

Construction Notice for Galion-South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In Project



An AEP Company

PUCO Case No. 26-0715-EL-BNR

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

Submitted by:
Ohio Power Company

August 5, 2026

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION FOR THE GALION-SOUTH BERWICK 345 KV LINE CUT-IN PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Ohio Power Company

Galion-South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In Project

4906-6-05 Accelerated Application Requirements

Ohio Power Company (the “Company”) provides the following information to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in accordance with the accelerated application requirements of Ohio Adm.Code 4906-6-05.

4906-6-05(B) General Information

B(1) Project Description

Provide the name of the project and applicant's reference number, names and reference number(s) of resulting circuits, a brief description of the project, and why the project meets the requirements for a letter of notification or construction notice application.

Ohio Power Company (“The Company”) proposes to construct the Galion-South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project (the “Project”) in Tymochtee Township, Wyandot County, Ohio. The Project will provide 345 kV interconnection to the Tymochtee Solar facility (approved in OPSB Case No. 21-0004-EL-BGN), proposed by Tymochtee Solar, LLC, an Independent Power Producer (IPP). The PJM Queue Position is AF1-229. The Project is located on property not currently owned by the Company and will require new right-of-way (“ROW”) supplemental easement and access easement from the private landowner. The Project will consist of cutting into the existing Galion-South Berwick 345 kV transmission line and extending less than 0.1 miles of new 345 kV line to the proposed greenfield Tarhe Station. Tarhe station and a generation tie line between the Tarhe station and the IPP’s station were filed separately with OPSB (Case No. 21-0004-EL-BGN) The location of the Project is shown on Figure 1 and 2 in Appendix A.

The Project meets the requirements for a Letter of Notification (LON) as defined by Item 1(a) of Appendix A to Ohio Administrative Code Section 4906-1-01, *Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines*:

(1) New construction, extension, or relocation of single or multiple circuit electric power transmission line(s), or upgrading existing transmission or distribution line(s) for operation at a higher transmission voltage, as follows:

(a) Line(s) not greater than 0.2 miles in length.

The Project has been assigned Case No. 26-0715-EL-BNR.

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B(2) Statement of Need

Tymotchee Solar LLC plans to build a 120 MW Maximum Facility Output (MFO) (72 MW Capacity) solar generating facility in Wyandot County, Ohio. As a part of the AF1-229 IPP Interconnection Service Agreement, the Company will be required to cut-in to the South Berwick - Galion 345 kV Transmission Line and install approximately 0.1 miles of 345kV line to connect to the Tarhe Substation.

Ohio Substitute House Bill 15, effective in August 2025, requires applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction of new transmission lines to submit a summary of studies that have been made by or for the applicant of cost-effective advanced transmission technologies that maximize the value, expand the capacity, or improve the reliability of the facility. R.C. 4906.06(A)(7). The statutory definition of advanced transmission technology includes advanced conductors, defined as “conductor with a direct current electrical resistance that is at least ten per cent lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter on the electric transmission system while simultaneously increasing the energy carrying capacity by at least seventy-five per cent.” R.C. 4906.01(N). In subsequent rulemaking, the Ohio Power Siting Board determined that the advanced transmission technology requirements in Substitute House Bill 15 are inapplicable to short, gen-tie lines. *In the Matter of the Consideration of Ohio Power Siting Board Rules, as Required by Substitute House Bill Number 15*, Case No. 25-757-GE-BRO, Finding and Order, ¶ 9 (Nov. 20, 2025). Due to the nature of this 0.1-mile cut-in Project, the Company determined that no advanced transmission technologies as defined by the Revised Code are required or would be cost-effective to implement.

Failure to move forward with the proposed Project will result in the Company’s inability to serve the customer’s generation interconnection request, thereby jeopardizing the customer’s required in-service date per the FERC approved Interconnection Service Agreement.

A PJM network number was assigned to the Project, N8475.1-4. The Board has approved the generating facility (Case # 21-0004-EL-BGN). The Project solution was unknown at the time of the Company’s 2026 Long Term Forecast Report (LTFR) and will therefore be included in the 2027 LTFR.

B(3) Project Location

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

The Project is located in Tymochtee Township, Wyandot 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

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

The Project requires cutting into and installing two sections of new Galion-South Berwick 345 kV line totaling 0.1 mile to the new Tarhe Station in order to provide 345 kV service to an IPP solar facility.

Due to the short nature of the transmission line construction and the location of the IPP’s proposed

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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 wetlands, streams, or any known cultural resource areas eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). 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

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

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

B(6) Construction Schedule

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

Construction of the Project is planned to begin in December 2026 and the anticipated in-service date will be April 2027.

B(7) Area Map

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

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

B(8) Property Agreements

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

A list of properties required for the Project are provided in **Table 1**, below.

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Table 1 – Property Agreements

Property Parcel Number	Agreement Type	Easement or Option Obtained (Yes/No)
381635020000	Temporary Access Agreement	No
381630000000	Supplemental Easement	No

B(9) Technical Features

Describe the following information regarding the technical features of the project:

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

Transmission Lines

The transmission line is estimated to include the following:

Voltage: 138kV
Conductors: 795 kcmil 26/7 DRAKE ACSS
Static Wire: (2) 7#8 Alumoweld
Insulators: Polymer
ROW Width: 100 feet
Structure Type: Two (2) double circuit, steel two-pole dead ends
Two (2), double circuit, two-pole delta steel braced-post
Two (2), single circuit, steel monopole vertical dead-end

Stations

The equipment and facilities to be installed for the Project are anticipated to include the following:

1 – 48'x16' Drop In Control Module
3 – 345kV Circuit Breakers
1 – 345/138 kV Transformer

Ohio Substitute House Bill 15, effective in August 2025, requires applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction of new transmission lines to submit a summary of studies that have been made by or for the applicant of cost-effective advanced transmission technologies that maximize the value, expand the capacity, or improve the reliability of the facility. R.C. 4906.06(A)(7). The statutory definition of advanced transmission technology includes advanced conductors, defined as “conductor with a direct current electrical resistance that is at least ten per cent lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter on the electric transmission system while simultaneously increasing the energy carrying capacity by at least seventy-five per cent.” R.C. 4906.01(N). In subsequent rulemaking, the Ohio Power Siting Board determined that the advanced transmission technology requirements in Substitute House Bill 15 are inapplicable to short transmission lines. *In the Matter of the Consideration of Ohio Power Siting Board Rules, as Required by Substitute House Bill Number 15*, Case No. 25-757-GE-BRO, Finding and Order, ¶ 9 (Nov. 20, 2025). Due to the nature of this Project, the Company determined that no advanced transmission technologies as defined by the Revised Code are required or would be cost-effective to implement.

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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 cost estimate for the proposed Project, which is comprised of applicable tangible and capital costs, is \$4,800,000. The costs for this Project are a class 5 estimate and will be recovered through total reimbursement by the IPP.

B(10) Social and Ecological Impacts

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

B(10)(a) Land Use

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

The Project is located in Tymotchee Township, Wyandot County, Ohio. The Wyandot County Auditor website (<https://wyandotcountyauditor.us/>) lists the land use of the parcels as “Other Agricultural Use with Outbuildings” and “Agricultural Vacant Land”. Field observations indicated that the Project area is comprised of fallow agricultural land (7.27 acres), active construction area (5.56 acres), and pasture land (0.45 acre). The Company anticipates that no tree clearing will be required for the Project.

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

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.

Field observations from April 2026 indicated that the Project area is comprised of fallow agricultural land (7.27 acres), active construction area (5.56 acres), and pasture land (0.45 acre). The Wyandot County Auditor’s Office was contacted on July 7, 2026 to obtain information about Agricultural District Lands. The Auditor’s Office confirmed that neither of the parcels located within the Project area are enrolled in the Agricultural District Land program.

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B(10)(c) Archaeological and Cultural Resources

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

A cultural resource survey and report were conducted by the Company's consultant for the Project in April 2026. These investigations identified one historic property; however, there were no archaeological sites identified. An assessment of effects was conducted for the historic property and a finding of "no adverse effect" to the historic property was concluded. The Company's consultant concluded that a finding of "no historic properties affected" is appropriate regarding the archaeological component of this Project.

Correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") was received in September 2020, see **Appendix B**. The SHPO stated that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties and that no further archaeological work is necessary unless the Project changes or additional cultural resources are discovered during the implementation of the Project.

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

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

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

Table 2 – Anticipated Permits

Permit/Authorization/Coordination	Agency	Date
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	It is anticipated at this time that less than one acre of land disturbance will be required for the Project. However, if it is determined that one acre of land or greater will be disturbed, a project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and a Notice of Intent (NOI) will be filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) prior to construction commencing for
	Wyandot County	

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Permit/Authorization/Coordination	Agency	Date
		authorization of construction storm water discharges under General Permit OHC000006.
Notice Criteria	Federal Aviation Administration	Submitted through Criteria Tool on 06/29/2026, no further action required
Clean Water Act Section 404/401	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Not Applicable
	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	
Archaeology/Architectural	Ohio Historic Preservation Office	Coordination complete 5/18/2026, no additional work required
Threatened and Endangered Species	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Consultation complete 4/7/2026
Threatened and Endangered Species	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Consultation complete 5/5/2026
Section 10 River Crossing	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Not Applicable
Floodplain	Wyandot County	Not Applicable

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.

On April 7, 2026, coordination letters were submitted to the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Ohio Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) and Division of Wildlife (DOW), seeking an environmental review of the Project for potential impacts to state and/or federally protected species. ODNR and USFWS provided responses on April 7, 2026 and May 5, 2026, respectively. Copies of the agencies' responses are presented in **Appendix B**.

Table 2, in **Appendix C** lists the federal and state threatened or endangered species in the Project area.

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

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B(10)(f) Areas of Ecological Concern

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

The Company's consultant conducted a wetland and stream delineation survey in the Project study area on April 9, 2026 and prepared an Ecological Survey Report, which is provided in **Appendix C**. No wetlands, streams, or open waters were observed within the Project area.

