Metric 6. Plant communities, interspersion, microtopography	4	
	TOTAL SCORE	25	Category based on score breakpoints Category 1

Complete Wetland Categorization Worksheet.

Wetland Categorization Worksheet

Choices	Circle one		Evaluation of Categorization Result of ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8a, 9d, 10	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 3 wetland	NO	Is quantitative rating score *less* than the Category 2 scoring threshold (*excluding* gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been over-categorized by the ORAM
Did you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions: Narrative Rating Nos. 1, 8b, 9b, 9e, 11	YES Wetland should be evaluated for possible Category 3 status	NO	Evaluate the wetland using the 1) narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and 2) the quantitative rating score. If the wetland is determined to be a Category 3 wetland using either of these, it should be categorized as a Category 3 wetland. Detailed biological and/or functional assessments may also be used to determine the wetland's category.
Did you answer "Yes" to Narrative Rating No. 5	YES Wetland is categorized as a Category 1 wetland	NO	Is quantitative rating score *greater* than the Category 2 scoring threshold *(including* any gray zone)? If yes, reevaluate the category of the wetland using the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) and biological and/or functional assessments to determine if the wetland has been under-categorized by the ORAM
Does the quantitative score fall within the scoring range of a Category 1, 2, or 3 wetland?	YES Wetland is assigned to the appropriate category based on the scoring range	NO	If the score of the wetland is located within the scoring range for a particular category, the wetland should be assigned to that category. In all instances however, the narrative criteria described in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C) can be used to clarify or change a categorization based on a quantitative score.
Does the quantitative score fall with the *"gray zone"* for Category 1 or 2 or Category 2 or 3 wetlands?	YES Wetland is assigned to the higher of the two categories or assigned to a category based on detailed assessments and the narrative criteria	NO	Rater has the option of assigning the wetland to the higher of the two categories or to assign a category based on the results of a nonrapid wetland assessment method, e.g. functional assessment, biological assessment, etc, and a consideration of the narrative criteria in OAC rule 3745-1-54(C).
Does the wetland otherwise exhibit *moderate OR superior* hydrologic OR habitat, OR recreational functions AND the wetland was *not* categorized as a Category 2 wetland (in the case of moderate functions) or a Category 3 wetland (in the case of superior functions) by this method?	YES Wetland was undercategorized by this method. A written justification for recategorization should be provided on Background Information Form	NO Wetland is assigned to category as determined by the ORAM.	A wetland may be undercategorized using this method, but still exhibit one or more superior functions, e.g. a wetland's biotic communities may be degraded by human activities, but the wetland may still exhibit superior hydrologic functions because of its type, landscape position, size, local or regional significance, etc. In this circumstance, the narrative criteria in OAC Rule 3745-1-54(C)(2) and (3) are controlling, and the under-categorization should be corrected. A written justification with supporting reasons or information for this determination should be provided.

Final Category

Choose one	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3

End of Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands.

Summary: Notice Construction Notice electronically filed by Hector Garcia-Santana on behalf of Ohio Power Company.