AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED
A FIRSTENERGY COMPANY

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

GALION-ONTARIO 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE SWITCH STRUCTURES INSTALLATION PROJECT
OPSB CASE NO.: 25-0027-EL-BNR

February 19, 2025

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated
76 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE
GALION-ONTARIO 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
SWITCH STRUCTURES INSTALLATION PROJECT

The following information is being provided in accordance with Chapter 4906-6 of the Ohio Administrative Code ("Adm.Code") for the application and review of Accelerated Certificate Applications. Based upon the requirements found in Appendix A to Adm.Code 4906-1-01, this Project qualifies for submittal to the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") as a Construction Notice application.

4906-6-05: ACCELERATED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

4906-6-05 (B)(1): Name and Reference Number

Name: Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line Switch Structures Installation ("Project")

Reference Number: 3205-1

4906-6-05 (B)(1): Brief Description of Project and Reference Numbers

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated ("ATSI"), a FirstEnergy company, is proposing to modify the existing Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line to create a transmission line tap to a new customer substation. The transmission line tap will be created by installing three (3) new single-steel monopole switch structures on concrete foundations on the existing Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line. The existing conductors and shield wire will be transferred to the new structures. The Project is in the city of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.

The general location of the proposed Project is shown in Exhibit 1, a partial copy of a United States Geologic Survey ("USGS") Topographic Map, Richland County, Ohio Quad Map. Exhibit 2 is a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery. The general layout is shown in Exhibit 3.

4906-6-05 (B)(1): Construction Notice Requirements

The Project meets the requirements for a Construction Notice application because the Project is within the types of projects defined by Item (2)(a) of the Application Requirement Matrix for Electric Power Transmission Lines, Appendix A of Adm.Code 4906-1-01. This item states:

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

This Project meets requirement (2)(a) because the proposed Project involves the addition of three structures on an existing transmission line for a distance of less than two miles.

4906-6-05 (B)(2): Need for the Project

The Project is needed to provide a new 138 kV retail delivery point to Ohio Edison so that Ohio Edison can, in turn, provide retail electric service to a substation owned by Ohio Edison's end customer, Ontario Stumbo (the "Customer"). The Customer requested the proposed delivery point for electric service to a new commerce park. The proposed load addition is approximately 63 MVA. The Project is not part of a larger project and is solely needed to provide the requested new 138 kV retail delivery point.

The proposed Project will consist of installing three 138 kV switches, adjusting remote end relay settings, and installing a 138 kV revenue meter (collectively the "direct connection facilities"). All three 138 kV switches will be outfitted with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition ("SCADA"). All new network path components associated with the proposed Project will be sized such that the new equipment will not reduce the present rating of the Galion – Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line. The Project will be designed in accordance with the FirstEnergy ("FE") "Requirements for Transmission Connected Facilities" document Figure 1B.

The need for the proposed Project was presented at the June 14, 2024, Subregional Regional Transmission Expansion Plan ("RTEP") Committee – Western meeting. The solution for the proposed Project was presented at the July 19, 2024, Subregional RTEP Committee – Western meeting. The PJM Subregional RTEP Committee -Western Meeting slides are included in Exhibit 4. PJM supplement number s3525.1 has been assigned to this Project.

FE and PJM Transmission Planning evaluated the proposed load addition and did not identify any FE or PJM Planning Criteria violations attributable to the load addition. Therefore, no transmission system upgrades are required as a result of the proposed load addition, other than the required direct connection facilities necessary to provide electric service to the Customer.

4906-6-05 (B)(3): Location of the Project Relative to Existing or Proposed Lines

The location of the Project relative to existing or proposed lines is shown in the ATSI Transmission Network Map, included as part of the confidential portion of the FirstEnergy Corp. 2024 Long-Term Forecast Report. This map was submitted to the PUCO in Case No. 24-0504-EL-FOR under Rule 4901:5-5-04(D)(1) of the Ohio Administrative Code. The map is incorporated by reference only. The Project is not included in ATSI's LTFR filed in 2024 since the line extension contract was not signed in time to include it in this year's report. The general location and layout of the Project area is shown in Exhibits 1 and 2.

4906-6-05 (B)(4): Alternatives Considered

No alternatives were considered for this Project as there were no other viable transmission solutions. The addition of switches to the existing Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line offers the most direct and economical solution for creating a transmission line tap connection to customer Ontario Stumbo Substation.

4906-6-05 (B)(5): Public Information Program

ATSI's manager of External Affairs will advise local officials of features and the status of the proposed Project as necessary. ATSI will maintain a Project website and will continue to work with interested stakeholders concerning the proposed Project. The website address is below:

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_projects/ohio.html .

During all phases of this Project, ATSI will maintain the transmission projects hotline at 1-888-311-4737 or via email at: transmissionprojects@firstenergycorp.com where the public may ask questions or leave comments on the Project for ATSI.

4906-6-05 (B)(6): Construction Schedule

Construction of the line extension is anticipated to begin June 2, 2025, and be completed October 5, 2025.

4906-6-05 (B)(7): Area Map

Exhibit 1 provides a partial copy of the USGS Topographic Map, Richland County, Ohio Quad Map. Exhibit 2 provides a partial copy of ESRI aerial imagery of the Project area.

4906-6-05 (B)(8): Property Owner List

The Project is located entirely within property (Parcel No. 0386015203001) owned by the Customer. ATSI will obtain a modification to the existing easement rights from the Customer.

4906-6-05 (B) (9): TECHNICAL FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(a): Operating Characteristics

The equipment and facilities described below are associated with the Project.

Voltage:	138 kV
Conductors:	477 kcmil TW/HS Type 23 ACSS and 477 kcmil 26/7 ACSR (existing)
Static Wire:	101.8 kcmil 12/7 ACSR (existing)
Insulators:	Deadend (Porcelain & Polymer); Suspension (Porcelain); Tangent (Polymer)
ROW Width:	100 feet
Structure Types:	Exhibit 5 – 138 kV Steel Monopole Switch Structure with Shield Wire, on a Concrete Foundation (Qty. 1) Exhibit 6 – 138 kV Steel Monopole Switch Structure without Shield Wire, on a Concrete Foundation (Qty. 2)

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(b): Electric and Magnetic Field

There are no occupied residences or institutions within 100 feet from the proposed transmission line centerline and therefore no Electric and Magnetic Field ("EMF") calculations are required by this subsection.

4906-6-05 (B)(9)(c): Estimated Cost

The estimated total cost for the proposed Project is $1,859,000. These costs will be allocated between ATSI, Ohio Edison and the Customer.

4906-6-05 (B)(10): SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(a): Land Uses

The Project is in the city of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. The Project area is in industrial and commercial district zoned lands. No significant changes or impacts to the current or future land use are anticipated.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(b): Agricultural Land

Agricultural land does not exist within the Project's Area of Potential Effect ("APE").

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(c): Archaeological or Cultural Resources

As part of the investigation for this Construction Notice, on October 17, 2024, TRC Companies, Inc. ('TRC') submitted a request to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO") on behalf of ATSI to review and provide comments for the Project Study Area (Area of Potential Effects or "APE") with a one (1)-mile search radius. On November 19, 2024, SHPO replied to the request and the response is attached as Exhibit 7. SHPO concurred that the Project, as proposed, will not affect any historic properties or cultural resources. No further coordination is required unless the scope of work changes or new/additional archaeological deposits are discovered during construction.

The SHPO database also includes the Ohio Historic Inventory ("OHI"), the Ohio Archaeological Inventory ("OAI"), previous cultural resource surveys, and the Ohio Genealogical Society ("OGS") cemetery inventory. The SHPO database includes all Ohio listings on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"), including districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The results of the search indicate that within 1.0 mile of the Project Study Area there are no NRHP-listed above-ground resources, no NRHP-listed historic districts, and no NRHP-eligible above-ground historic resources.

There are no OGS Cemeteries within 1.0 mile of the Project's APE. Within 1.0 mile of the Project's APE, there are three OAI sites. Two of these sites are pre-contact, and one site is a historic residential/subsistence site. No impacts to any culturally significant resources are expected.

The Project will not impact the viewshed of any potential historic properties. Additionally, due to prior anthropogenic disturbances, the Project has a low potential to encounter intact, significant archaeological resources. The Project will have no adverse effect upon any cultural or archaeological resources.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(d): Local, State, and Federal Requirements

No additional government agency authorizations or permits are required for this Project.

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(e): Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species Investigation

As part of the investigation, ATSI retained TRC to conduct necessary surveys. On September 20, 2024, TRC submitted a request to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") Office of Real Estate to conduct an Environmental Review. As part of the Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate conducted a search of the ODNR Division of Wildlife's Natural Heritage Database to research the presence of any endangered, threatened, or rare species within one (1) mile of the Project Study Area. The ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response on October 22, 2024, stated that

there are no records of state or federally listed plants and animals within one mile of the specified Project area. A copy of ODNR's Office of Real Estate's response is included as Exhibit 8.

In addition, the ODNR-DOW stated that the Project is within the vicinity of records for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; State Endangered and Federally Endangered), the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; State Endangered and Federally Endangered), and the tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; State Endangered). The entire state of Ohio is also within the range of the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*; State Endangered). An on-site field assessment was performed by TRC on October 10, 2024. Field observations did not identify suitable habitat for these species identified in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. The DOW recommended a desktop bat hibernaculum assessment be completed for the Project, which TRC completed for ATSI and submitted to ODNR for concurrence on November 6, 2024. ODNR responded on December 16, 2024, attached as Exhibit 8A**,** concurring that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the Project Area. In addition, due to the type, size, and location, the proposed Project is not likely to impact these species.

The ODNR-DOW also identified the Project as being within the range of the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile;* State Endangered), greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi;* State Threatened), and the eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis;* State Endangered). There are no streams within the Project area, so there will be no impact to these species.

The Project is also in the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus;* State Endangered and Federally Threatened) and the northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius;* State Endangered). The Project is confined to an existing transmission line corridor in an industrial setting. Impacts to these species are not anticipated based on the limited project scope.

As part of the investigation, on September 20, 2024, TRC also submitted a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") for an Ecological Review within one (1) mile of the Project area. A response was received from USFWS on September 26, 2024, and is included as Exhibit 9. The response states that due to the Project, type, size, and location, no adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or proposed or designated critical habitat are anticipated.

The Project work limits will be entirely within the maintained transmission line corridor in an industrial setting. Moreover, no trees will be cleared or in-stream work conducted as a result of the Project. As such, the Project is not anticipated to adversely impact any state or federally listed species.

A list of all endangered, threatened, and rare species, as identified by ODNR and USFWS, is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. List of Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listed Status	State Listed Status	Preferred Habitat	Suitable Habitat Present within Study Area
Indiana Bat	*Myotis sodalis*	Endangered	Endangered	Trees and Forest	No
Northern Long-Eared Bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered	Endangered	Trees and Forest	No
Little Brown Bat	*Myotis lucifugus*	NA	Endangered	Trees and Forest	No
Tricolored Bat	*Perimyotis subflavus*	Proposed Endangered	Endangered	Trees and Forest	No
Iowa Darter	*Etheostoma exile*	NA	Endangered	Lakes and Perennial Streams	No
Greater Redhorse	*Moxostoma valenciennesi*	NA	Threatened	Lakes and Perennial Streams	No

Eastern Hellbender	*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*	NA	Endangered	Perennial streams	No
Eastern Massasauga	*Sistrurus catenatus*	Threatened	Endangered	Prairies, Fens, Grasslands, and Forests	No
Northern Harrier	*Circus hudsonius*	NA	Threatened	Grasslands and Marshes	No

4906-6-05 (B)(10)(f): Areas of Ecological Concern

TRC conducted a wetland and stream delineation for the Project on October 10, 2024, as shown in Exhibit 10. No wetlands or streams were identified within the project area, and one non-jurisdictional ditch was recorded. The Project Study Area is approximately 1.32-acres located in the city of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.

As part of the Environmental Review, the ODNR Office of Real Estate researched the presence of any unique ecological sites, geological features, animal assemblages, scenic rivers, state wildlife areas, nature preserves, parks or forest, national wildlife refuges, or other protected natural areas within one (1) mile of the Project area. No protected sites or public properties were identified.

The switch structures and foundations will be placed along developed ROW associated with the Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line. Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is not required, as no impacts to any Waters of the United States are proposed. Reasonable best-management practices will be used to ensure debris or sediment does not leave the Project site that could potentially impact nearby waterways.

The Project work limits do not include any in-stream activities or encroach on any regulated flood plains based on a review of online FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Mapping.

4906-6-05(B)(10)(g): Other Information

Construction and operation of the proposed Project will be in accordance with the requirements specified in the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the PUCO and will meet all applicable safety standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

No other or unusual conditions are expected that will result in significant environmental, social, health or safety impacts.

4906-6-07: Documentation of Construction Notice Application Transmittal and Availability for Public Review

This Construction Notice application is being provided concurrently to the following public officials from the city of Ontario and Richland County.

Richland County

Mr. Darrell Banks,
Richland County Commissioner
50 Park Avenue East,
Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1861
dbanks@richlandcountyoh.gov

Mr. Cliff Mears,
Richland County Commissioner
50 Park Avenue East,
Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1861
cmears@richlandcountyoh.gov

Mr. Tony Vero,
Richland County Commissioner
50 Park Avenue East,
Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1861
tvero@richlandcountyoh.gov

Mr. Adam Gove, PE, PS.
Richland County Engineer
50 Park Avenue East,
Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1861
agove@rcengineer.com

Ms. Jotika Shetty,
Executive Director
Richland County
Regional Planning Commission
19 North Main Street
Mansfield, OH 44902-1720
jshetty@rcrpc.org

Mr. Brian Alt, Chairman,
Richland County Soil & Water
Conservation District
1495 West Longview Avenue
Suite 205 B
Mansfield, Ohio
balt@neo.rr.com

City of Ontario

Mr. Kris Knapp, Mayor
City of Ontario
555 Stumbo Road,
Ontario, OH 44906
kknapp@ontarioohio.org

Ms. Shannon M. Wiese,
Treasurer, City of Ontario
555 Stumbo Road,
Ontario, OH 44906
swiese@ontarioohio.org

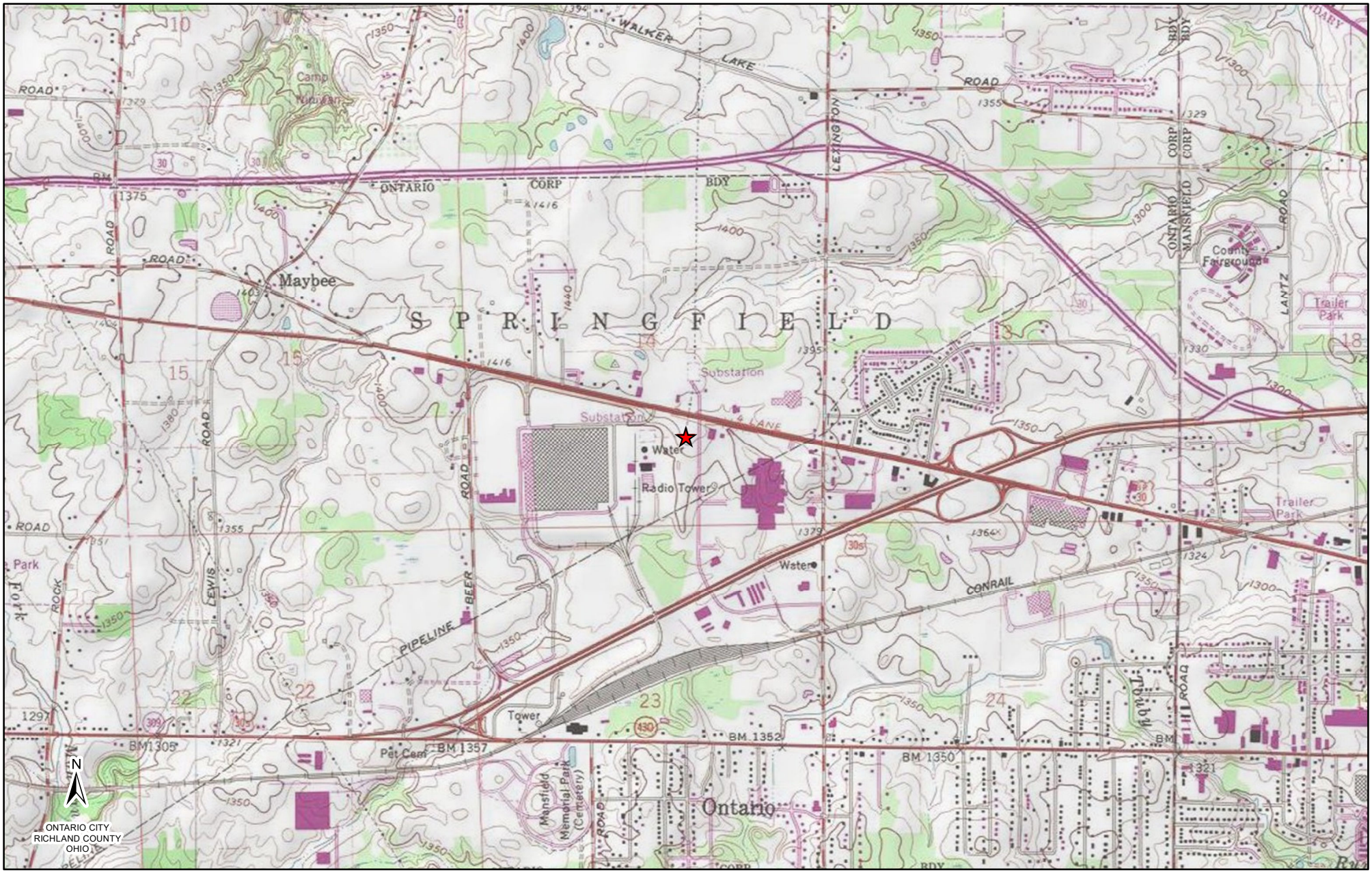
Mr. Eddie Gallo, City Council
City of Ontario
555 Stumbo Road,
Ontario, OH 44906
Council@ontarioohio.org

Library

Mr. Chris May, Library Director *cmay@mrcpl.org*
Mansfield Richland County Public Library.
43 West Third Street
Mansfield, OH 44902

Per Adm.Code 4906-6-07(B), exemplar copies of the notice letters sent to local government officials and to the library have been included with this application as proof of compliance with requirements of Adm.Code 4906-6-07(A)(1) and 4906-6-07(A)(2).