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

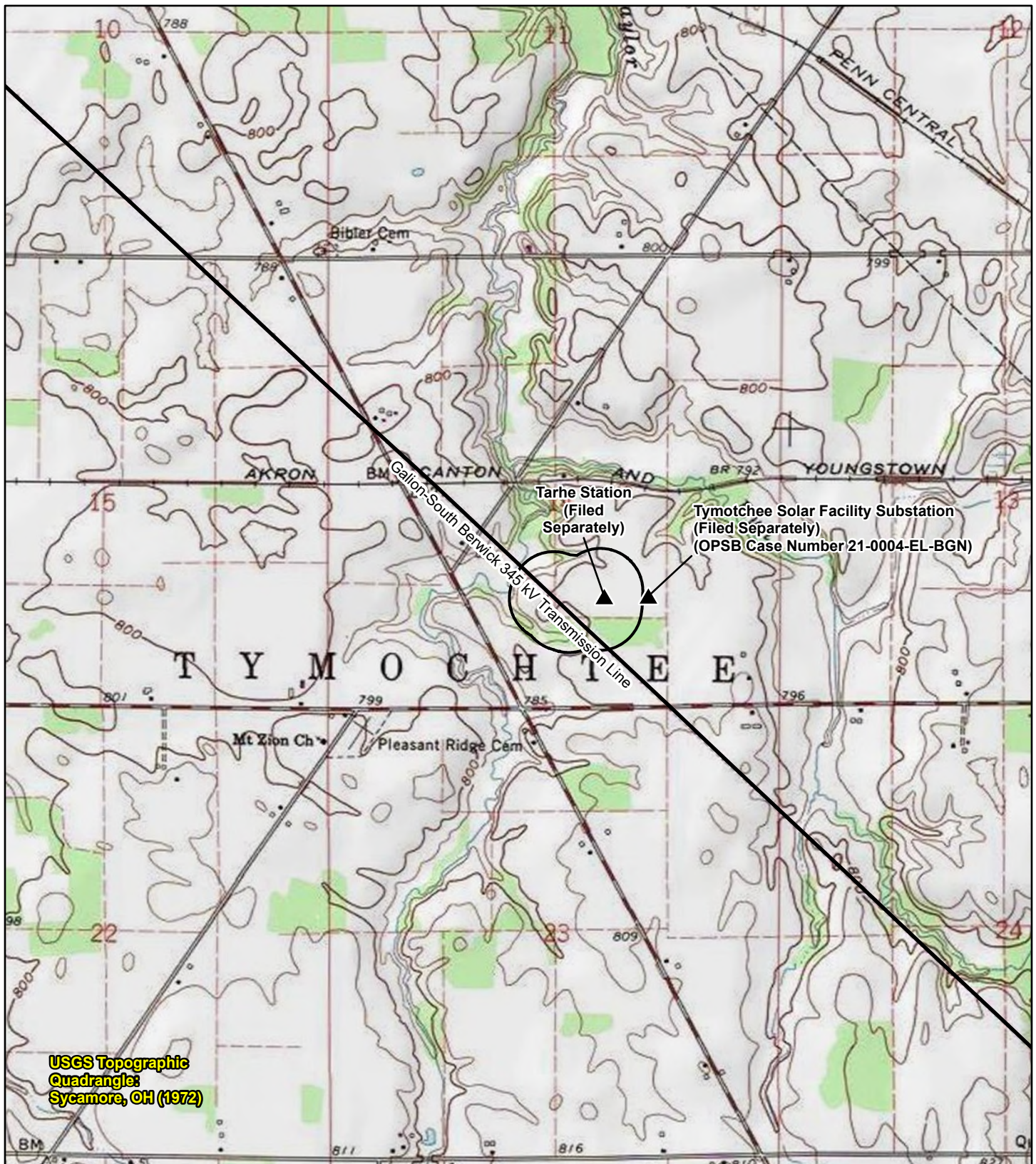
The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM") was reviewed to identify any floodplains/flood hazard areas that have been mapped within the Project Area (specifically, map number 39041Co280K, 39089Co140H). Based on this mapping, no mapped FEMA floodplains or floodways are located within the Project area.

B(10)(g) Unusual Conditions

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

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

Appendix A Project Maps



- ▲ Proposed Substation (Filed Separately)
- Existing 345 kV Transmission Line
- USGS Topographic Lines
- Project Area

Data Sources: AEP, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles

Coordinate System and Datum
NAD 1983 State Plane Ohio North

July 13, 2026



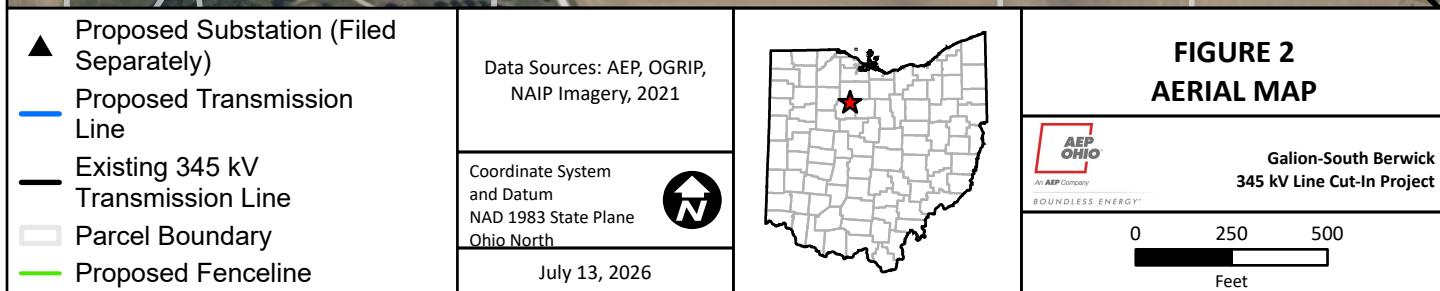
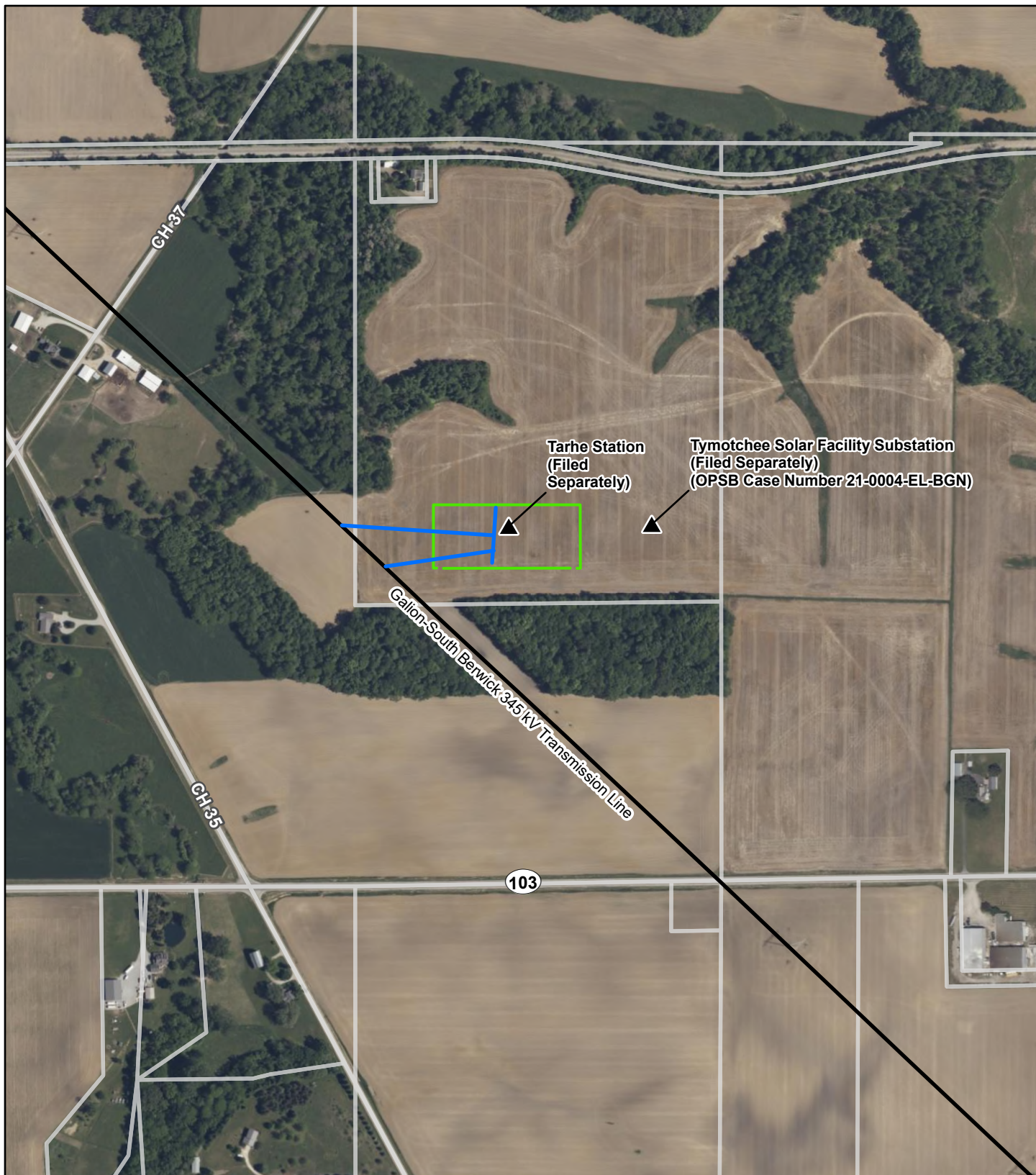
FIGURE 1

TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Galion-South Berwick
345 kV Line Cut-In Project

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000

Feet



Appendix B Agency Correspondence



**Department of
Natural Resources**
ohiodnr.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor
Mary Mertz, Director

Office of Real Estate & Land Management

Tara Paciorek - Chief
2045 Morse Road – E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

May 5, 2026

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

Re: 26-0584_Galion-South Berwick 345 kV

Project: The proposed project involves cutting into the existing Galion-South Berwick 345 kV transmission line and extending it to a new greenfield substation to establish a 345 kV interconnection with a nearby proposed independent power producer solar facility.

Location: The proposed project is located in Tymochtee Township, Wyandot County, Ohio.

Center Coordinates: (40.9535, -83.2191)

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

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

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in clusters of dead leaves on tree limbs. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree and/or tree limb clearing 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 a Diameter Breast Height (DBH) $\geq 20''$ if possible.

