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FOR RELEASE: August 5, 2011
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Ohio EPA Issues Approval for Electric Substation and Transmission Line Project in Geauga and Lake Counties

Ohio EPA has issued a water quality certification to Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) and American Transmission Systems Inc. (ATS) to construct an electric substation in Geauga County and a transmission line in Geauga and Lake counties.

The certification allows CEI and ATS to impact up to 0.03 acres of wetlands to construct the Stacy substation along Mayfield Road/US 322 in Huntsburg Township, Geauga County. In addition, the companies may impact up to 6.5 acres of wetlands and three stream crossings to install nearly 15 miles of transmission line east of Madison Road/SR 528 in Huntsburg, Montville and Thompson townships in Geauga County and Madison Township in Lake County.

To mitigate the approved impacts, the companies have agreed to preserve 13.11 acres of wetland, 21.78 acres of upland area and 5,627 feet of stream channel within the Grand River watershed.

Ohio EPA approved the certification after reviewing the technical and environmental aspects of the project and considering comments from the community. On June 13, 2011, Ohio EPA held a public hearing in Montville where citizens asked questions and submitted comments about the application. Ohio EPA's written response to public comments and a copy of the certification are available [online](#).

Anyone wanting to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the State must first obtain a water quality certification from Ohio EPA and a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ohio EPA's review is to ensure proposed projects will comply with Ohio's water quality standards that protect human health and the environment. Applicants are required to preserve, restore or replace wetlands and streams nearby to mitigate any approved impacts.

Issuance of the certification can be appealed to the [Environmental Review Appeals Commission](#) (ERAC). Many appeals must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

-30-

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