Information is posted at www.firstenergycorp.com/about/transmission_project/ohio.html on how to request an electronic or paper copy of this Construction Notice application. The link to this website is being provided in accordance with Adm.Code 4906-6-07(B), which requires ATSI to provide the OPSB with proof of compliance with Adm.Code 4906-6-07(A)(3).



LEGEND:

Project Location

0 1,000 2,000 4,000

Feet

Reference:

USGS Topographical Overlay

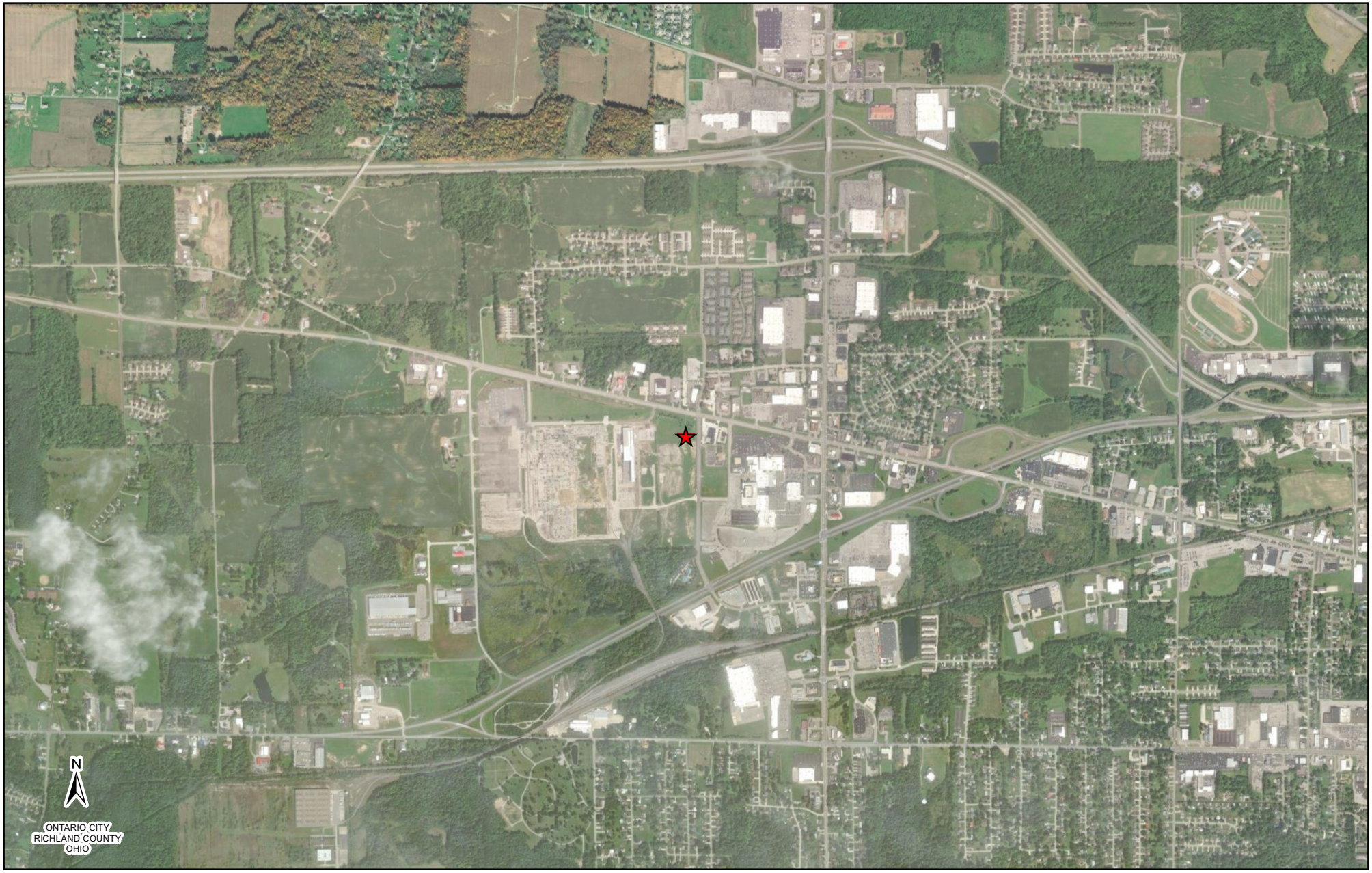
Coordinate System:

NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic; Units: Foot US

EXHIBIT 1

ATSI® American Transmission Systems, Inc. a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

Galion-Ontario 138 kV
Transmission Line
Switch Structures Installation Project



LEGEND:

Project Location

0 1,000 2,000 4,000

Feet

Reference:

USGS Topographical Overlay

Coordinate System:

NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic; Units: Foot US

EXHIBIT 2

ATSI®
American Transmission Systems, Inc.
a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

Galion-Ontario 138 kV Transmission Line Switch Structures Installation Project

LEGEND

- 138kV SWITCH
- SUBSTATION
- EXISTING STRUCTURE
- PROPOSED STRUCTURE
- EXISTING LATTICE TOWER
- DISTRIBUTION POLE
- DISTRIBUTION LINE
- FENCE
- PAVED ROADWAY
- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- NOT IN SERVICE TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE TO BE TRANSFERRED
- BUILDING
- STRUCTURE TO BE MODIFIED

RICHLAND COUNTY
STATE OF OHIO

PARCEL: 0386015206000
OWNER: ONTARIO STUMBO III LLC

TO GALION SUBSTATION

TO ONTARIO SUBSTATION

#1964

REPLACE EXISTING SUSPENSION INSULATORS WITH NEW DEADEND INSULATORS

PARCEL: 0386031884000
OWNER: 2300 FOURTH LLC

W. 4TH ST.

PARCEL: 0386015813000
OWNER: ABC MANSFIELD LLC

#1965A

#1965B

GALION-ONTARIO 138kV

ONTARIO STUMBO SUBSTATION

PARCEL: 0386015206001
OWNER: ONTARIO STUMBO I LLC

#1965C

OPEN POINTS

STUMBO RD.

PARCEL: 0386015206002
OWNER: ONTARIO STUMBO II LLC

PARCEL: 0386015203001
OWNER: ONTARIO STUMBO II LLC

0' 100' 200'
HORIZONTAL SCALE IN FEET

GALION-ONTARIO 138KV ONTARIO STUMBO INTERCONNECTION, EX. 3

ATSI®
American Transmission Systems, Inc.
a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

GALION-ONTARIO 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
SWITCH STRUCTURES INSTALLATION
PROJECT

GENERAL PROJECT LAYOUT

EXHIBIT 3

ATSI Transmission Zone M-3 Process
Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line Customer Connection

Need Number: ATSI-2024-045

Process Stage: Need Meeting – 06/14/2024

Supplemental Project Driver(s):

Customer Service

Specific Assumption Reference(s):

New customer connection request will be evaluated per FirstEnergy's "Requirements for Transmission Connected Facilities" document and "Transmission Planning Criteria" document.

Problem Statement

New Customer Connection – A retail customer has requested a new 138 kV delivery point near the Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line. The anticipated load of the new customer connection is 63 MVA. The request is approximately 1,000 feet from Ontario Substation.

Requested In-Service Date:

December 31, 2025

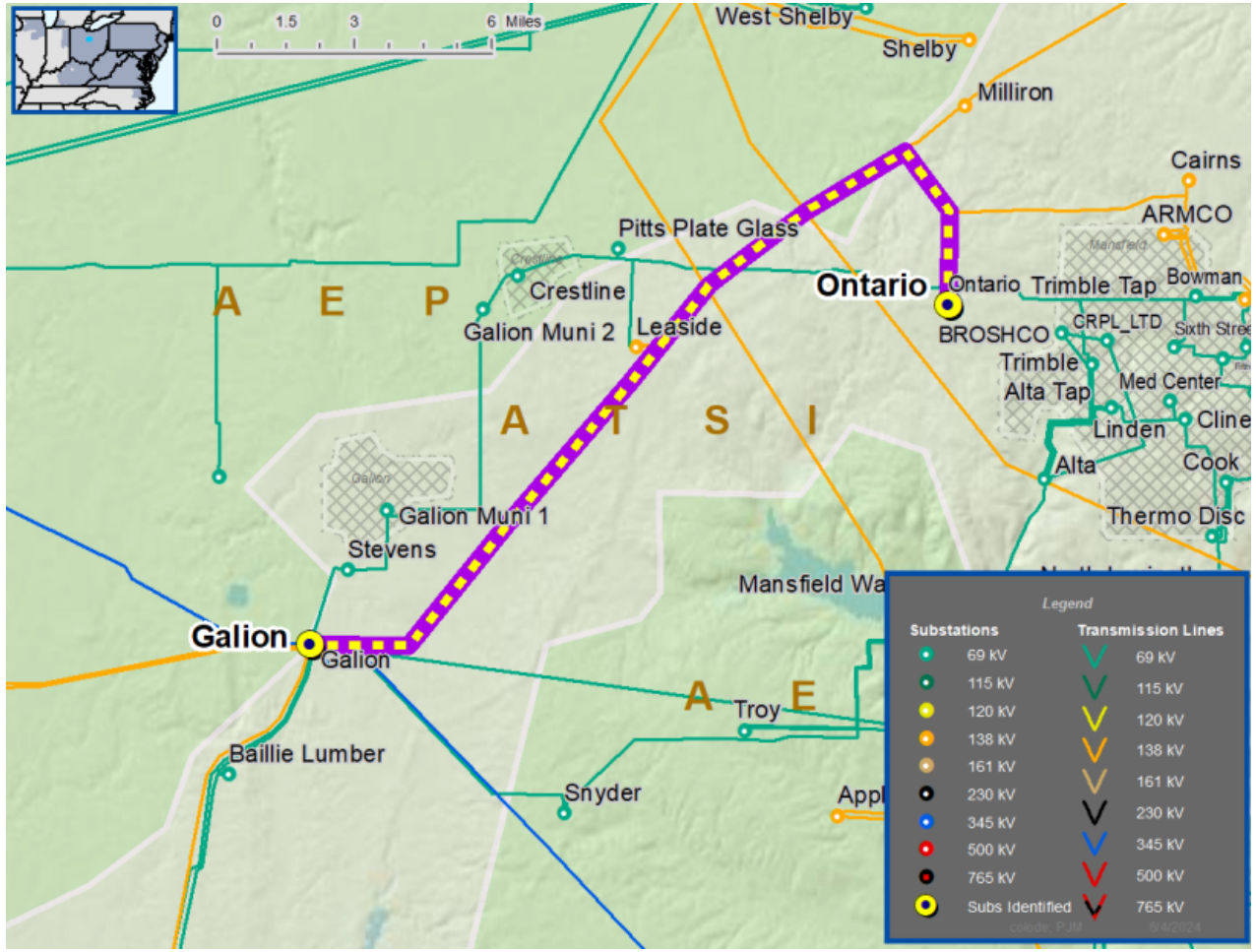


EXHIBIT 4

ATSI Transmission Zone M-3 Process
Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line Customer Connection

Need Number: ATSI-2024-045
Process Stage: Solution Meeting – 07/19/2024
Previously Presented: Need Meeting – 06/14/2024

Supplemental Project Driver(s):
Customer Service

Specific Assumption Reference(s):

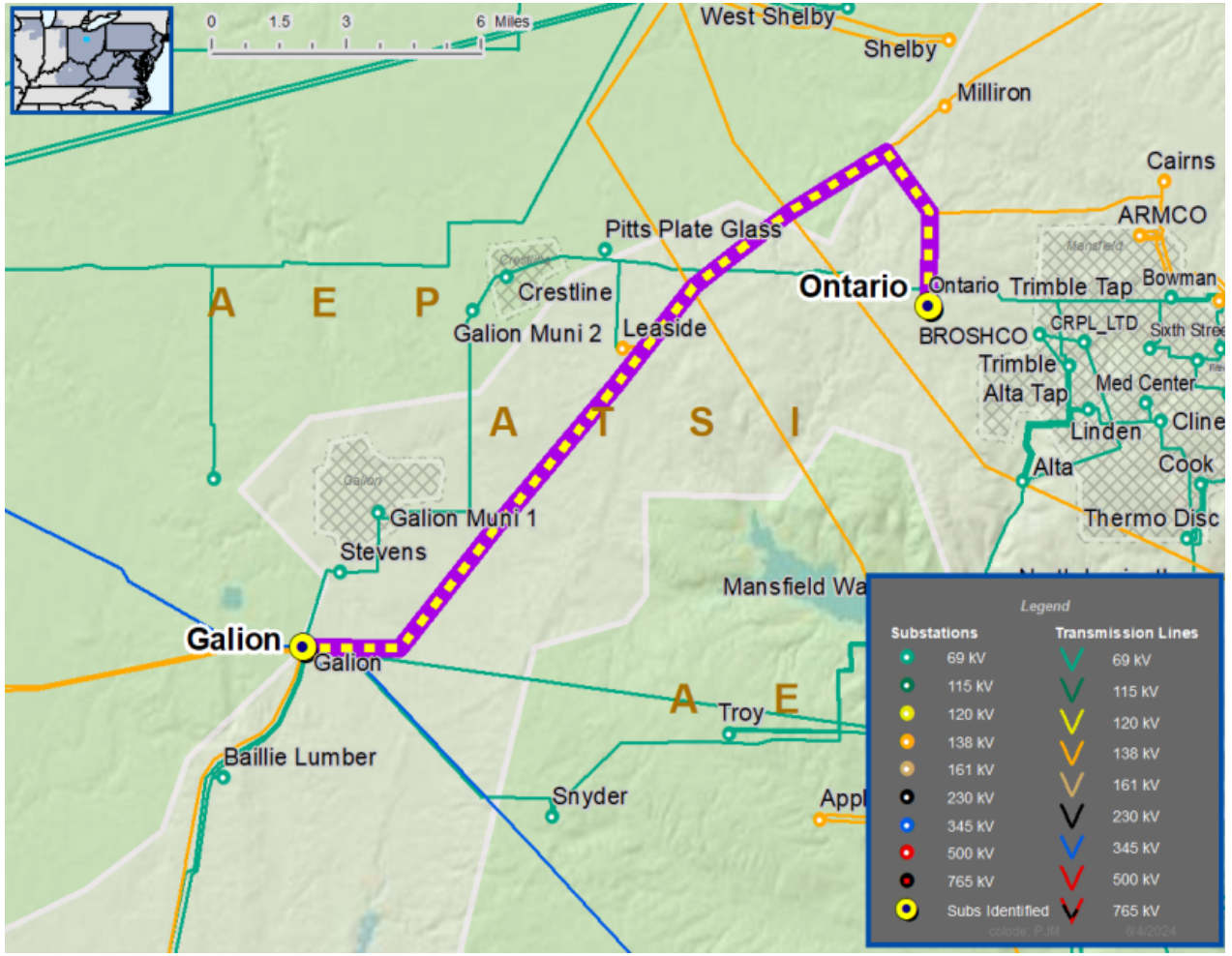
New customer connection request will be evaluated per FirstEnergy's "Requirements for Transmission Connected Facilities" document and "Transmission Planning Criteria" document.

Problem Statement

New Customer Connection – A retail customer has requested a new 138 kV delivery point near the Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line. The anticipated load of the new customer connection is 63 MVA. The request is approximately 1,000 feet from Ontario Substation.