For every project, the DOW also recommends that a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if potential hibernacula are present within the project area. This is to limit possible disturbances that seasonal tree clearing and/or subsurface work (e.g., trenching, blasting, etc.) may cause to hibernating bats. Potential hibernacula include rocky outcroppings, caves, and underground mines. Direction on how to conduct winter habitat assessments can be found in the joint guidance [OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE \(OH-FIELD OFFICE\) JOINT GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS](#). If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*), a state threatened 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 this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a federally threatened snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as adjacent drier upland habitat. 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 Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state threatened species. This species inhabits marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, wet meadows, and swampy forests. Although essentially aquatic, the Blanding's turtle will travel over land as it moves from one wetland to

the next. 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 smooth greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*), a state endangered species. This species is primarily a prairie inhabitant but can also be found in marshy meadows and roadside ditches. 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 Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet fields and meadows. 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 northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), a state endangered bird. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential for 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 not conducted a project specific review and/or comments, however, the guidance provided below should be reviewed by the Environmental Review applicant for applicability on this project and subsequent compliance.

If the subject project is in a floodplain regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the [local floodplain administrator](#) should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals. The FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NHFL) Viewer [website](#) can be utilized to see if the project is in a FEMA regulated floodplain. If the project is not in a FEMA regulated floodplain, then no further action is required.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 1521.16 mandates that any owner of a property or a facility that has the capacity of withdrawing 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water from groundwater, surface water, or both must register with the Division of Water Resources' [Water Withdrawal Facilities Registration \(WWFR\) Program](#) and report their withdrawals annually.

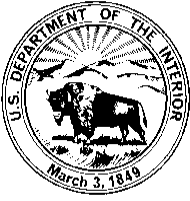
Additional coordination may be required depending on the location of the withdrawal and consumptive use. Permitting may be required for:

- New or increased consumptive use of water averaging 2 million gallons per day (mgd) within 30 days within the Ohio River basin.
- New or increased withdrawal and consumptive water use in the Lake Erie watershed averaging 1 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- New or increased water withdrawal directly from Lake Erie averaging 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- Diversion or movement of water across the Ohio River and Lake Erie basin divide.

If the project does not involve activities that are subject to water withdrawal regulatory requirements as described above, then no further action is required. For more information, visit the [Water Inventory & Planning website](#).

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

Expiration: ODNR Environmental Reviews are typically valid for 2 years from the issuance date. If the scope of work, project area, construction limits, and/or anticipated impacts to natural resources have changed significantly from the original project submittal, then a new Environmental Review request should be submitted.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



April 7, 2026

Project Code: 2026-0071792

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, endangered, and proposed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) occur throughout the State of Ohio. The Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat may be found wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and breed that may also include adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, woodlots, fallow fields, and pastures. Roost trees for both species include live and standing dead trees ≥ 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. Bridges and culverts have also been used as roosts. Additionally, northern long-eared bats have been observed roosting in other human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, 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 Restrictions 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. If bridges or culverts will be impacted, we recommend reviewing Appendix K in the most recent "Range-Wide Indiana Bat & Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines" to determine if the bridge/culvert may be suitable roost habitat. We recommend impacts to suitable bridges and culverts only occur from October 1 and March 31. These seasonal restrictions are recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats.

If implementation of this seasonal restriction on tree cutting and impacting suitable bridge/culvert roosts is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing and impacts to bridge/culvert roosts 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.

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

On December 12, 2024 the Service proposed to list the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) as threatened under the ESA. Monarch butterflies are found throughout Ohio and some populations migrate vast distances across multiple generations each year. Many monarchs fly between the U.S., Mexico and Canada – a journey of over 3,000 miles. Monarch populations have declined significantly in recent years. Threats include habitat loss – particularly the loss of milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's sole food source – and mortality resulting from pesticide use. The Service recommends the following actions to maintain habitat and avoid impacts to monarchs in Ohio: revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species including nectar-producing plants and milkweed endemic to the area; limit mowing monarch habitat from March 15 to August 31 when monarchs are breeding and from September 1 to October 31 when large numbers of monarchs are migrating; and avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides in and near monarch habitat.

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.

Bald Eagle: The project is in the range of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). We recommend that you visit <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/animals/birds/bald-eagle> to determine if the project is within 0.5 mile of a documented eagle nest. Additionally, because not all eagle nests in the state have been mapped, we recommend that an on-site examination be conducted to determine if any large stick nests are visible from project area. If the project is within 0.5 mile of a documented eagle nest or the on-site examination reveals the presence of a potential eagle nest, we

recommend visiting <https://www.fws.gov/story/do-i-need-eagle-take-permit> to determine if an eagle take permit is required.

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

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

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

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,



Erin Knoll
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Matthew.Stooksbury@dnr.ohio.gov
Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov



In reply refer to:
2026-WYA-68188

May 18, 2026

Chad Porter
Weller & Associates, Inc.
1395 West 5th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
Email: c.porter@wellercrm.com

RE: **Section 106 Review: Galion-South Berwick 345kV Cut-in and Extension, Wyandot County, Ohio**

Dear Mr. Porter:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received on April 23, 2026, regarding the proposed Galion-South Berwick 345kV Cut-in and Extension project in Wyandot County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) 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 6.5 ha (16.1 ac) Galion-South Berwick 345kV Cut-in and Extension Project in Tymochtee Township, Wyandot County, Ohio* (Weller & Associates, Inc., 2026). The investigations involved visual inspection, surface sampling methods, and a literature review. The literature review determined that most of the project area has been subject to previous investigations (NADB# 22022). One (1) site (33WY1344), an isolated find, has been previously recorded within the project area and is not significant. No archaeological sites were identified during these investigations within the portion of the project area outside of what has previously been investigated. Weller recommended that no further cultural resource management work is necessary for this project. Our office agrees with this determination.

The following comments pertain to the Architectural Survey Results included within the above-mentioned report. In the report, six (6) architectural resources were located within the projects Area of Potential Effect. Two (2) of these resources, both located at 2938 CH-37 (OHI # WYA0083403), were previously determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The resource located at 2703 CH-37 was unable to have an eligibility determination made, however, given the scope of the project, it is the opinion of the SHPO that there will be no direct effect on this property. No other resources were recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP. Based on the information provided, the SHPO concurs with these findings.

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Based on the information provided, our office agrees that the project, as proposed, will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Therefore, no further coordination is required, unless the project changes or additional cultural resources are discovered during the implementation of this project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted as required by 36 CFR § 800.13. If you have any questions regarding history/architecture, please contact Gabrielle Doty at gdoty@ohiohistory.org. If you have any questions concerning this review or archaeology, please contact me via email at broddy@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget C. Roddy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bridget C. Roddy, Project Reviews Manager-Archaeology
Resource Protection and Review
State Historic Preservation Office

RPR Serial No. 1113784

Appendix C Ecological Survey Report



**Galion - South Berwick 345 kV
Line Cut-In and Extension Project**

Ecological Survey Report

Prepared for:

Aldridge Electric, Inc.
844 East Rockland Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Prepared by:

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

May 20, 2026

Sign-off Sheet

This document entitled Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project Ecological Survey Report was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. ("Stantec") for the account of Aldridge Electric, 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 Kate Bomar

(signature)

Kate Bomar

Reviewed by Kaitlin Montag

(signature)

Kaitlin Montag

Reviewed by Daniel J. Godec

(signature)

Dan Godec

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Introduction
May 20, 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of American Electric Power (AEP), Aldridge Electric, Inc. (Aldridge Electric) is proposing construction activities associated with the Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project (the Project), located in Wyandot County, Ohio (Figure 1, Appendix A). The Project will consist of cutting into the existing Galion - South Berwick 345 kV transmission line and extending it to a new greenfield AEP substation (Tarhe Station) to provide a 345 kV interconnection to a nearby proposed Independent Power Producer (IPP) solar facility. 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 April 9, 2026. The approximate locations of features located up to 50 feet outside of the Project area were also recorded during the field survey, 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.

Methods
May 20, 2026

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, 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: Midwest Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE 2010). 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). 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 Wyandot County.

Results
May 20, 2026

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

Stantec completed field surveys for threatened and endangered species or their habitats on April 9, 2026. Figure 3 (Appendix A) shows the 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 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 Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project Area, Wyandot 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
Fallow Agricultural Land	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included Virginia spring beauty (<i>Claytonia virginica</i>), Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), tall fescue (<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>), common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), and common chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>).	No	7.27
Active Construction Area	Extreme Disturbance/recently cleared/graded land (little to no vegetation is present in these habitats).	No	5.56
Pasture	Extreme Disturbance/Ruderal Community (dominated by planted non-native species, opportunistic invaders, and/or native highly tolerant taxa). Common plant species included honeylocust (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>), red clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>), common dandelion, Canada thistle, white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), narrowleaf plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), tall fescue, and Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>).	No	0.45
TOTAL			13.28

Results
May 20, 2026

3.2 WETLANDS

Stantec completed field surveys for wetlands within the Project area on April 9, 2026. As a result of the field surveys, no wetlands were identified within the Project area. Two wetland determination sample point locations were evaluated in areas most likely to be wetlands. However, the two locations did not meet the required criteria of a wetland. Figure 2 (Appendix A) shows the wetland determination sample point locations within the Project area and representative photographs are included in Appendix C of this report (photo locations are shown on Figure 2, Appendix A). Completed wetland determination data forms are included in Appendix D. No NWI-mapped wetlands are located within the Project area.

3.3 STREAMS

Stantec completed field surveys for streams (waterways) within the Project area on April 9, 2026. No streams were identified by Stantec within the Project area.

3.4 OPEN WATERS

No open water features were identified within the Project area during the field surveys completed on April 9, 2026.

