

Minutes of the Ohio Power Siting Board Meeting February 20, 2020 – 1:30 p.m.

Present:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Mary Mertz, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
George McNab for Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Rachel Near for Lydia Mihalik, Director, Ohio Development Services Agency
Drew Bergman for Laurie Stevenson, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Gene Phillips for Amy Acton, M.D., Director, Ohio Department of Health
Senator Sandra Williams
Jeff Jones, Legal Department
Angela Hawkins, Legal Department

Absent:

Gregory Murphy, P.E., Public Member
Senator Steve Wilson
Representative Nino Vitale
Representative Jeffrey Crossman

This meeting was convened pursuant to the regular agenda issued on February 13, 2020 for the February 20, 2020 agenda.

The minutes of the January 16, 2020 Board meeting were approved by the Board members.

The Board met for the purpose of considering the following cases and to act upon the proposed Entries and Orders.

Signing Session: February 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

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| 1. | 16-253-GA-BTX | In re Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the C314V Central Corridor Pipeline Extension Project. (Entry on Rehearing) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |
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Chairman Randazzo noted that this entry concludes the rehearing phase of this proceeding.

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| 2. | 19-778-GE-BRO | In re Consideration of Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4906-4. (Entry on Rehearing) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |
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Chairman Randazzo noted that these rules for wind turbine incidents are now finalized and thanked everyone for their work on the rules. He further stated that the General Assembly was interested in the Board developing rules in this area

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| 3. | 18-1799-EL-BNR | In re Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for a Certificate for the Devola-Gorsuch 138 kV Transmission Line Project. (Entry Considering Request to Withdraw) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |
| 4. | 19-1831-EL-BGN | In re Application of Seneca Wind, LLC for a Certificate to Site Wind-Powered Electric Generation Facilities in Seneca County, Ohio. (Entry Considering Request to Withdraw) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |
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Chairman Randazzo stated that this wind farm site has been before the Board in various forms for several years. It started as an Exelon project in Case No. 16-1421-EL-BGN. Exelon's interest was later transferred to sPower, a joint venture between AES and Alberta Investment Management Corp., which filed an application for a certificate in Case No. 18-0488-EL-BGN. After that case was withdrawn, sPower filed a pre-application letter in Case No. 19-1831-EL-BGN. The Chairman noted that this entry closes the current case before the Board at the applicant's request. He further stated that a transmission line that would serve the proposed wind farm has been certificated by the Board in a separate proceeding but cannot be built until the applicant obtains a certificate for the proposed wind farm. The request to close the docket associated with this wind farm did not address the transmission line. He noted that this entry asks the applicant to provide some information to clear up ambiguity associated with the integration of the two facilities. He expressed concern that the public may be confused by the on-again-off-again nature of this project. There are people who are affected by this project locally including landowners who have leased their property and may expect lease payments, local officials who may gain additional tax revenue as a result of the project going forward, and adjoining landowners who may have concerns about the project's status. The Chairman expressed hope that the applicant will reach out to members of the public to keep them informed about its intentions for the proposed wind farm going forward. The Board has been trying to encourage more coordination and communication between developers, the Board, and local officials.


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| 5. | 19-1780-EL-BTA | In re Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for an Amendment to the Buckley Road-Fremont Center 138 kV Transmission Line Project. (Order on Certificate Amendment) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |
| 6. | 19-1889-EL-BTA | In re Application of AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc. for an Amendment to the Seaman-Sardinia 138 kV Transmission Line Project. (Order on Certificate Amendment) | Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0. |

7. 19-1337-EL-BLN In re Letter of Notification Application of American Transmission Systems, Incorporated for a Certificate for the Fostoria West End-Lemoyne-West Fremont 138 kV Transmission Line and Woodville No. 2 Substation Upgrade Project. (Opinion, Order, and Certificate) Approval moved and seconded, vote 6-0.
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Chairman Randazzo announced that the Board is initiating its five-year review of administrative rules. It will be a comprehensive rule review that will provide multiple opportunities for stakeholders to provide input through workshops and written comments. This will begin with an open, transparent conversation before the formal process begins. Changes to the rules will be responsive to the developers seeking certification, those who are affected by acts of the Board, and the public interest. The Board will focus on three broad areas: how the review process can be improved, identifying what technical information is necessary for the review of applications, and how the post-certification process can be improved. The informal stakeholder meetings will begin in March. The formal process will be kicked off at the April 16th meeting. The Chairman requested that each stakeholder approach this rulemaking process constructively by setting litigation positions aside and focusing on what's best for the public interest. More information is available on the Board's website.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:43 p.m.


Chair


Secretary