Forecasted In-Service Date:

December 31, 2025



ATSI Transmission Zone M-3 Process
Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line Customer Connection

Need Number: ATSI-2024-045
Process Stage: Solution Meeting – 07/19/2024

Proposed Solution:

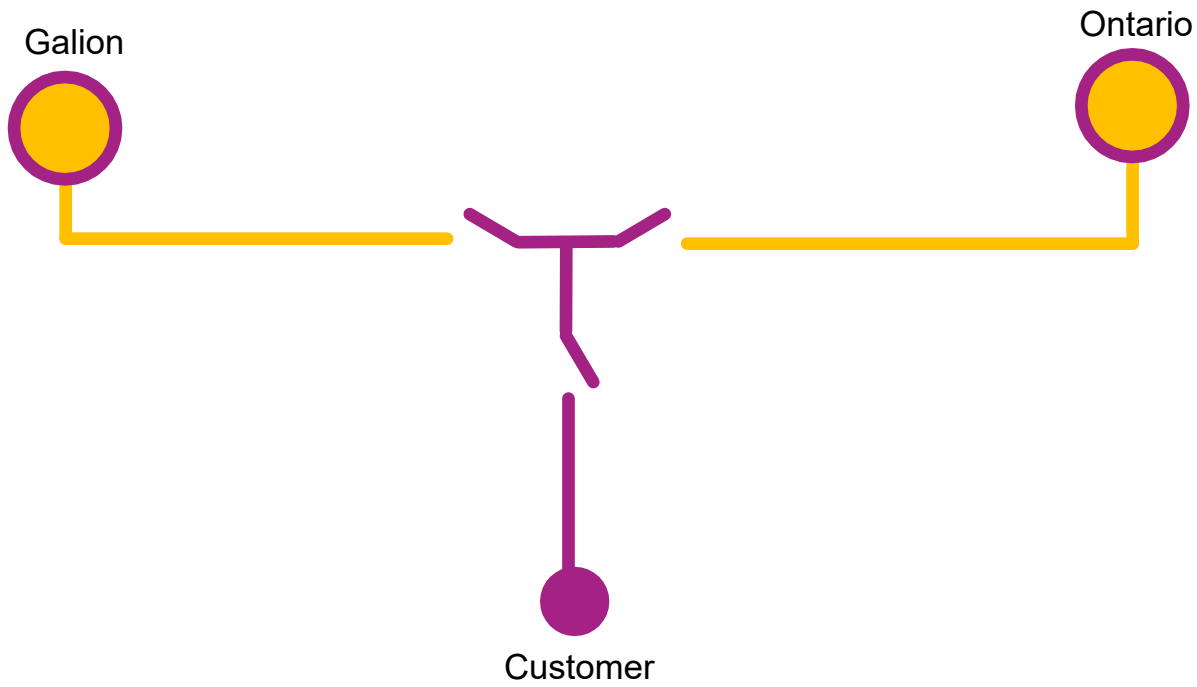
138 kV Transmission Line Tap

- Install two main-line SCADA controlled switches
- Install one tap-line SCADA controlled switch
- Construct 0.1 miles of 138 kV line extension.
- Adjust relay settings at Galion and Ontario substations
- Install revenue metering

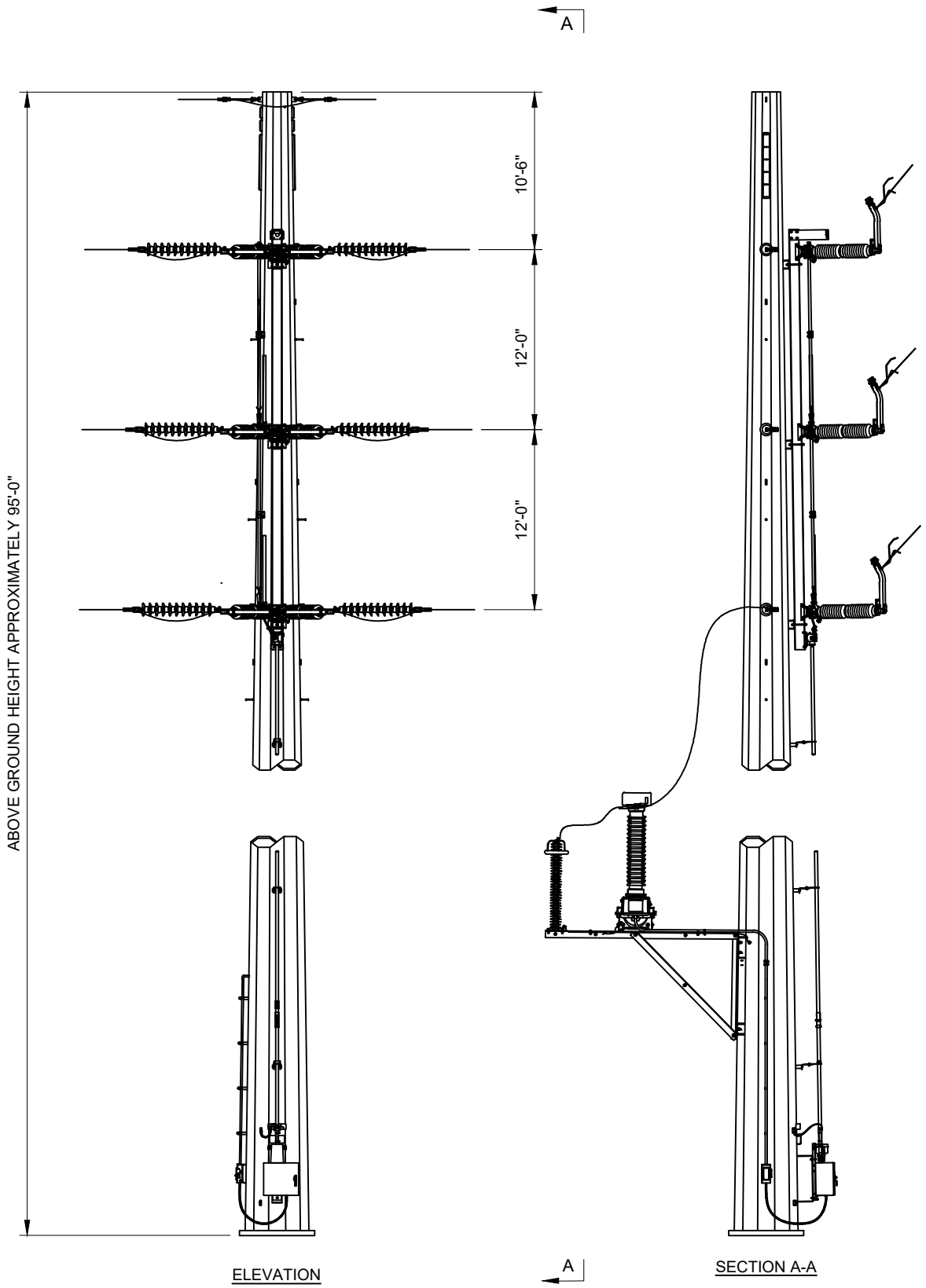
Alternatives Considered:

- No reasonable alternatives to meet the customer's request near the Galion – Ontario 138 kV Line.

Estimated Project Cost: $1.04 M
Projected In-Service: 7/14/2025
Status: Engineering
Model: 2022 RTEP model for the 2027 Summer (50/50)



Legend	
500 kV	
345 kV	
138 kV	
69 kV	
34.5 kV	
23 kV	
New	



ELEVATION

SECTION A-A

GALION-ONTARIO 138KV ONTARIO STUMBO INTERCONNECTION, EX. 4

SCALE N.T.S

ATSI®
American Transmission Systems, Inc.
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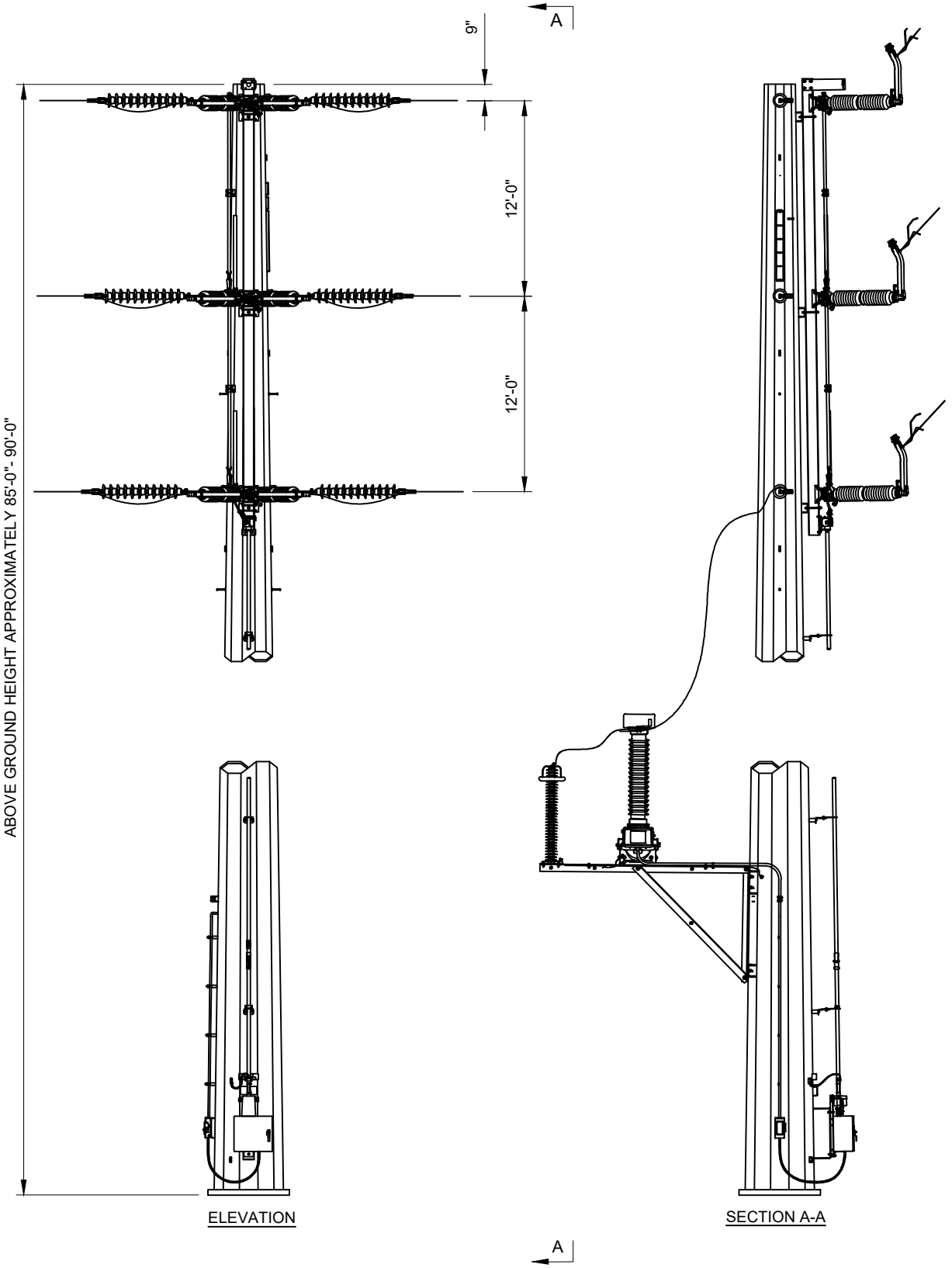
GALION-ONTARIO 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
SWITCH STRUCTURES INSTALLATION
PROJECT

138KV SINGLE CIRCUIT TUBULAR STEEL UNITIZED 2000A
SWITCH STRUCTURE WITH WHIP OR SINGLE BOTTLE
INTERRUPTER VERTICAL SINGLE POLE WITH SHIELD WIRE

EXHIBIT 4



GALION-ONTARIO 138KV ONTARIO STUMBO INTERCONNECTION, EX. 5

SCALE N.T.S

ATSI® American Transmission Systems, Inc. a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

GALION-ONTARIO 138 kV TRANSMISSION LINE SWITCH STRUCTURES INSTALLATION PROJECT

138KV SINGLE CIRCUIT TUBULAR STEEL UNITIZED 2000A SWITCH STRUCTURE WITH WHIP OR SINGLE BOTTLE INTERRUPTER VERTICAL SINGLE POLE WITHOUT SHIELD WIRE

EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 7

In reply, refer to
2024-RIC-62693

November 19, 2024

Justin McKissick
TRC Companies, Inc.
317 East Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project, City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio

Mr. McKissick:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received October 18, 2024, regarding the proposed Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4 & 4906-5). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the existing Galion-Ontario 138kV transmission line, as well as the construction of a new customer interconnect and a protection/terminal end relay at the existing Galion and Ontario Substation. The submission defines the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as the approximately 1.32-acre area shown on Figure 1. All work will occur within the existing right-of-way (ROW) and at heights similar to the existing infrastructure. A review of our records indicates that the APE has never been professionally surveyed for the presence of cultural resources. There are no known archaeological sites located within or adjacent to the APE. A review of available historic aerials and soil data indicated disturbance and the presence of udorthents (Uc) within the APE. Due to the limited scope of the undertaking, it is unlikely that significant archaeological sites will be affected, and no archaeological survey is recommended. Development in the area primarily consists of modern industrial and commercial buildings.

Based on the information provided, it is our office's opinion that the project, as proposed, will have no effect on historic properties. No further coordination is required for the project unless the scope of work changes or archaeological resources are discovered during the implementation of the project. In such a situation, this office should be contacted, as required by 36 CFR § 800.13. If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact me via email at cgullett@ohiohistory.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

RPR Serial No. 1105327

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:
RESOURCE PROTECTION AND REVIEW

Section 106 Review - Project Summary Form

For projects requiring a license from the Federal Communications Commission, please use FCC Forms 620 or 621. DO NOT USE THIS FORM.

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

All contact information provided must include the name, address and phone number of the person listed. Email addresses should also be included, if available. Please refer to the Instructions or contact an OHPO reviewer (mailto:Section106@ohiohistory.org) if you need help completing this Form. Unless otherwise requested, we will contact the person submitting this Form with questions or comments about this project.

Date: 10/17/2024

Name/Affiliation of person submitting form: Justin McKissick, MA, RPA

Mailing Address: 317 E. Carson Street, Suite 113, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone/Fax/Email: 412.660.7937/jmckissick@trccompanies.com

A. Project Info:

1. This Form provides information about:
   New Project Submittal:
   YES

   Additional information relating to previously submitted project:
   NO

   OHPO/RPR Serial Number from previous submission:

2. Project Name (if applicable): **Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project**

3. Internal tracking or reference number used by Federal Agency, consultant, and/or applicant to identify this project (if applicable): **429847.0107.0000**

B. Project Address or vicinity: **The northern extent of the Study Area is located 200 feet (ft) west of the intersection of W. 4th Street and Stumbo Road N (40.773506, -82.598014) and extends south for 300 ft, then turns 90 degrees to the west for 450 ft to the substation, 0.14 miles (mi) southwest of the same intersection (40.77269, -82.599698) (Figure 1).**

C. City/Township: **City of Ontario**

D. County: **Richland County**

E. Federal Agency and Agency Contact. *If you do not know the federal agency involved in your project, please contact the party asking you to apply for Section 106 Review, not OHPO, for this information*. *HUD Entitlement Communities acting under delegated environmental review authority should list their own contact information*. **N/A**

F. Type of Federal Assistance. *List all known federal sources of federal funding, approvals, and permits to avoid repeated reviews.* **N/A**

G. State Agency and Contact Person (if applicable): **Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)**

H. Type of State Assistance: **N/A**

I. Is this project being submitted at the direction of a state agency **solely** under Ohio Revised Code 149.53 or at the direction of a State Agency? *Answering yes to this question means that you are sure that no federal funding, permits or approvals will be used for any part of your project, and that you are seeking comments only under ORC 149.53.*

NO

J. Public Involvement- Describe how the public has been/will be informed about this project and its potential to affect historic properties. Please summarize how they will have an opportunity to provide comments about any effects to historic properties. (This step is required for all projects under 36 CFR § 800.2):

K. Please list other consulting parties that you have contacted/will contact about this project, such as Indian Tribes, Certified Local Governments, local officials, property owners, or preservation groups. (See 36 CFR § 800.2 for more information about involving other consulting parties). Please summarize how they will have an opportunity to provide comments: **N/A**

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)

Provide a description of your project, its site, and geographical information. You will also describe your project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Please refer to the Instructions or contact an OHPO reviewer if you need help with developing the APE or completing this form.

For challenging projects, provide as much information as possible in all sections, and then check the box in Section 5.A. to ask OHPO to offer preliminary comments or make recommendations about how to proceed with your project consultation. This is recommended if your project involves effects to significant historic properties or if there may be challenging procedural issues related to your project. Please note that providing information to complete all Sections will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.

A. Does this project involve any Ground-Disturbing activity: **YES**

(If **Yes**, you must complete all of Section 2.A. If **No**, proceed directly to Section 2. B.)

1. General description of width, length and depth of proposed ground disturbing activity:

The Limits of Disturbance (LOD) which corresponds to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for direct effects, will be completely within the Study Area, which measures approximately 1.32 acres (ac) in size (Figure 2). The access road will measure approximately 25 ft wide while the work and staging areas surrounding the structure replacement will measure approximately between 125 ft and 250 ft wide (E-W) by 400 ft long (N-S). There will be minimal ground disturbance associated as the new infrastructure and access/egress will utilize an existing access within the maintained transmission line corridor. The updated infrastructure will be at or below the height of the existing structures.

2. Narrative description of previous land use and past ground disturbances, if known:

Historically, the landscape was likely agricultural fields or wooded landscapes with development occurring predominately throughout the twentieth and into the twenty-first centuries. Buildings were constructed in the vicinity of the Study Area as early as 1856.

3. Narrative description of current land use and conditions:

The modern aerial imagery shows a semi-developed regional landscape with the Study Area composed of a manicured lawn within an existing, maintained utility right-of-way. An electrical substation is located west of the Study Area. Development in the area includes predominantly commercial and industrial facilities. General overview photographs are provided as Attachment 1.

4. Does the landowner know of any archaeological resources found on the property?
YES NO If yes, please describe: **Unknown**

B. Submit the exact project site location on a USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map for all projects. Map sections, photocopies of map sections, and online versions of USGS maps are acceptable as long as the location is clearly marked. Show the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). It should be clearly distinguished from other features shown on the map:

1. USGS Quad Map Name: **Mansfield North, OH**

2. Township/City/Village Name: **City of Ontario, Springfield Township**

C. Provide a street-level map indicating the location of the project site; road names must be identified and legible. Your map must show the exact location of the boundaries for the project site. Show the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). It should be clearly distinguished from other features shown on the map: **See Figure 2**

D. Provide a verbal description of the APE, including a discussion of how the APE will include areas with the potential for direct and indirect effects from the project. Explain the steps taken to identify the project's APE, and your justification for the specific boundaries chosen:

The APE will include all areas in which construction activities associated with the proposed Project will take place. The minimal ground disturbances will primarily be associated with the installation of new infrastructure. The APE will also include a viewshed that will be based on LIDAR data, vegetation, topography, and buildings,

which will reduce the APE to areas with positive visibility of the Project infrastructure within 0.25 mi of the undertaking. There are buildings in the area that are over 50 years of age; however, new infrastructure will be similar to existing infrastructure heights and, therefore, no new visual impacts are anticipated.

E. Provide a detailed description of the project. This is a critical part of your submission. Your description should be prepared for a cold reader who may not be an expert in this type of project. The information provided must help support your analysis of effects to historic properties, not other types of project impacts. Do not simply include copies of environmental documents or other types of specialized project reports. If there are multiple project alternatives, you should include information about all alternatives that are still under active consideration:

The proposed Project will involve the installation of three (3) new switches on the existing Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the existing Galion and Ontario 138kV Substation. (Figure 2). The new proposed infrastructure will be at heights similar to the existing infrastructure. All work will be contained within existing ROW.