Results
May 20, 2026

3.5 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

Table 2. Summary of Potential Federally Listed and Ohio State-Listed Species within the Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project Area, Wyandot 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
Fish						
Greater Redhorse/ <i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>	T	N/A	Typical habitat is moderate to fast-flowing, medium-sized to large rivers while sometimes occurring in river reservoirs and large lakes. The species prefers clear water with substrates of clean sand, gravel, or boulders (NatureServe 2026).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the greater redhorse. 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 and no in-water work is proposed by AEP or Aldridge Electric. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Mussels						
Rayed Bean/ <i>Villosa fabalis</i>	E	E	Habitat includes gravel or sandy substrates, especially in areas of thick roots of aquatic plants and increased substrate stability (NatureServe 2026; Parmalee and Bogan 1998). Rayed bean can be associated with shoal or riffle areas, and in shallow, wave-washed areas of glacial lakes. It is generally found in smaller, headwater creeks, but sometimes in larger rivers and open-water bodies. It can occur in shallow riffles or in lakes with water depths up to four feet. It has been found in riffles, generally in vegetation, and deeply buried in sand and gravel bound together by roots (Parmalee and Bogan 1998).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the rayed bean. 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 – Due to the Project type, size, and location, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or proposed or designated critical habitat.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work is proposed by AEP or Aldridge Electric. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Reptiles						
Eastern Massasauga/ <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	E	T	Habitats range from sphagnum bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, shrub-dominated peatlands, wet meadows, and floodplains to dry woodlands; this snake prefers seasonal wetlands with a mixture of open grass-sedge areas and short closed canopy (edge situations) (NatureServe 2026).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the eastern massasauga. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as adjacent drier upland habitat. 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 – Due to the Project type, size, and location, USFWS does not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or proposed or designated critical habitat.	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated and avoidance dates are not applicable.

GALION – SOUTH BERWICK 345 KV LINE CUT-IN AND EXTENSION PROJECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT

Results
May 20, 2026

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
Blanding's Turtle/ <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	T	N/A	This species occurs in marshes, ponds, swamps, lake shallows, backwater sloughs, shallow slow-moving rivers, protected coves and inlets of large lakes, oxbows, and pools adjacent to rivers; waters with soft bottom and aquatic vegetation (NatureServe 2026).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the Blanding's turtle. This species inhabits marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, wet meadows, and swampy forests. Although essentially aquatic, the Blanding's turtle will travel over land as it moves from one wetland to the next. 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 potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area and no in-water work in perennial streams or open water features is proposed by AEP or Aldridge Electric. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated.
Smooth Greensnake/ <i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	E	N/A	Habitats range from meadows, grassy marshes, moist grassy fields at forest edges, mountain shrublands, stream borders, bogs, open moist woodland, abandoned farmland, and vacant lots (NatureServe 2026).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the smooth greensnake. This species is primarily a prairie inhabitant but can also be found in marshy meadows and roadside ditches. 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 potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated.
Kirtland's Snake/ <i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i>	T	N/A	This species occurs in prairie fens, wet meadows, lake plain wet prairies and associated open and wooded wetlands, seasonal marshes, open swamps, sparsely wooded hillsides, and in the vicinity of ponds and sluggish creeks. This species is most readily found in habitats with abundant debris on the ground surface. Open grassy habitats may harbor populations that are relatively difficult to detect and document (NatureServe 2026).	No potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of Kirtland's snake. This secretive species prefers wet fields and meadows. 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 potentially suitable habitat was observed within the Project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated.
Mammals						
Indiana Bat/ <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	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 on microclimate conditions (USFWS 2007; USFWS 2026b). 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	No potentially suitable foraging or summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, no potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further coordination with ODNR. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs 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. In addition, ODNR recommends a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if	No potentially suitable foraging and summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct any tree clearing or trimming required for the Project, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop winter bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No active or abandoned underground mines, karst features, or mine openings were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment. An area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). However, no underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within

Results
May 20, 2026

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
			in abandoned underground mines (Brack et al. 2010).		there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the ODNR recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the ODNR. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. USFWS – The Indiana bat occurs throughout the state of Ohio wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Should the proposed Project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with the USFWS 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, the USFWS recommends removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. We recommend impacts to suitable bridges and culverts only occur from October 1 and March 31. These seasonal restrictions are recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If implementation of this seasonal restriction on tree cutting and impacting suitable bridge/culvert roosts is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing and impacts to bridge/culvert roosts may occur at any time of the year.	the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30

Results
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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
Northern Long-eared Bat/ <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	E	E	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 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).	No potentially suitable foraging or summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, no potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the northern long-eared bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs 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. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with the ODNR. In addition, ODNR recommends a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the ODNR recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the ODNR. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species. USFWS - The northern long-eared bat occurs throughout the state of Ohio wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Should the proposed Project site contain trees ≥3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends avoiding tree removal wherever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination with the USFWS 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, the USFWS recommends removal of any trees ≥3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31. We recommend impacts to suitable bridges	No potentially suitable foraging and summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct any tree clearing or trimming required for the Project, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop winter bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No active or abandoned underground mines, karst features, or mine openings were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment. An area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). However, no underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30

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					and culverts only occur from October 1 and March 31. These seasonal restrictions are recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If implementation of this seasonal restriction on tree cutting and impacting suitable bridge/culvert roosts is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing and impacts to bridge/culvert roosts may occur at any time of the year.	
Little Brown Bat/ <i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	E	N/A	The little brown bat is found throughout Ohio. This species seems to prefer to forage over water but also forages among trees in rather open areas (Harvey et al. 1999). During summer, it typically inhabits buildings, attics, church belfries, barns and outbuildings, and occasionally more natural habitats such as sloughing bark of a dead tree. During summer, two types of roosts are utilized: day roosts and night roosts. Day roosts are the maternity colony roost, while little brown bats often roost in other areas where they rest and congregate to digest their food in between foraging bouts. In Ohio, this species typically utilizes caves and mines as hibernacula, although at least one hibernaculum was found to be located in an attic of an old building (Brack et al. 2010).	No potentially suitable foraging or summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, no potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The entire state of Ohio is within the range of the little brown bat. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs 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. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with the ODNR. In addition, ODNR recommends a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the ODNR recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the ODNR. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species. USFWS – No comments received.	No potentially suitable foraging and summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct any tree clearing or trimming required for the Project, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop winter bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No active or abandoned underground mines, karst features, or mine openings were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment. An area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). However, no underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30
Tricolored Bat/ <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	E	PE	The tricolored bat is found throughout Ohio. This species has been found to forage above and within a variety of habitats, including woodlands,	No potentially suitable foraging or summer roosting habitat was observed within	ODNR – The Project is within the vicinity of records for the tricolored bat. Because presence of state endangered bat species	No potentially suitable foraging and summer roosting habitat was observed within the Project area. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct

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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
			agricultural fields, grassy areas, and over streamside vegetation (Sparks et al. 2011). Maternity colonies have often been found within clusters of dead leaves, hanging in trees. Maternity colonies have also been found in or on buildings. Little is known of male tricolored bats in summer, but it is thought that they are probably solitary and spend their days in similar situations, as well as crevices, caves and mines (Brack et al. 2010). In Ohio, this species typically utilizes caves and mines as hibernacula, utilizing a variety of situations, including very cold areas near cave entrances to deeper passages that seem to be too warm for other species of bats (Brack et al. 2010).	the Project area. Additionally, no potential bat hibernacula were observed within the Project area.	has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further coordination with ODNR. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occurs 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. In addition, ODNR recommends a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if there are potential hibernacula present within the Project area. If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the ODNR recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the ODNR. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this Project is not likely to impact this species. USFWS - This bat faces extinction due to the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. During spring, summer, and fall, this species roosts primarily among leaf clusters of live or recently dead trees, emerging at dusk to hunt for insects over waterways and forest edges. While white-nose syndrome is by far the most serious threat to the tricolored bat, other threats now have an increased significance due to the dramatic decline in the species' population. These threats include disturbance to bats in roosting, foraging, commuting, and over-wintering habitats. Mortality due to collision with wind turbines, especially during migration, has also been documented across their range. Conservation measures for the Indiana bat	any tree clearing or trimming required for the Project, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to this species. Additionally, a desktop winter bat hibernacula habitat assessment was completed by Stantec. No active or abandoned underground mines, karst features, or mine openings were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment. An area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). However, no underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Avoidance Dates: April 1 – September 30

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					and northern long-eared bat will also help to conserve the tricolored bat.	
Birds						
Northern Harrier/ <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	E	N/A	Harriers hunt low over grasslands, with wings held in a distinctive dihedral (V-shape). This is a common migrant and winter species in Ohio. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands (ODNR 2018). Northern harriers appear to be associated with large tracts of undisturbed habitat. They are uncommon in blocks of contiguous grasslands less than 100 hectares (Slater and Rock 2005).	No suitable nesting habitat (large marshes and grasslands) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – The Project is within the range of the northern harrier. This is a common migrant and winter species in Ohio. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally nest in loose colonies in large marshes and grasslands. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, the Project is not likely to impact this species. USFWS – No comments received.	Northern harriers require large tracts of wetlands and/or grasslands that are 100 hectares (247 acres) or more for suitable breeding/nesting habitat (Slater and Rock 2005). No suitable nesting habitat (large tracts of marshes and/or grasslands) was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Bald Eagle/ <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	N/A	N/A	The bald eagle can be found in small concentrations throughout the U.S., particularly near sizable bodies of water, natural and man-made. In Ohio, the bald eagle's stronghold is the marsh region of western Lake Erie. For the bald eagle, the ideal site is one where water with ample food (fish) is located within two miles of the nest. The eagle shows a preference for a somewhat secluded homesite. This is particularly critical when the nest is established and young raised. Eagles are highly territorial and too much interference from other eagles can result in problems at the nest site (ODNR 2018).	No suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – No comments received. USFWS – The Project is within the range of the bald eagle, which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. USFWS recommends visiting https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/animals/birds/bald-eagle to determine if the Project is within 0.5 miles of a documented eagle nest. Additionally, because not all eagle nests in the state have been mapped, USFWS recommends that an on-site examination be conducted to determine if any large stick nests are visible from the Project area. If the Project is within 0.5 miles of a documented eagle nest or the on-site examination reveals the presence of a potential eagle nest, USFWS recommends visiting https://www.fws.gov/story/do-i-need-eagle-take-permit to determine if an eagle take permit is required.	No suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, based on the ODNR online tool, no documented nests are located within 0.5 miles of the Project area and no nests were identified within 0.5 miles of the Project area during the on-site examination. Therefore, this Project is not likely to impact this species and avoidance dates are not applicable.
Insects						
Monarch Butterfly/ <i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>	N/A	PT	This subspecies is found in many habitats; the majority of breeding habitat occurs where milkweed plants grow, which includes grasslands, scrublands, croplands, roadsides, urban and suburban parks and gardens, and sand dune areas (NatureServe 2026). Adults roost in trees near water; primarily in maple trees and conifers in the northern USA. The eastern North American populations overwinter in forests in Mexico, in oyamel fir trees (USFWS 2024).	Potentially suitable habitat (pasture habitat with potential for milkweed plants to be found) was observed within the Project area.	ODNR – No comments received. USFWS – Monarch butterflies are found throughout Ohio, and some populations migrate vast distances across multiple generations each year. Monarch populations have declined significantly in recent years. Threats include habitat loss particularly the loss of milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's sole food source – and mortality resulting from pesticide use. The Service recommends the following	Monarch butterflies use a variety of habitats for breeding and migration. Potentially suitable habitat was identified within the Project area, particularly in pasture areas where milkweed and other nectar-producing plants may occur, therefore minimal impacts are possible. When feasible, as part of project reclamation, AEP/Aldridge Electric utilizes native seed mixes to restore disturbed areas and support the re-establishment of potential habitat following construction.

