

**State of Michigan
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**

Water Resources Division
Kalamazoo District Office
7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009-5025
269-567-3500

Site Name: 11-Riverside 138-kV Transmission Line Project-Hartford
Submission Number: HPM-C8YR-CCC5G
Date: January 4, 2024

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JAN 08 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jennifer Walker, AEP-Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., 8600 Smiths Mill Rd, New Albany, OH 43054, has applied to this office for a permit under authority of Part 31, Water Resources Protection; Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams; and Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The applicant proposes to rebuild an existing transmission line along 14.7 miles of existing right-of-way (ROW) between AEP's Hartford and Riverside Substations. The proposed project involves the following impacts:

- Cut existing wooden monopoles to be removed from wetland flush with the ground surface.
- Temporarily place timber matting within 0.216 acres of scrub-shrub wetland and 1.628 acres of emergent wetland to access new and existing poles.
- Install 11 new poles with steel direct embed structures within 0.011 acres of wetland. Install one new pole with concrete foundations within 0.001 acres of wetland.
- Permanently convert 0.063 acres of forested wetland to scrub-shrub or emergent wetland within ROW.
- Temporarily span three streams with timber matting.
- Remove all timber matting from streams and wetlands upon completion of the project.

The project is located within the following Townships, Ranges, and Sections: T03S, R16W, Section 16; T03S, R16W, Section 17; T03S, R16W, Section 20; T03S, R16W, Section 19; T03S, R16W, Section 30; T03S, R17W, Section 25; T03S, R17W, Section 36; T03S, R17W, Section 35; T03S, R17W, Section 34; T03S, R17W, Section 33; T03S, R17W, Section 32; T03S, R17W, Section 31; T03S, R18W, Section 36; T03S, R18W, Section 35; T03S, R18W, Section 34; T03S, R18W, Section 33; T03S, R18W, Section 32; T04S, R18W, Section 05; T04S, R18W, Section 08.

The project is also located within the City of Hartford, Watervliet Township, Hartford Township, Coloma Township, Hagar Township, Benton Township, Van Buren County, and Berrien County, Michigan, in accordance with plans attached to this notice.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT A PERMIT

The proposed project may also be regulated by one or more additional parts of the NREPA that are administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD). The requirements of all applicable parts are considered in determining if a permit can be issued. When a permit application is received requesting authorization to work in or over the inland waters of the State of Michigan, pursuant to Part 31, Part 301, and Part 303 of the NREPA, the NREPA provides that EGLE submit copies for review to the department of public health; the city, village, or township and county where the

project is to be located; the local soil conservation district; and any local watershed council organized under Part 311, Local River Management, of the NREPA. Additional notification is provided to certain persons as required by statute or determined by EGLE.

Those persons wanting to make comments on the proposed project shall furnish comments through no later than 20 days from the date of this notice. Comments will be made part of the record and should reference the above application number. Objections must be factual, specific, and fully describe the reasons upon which any objection is founded. Unless a written request is filed with EGLE within the 20-day public comment period, EGLE may make a decision on the application without a public hearing. The determination as to whether a permit will be issued or a public hearing held will be based on an evaluation of all relevant factors, including the public comments received and the effect of the proposed work on the public trust or interest, including navigation, fish, wildlife, and pollution. The specific permit decision criteria can be found in the parts of the NREPA applicable to this application and listed above. Copies of these parts of the NREPA are available on the public notice Web site. Public comments received will also be considered.

The entire copy of the public notice package may be viewed at the WRD's district office listed on the top of this public notice or online at:

<https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/search>. To access the public notice page online, search for the public notice by location or applicant name, and view by clicking on the "Documents" tab. Comments should be sent electronically by clicking on the "Add Comment" tab. When inputting your comment please do not add any personal identification information (PII) concerning yourself or any other individual, into the comment box, including but not limited to email or telephone number. A hard copy of the public notice may be requested by calling the above number.

cc:

City of Hartford Clerk
Watervliet Township Clerk
Hartford Township Clerk
Coloma Township Clerk
Hagar Township Clerk
Benton Township Clerk
Berrien County Clerk
Van Buren County Clerk
Berrien County Drain Commissioner
Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
Berrien County Health Department
Van Buren County Health Department
Berrien County Conservation District
Van Buren County Conservation District
Jeannine Totzke, Berrien CEA
Van Buren County CEA
Local Postmaster
USACE Michiana
Jennifer Walker, AEP-Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., Applicant
Patrick Evans, AEP-Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., Agent
Nathan Ehlinger, POWER Engineers, Consultant
Adjacent Property Owners
MDNR, Wildlife Division
Matt Diana, MDNR, Fisheries Division
John Bayha, EGLE