SECTION 3: IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Describe whether there are historic properties located within your project APE. To make that determination, use information generated from your own Background Research and Field Survey. Then choose one of the following options to report your findings. Please refer to the Instructions and/or contact an OHPO reviewer if you are unsure about how to identify historic properties for your project.

The results of the search indicate that there are no historic properties, above-ground historic resources, or Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) cemeteries mapped within one (1)-mi of the proposed Project.

There has been one (1) archaeological survey conducted within one (1)-mi of the Study Area. Three (3) archaeological sites have been recorded within one (1)-mi of the Study Area. The sites include two (2) pre-contact open sites of unknown temporal affiliation located 0.98 mi northeast and 0.88 mi southwest and one (1) historic residential/subsistence site situated 0.93 mi southwest that dates to the middle nineteenth century to present.

A review of available historic maps was conducted to determine the presence of historic structures and buildings (50 years of age or older) and other possible historic features within or adjacent to the Study Area that may be impacted by the proposed Project. Springfield Township was surveyed established in 1808 with the formation of Richland County.

By 1856, the region had been settled with buildings situated primarily along the established transportation routes in the region (Attachment 2, Image 1). A road that would become W. 4th Street had been constructed. The Study Area was situated on a parcel attributed to *Marshall*, and a building was mapped just east. The *Atlantic and B.W. Railroad* had been constructed through the area, south of the Study Area.

In 1873, the overall landscape remained relatively the same, with widely spaced residential properties along the established roadways (Attachment 2, Image 2). The *Marshall* parcel had been divided and the Study Area was mapped on a parcel attributed to *WL Neal*. A single building was mapped on the parcel, east of the Study Area.

The region remained the same through the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth century. The 1915 USGS map displays a rural landscape with widely spaced buildings (Attachment 2, Image 3). A second railroad line was established north of the Study

Area. No buildings are mapped in the vicinity of the Study Area.

Between 1915 and 1960, the region had substantial change (Attachment 2, Image 4). New highways were constructed through the area and likely spurred population growth. An industrial facility, labeled as a former General Motors Plant, was constructed just west of the Study Area. The current overhead utility line was also constructed by 1960 and is visible on the historic image.

Throughout the middle to late twentieth century, the landscape around the Study Area continued to be developed with commercial and industrial facilities. The Former GM Plant appears to have ceased operations around 2009 and the building was razed between 2013 and 2015. The Study Area has remained open, manicured lawn.

If you read the Instructions and you're still confused as to which reporting option best fits your project, or you are not sure if your project needs a survey, you may choose to skip this section, but provide as much supporting documentation as possible in all other Sections, then check the box in Section 5.A. to request preliminary comments from OHPO. After reviewing the information provided, OHPO will then offer comments as to which reporting option is best suited to document historic properties for your project. Please note that providing information to complete this Section will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.

Recording the Results of Background Research and Field Survey:

A. **Summary of discussions and/or consultation with OHPO** about this project that demonstrates how the Agency Official and OHPO have agreed that no Field Survey was necessary for this project (typically due to extreme ground disturbance or other special circumstances). Please **attach copies** of emails/correspondence that document this agreement. You must explain how the project's potential to affect both archaeological and historic resources were considered. **N/A**

B. **A table that includes the minimum information** listed in the OHPO Section 106 Documentation Table (which is generally equivalent to the information found on an inventory form). This information must be printed and mailed with the Project Summary Form. To provide sufficient information to complete this Section, you must also include summary observations from your field survey, background research and eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated in the project APE. **N/A**

C. **OHI (Ohio Historic Inventory) or OAI (Ohio Archaeological Inventory) forms**- New or updated inventory forms may be prepared using the OHI pdf form with data population capabilities, the Internet IForm, or typed on archival quality inventory forms. To provide sufficient information to complete this Section, you must include summary observations from your field survey and background research. You must also include eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated in the project APE. **N/A**

D. **A historic or archaeological survey report** prepared by a qualified consultant that meets professional standards. The survey report should meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and OHPO Archaeological Guidelines. You may also include new inventory forms with your survey or update previous inventory forms. To complete this section, your survey report must include summary observations from your field survey, background research and eligibility determinations for each property that was evaluated within the APE. **N/A**

E. **Project Findings**. Based on the conclusions you reached in completing Section 3, please choose one finding for your project. There are (mark one):

Historic Properties Present in the APE: **N/A**

No Historic Properties Present in the APE: **N/A**

SECTION 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

This information must be provided for all projects.

A. Photographs must be keyed to a street-level map and should be included as attachments to this application. Please label all forms, tables, and CDs with the date of your submission and project name, as identified in Section 1. You must present enough documentation to clearly show existing conditions at your project site and convey details about the buildings, structures or sites that are described in your submission. Faxed or photocopied photographs are not acceptable. See Instructions for more info about photo submissions or 36 CFR § 800.11 for federal documentation standards.

    1. Provide photos of the entire project site and take photos to/from historic properties from/towards your project site to support your determination of effect in Section 5. **See Attachment 1 - Photographs**

    2. Provide current photos of all buildings/structures/sites described.

B. Project plan, specifications, site drawings and any other media presentation that conveys detailed information about your project and its potential to affect historic properties.
C. Copies or summaries of any comments provided by consulting parties or the public.

SECTION 5: DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

A. **Request Preliminary Comments.** For challenging projects, provide as much information as possible in previous sections and ask OHPO to offer preliminary comments or make recommendations about how to proceed with your project consultation. This is recommended if your project involves effects to significant historic properties, if the public has concerns about your project's potential to affect historic properties, or if there may be challenging procedural issues related to your project. Please be aware that providing information in all Sections will still be required and that asking OHPO for preliminary comments may tend to delay completion of the review process for some projects.

    1. We request preliminary comments from OHPO about this project:
    YES

    2. Please specify as clearly as possible the particular issues that you would like OHPO to examine for your project (for example- help with developing an APE, addressing the concerns of consulting parties, survey methodology, etc.):

    Please review the provided information and respond with your determination relative to the potential effects to cultural resources, if any.

B. **Determination of Effect.** If you believe that you have gathered enough information to conclude the Section 106 process, you may be ready to make a determination of effect and ask OHPO for concurrence, while considering public comments. Please select and mark one of the following determinations, then explain the basis for your decision on an attached sheet of paper:

    No historic properties will be affected based on 36 CFR § 800.4(d) (1).

Please explain how you made this determination:

No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties. This finding cannot be used if there are no historic properties present in your project APE. Please explain why the Criteria of Adverse Effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a) (1)], were found not to be applicable for your project:

Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d) (2)] on historic properties. Please explain why the criteria of adverse effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a) (1)], were found to be applicable to your project. You may also include an explanation of how these adverse effects might be avoided, reduced or mitigated:

Please send completed form and supporting documentation to our office through the section106@ohiohistory.org e-mail address. Note that file size is limited to 30 MB. The Ohio SHPO has a federally mandated review time of 30 calendar day. To check your submission was received and logged in for our review, please visit https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpreviews/section-106-project-status.

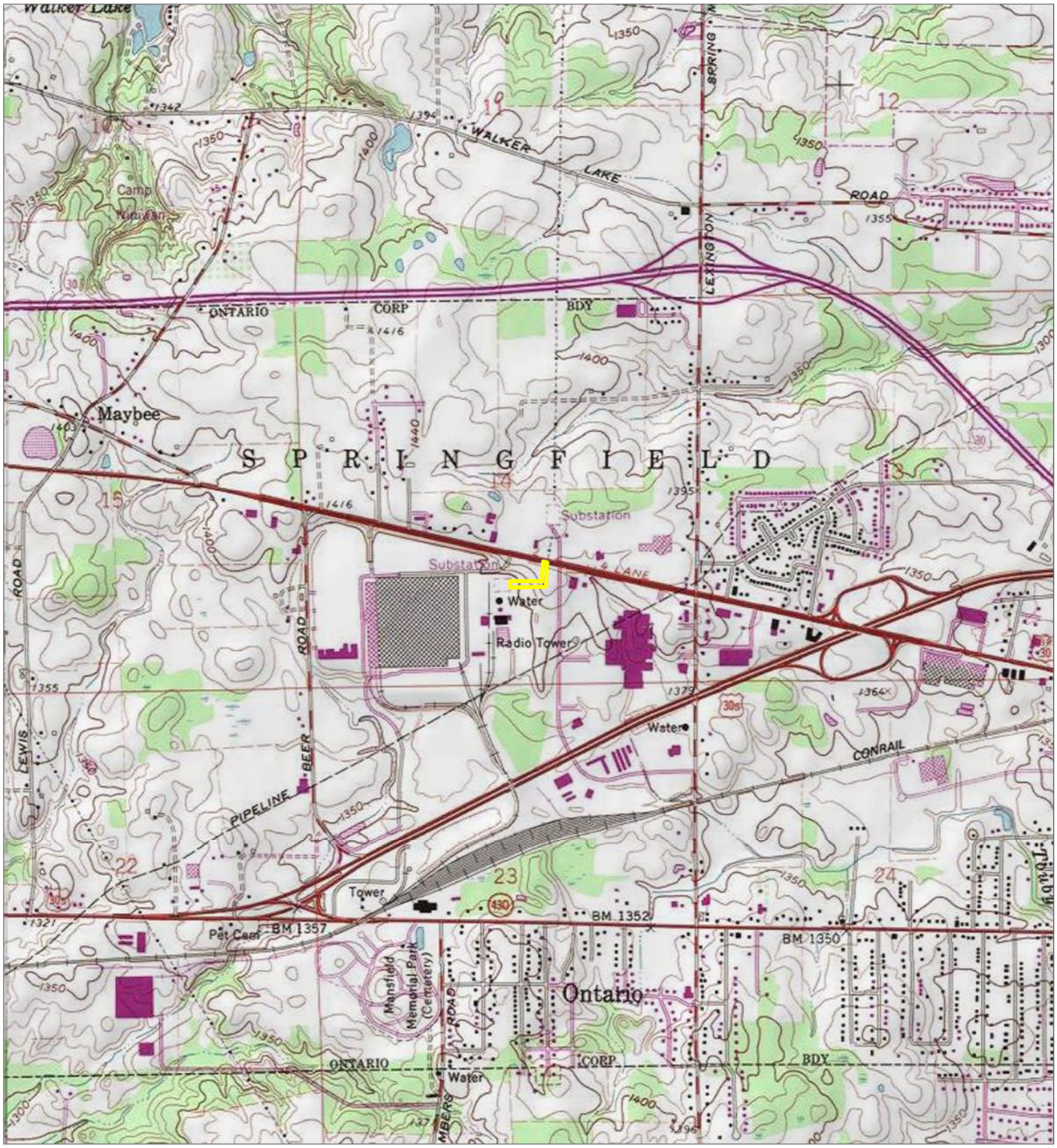
REFERENCES

Andrea, Alfred T.
1873 "Map of Springfield Township" in Atlas Map of Richland County, Ohio. Published by A.T. Andreas, Chicago, Illinois. Electronic document, https://historicmapworks.com/Map/US/20024/Springfield+Township/Richland+County+1873/Ohio/, accessed October 8, 2024.

O'Byrne, P.
1856 Map of Richland Co., Ohio. Published by Matthews and Taintor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4083r.la000668/?r=0.59-2,0.176,0.411,0.257,0, accessed October 8, 2024.

United States Geographical Survey
1915 *Crestline, OH,* 15-minute series topographic series. Electronic document, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#15/40.7733/-82.5942, accessed October 8, 2024.

1960 *Mansfield North, OH* 7.5-minute series topographic series. Electronic document, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#15/40.7733/-82.5942, accessed October 8, 2024.



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, MANSFIELD NORTH QUAD

N

0 1,000 2,000

FEET

1:24,000 1" = 2,000'

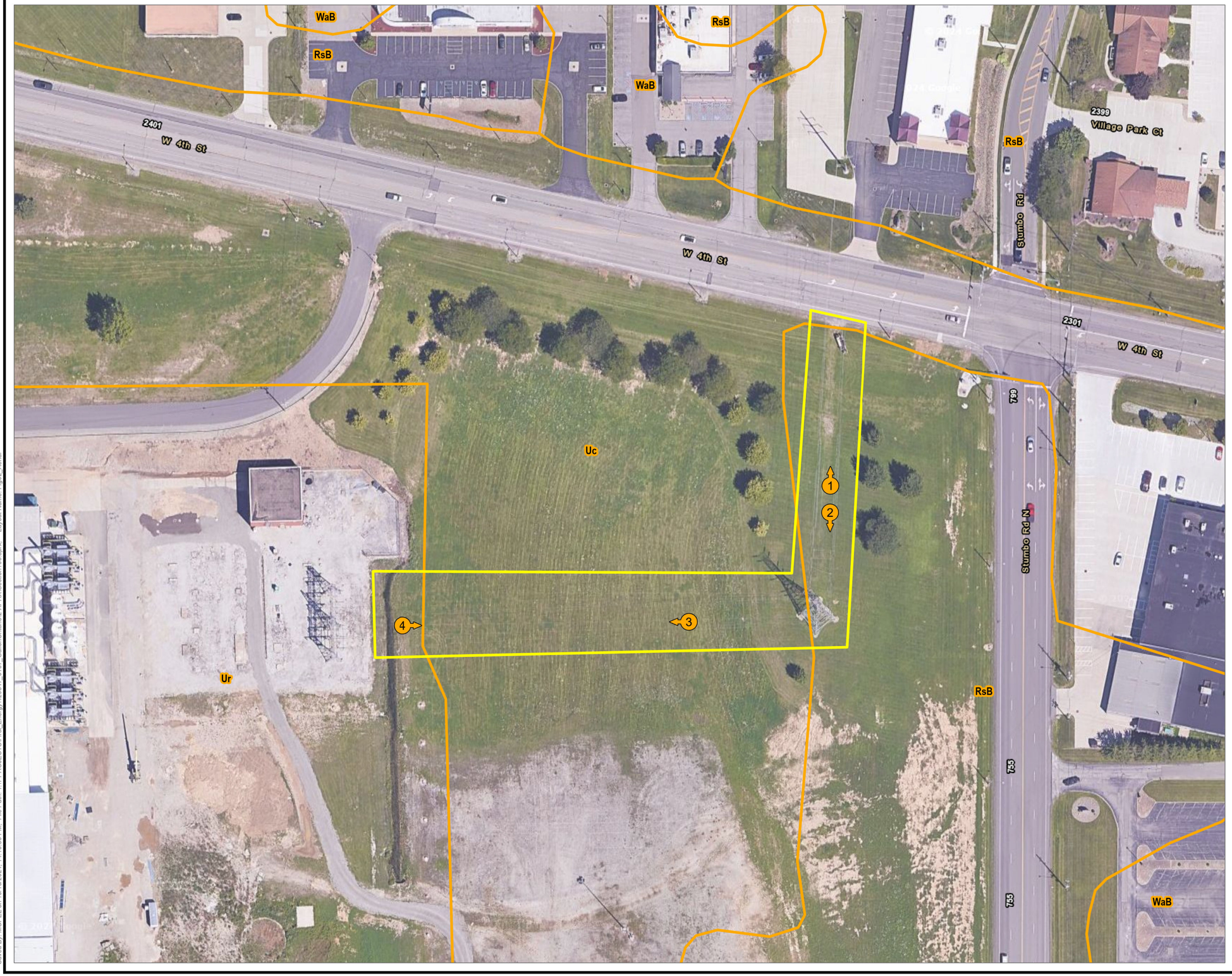
PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	J. MCKISSICK		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 1**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: SECTION106



PROJECT STUDY AREA

MAPPED SOIL UNITS

PHOTO LOCATION

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.