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					actions to maintain habitat and avoid impacts to monarchs in Ohio: revegetating disturbed areas with native plant species including nectar-producing plants and milkweed endemic to the area; limit mowing monarch habitat from March 15 to August 31 when monarchs are breeding and from September 1 to October 31 when large numbers of monarchs are migrating; and avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides in and near monarch habitat.	
¹ E=Endangered; T=Threatened; PE=Proposed Endangered; PT=Proposed Threatened; N/A=Not Applicable						
² According to ODNR, State Listed Wildlife and Plant Species by County (ODNR 2026a).						
³ According to the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation website (USFWS 2026a).						

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Stantec conducted a wetland and waterbody delineation field survey and a preliminary habitat assessment for threatened and endangered species within the Project area on April 9, 2026. No wetlands, streams, or open water features were identified within the Project area. Stantec evaluated two wetland determination sample point locations in areas most likely to be wetlands. However, the locations did not meet the criteria to be considered wetlands. Wetland determination data forms are provided in Appendix D and representative photographs are provided in Appendix C.

The information provided by Stantec regarding wetland and stream 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 April 7, 2026. The ODNR Office of Real Estate response letter dated May 5, 2026 (Appendix B) states that a review of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database indicates no records of state or federally listed plants or animals within one mile of the specified Project area.

According to the ODNR, the Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat and the tricolored bat. Additionally, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and tricolored bat. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or (in the case of the tricolored bat) in the leaves. The ODNR recommends tree cutting only occur from October 1 through March 31, conserving trees with loose, shaggy bark and/or crevices, holes, or cavities, as well as trees with dbh $\geq$ 20 inches if possible. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with the ODNR.

The ODNR also recommended that a winter bat habitat assessment be conducted to determine if potential bat hibernacula are present within the Project area. Stantec completed a desktop habitat desktop assessment in accordance with the 2026 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines (USFWS 2026b) utilizing available ODNR websites, including data on known abandoned or active mines (ODNR 2026b) and locations of known or suspected karst geology (ODNR 2026c). No active or abandoned underground mines, karst features, or mine openings were identified within 0.25 miles of the Project area as a result of the assessment. An area of karst geology was identified that overlaps the entirety of the Project area (Appendix A, Figure 4). However, no underground mine openings, caves, or any other potentially suitable hibernacula

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were observed within the Project area during the field surveys completed by Stantec. Therefore, no impacts to potential bat hibernacula are anticipated.

No potentially suitable summer roosting habitat for the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, or little brown bat was observed within the Project area. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct any required tree clearing and trimming activities, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31 in order to avoid impacts to these species. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to these bat species.

The ODNR response also states the Project is within the range of the rayed bean, a state endangered and federally endangered mussel and the greater redhorse, a state threatened fish. However, due to the location, and that there is no in-water work is proposed in a perennial stream, this Project is not likely to impact these species.

The Project is also within the range of four reptile species: the eastern massasauga, a state endangered and federally threatened species, Blanding's turtle and Kirtland's snake, both state threatened species, and smooth greensnake, a state endangered species. According to the ODNR, 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 these species.

The ODNR response states that the Project is within the range of the northern harrier, a state endangered bird. These species utilize large wetlands, marshes, grasslands, and meadows. No suitable nesting or breeding habitat for these species was observed within the Project area. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated, and avoidance dates are not applicable.

The ODNR response also states that the Project must not have an impact on native mussels. As there is no in-water work proposed for this Project, impacts to mussels are not likely.

A technical assistance request letter was submitted to USFWS on April 7, 2026. The USFWS response letter dated April 7, 2026, recommends that impacts to wetland and other water resources be avoided or minimized to the fullest extent possible, and that best management practices be utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation (Appendix B).

According to the USFWS response letter (Appendix B), all projects in the state of Ohio lie within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat, the federally endangered northern long-eared bat, and the federally proposed endangered tricolored bat. In Ohio, presence of these species is assumed wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/probable absence survey has been performed to document probable absence. The USFWS response letter states that, should the Project site contain trees ≥ 3 inches dbh, the USFWS recommends trees be saved whenever possible. If any caves or abandoned mines may be disturbed, further coordination is requested. If no caves or abandoned mines are present and trees ≥ 3 inches dbh cannot be avoided, the USFWS recommends that removal of trees ≥ 3 inches dbh only occur between October 1 and March 31 in order to avoid adverse effects to these species. The USFWS also stated that, because Indiana and/or northern long-eared bat presence has already been confirmed in the Project

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vicinity, any additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence surveys for these species. It is anticipated that AEP/Aldridge Electric will conduct any tree clearing and trimming required for the Project, if applicable, between October 1 and March 31. If any summer tree clearing or trimming is required, AEP/Aldridge Electric will proceed with agency recommendations to avoid impacts to these bat species.

The USFWS response letter also states monarch butterflies are found throughout Ohio, and some populations migrate vast distances across multiple generations each year. Potentially suitable habitat was identified within the Project area, particularly in pasture areas where milkweed and other nectar-producing plants may occur, therefore minimal impacts are possible. When feasible, as part of project reclamation, AEP/Aldridge Electric utilizes native seed mixes to restore disturbed areas and support the re-establishment of potential habitat following construction.

The USFWS response also states that the Project is within the range of the bald eagle, which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. USFWS recommends visiting <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/animals/birds/bald-eagle> to determine if the Project is within 0.5 miles of a documented eagle nest. Additionally, because not all eagle nests in the state have been mapped, USFWS recommends that an on-site examination be conducted to determine if any large stick nests are visible from the Project area. If the Project is within 0.5 miles of a documented eagle nest or the on-site examination reveals the presence of a potential eagle nest, USFWS recommends visiting <https://www.fws.gov/story/do-i-need-eagle-take-permit> to determine if an eagle take permit is required. No suitable nesting habitat was observed within the Project area. Additionally, based on the ODNR online tool, no documented nests are located within 0.5 miles of the Project area, and no nests were identified within 0.5 miles of the Project area during the on-site examination. Therefore, this Project is not likely to impact this species and avoidance dates are not applicable.

The USFWS response letter also stated that due to the Project type, size, and location they do not anticipate adverse effects to any other federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat.

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Appendix A FIGURES

A.1 FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION MAP

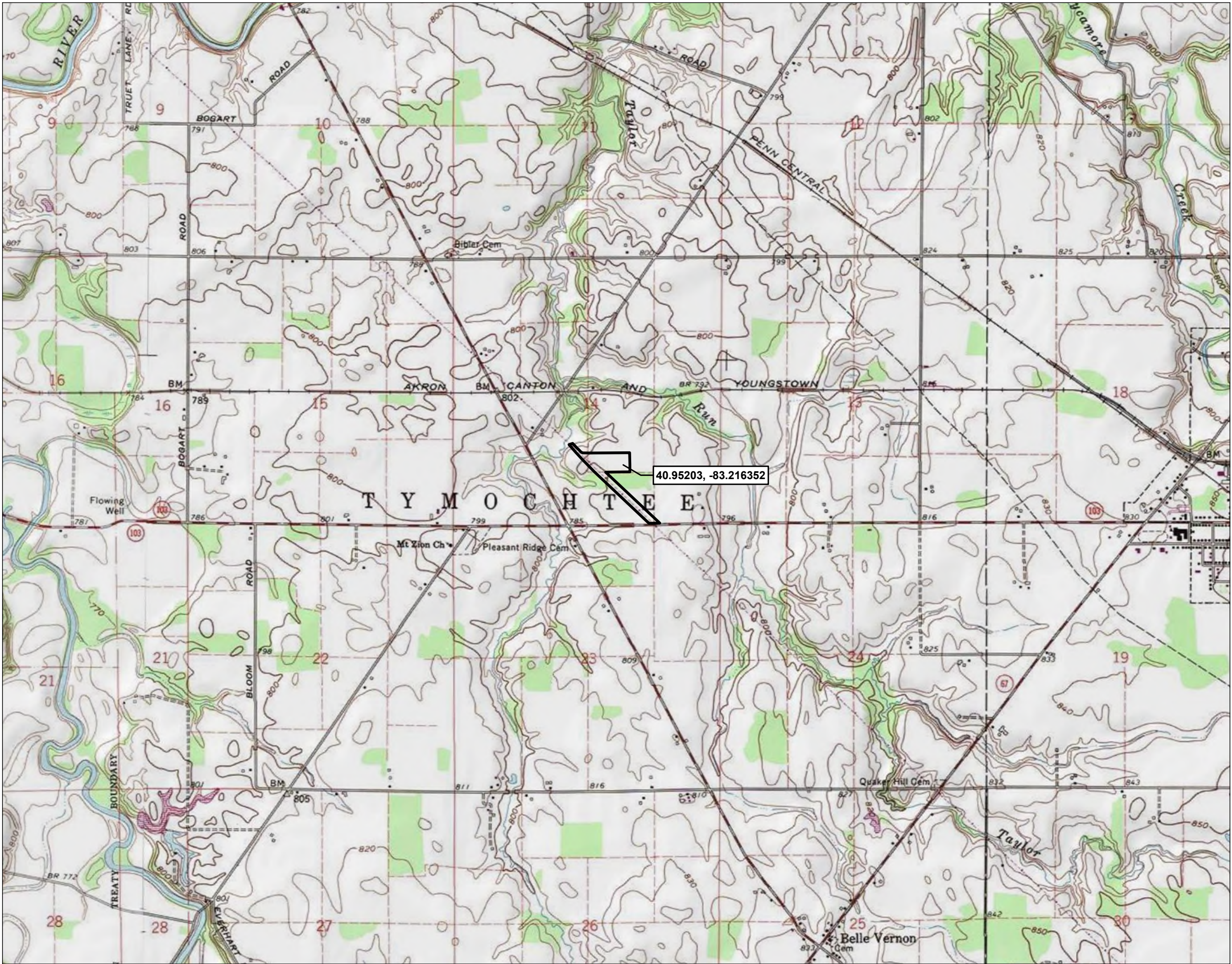
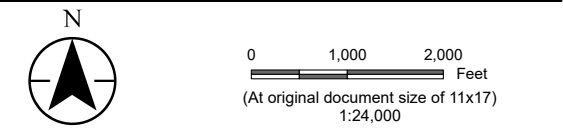
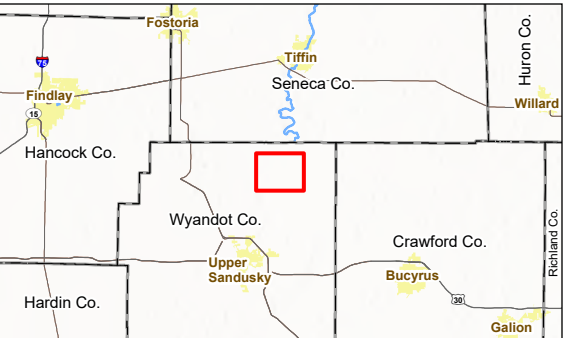


Figure No. 1
Title Project Location Map

Client/Project Aldridge Electric, Inc.
Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-in and Extension Project
Project Location Wyandot Co., OH
Prepared by RA on 2026-03-27
TR by DG on 2026-03-27
IR by KLB on 2026-05-12



Legend
Project Area



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, Aldridge Electric, Inc., Esri, USCB, USGS, ODNR
3. Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles: Sycamore (1972)



A.2 FIGURE 2 – WETLAND AND WATERBODY DELINEATION MAP

U:\19371193712109\03_data\gis_cat\gisArcPro\193712109_Gallon_SBerwick_Eco\193712109_Gallon_SBerwick_Eco.aprx Revised: 2026-05-14 By: malvarez

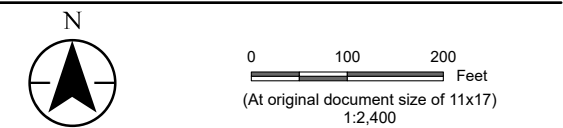


Figure No.
2
Title
Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Map

Client/Project
Aldridge Electric, Inc.
Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-in and
Extension Project

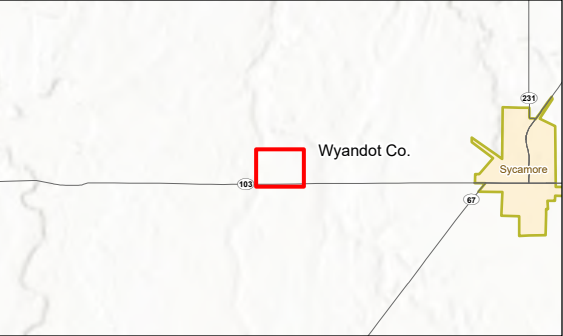
193712109

Project Location
Wyandot Co., OH
Prepared by RA on 2026-03-27
TR by DG on 2026-03-27
IR by KLB on 2026-05-12



- Legend
- Project Area
 - Photo Location
 - Wetland Determination Sample Point
 - National Wetlands Inventory Feature
 - FEMA Flood Hazard Area*
 - 100-year Floodplain
 - Floodway

*No features within data frame



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, Aldridge Electric, Inc., Esri, USCB, USGS, USFWS, FEMA
3. Background: NAIP 2025



A.3 FIGURE 3 – HABITAT ASSESSMENT MAP

U:\19371193712109\03_data\gis_cat\gisArcPro\193712109_Gallon_SBerwick_Eco\193712109_Gallon_SBerwick_Eco.aprx Revised: 2026-05-14 By: malvarez

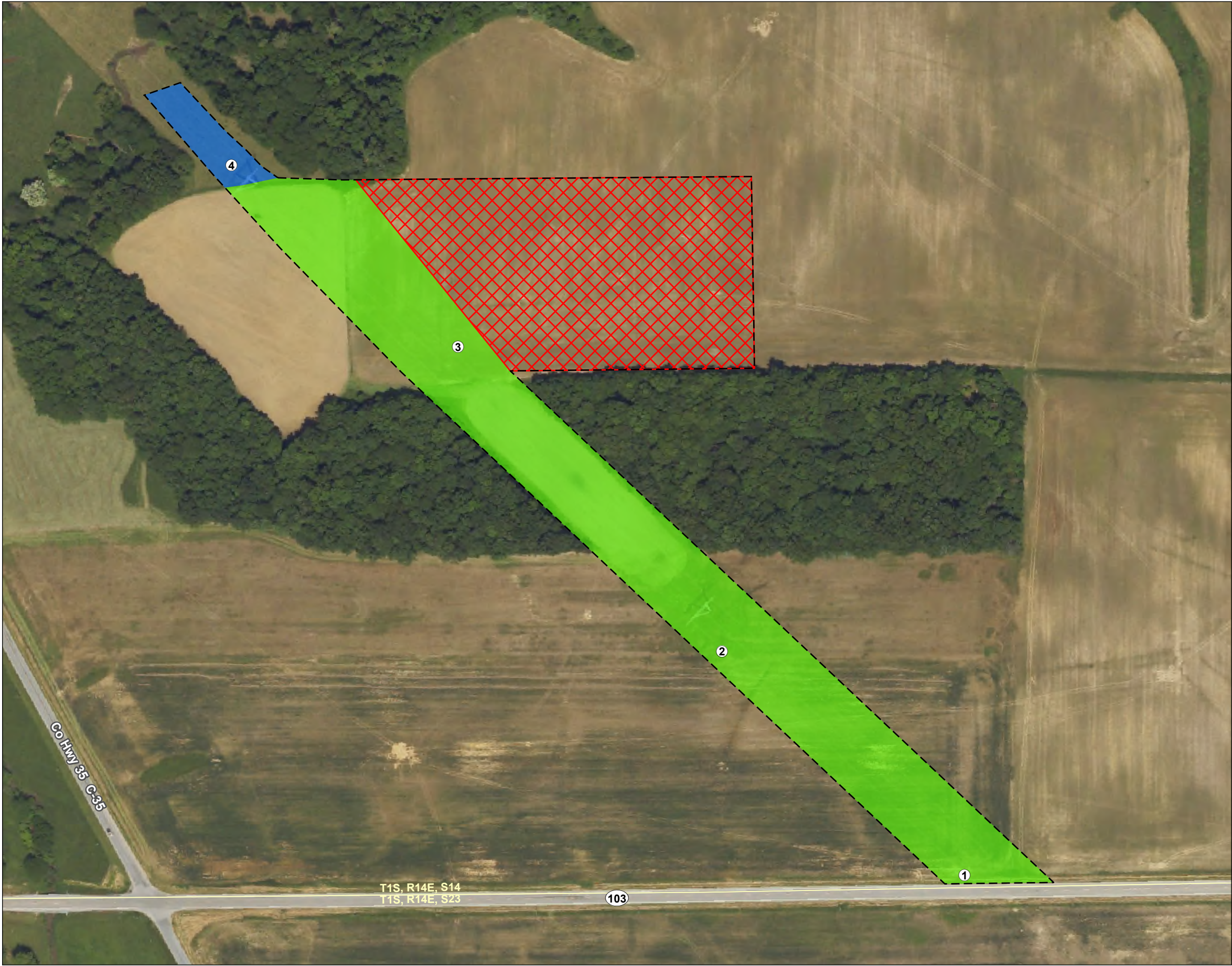


Figure No.
3

Title
Habitat Assessment Map

Client/Project
Aldridge Electric, Inc.
Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-in and
Extension Project

193712109

Project Location
Wyandot Co., OH

Prepared by RA on 2026-03-27
TR by DG on 2026-03-27
IR by KLB on 2026-05-12

N

0100200

Feet

(At original document size of 11x17)
1:2,400

Legend

Project Area

Photo Location

Habitat Area

Fallow Agriculture Land

Pasture

Active Construction Area

Wyandot Co.