1:1,200

1" = 100'

0 100 200 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

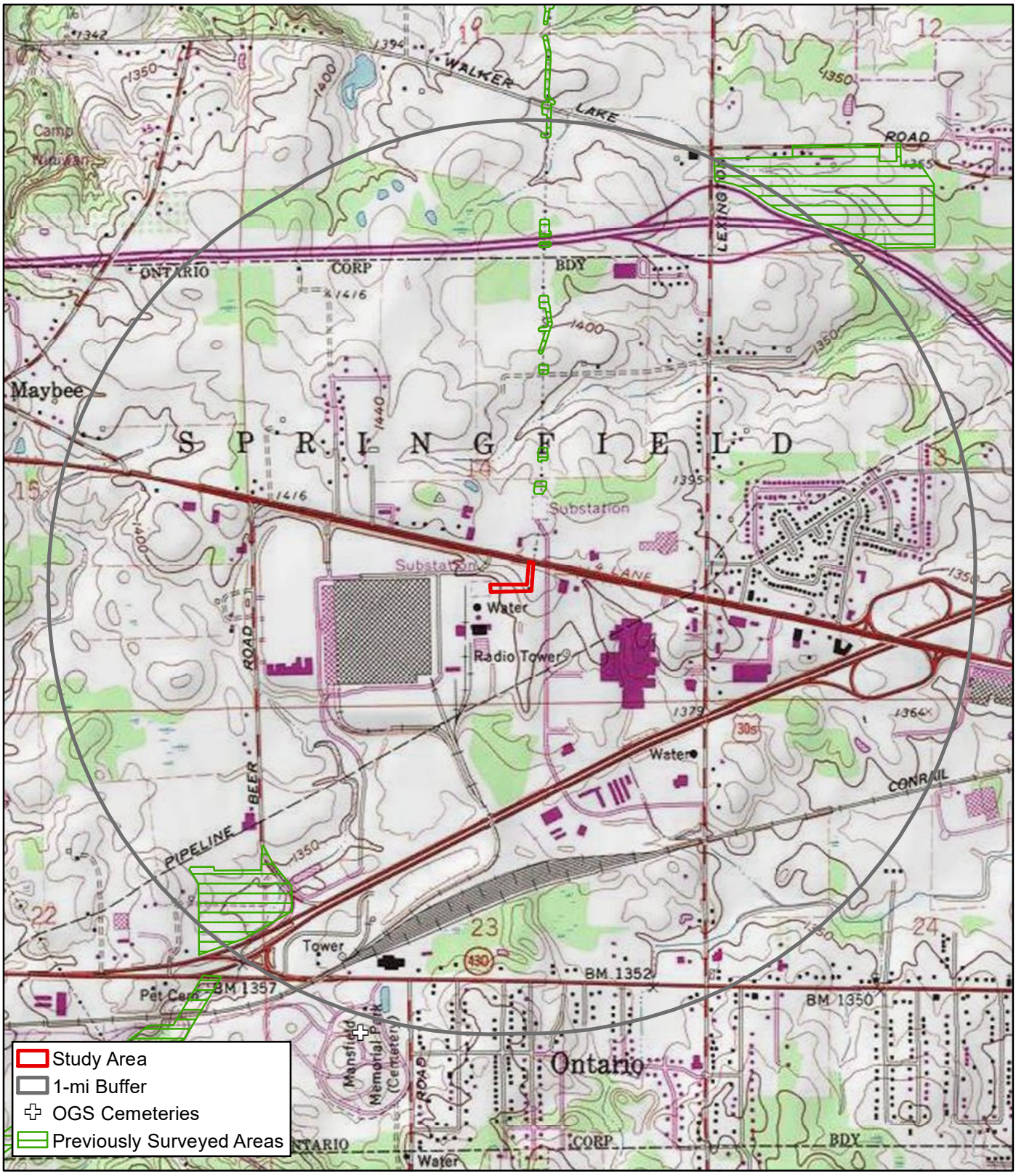
TITLE:
AERIAL BASEMAP WITH PHOTO LOCATIONS

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	J. MCKISSICK		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 2**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: Section106.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
Saved By: MOPEL on 10/16/2024, 1:40:30 PM; File Path: T:_PROJECTS\First_Energy\429847_0107_GalionOntario\2-APRX\Section106.aprx; Layout Name: Fig02_Aerial



BASEMAP FROM 7.5-MINUTE SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

N

1 " = 1,667 ' 0 500 1,000 FEET

1:20,000

TRC

317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

TITLE:

OHC Database Search Results Map

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107.0000
FILE:	Galion-Ontario.mxd

Figure 3

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ATTACHMENT 1

Photographs

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name:	Site Location:	Project No.
FirstEnergy Corporation	City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107.0000

Photo No. 1. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Facing north, viewing the viewing the landscape with the Study Area.	

Photo No. 2. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Facing south, viewing the viewing the landscape with the Study Area.	

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

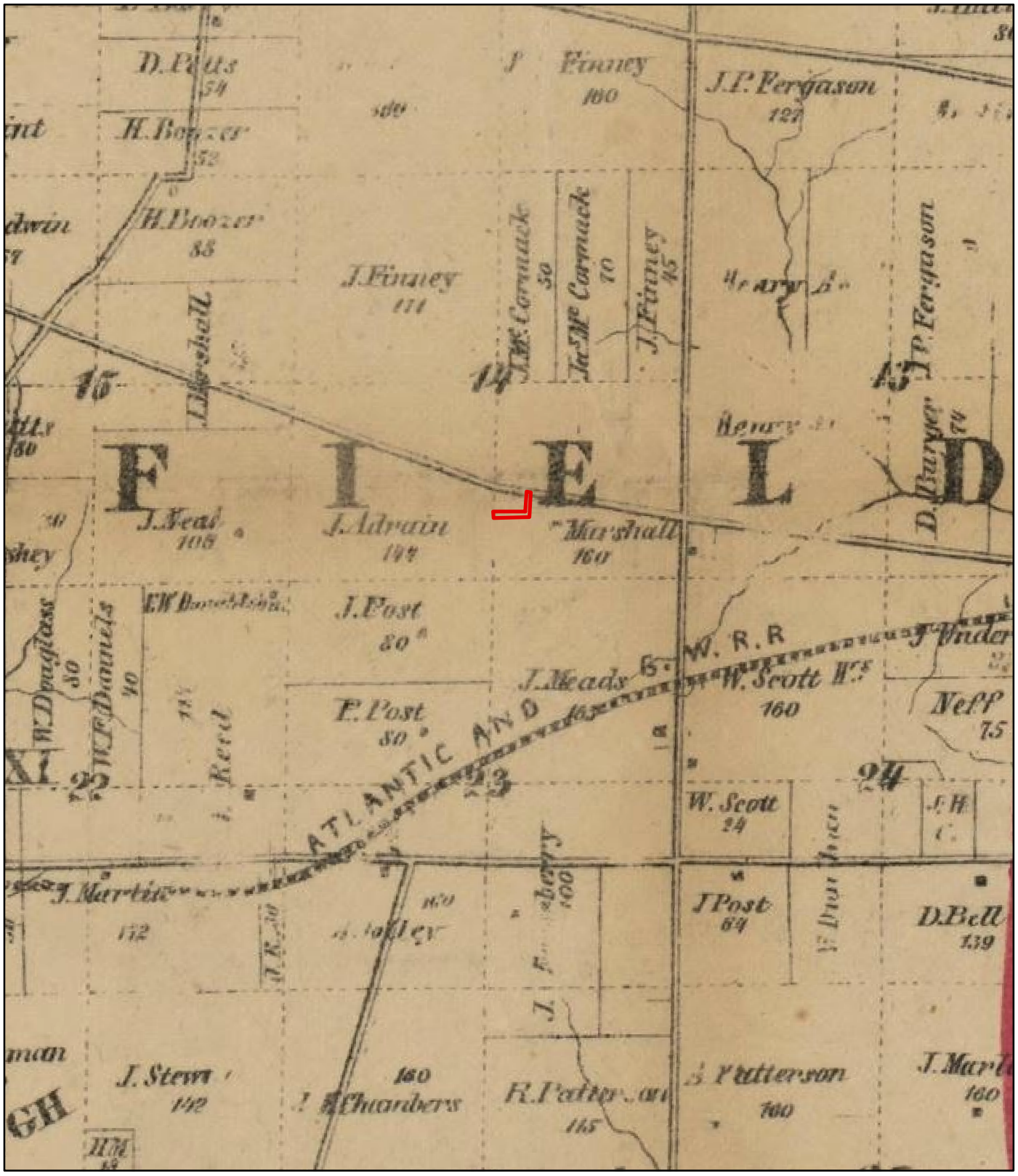
Client Name:	Site Location:	Project No.
FirstEnergy Corporation	City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107.0000

Photo No. 3. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Facing west, viewing the viewing the landscape with the Study Area and the existing substation.	

Photo No. 4. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Facing east, viewing the viewing the landscape with the Study Area.	

ATTACHMENT 2

Historic Map Images



BASEMAP FROM MAP of RICHLAND CO., OHIO

*IMAGE OVERLAY IS APPROXIMATE

N

1 " = 1,917 ' 0 500 1,000

1:23,000 FEET

TRC

317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1856 (O'Byrne)

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107.0000
FILE:	Galion-Ontario.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 1

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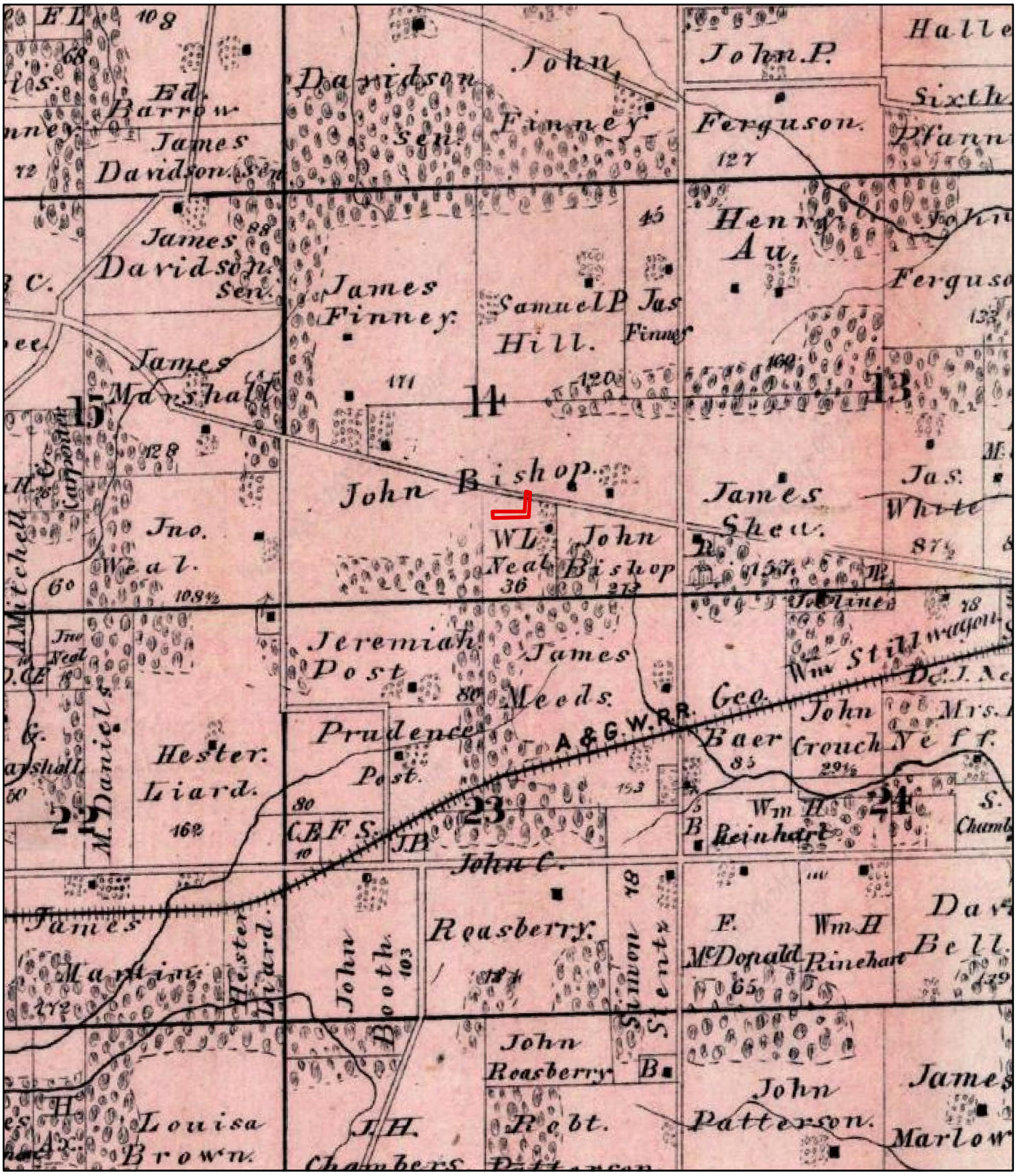

BASEMAP FROM ATLAS of RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

*IMAGE OVERLAY IS APPROXIMATE

N

1 " = 1,917 ' 0 500 1,000 FEET

1:23,000

TRC

317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1873 (Andrea)

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107.0000
FILE:	Galion-Ontario.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 2

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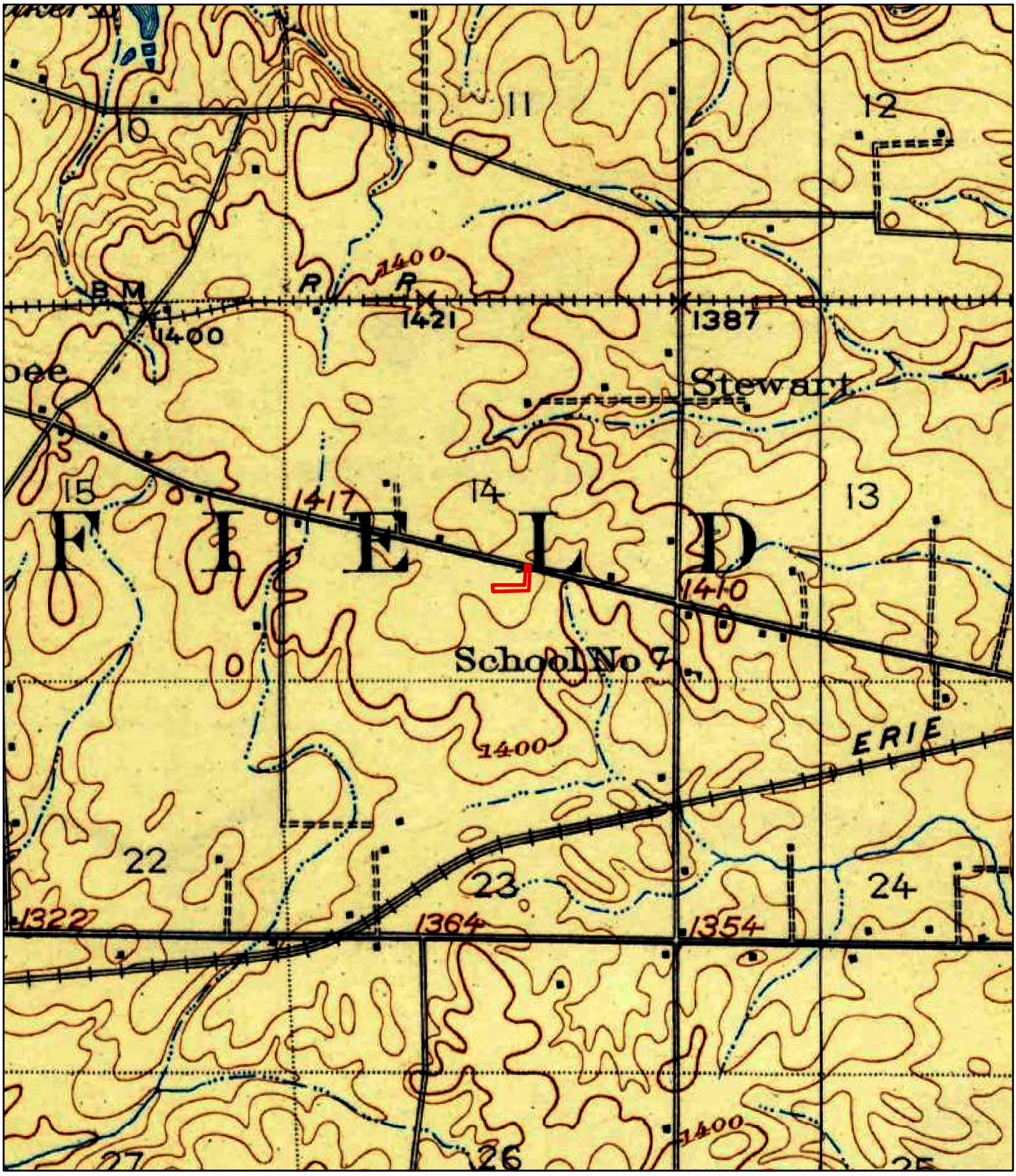

BASEMAP FROM 15-MINUTE SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

*IMAGE OVERLAY IS APPROXIMATE

N

1 " = 1,917 ' 0 500 1,000

1:23,000 FEET

TRC

317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1915 (USGS)

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107.0000
FILE:	Galion-Ontario.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 3

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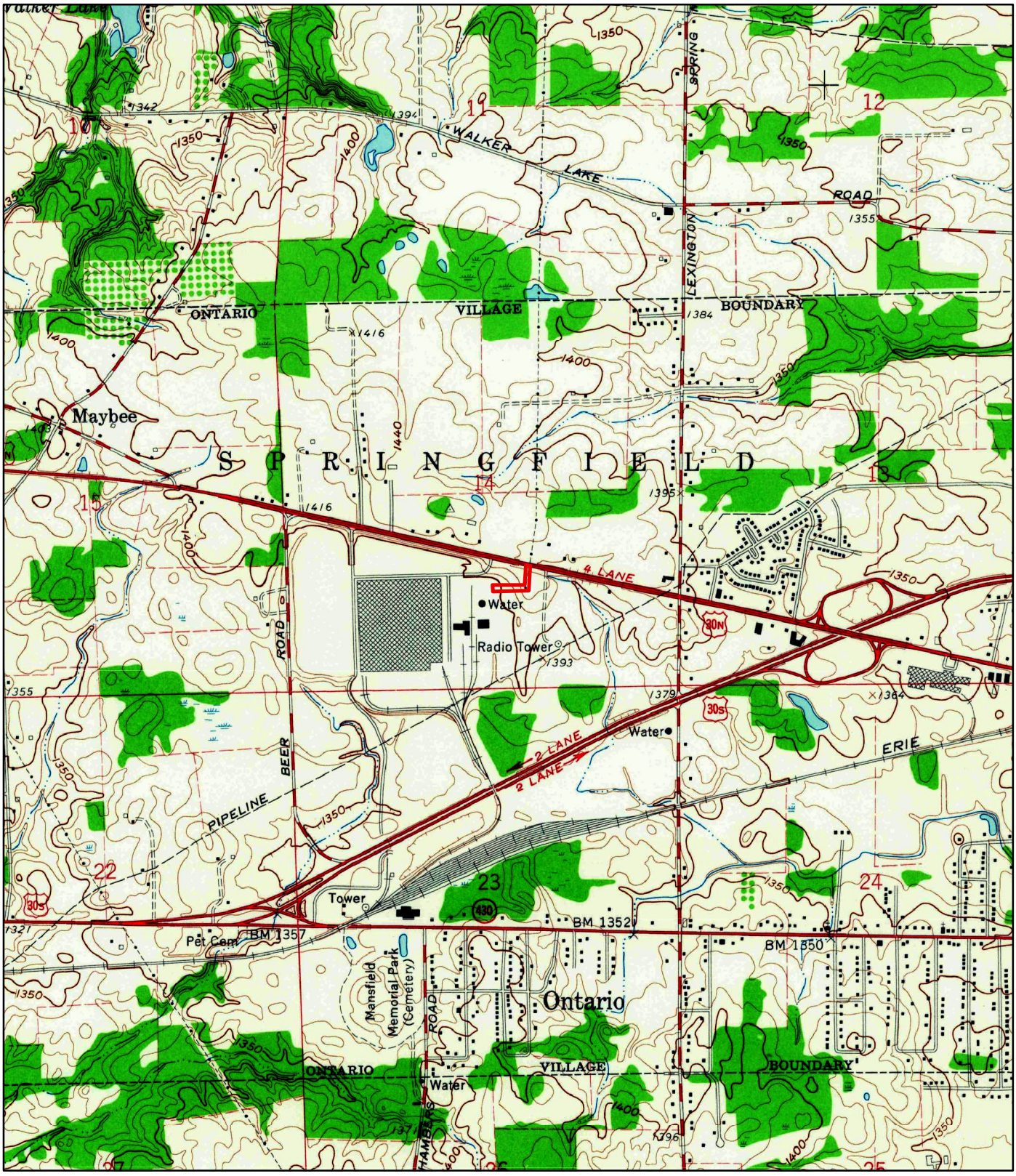

BASEMAP FROM 7.5-MINUTE SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

*IMAGE OVERLAY IS APPROXIMATE

N

1 " = 1,917 ' 0 500 1,000 FEET

1:23,000

TRC

317 E. Carson Street
Suite 113
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TRC - GIS

PROJECT:

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

TITLE:

Study Area circa 1960(USGS)

DRAWN BY:	JUSTIN MCKISSICK
CHECKED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
APPROVED BY:	CURTIS BIONDICH
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024
PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107.0000
FILE:	Galion-Ontario.mxd

Attachment 2 - Image 4

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Department of Natural Resources
ohiodnr.gov

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Jon Husted, *Lt. Governor*
Mary Mertz, *Director*

Office of Real Estate & Land Management
Tara Paciorek - Chief
2045 Morse Road – E-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

October 22, 2024

Emma Given
TRC Companies, Inc.
1382 West 9th Street, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Re: 24-1470_Galion-Ontario Interconnect

Project: The proposed project involves the installation of three new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the Galion and Ontario 138kV Substations.

Location: The proposed project is located in Springfield Township, Richland County, Ohio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The project is within the range of the eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), a state endangered and federally threatened snake species. The eastern massasauga uses a range of habitats including wet prairies, fens, and other wetlands, as well as 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 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 of impacts to federally listed species, as well as to state listed species, we recommend that this project be coordinated with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

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

The local floodplain administrator should be contacted concerning the possible need for any floodplain permits or approvals for this project.

ODNR appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact Mike Pettegrew (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.*

1382 W Ninth St., Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

September 18, 2024

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate & Land Management
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Project Submittal for an Environmental Review of the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0107)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the FirstEnergy Corporation, TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) is requesting an Environmental Review of the proposed Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project (Project) located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio (**Figure 1**: Site Location Map).

Project Location (latitude/longitude):
Centroid: 40.772689, -82.598102

County: Richland County

Project Description: The proposed Project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the Galion and Ontario 138kV Substations. The proposed Project Study Area is 1.324 acres, located in City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. As depicted in the attached mapping, the proposed Project Study Area (**Figure 2**: Aerial Map) consists of an existing, maintained utility right-of-way (ROW) within developed open space and is surrounded by industrial and commercial land use. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

On-site Habitat Description: Based on available desktop resources, TRC has identified the following habitats within the Project Study Area:

Land Use: Existing, maintained utility ROW within developed open space, surrounded by industrial and commercial land use.

Wetlands: The proposed Project Study Area includes no National Wetland Inventory features. A surface water delineation will be performed to determine the presence/absence of wetlands. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for avoidance.

Streams: The proposed Project Study Area includes no National Hydrography Dataset streams. A surface water delineation will be performed prior to construction of the proposed Project. In-stream work is not anticipated as a result of this project.

Forested Area: The proposed Project Study Area contains no forested habitat. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. However, if minor tree clearing is needed as a result of this Project, it will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

Uplands: The proposed Project Study Area includes upland habitat within the existing utility ROW, developed open space, and within adjacent industrial and commercial land use.

Floodplains: According to the following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map panel, 39139C0140E (eff. 4/4/2011), the proposed Project is not located within a FEMA-mapped 100-Year Flood Zone.

Potential Disturbance: It is anticipated that due to the nature of the Project, jurisdictional resources will not be impacted by the proposed Project activities. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands and streams cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for any temporary impacts. The most current Best Management Practices will be followed during construction and disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction

conditions as much as applicable. No tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. Any minor tree clearing needed as a result of this Project will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

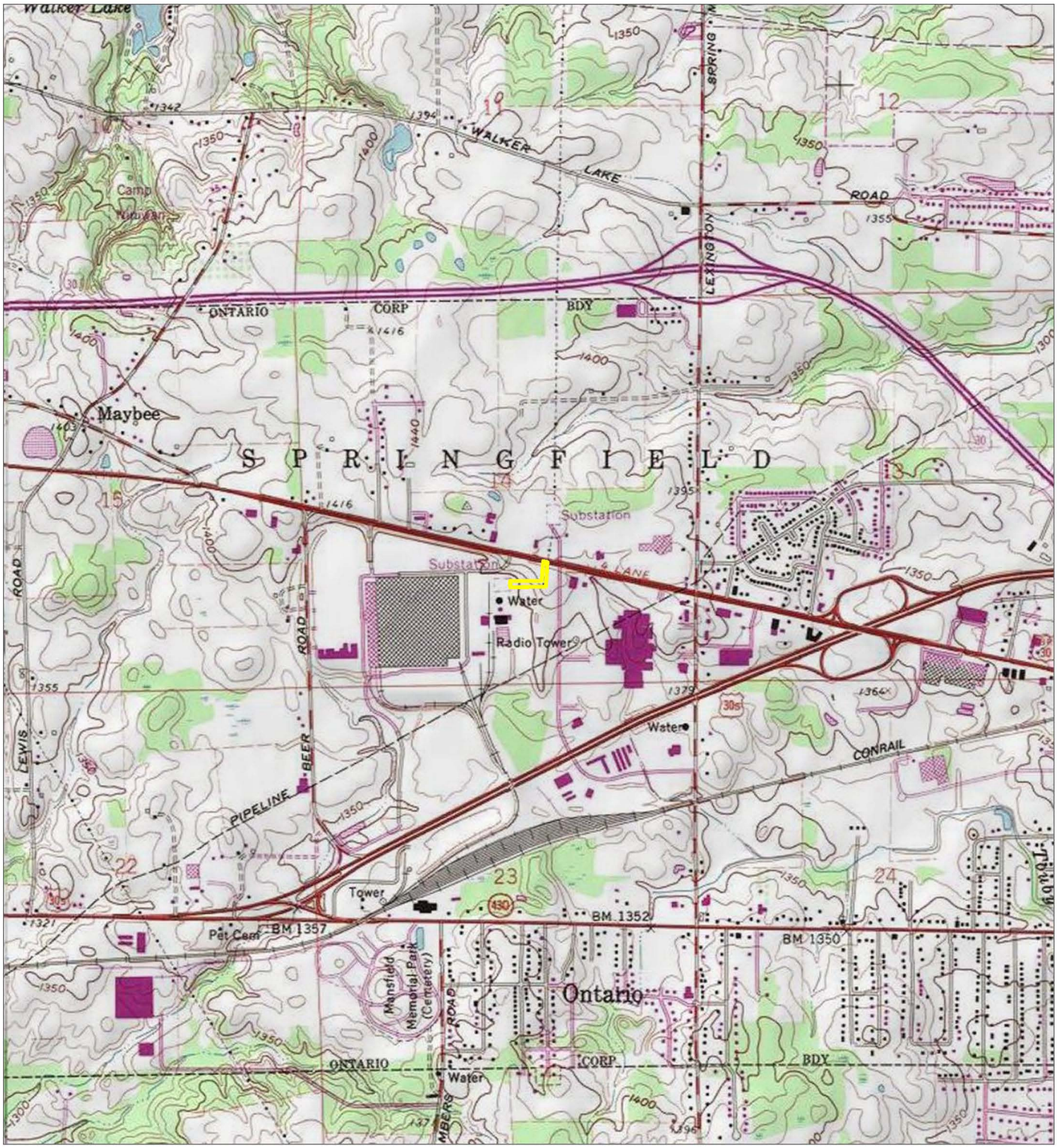
Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 446-0265 or via email at EGiven@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

Emma Given

Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist

Attachments:
Figure 1: Site Location Map
Figure 2: Aerial Map



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, MANSFIELD NORTH QUAD

N

0 1,000 2,000

FEET

1:24,000 1" = 2,000'

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
SITE LOCATION MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		FIGURE 1
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR

PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.

1:1,200
1" = 100'

0 100 200 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
AERIAL MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847 0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 2**
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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EXHIBIT 8A

Stolarski, Adrianna

From: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Given, Emma
Cc: Stolarski, Adrianna; Molnar, Maggie; Falkinburg, Brad M (Ruszala, Amy M)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 24-1470_TRC - Galion-Ontario Interconnect: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment

External Sender, use caution with links/attachments. Click 'Report Message' in Outlook if suspicious.

Hello Emma,

Thank you for the nudge! Per review of the desktop survey provided for the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project, the Ohio Division of Wildlife concurs with your assessment that no caves, cliffs, or mine openings occur in the project area. Therefore, the project is not likely to impact hibernating bats.

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

Thank you,

Eileen Wyza, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
Wildlife Biologist
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Phone: 614-265-6764
Email: Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov

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

From: Given, Emma <EGiven@trccompanies.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:13 PM
To: Wyza, Eileen <Eileen.Wyza@dnr.ohio.gov>
Cc: Stolarski, Adrianna <astolarski@firstenergycorp.com>; Molnar, Maggie <MMolnar@trccompanies.com>; Falkinburg, Brad <BFalkinburg@trccompanies.com>
Subject: 24-1470_TRC - Galion-Ontario Interconnect: Desktop Hibernacula Assessment

Eileen,

In response to ODNR's DOW recommendations (attached), TRC completed a desktop habitat assessment to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within FirstEnergy's proposed Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.

Please let us know if you have any questions on the provided desktop assessment.

Thank you,

Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist
Planning, Permitting, and Licensing

1382 W 9th St, Suite 400, Cleveland, OH 44113
C 330.446.0265
LinkedIn | Twitter | Blog | TRCcompanies.com

1382 W Ninth St., Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

November 06, 2024

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Office of Real Estate & Land Management
2045 Morse Road, Building E-2
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Re: Desktop Assessment for potential hibernaculum for the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. (TRC Project No. 429847.0107.0000)

To Whom It May Concern,

In response to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife's recommendations, TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) completed a desktop habitat assessment, on behalf of FirstEnergy Corporation, to determine if potential hibernaculum is present within the proposed Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project (Project) Study Area. The proposed Project is located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio (**Appendix A, Figure 1** and **Figure 2**). The proposed Project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line and building a new customer interconnect. The Project Study Area consists of an existing, maintained utility ROW within developed open space, surrounded by industrial and commercial land use, totaling 1.324 acres (**Appendix A, Figure 3**).

During the recommended desktop habitat assessment, secondary source information was utilized to determine if past or present underground resources were present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area. The secondary source information utilized included but was not limited to aerial imagery mapping (GoogleEarth, 2024), karst topography mapping (ODNR, 2024a), mine data mapping (ODNR, 2024b), and land cover dataset mapping (USGS, 2021).

No historic surface mine, surface industrial mine, underground industrial mine, surface coal mine, and/or abandoned underground coal mine were identified within 0.25 mile of the Project Study Area (**Appendix A, Figure 4a** and **4b**). The nearest historic surface mine is located approximately 24 miles southwest of the Project Study Area; the nearest surface industrial mine is located approximately 4 miles south of the Project Study Area; the nearest underground industrial mine is located approximately 52 miles northeast of the Project Study Area; the nearest surface coal mine is located 32 miles southeast of the Project Study Area; and the nearest abandoned underground coal mine is located 32 miles southeast of the Project Study Area. The Project Study Area is not located within a karst region. The nearest karst topographic region is located 22 miles west of the Project Study Area.

In addition, a surface water delineation was conducted by TRC on October 10th, 2024, at which time winter and summer bat habitat was concurrently assessed. Based on the field investigations, no winter or summer bat habitat was identified within the Project Study Area. During field investigations, photographs of the Project Study Area were taken, which depict the site conditions (**Appendix B**).

No winter or summer bat habitat was identified within the Project Study Area and potential bat hibernaculum is not likely present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area; therefore, it is TRC's opinion that federally- or state- listed bats species are not likely to be impacted by this proposed Project. In addition, no tree-clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. If minor tree clearing is needed as a result of this Project, it will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1-March 31). We kindly request your concurrence that potential bat hibernaculum is not likely present within 0.25-mile of the Project Study Area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 446-0265 or via email at EGiven@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist

Appendices:

Appendix A: Figures
- Figure 1: Site Location Map
- Figure 2: Aerial Map
- Figure 3: National Land Cover Database Map
- Figure 4: Mine/Karst Map

Appendix B: Photographic Record

References

Google Earth. (2024). Google Earth Images of Project Area. *Date accessed September, 2024*.

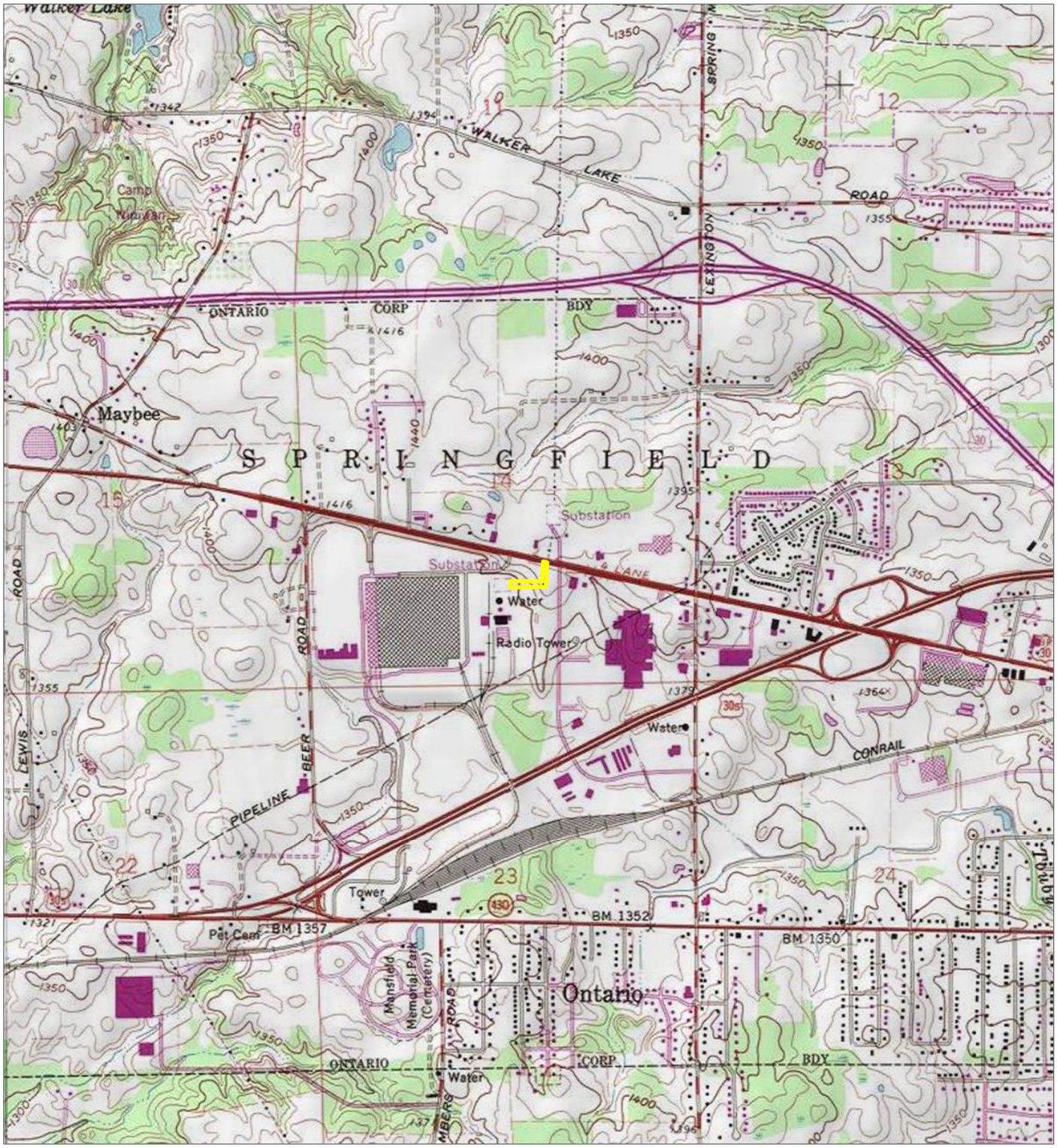
ODNR. (2024a). *Karst Interactive Map, ODNR Division of Geological Survey*. Retrieved from ODNR: https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/website/dgs/karst_interactivemap/

ODNR. (2024b). *Mines of Ohio, ODNR Division of Mineral Resources*. Retrieved from ODNR: https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/MapViewer/?config=OhioMines

USGS. (2021). *National Land Cover Database*. Retrieved from https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros/science/national-land-cover-database?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

APPENDIX A

Figures



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, MANSFIELD NORTH QUAD

N

0 1,000 2,000

FEET

1:24,000 1" = 2,000'

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
SITE LOCATION MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 1**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: HIBERNACULAASSESSMENT

PROJECT STUDY AREA

EXISTING STRUCTURE

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.