Sycamore

Notes

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
2. Data Sources: Stantec, Aldridge Electric, Inc., Esri, USCB, USGS
3. Background: NAIP 2025



A.4 FIGURE 4 – BAT HIBERNACULA DESKTOP STUDY MAP

U:\19371193712109\03_data\gis_cat\gisArcPro\193712109_Gallon_SBerwick_Eco.aprx Revised: 2026-05-14 By: roalvarez

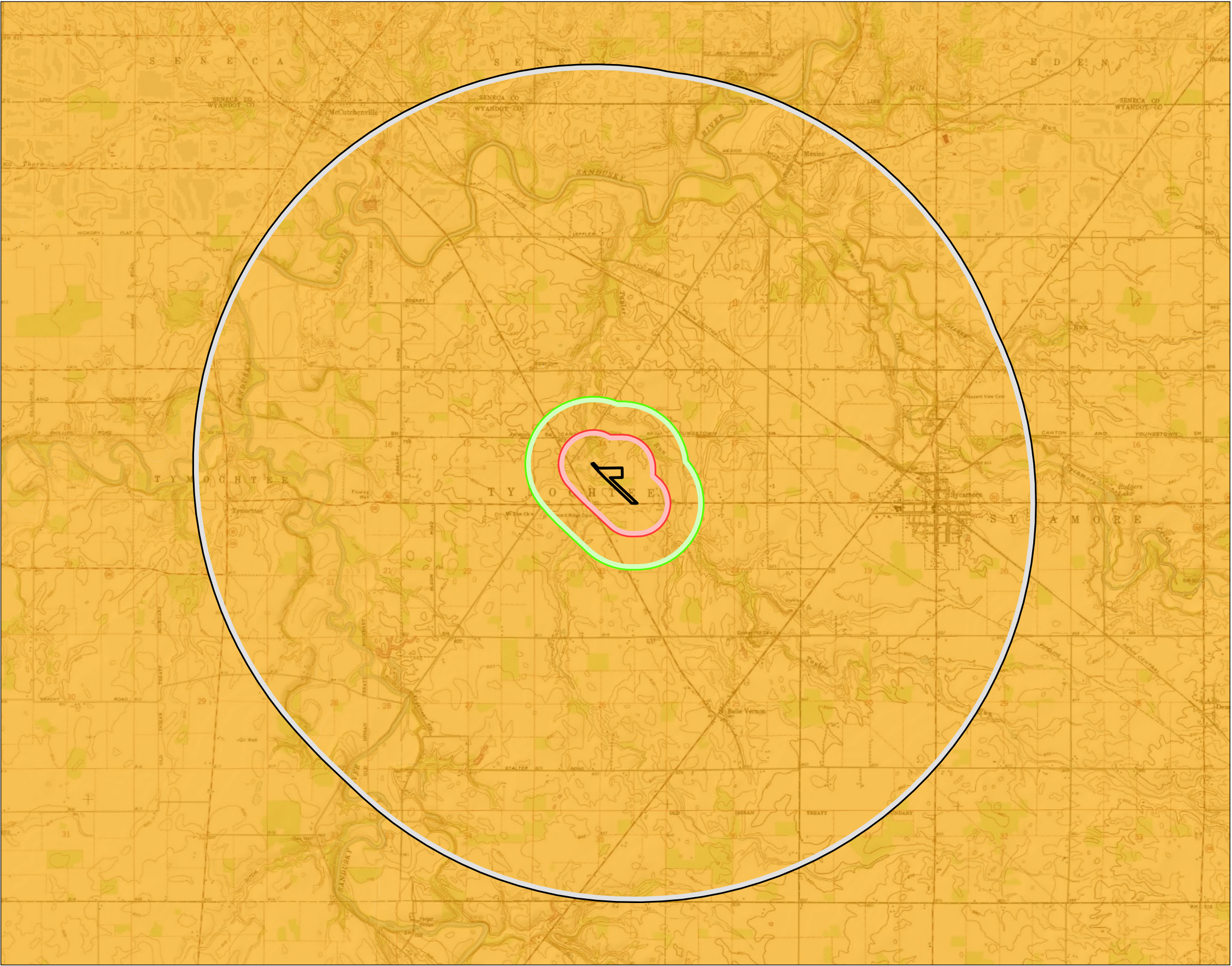


Figure No.
4

Title
Bat Hibernacula Desktop Study Map

Client/Project
Aldridge Electric, Inc.
Galion - South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-in and
Extension Project

Project Location
Wyandot Co., OH

193712109

Prepared by RA on 2026-03-27
TR by DG on 2026-03-27
IR by KLB on 2026-05-12

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
- Mine Opening*
- Underground Mine*

*No features within data frame

Notes

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
- Data Sources: Stantec, Aldridge Electric, Inc., Esri, USCB, USGS, ODNR
- Background: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangles: Sycamore (1972)



Appendix B AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



**Department of
Natural Resources**
ohiodnr.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor
Mary Mertz, Director

Office of Real Estate & Land Management

Tara Paciorek - Chief
2045 Morse Road – E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

May 5, 2026

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

Re: 26-0584_Galion-South Berwick 345 kV

Project: The proposed project involves cutting into the existing Galion-South Berwick 345 kV transmission line and extending it to a new greenfield substation to establish a 345 kV interconnection with a nearby proposed independent power producer solar facility.

Location: The proposed project is located in Tymochtee Township, Wyandot County, Ohio.

Center Coordinates: (40.9535, -83.2191)

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

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

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

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

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

The project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. Because presence of state endangered bat species has been established in the area, summer tree clearing is not recommended, and additional summer surveys would not constitute presence/absence in the area. However, limited summer tree clearing inside this buffer may be acceptable after further consultation with DOW (contact Eileen Wyza at Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov).

In addition, the entire state of Ohio is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state endangered and federally endangered species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), a state endangered species, and the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), a state endangered species. During the spring and summer (April 1 through September 30), these bat species predominately roost in trees behind loose, exfoliating bark, in crevices and cavities, or in clusters of dead leaves on tree limbs. However, these species are also dependent on the forest structure surrounding roost trees. The DOW recommends tree and/or tree limb clearing 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 a Diameter Breast Height (DBH) $\geq 20''$ if possible.

For every project, the DOW also recommends that a winter bat habitat assessment is conducted to determine if potential hibernacula are present within the project area. This is to limit possible disturbances that seasonal tree clearing and/or subsurface work (e.g., trenching, blasting, etc.) may cause to hibernating bats. Potential hibernacula include rocky outcroppings, caves, and underground mines. Direction on how to conduct winter habitat assessments can be found in the joint guidance [OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE \(OH-FIELD OFFICE\) JOINT GUIDANCE FOR BAT SURVEYS](#). If a potential or known hibernaculum is found, the DOW recommends a 0.25-mile permanent tree clearing buffer around the hibernaculum entrance. Limited summer or winter tree clearing may be acceptable after consultation with the DOW. If a habitat assessment for projects involving subsurface disturbance finds that a potential hibernaculum is present within 5 miles of the project area, please consult with Eileen Wyza for project recommendations. If no tree clearing or subsurface impacts to a hibernaculum are proposed, this project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*), a state endangered and federally 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 greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*), a state threatened 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 this species.

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and a federally threatened snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as adjacent drier upland habitat. 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 Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state threatened species. This species inhabits marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, wet meadows, and swampy forests. Although essentially aquatic, the Blanding's turtle will travel over land as it moves from one wetland to

the next. 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 smooth greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*), a state endangered species. This species is primarily a prairie inhabitant but can also be found in marshy meadows and roadside ditches. 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 Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), a state threatened species. This secretive species prefers wet fields and meadows. 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 northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), a state endangered bird. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction should be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 through July 31. If this habitat will not be impacted, this project is not likely to impact this species.

Due to the potential for 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 not conducted a project specific review and/or comments, however, the guidance provided below should be reviewed by the Environmental Review applicant for applicability on this project and subsequent compliance.

If the subject project is in a floodplain regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the [local floodplain administrator](#) should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals. The FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NHFL) Viewer [website](#) can be utilized to see if the project is in a FEMA regulated floodplain. If the project is not in a FEMA regulated floodplain, then no further action is required.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 1521.16 mandates that any owner of a property or a facility that has the capacity of withdrawing 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water from groundwater, surface water, or both must register with the Division of Water Resources' [Water Withdrawal Facilities Registration \(WWFR\) Program](#) and report their withdrawals annually.

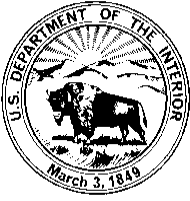
Additional coordination may be required depending on the location of the withdrawal and consumptive use. Permitting may be required for:

- New or increased consumptive use of water averaging 2 million gallons per day (mgd) within 30 days within the Ohio River basin.
- New or increased withdrawal and consumptive water use in the Lake Erie watershed averaging 1 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- New or increased water withdrawal directly from Lake Erie averaging 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) or more in 90 days.
- Diversion or movement of water across the Ohio River and Lake Erie basin divide.

If the project does not involve activities that are subject to water withdrawal regulatory requirements as described above, then no further action is required. For more information, visit the [Water Inventory & Planning website](#).

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

Expiration: ODNR Environmental Reviews are typically valid for 2 years from the issuance date. If the scope of work, project area, construction limits, and/or anticipated impacts to natural resources have changed significantly from the original project submittal, then a new Environmental Review request should be submitted.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



April 7, 2026

Project Code: 2026-0071792

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, endangered, and proposed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq), as amended (ESA).

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) occur throughout the State of Ohio. The Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat may be found wherever suitable habitat occurs unless a presence/absence survey has been performed to document absence. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and breed that may also include adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, woodlots, fallow fields, and pastures. Roost trees for both species include live and standing dead trees ≥ 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. Bridges and culverts have also been used as roosts. Additionally, northern long-eared bats have been observed roosting in other human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, 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 Restrictions 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. If bridges or culverts will be impacted, we recommend reviewing Appendix K in the most recent "Range-Wide Indiana Bat & Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines" to determine if the bridge/culvert may be suitable roost habitat. We recommend impacts to suitable bridges and culverts only occur from October 1 and March 31. These seasonal restrictions are recommended to avoid adverse effects to Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats.

If implementation of this seasonal restriction on tree cutting and impacting suitable bridge/culvert roosts is not possible, a summer presence/absence survey may be conducted for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats. If Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are not detected during the survey, then tree clearing and impacts to bridge/culvert roosts 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.

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

On December 12, 2024 the Service proposed to list the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) as threatened under the ESA. Monarch butterflies are found throughout Ohio and some populations migrate vast distances across multiple generations each year. Many monarchs fly between the U.S., Mexico and Canada – a journey of over 3,000 miles. Monarch populations have declined significantly in recent years. Threats include habitat loss – particularly the loss of milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's sole food source – and mortality resulting from pesticide use. The Service recommends the following actions to maintain habitat and avoid impacts to monarchs in Ohio: revegetate disturbed areas with native plant species including nectar-producing plants and milkweed endemic to the area; limit mowing monarch habitat from March 15 to August 31 when monarchs are breeding and from September 1 to October 31 when large numbers of monarchs are migrating; and avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides in and near monarch habitat.

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.

Bald Eagle: The project is in the range of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). We recommend that you visit <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/animals/birds/bald-eagle> to determine if the project is within 0.5 mile of a documented eagle nest. Additionally, because not all eagle nests in the state have been mapped, we recommend that an on-site examination be conducted to determine if any large stick nests are visible from project area. If the project is within 0.5 mile of a documented eagle nest or the on-site examination reveals the presence of a potential eagle nest, we

recommend visiting <https://www.fws.gov/story/do-i-need-eagle-take-permit> to determine if an eagle take permit is required.