1:1,200
1" = 100'

0 100 200 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
AERIAL MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 2**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: HibernaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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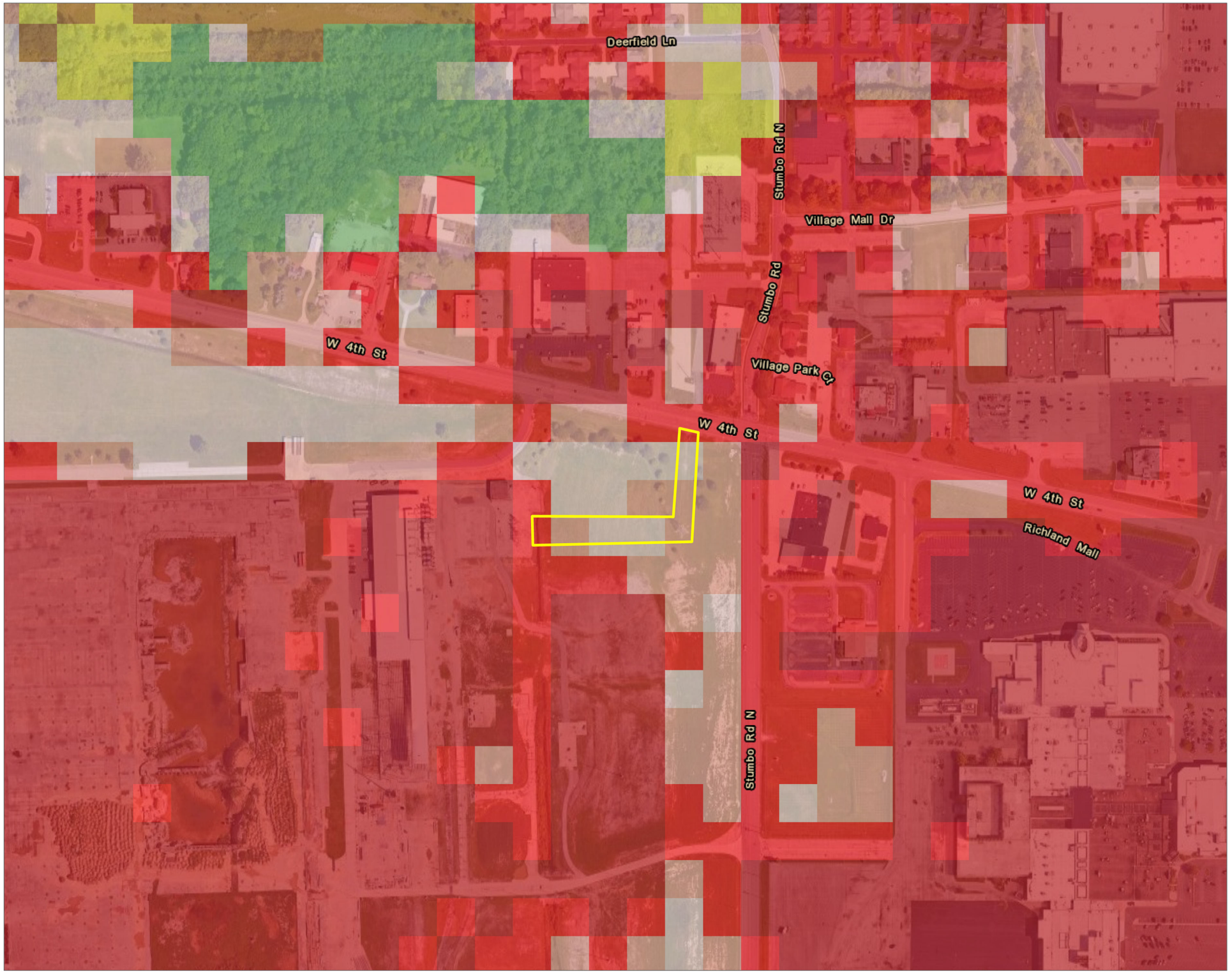

PROJECT STUDY AREA

NLCD LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

- CULTIVATED CROPS
- DECIDUOUS FOREST
- DEVELOPED, HIGH INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, LOW INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, MEDIUM INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, OPEN SPACE
- HAY/PASTURE
- MIXED FOREST

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: NATIONAL LAND COVER DATABASE (NLCD) 2021 DATA ACQUIRED FROM THE USGS.

1:3,600
1" = 300'

0 300 600 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
NATIONAL LAND COVER DATABASE MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 3**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: HibernaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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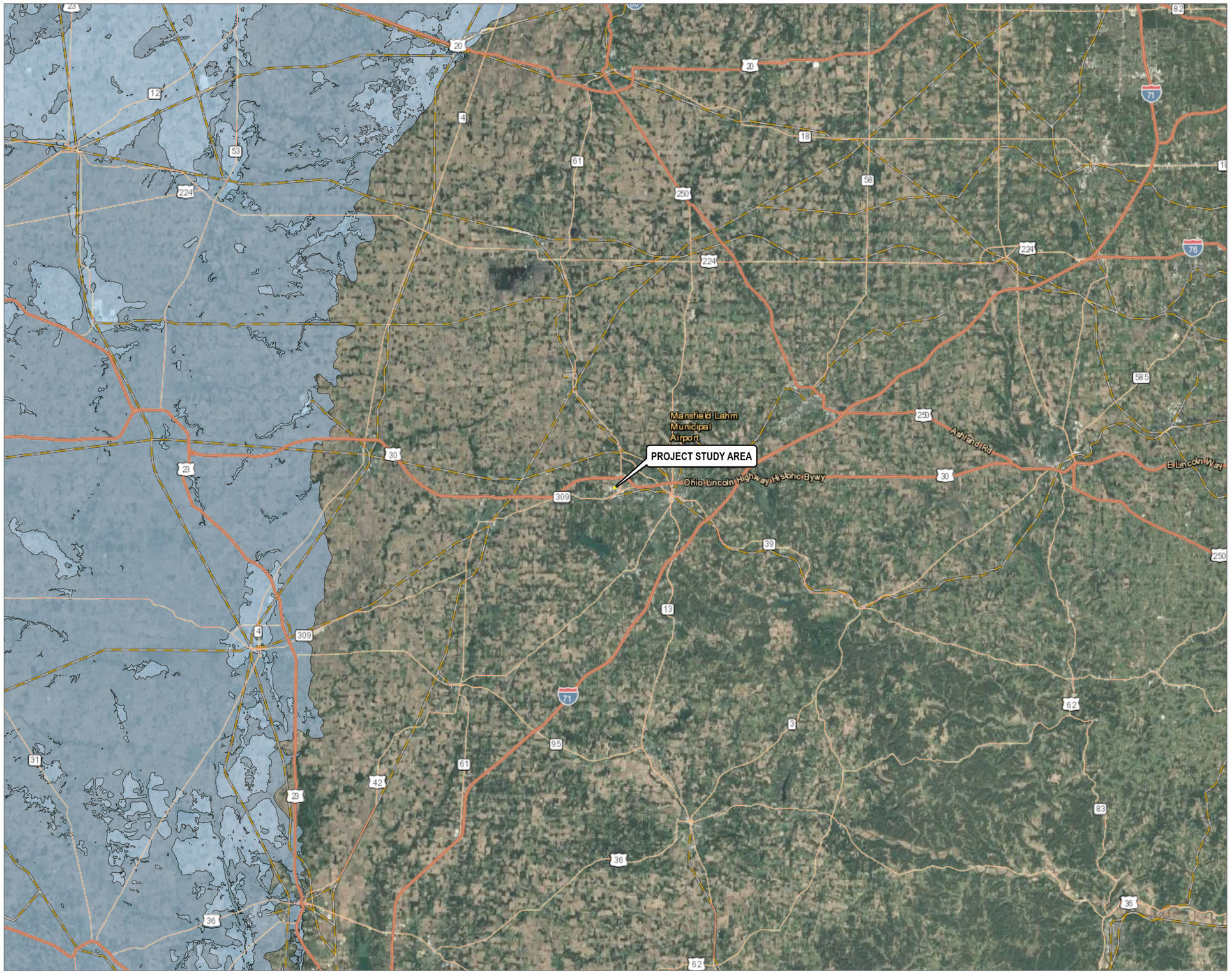

PROJECT STUDY AREA

KARST GEOLOGY

SILURIAN- AND DEVONIAN-AGE CARBONATE BEDROCK OVERLAIN BY LESS THAN 20 FEET OF GLACIAL DRIFT AND/OR ALLUVIUM

SILURIAN- AND DEVONIAN-AGE CARBONATE BEDROCK OVERLAIN BY MORE THAN 20 FEET OF GLACIAL DRIFT AND/OR ALLUVIUM

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: KARST DATA ACQUIRED FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MAY 2024.

1:480,000
1" = 40,000'

0 40,000 80,000 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
KARST MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 4A**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: HibernaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet Map Rotation: 0
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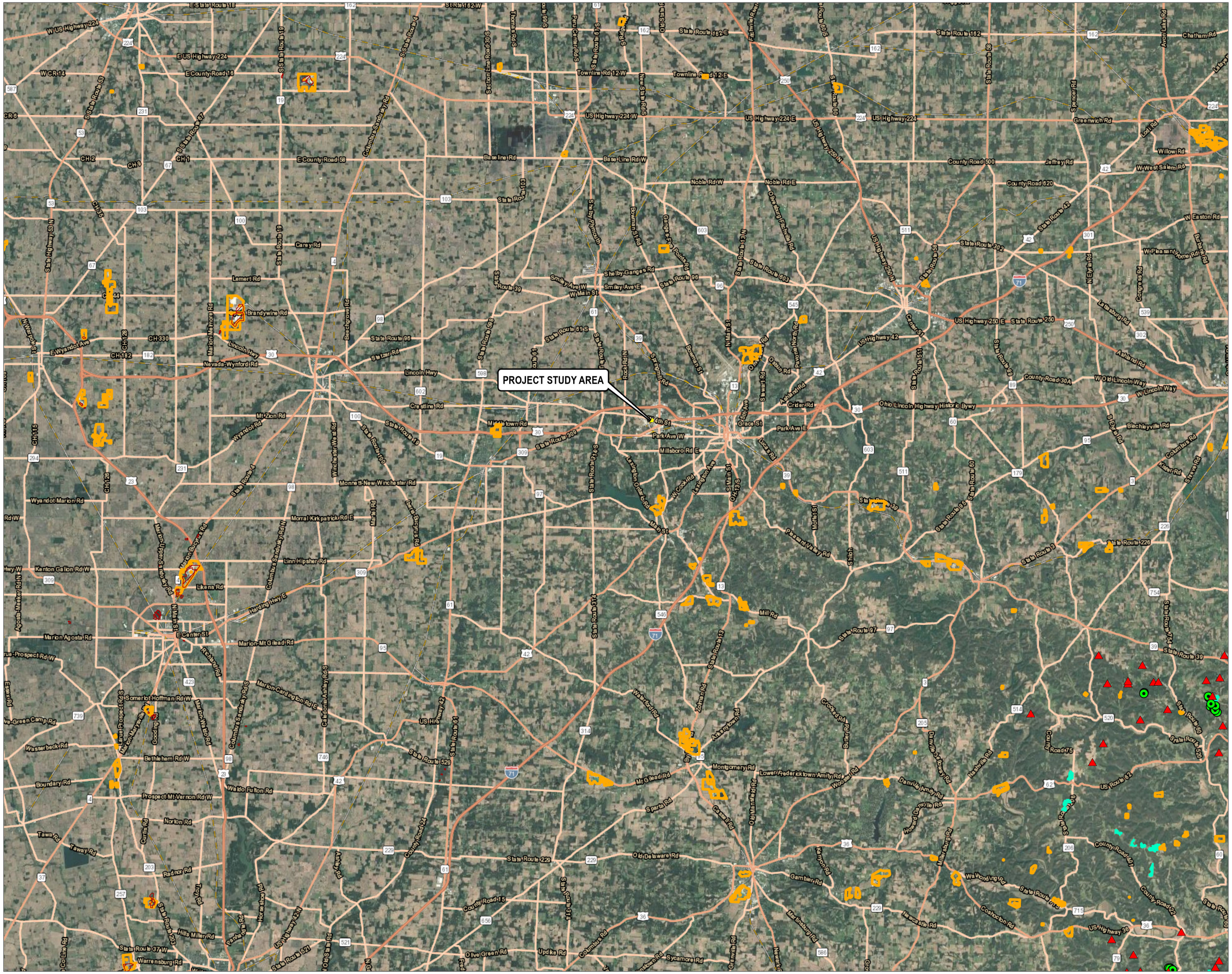

- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- ABANDONED MINE OPENING
- ABANDONED MINE - MINE POINT EXTENT UNKNOWN
- SURFACE COAL MINE
- HISTORIC SURFACE MINE
- ABANDONED UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
- SURFACE INDUSTRIAL MINE
- UNDERGROUND INDUSTRIAL MINE

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: MINE DATA ACQUIRED FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, MAY 2024..

N

1:360,000
1" = 30,000'

0 30,000 60,000 FEET

PROJECT:	FIRSTENERGY GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT RICHLAND COUNTY, OH		
TITLE:	MINE MAP		
DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 4B	
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC

1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: HibernaculaAssessment.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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APPENDIX B

Photographic Record

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name:	**Site Location:**	**Project No.**
FirstEnergy	The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107

Photo No. 1.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 2.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing east.	

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name: FirstEnergy	**Site Location:** The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	**Project No.** 429847.0107

Photo No. 3.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Photo No. 4.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing west.	

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name:	Site Location:	Project No.
FirstEnergy	The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107

Photo No. 5. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Representative photo of NJD-EKG-1, facing west.	

Photo No. 6. **Date:** 10/10/2024 **Description:** Representative photo of NJD-EKG-1 as it extends outside the Project Study Area, facing north.	

EXHIBIT 9

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

September 26, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0145731

Dear Emma Givens:

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

Federally Threatened and Endangered Species: Due to the project type, size, location, and the proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting (clearing of trees ≥3 inches diameter at breast height between October 1 and March 31) to avoid impacts to the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) 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.

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

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

species. In addition, prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats.

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

1382 W Ninth St., Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

September 18, 2024

Patrice Ashfield
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, OH, 43230

Request for Submittal Review (IPaC Project Code: 2024-0145731) regarding the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0107)

Dear Ms. Ashfield,

On behalf of the FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy), TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) is requesting Technical Assistance regarding the proposed Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project (Project) located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio (**Figure 1**: Site Location Map). We are requesting information regarding Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species, or their habitats that may be impacted by the proposed Project, as well as information regarding known locations of any known bald eagle nests, bat capture records, and bat hibernacula within a 5-mile radius of the proposed Project.

Project Location (latitude/longitude):
Centroid: 40.772689, -82.598102

County: Richland County

Project Description: The proposed Project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the Galion and Ontario 138kV Substations. The proposed Project Study Area is 1.324 acres, located in City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. As depicted in the attached mapping, the proposed Project Study Area (**Figure 2**: Aerial Map) consists of an existing, maintained utility right-of-way (ROW) within developed open space and is surrounded by industrial and commercial land use. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area.

On-site Habitat Description: Based on available desktop resources, TRC has identified the following habitats within the Project Study Area:

Land Use: Existing, maintained utility ROW within developed open space, surrounded by industrial and commercial land use.

Wetlands: The proposed Project Study Area includes no National Wetland Inventory features. A surface water delineation will be performed to determine the presence/absence of wetlands. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for avoidance.

Streams: The proposed Project Study Area includes no National Hydrography Dataset streams. A surface water delineation will be performed prior to construction of the proposed Project. In-stream work is not anticipated as a result of this project.

Forested Area: The proposed Project Study Area contains no forested habitat. Currently as proposed, no tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. However, if minor tree clearing is needed as a result of this Project, it will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

Uplands: The proposed Project Study Area includes upland habitat within the existing utility ROW, developed open space, and within adjacent industrial and commercial land use.

Floodplains: According to the following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map panel, 39139C0140E (eff. 4/4/2011), the proposed Project is not located within a FEMA-mapped 100-Year Flood Zone.

Potential Disturbance: It is anticipated that due to the nature of the Project, jurisdictional resources will not be impacted by the proposed Project activities. Avoidance and minimization will be utilized during construction. If wetlands and streams

cannot be avoided, timber matting will be utilized during construction for any temporary impacts. The most current Best Management Practices will be followed during construction and disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions as much as applicable. No tree clearing is anticipated within the Project Study Area. Any minor tree clearing needed as a result of this Project will take place within the USFWS recommended tree clearing dates (October 1 – March 31).

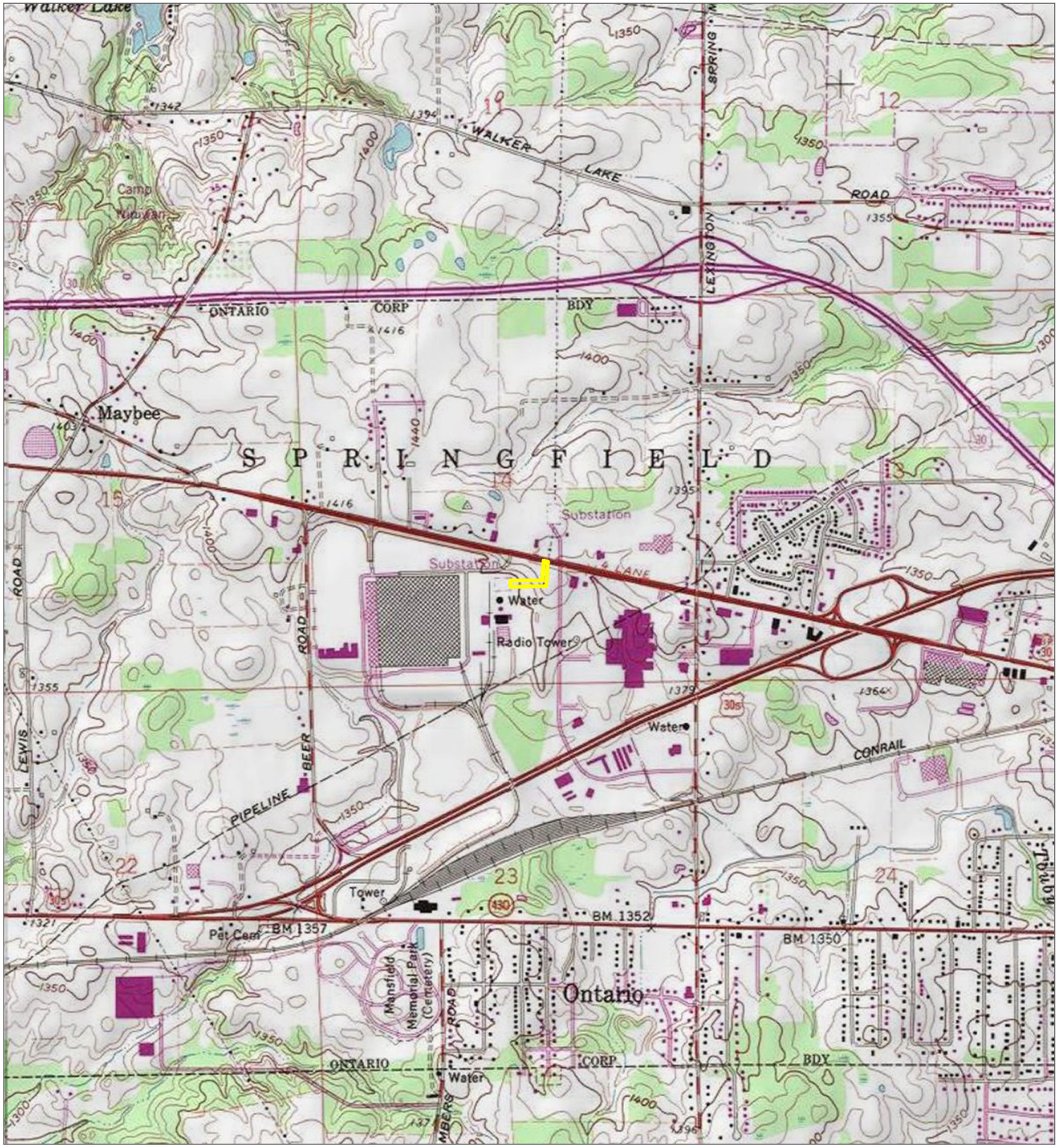
Please do not hesitate to contact me at (330) 446-0265 or via email at EGiven@TRCCompanies.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

Emma Given

Emma Given, PhD
Ecologist

Attachments:
Figure 1: Site Location Map
Figure 2: Aerial Map
USFWS IPaC Official Species List



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, MANSFIELD NORTH QUAD

N

0 1,000 2,000

FEET

1:24,000 1" = 2,000'

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
SITE LOCATION MAP

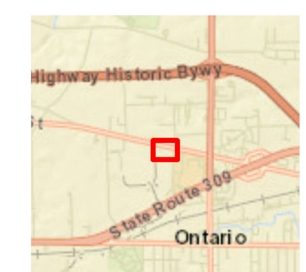
DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		FIGURE 1
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR

PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.



N

1:1,200
1" = 100'

0 100 200 FEET

PROJECT:	FIRSTENERGY GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT RICHLAND COUNTY, OH
TITLE:	AERIAL MAP
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0107
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 2
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2024	
TRC	1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072
FILE:	WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, OH 43230-8355
Phone: (614) 416-8993 Fax: (614) 416-8994

In Reply Refer To: 09/18/2024 20:42:44 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0145731
Project Name: Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
4625 Morse Road, Suite 104
Columbus, OH 43230-8355
(614) 416-8993

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0145731
Project Name: Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project
Project Type: Transmission Line - New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: The proposed Project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the Galion and Ontario 138kV Substations. The proposed Project Study Area is 1.324 acres, located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@40.7730531,-82.59803174505434,14z

Counties: Richland County, Ohio

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis*	Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency:	Private Entity
Name:	Emma Given
Address:	1382 W 9th St
Address Line 2:	Suite 400
City:	Cleveland
State:	OH
Zip:	44113
Email	egiven@trccompanies.com
Phone:	3304460265

EXHIBIT 10

1382 West Ninth St.
Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113

T 216.344.3072
TRCcompanies.com

October 28, 2024

Adrianna Stolarski
FirstEnergy Corporation
341 White Pond Drive
Akron, OH 44320

Reference: Technical Memorandum for the Surface Water Delineation of the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio.
(TRC Project No. 429847.0107.0000)

Dear Adrianna Stolarski:

On behalf of FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy), TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) conducted a surface water delineation for the Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project (Project). The Project is located in the City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio and is 1.32 acres in size (**Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2**). The Project Study Area is located at the following centroid coordinates: 40.772689, -82.598102. The proposed Project involves the installation of three (3) new switches on the Galion-Ontario 138kV line, building a new customer interconnect, and adding a protection/terminal end relay as required at the Galion and Ontario 138kV Substations.

The delineation was conducted by qualified wetland scientists on October 10th, 2024, in accordance with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) parameters. The objective was to evaluate and delineate potential surface water resources within the Project Study Area, such that the resources could be considered during each phase of the Project. Prior to the site visit, TRC reviewed available secondary source information such as the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, County Soil Survey maps, and aerial imagery of the Project Study Area to use in addition to field investigations.

The Project Study Area is shown on the attached map (**Attachment A, Figure 1**), which was derived from the USGS Mansfield North, Ohio 7.5-minute quadrangle topographic map. All soils mapped within the Project Study Area are non-hydric soils (**Attachment A, Figure 3**). The proposed Project Study Area does not include any mapped NHD or NWI features **(Attachment A, Figure 4)**. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map panel, 39139C0140E (eff. 4/4/2011), the proposed Project is not located within a FEMA mapped 100-Year Flood Zone. During the field investigation, land use within the Project Study Area was observed to be existing, maintained utility right-of-way within developed open space, surrounded by industrial and commercial land use. See the attached mapping in **Attachment A** and the Photographic Record in **Attachment B** for further details of the Project Study Area.

During the field investigation, no wetlands or surface waters were delineated or identified within the Project Study Area. To verify the absence of wetlands within the Project Study Area an upland data point (U-EKG-1) was collected and is shown on **Figure 5** in Attachment A. Data for U-EKG-1 was recorded on the USACE Wetland Determination Data Form – Northcentral and Northeast Region. The Wetland Determination Data Form is provided in **Attachment C**.

This Technical Memorandum represents the conditions within the Project Study Area identified herein, as of the inspection dates. Should you require any additional information or have any questions concerning this letter, please feel free to contact me at (440) 666-2890 or by email at BFalkinburg@TRCCompanies.com.

Kind Regards,

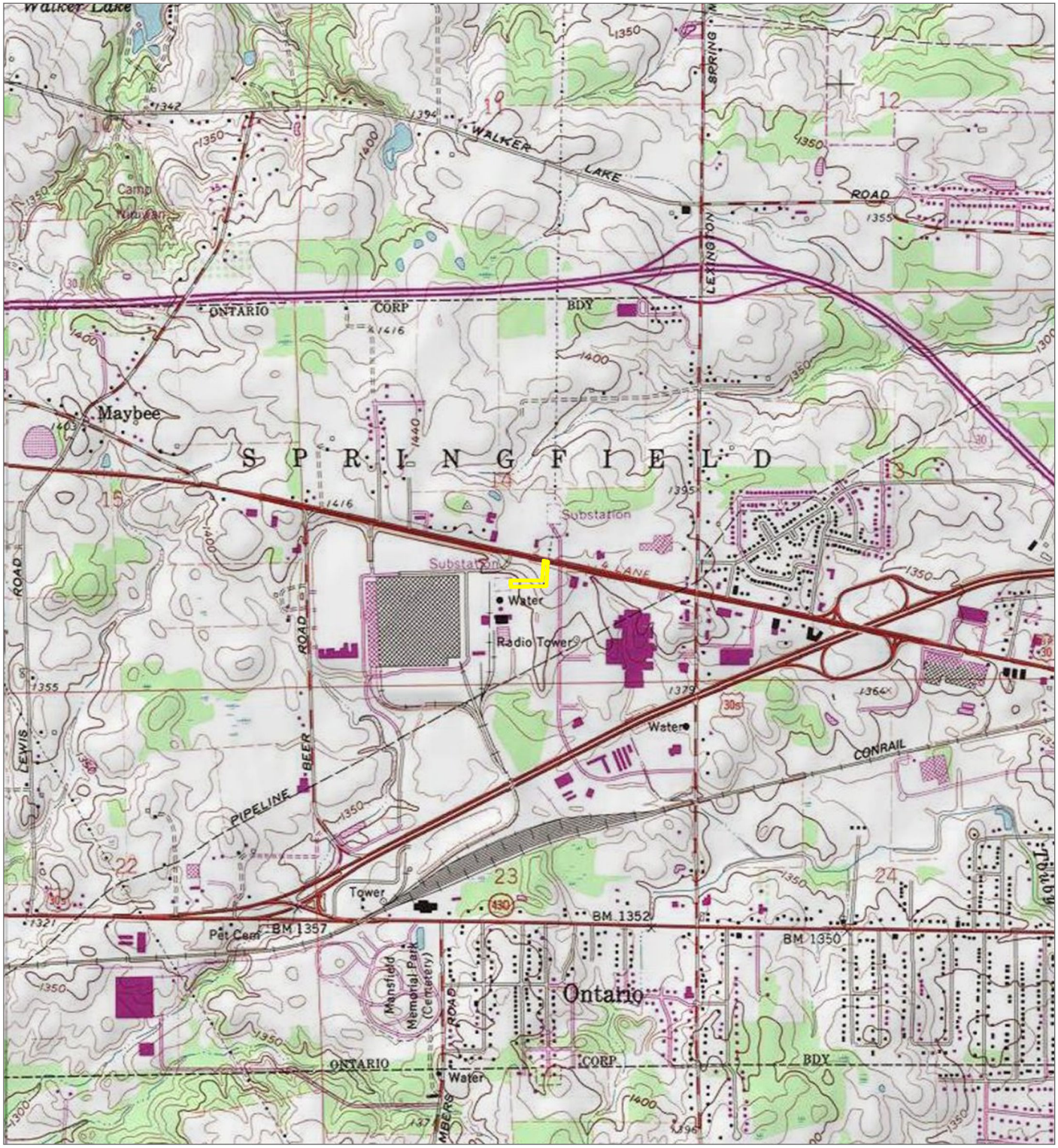
TRC

Brad M. Falkinburg, PWS
Ecological Office Practice Leader

cc: Maggie Molnar, PWS – TRC

Attachments
Attachment A: Figures
Attachment B: Photographic Record
Attachment C: Data Sheet

ATTACHMENT A – Figures



PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: USA TOPO MAPS MAP SERVICE, MANSFIELD NORTH QUAD

N

0 1,000 2,000

FEET

1:24,000 1" = 2,000'

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
SITE LOCATION MAP

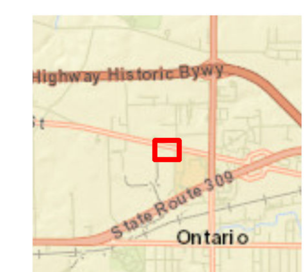
DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		FIGURE 1
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR

PROJECT STUDY AREA

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.



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1" = 100'

0 100 200 FEET

PROJECT:	FIRSTENERGY GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT RICHLAND COUNTY, OH
TITLE:	AERIAL MAP
DRAWN BY: M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.: 429847.0107
CHECKED BY: M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 2
APPROVED BY: B. FALKINBURG	
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2024	

TRC

1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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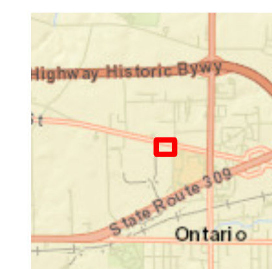
PROJECT STUDY AREA
EXISTING STRUCTURE
HYDRIC SOIL
NON-HYDRIC W/ HYDRIC INCLUSIONS SOIL
NON-HYDRIC SOIL

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: SOILS DATA ACQUIRED FROM USDA/NRCS SSURGO DATABASE.



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1" = 75'
0 75 150 FEET

PROJECT:	FIRSTENERGY GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT RICHLAND COUNTY, OH		
TITLE:	SOILS MAP		
DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR	FIGURE 3	
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		
TRC		1382 WEST NINTH STREET SUITE 400 CLEVELAND, OH 44113 PHONE: 216-344-3072	
FILE:			WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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PROJECT STUDY AREA

NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET (NHD) STREAM

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (NWI) FEATURE

100-YEAR FLOOD ZONE

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: WETLAND DATA ACQUIRED FROM U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (NWI). STREAM DATA ACQUIRED FROM USGS, NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET (NHD). FLOOD DATA ACQUIRED FROM FEMA, NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER (NFHL).

FEMA FLOOD DATA NOT PRESENT IN PROJECT EXTENT.

N

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1" = 400'

0 400 800 FEET

PROJECT: **FIRSTENERGY**
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE: **NHD, NWI AND FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP**

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR	**FIGURE 4**	
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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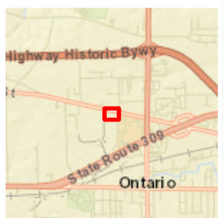
PROJECT STUDY AREA
NON-JURISDICTIONAL DRAINAGE
UPLAND DATA POINT

BASE MAP: GOOGLE MAPS.
DATA SOURCES: TRC WETLAND DELINEATION COMPLETED OCTOBER 10, 2024.



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1" = 75'

0 75 150 FEET

PROJECT:
FIRSTENERGY
GALION-ONTARIO INTERCONNECT PROJECT
RICHLAND COUNTY, OH

TITLE:
DELINEATED RESOURCES MAP

DRAWN BY:	M. OPEL	PROJ. NO.:	429847.0107
CHECKED BY:	M. MOLNAR		
APPROVED BY:	B. FALKINBURG		**FIGURE 5**
DATE:	OCTOBER 2024		

TRC
1382 WEST NINTH STREET
SUITE 400
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
PHONE: 216-344-3072

FILE: WDR.aprx

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Ohio North FIPS 3401 Feet; Map Rotation: 0
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ATTACHMENT B – Photographic Record

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name:	**Site Location:**	**Project No.**
FirstEnergy	The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107

Photo No. 1.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing north.	

Photo No. 2.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing east.	

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name: FirstEnergy	**Site Location:** The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	**Project No.** 429847.0107

Photo No. 3.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing south.	

Photo No. 4.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of the Project Study Area, facing west.	

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
Galion-Ontario Interconnect Project

Client Name:	Site Location:	Project No.
FirstEnergy	The City of Ontario, Richland County, Ohio	429847.0107

Photo No. 5.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of NJD-EKG-1 within the, facing west.	

Photo No. 6.	
Date: 10/10/2024	
Description: Representative photo of NJD-EKG-1 as it extends outside the Project Study Area, facing north.	

ATTACHMENT C – Data Sheet

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Northcentral and Northeast Region

Project/Site: Galion-Ontario Interconnect City/County: Ontario, Richland County Sampling Date: 2024-10-10
Applicant/Owner: FirstEnergy State: OH Sampling Point: U-EKG-01
Investigator(s): Emma Given, Erin Van Nort Section, Township, Range: 14 21N 19W
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc): Flat Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope (%): 0 to 1
Subregion (LRR or MLRA): MLRA 139 of LRR R Lat: 40.7726386842 Long: -82.5995744393 Datum: WGS84
Soil Map Unit Name: Urban land NWI Classification: None
Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✘ No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
Are Vegetation ____ , Soil ____ , or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ✘ 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 ✘
Hydric Soil Present? Yes ____ No ✘
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ____ No ✘

Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes ____ No ✘

If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: ____

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)
Covertype is UPL. Based on the absence of all three parameters, this area is an upland.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)
- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ___ Marl Deposits (B15)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:
Surface Water Present? Yes ____ No ✘ Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present? Yes ____ No ✘ Depth (inches): ____
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ____ No ✘ Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ____ No ✘

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

Remarks:
The criterion for wetland hydrology is not met.

VEGETATION ─ Use scientific names of plants. Sampling Point: U-EKG-01

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0	= Total Cover	

Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft radius)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	0	= Total Cover	

Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft radius)				
1.	*Poa pratensis*	95	Yes	FACU
2.	*Trifolium repens*	3	No	FACU
3.	*Medicago lupulina*	2	No	FACU
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
		100	= Total Cover	

Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft radius)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
	0	= Total Cover	

Dominance Test worksheet:

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

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

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

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	0	x 2 =	0
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	100	x 4 =	400
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	100 (A)		400 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

__ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

__ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

__ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

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

__ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

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

Definitions of Vegetation Strata:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The criterion for hydrophytic vegetation is not met.

SOIL Sampling Point: U-EKG-01

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

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0 to 9	10YR 5/4	98	10YR 6/8	2	C	M	Silty Clay Loam	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- __ Histosol (A1)
- __ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- __ Black Histic (A3)
- __ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- __ Stratified Layers (A5)
- __ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- __ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- __ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- __ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- __ Sandy Redox (S5)
- __ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- __ Dark Surface (S7) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- __ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- __ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- __ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(LRR K, L)**
- __ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- __ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- __ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- __ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- __ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- __ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR K, L, MLRA 149B)**
- __ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- __ 5 cm Muck Peat or Peat (S3) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- __ Dark Surface (S7) **(LRR K, L)**
- __ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR K, L)**
- __ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR K, L)**
- __ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- __ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 149B)**
- __ Mesic Spodic (TA6) **(MLRA 144A, 145, 149B)**
- __ Red Parent Material (F21)
- __ Very Shallow Dark Surface (TF12)
- __ Other (Explain in Remarks)

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

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: Fill,Gravel

Depth (inches): 9

Hydric Soil Present? Yes ____ **No** ✘

Remarks:

The criterion for hydric soil is not met.