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

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

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

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,



Erin Knoll
Field Office Supervisor

cc: Matthew.Stooksbury@dnr.ohio.gov
Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov

Appendix C REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

C.1 WETLAND AND WATERBODY PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph Location 1. View of upland (fallow agricultural land) at wetland determination sample point location SP01. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph Location 1. View of upland (fallow agricultural land) at wetland determination sample point location SP01. Photograph taken facing south.



Photograph Location 2. View of upland (pasture habitat) at wetland determination sample point location SP02. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph Location 2. View of upland (pasture habitat) at wetland determination sample point location SP02. Photograph taken facing west.

C.2 HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph Location 1. Representative view of fallow agricultural land within the Project area.
Photograph taken facing northwest.



Photograph Location 2. Representative view of fallow agricultural land within the Project area.
Photograph taken facing northwest.



Photograph Location 3. Representative view of fallow agricultural land and active construction area within the Project area. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph Location 3. Representative view of active construction area within the Project area. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph Location 4. Representative view of pasture habitat within the Project area.
Photograph taken facing east.

Appendix D DATA FORMS

D.1 WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORMS

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Midwest Region See ERDC/EL TR-10-16; the proponent agency is CECW-COR	OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027 Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT: (Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)
---	--

Project/Site: Galion-South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project City/County: Wyandot County Sampling Date: 04/09/2026
Applicant/Owner: Aldridge Electric, Inc. State: OH Sampling Point: SP01
Investigator(s): K Bomar, A Kwolek Section, Township, Range: S14, T001S, R014E
Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Rise Local relief (concave, convex, none): Linear
Slope (%): 0 Lat: 40.951371 Long: -83.215887 Datum: WGS84
Soil Map Unit Name: Shinrock-Martinsville complex, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded 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 X, 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 <u>X</u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	
Remarks: Fallow ag field	

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet: Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A/B)																
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>0</u> =Total Cover				Prevalence Index worksheet: <table><tr><td>Total % Cover of:</td><td>Multiply by:</td></tr><tr><td>OBL species <u>0</u></td><td>x 1 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>FACW species <u>0</u></td><td>x 2 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>FAC species <u>0</u></td><td>x 3 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>FACU species <u>40</u></td><td>x 4 = <u>160</u></td></tr><tr><td>UPL species <u>0</u></td><td>x 5 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>Column Totals: <u>40</u> (A)</td><td><u>160</u> (B)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4</u></td></tr></table>	Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>	FACW species <u>0</u>	x 2 = <u>0</u>	FAC species <u>0</u>	x 3 = <u>0</u>	FACU species <u>40</u>	x 4 = <u>160</u>	UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>	Column Totals: <u>40</u> (A)	<u>160</u> (B)	Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4</u>	
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																			
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>																			
FACW species <u>0</u>	x 2 = <u>0</u>																			
FAC species <u>0</u>	x 3 = <u>0</u>																			
FACU species <u>40</u>	x 4 = <u>160</u>																			
UPL species <u>0</u>	x 5 = <u>0</u>																			
Column Totals: <u>40</u> (A)	<u>160</u> (B)																			
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4</u>																				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)																				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>0</u> =Total Cover																				
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators: - 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation - 2 - Dominance Test is >50% - 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0¹ - 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <u>_____</u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation ¹ (Explain) ¹ Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																
1. <u>Schedonorus arundinaceus</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
2. <u>Cirsium arvense</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
3. <u>Claytonia virginica</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
4. <u>Taraxacum officinale</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
5. <u>Stellaria media</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>40</u> =Total Cover																				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>																
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>0</u> =Total Cover																				
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		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks	
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type ¹	Loc ²			
0-5	10YR 3/2	100					Silt Loam		
5-16	10YR 4/1	85	7.5YR 4/6	15	C	M	Silty Clay Loam		

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

Hydric Soil Indicators:	Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils ³ :
☐ Histosol (A1)	☐ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
☐ Histic Epipedon (A2)	☐ Red Parent Material (F21)
☐ Black Histic (A3)	☐ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
☐ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)
☐ Stratified Layers (A5)	
☐ 2 cm Muck (A10)	
☐ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	
☐ Thick Dark Surface (A12)	
☐ Iron Monosulfide (A18)	
☐ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	
☐ 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)	
☐ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	
☐ Sandy Redox (S5)	
☐ Stripped Matrix (S6)	
☐ Dark Surface (S7)	
☐ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	
☐ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	
☒ Depleted Matrix (F3)	
☐ Redox Dark Surface (F6)	
☐ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	
☐ Redox Depressions (F8)	

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

Restrictive Layer (if observed):	Hydric Soil Present?
Type: _____ Depth (inches): _____	Yes ☒ No ☐

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:			
Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)		Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)	
☐ Surface Water (A1)	☐ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	☐ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	
☐ High Water Table (A2)	☐ Aquatic Fauna (B13)	☐ Drainage Patterns (B10)	
☐ Saturation (A3)	☐ True Aquatic Plants (B14)	☐ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)	
☐ Water Marks (B1)	☐ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	☐ Crayfish Burrows (C8)	
☐ Sediment Deposits (B2)	☐ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)	☐ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)	
☐ Drift Deposits (B3)	☐ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	☐ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)	
☐ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	☐ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	☐ Geomorphic Position (D2)	
☐ Iron Deposits (B5)	☐ Thin Muck Surface (C7)	☐ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)	
☐ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	☐ Gauge or Well Data (D9)		
☐ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)		

Field Observations:				Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ☐ No ☒
Surface Water Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		
Water Table Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		
Saturation Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		

(includes capillary fringe)

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

Remarks:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Midwest Region See ERDC/EL TR-10-16; the proponent agency is CECW-COR	OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027 Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT: (Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)
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Project/Site: Galion-South Berwick 345 kV Line Cut-In and Extension Project City/County: Wyandot County Sampling Date: 04/09/2026
Applicant/Owner: Aldridge Electric, Inc. State: OH Sampling Point: SP02
Investigator(s): K Bomar, A Kwolek Section, Township, Range: S14, T001S, R014E
Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Dip Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave
Slope (%): 0 Lat: 40.953617 Long: -83.21926 Datum: WGS84
Soil Map Unit Name: Shinrock-Martinsville complex, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded 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 X, 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 <u>X</u>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	
Remarks: Pasture	

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet: Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A/B)																
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>0</u> =Total Cover				Prevalence Index worksheet: <table><tr><td>Total % Cover of:</td><td>Multiply by:</td></tr><tr><td>OBL species <u>0</u></td><td>x 1 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>FACW species <u>10</u></td><td>x 2 = <u>20</u></td></tr><tr><td>FAC species <u>0</u></td><td>x 3 = <u>0</u></td></tr><tr><td>FACU species <u>75</u></td><td>x 4 = <u>300</u></td></tr><tr><td>UPL species <u>5</u></td><td>x 5 = <u>25</u></td></tr><tr><td>Column Totals: <u>90</u> (A)</td><td><u>345</u> (B)</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.83</u></td></tr></table>	Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>	FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>	FAC species <u>0</u>	x 3 = <u>0</u>	FACU species <u>75</u>	x 4 = <u>300</u>	UPL species <u>5</u>	x 5 = <u>25</u>	Column Totals: <u>90</u> (A)	<u>345</u> (B)	Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.83</u>	
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																			
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>																			
FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>																			
FAC species <u>0</u>	x 3 = <u>0</u>																			
FACU species <u>75</u>	x 4 = <u>300</u>																			
UPL species <u>5</u>	x 5 = <u>25</u>																			
Column Totals: <u>90</u> (A)	<u>345</u> (B)																			
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.83</u>																				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: <u>15 ft</u>)																				
1. <u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>5</u> =Total Cover																				
Herb Stratum (Plot size: <u>5 ft</u>)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators: - 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation - 2 - Dominance Test is >50% - 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0¹ - 4 - Morphological Adaptations¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <u>_____</u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation ¹ (Explain) ¹ Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																
1. <u>Trifolium repens</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
2. <u>Daucus carota</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>UPL</u>																	
3. <u>Lysimachia nummularia</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACW</u>																	
4. <u>Taraxacum officinale</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
5. <u>Rumex obtusifolius</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACW</u>																	
6. <u>Achillea millefolium</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FACU</u>																	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>85</u> =Total Cover																				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: <u>30 ft</u>)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>																
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
<u>0</u> =Total Cover																				
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 (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks	
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type ¹	Loc ²			
0-4	2.5Y 3/2	100					Silty Clay		
4-16	2.5Y 3/2	95	5YR 4/6	5	C		Silty Clay		

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

Hydric Soil Indicators:	Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils ³ :
☐ Histosol (A1)	☐ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
☐ Histic Epipedon (A2)	☐ Red Parent Material (F21)
☐ Black Histic (A3)	☐ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
☐ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)
☐ Stratified Layers (A5)	
☐ 2 cm Muck (A10)	
☐ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	
☐ Thick Dark Surface (A12)	
☐ Iron Monosulfide (A18)	
☐ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	
☐ 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)	
☐ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	
☐ Sandy Redox (S5)	
☐ Stripped Matrix (S6)	
☐ Dark Surface (S7)	
☐ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)	
☐ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	
☒ Depleted Matrix (F3)	
☐ Redox Dark Surface (F6)	
☐ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	
☐ Redox Depressions (F8)	

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

Restrictive Layer (if observed):	Hydric Soil Present?
Type: _____ Depth (inches): _____	Yes ☒ No ☐

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:			
Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)		Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)	
☐ Surface Water (A1)	☐ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)	☐ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	
☐ High Water Table (A2)	☐ Aquatic Fauna (B13)	☐ Drainage Patterns (B10)	
☐ Saturation (A3)	☐ True Aquatic Plants (B14)	☐ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)	
☐ Water Marks (B1)	☐ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	☐ Crayfish Burrows (C8)	
☐ Sediment Deposits (B2)	☐ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)	☐ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)	
☐ Drift Deposits (B3)	☐ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	☐ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)	
☐ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	☐ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	☐ Geomorphic Position (D2)	
☐ Iron Deposits (B5)	☐ Thin Muck Surface (C7)	☐ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)	
☐ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	☐ Gauge or Well Data (D9)		
☐ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	☐ Other (Explain in Remarks)		

Field Observations:				Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ☐ No ☒
Surface Water Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		
Water Table Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		
Saturation Present?	Yes ☐ No ☒	Depth (inches):		

(includes capillary fringe)

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

Remarks: