

RESOLUTION (R-302-2026)

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED GRID GROWTH WEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Grid Growth Ventures has proposed the Grid Growth West transmission project, including new 765-kV and 345-kV transmission infrastructure affecting portions of western and central Ohio, including Darke County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed construction of new high-voltage transmission corridors may impose substantial and long-lasting impacts upon agricultural land, residences, rural communities, property values, drainage systems, future development opportunities, scenic resources, and the general character of Darke County; and

WHEREAS, Ohio law requires an applicant for a major utility facility to explain why its proposed location is best suited for the project and to provide information regarding environmental impacts and project need; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Power Siting Board may deny an application or approve it subject to terms, conditions, or modifications, including modifications to the location of all or part of a proposed facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Darke County requests that Grid Growth Ventures and the Ohio Power Siting Board fully evaluate and address the following before approval of any transmission route through Darke County:

Existing Corridors First. Give priority to existing electric transmission corridors, transportation corridors, utility rights-of-way, and previously disturbed land before creating new greenfield corridors through productive farmland.

Agricultural Protection. Minimize impacts upon prime and productive farmland, field drainage systems, agricultural operations, irrigation, farm access, and future agricultural use.

Residential Setbacks. Maximize distances between high-voltage transmission infrastructure and existing homes, schools, churches, businesses, villages, and other populated areas.

Undergrounding Analysis. Conduct and publicly disclose a credible engineering and economic analysis of underground construction for sensitive or densely populated portions of the route, including consideration of alternative transmission configurations where underground construction at 765 kV is impractical.

Alternative Route Analysis. Provide a transparent comparison of reasonable alternative routes, including their impacts upon residences, farms, communities, economic development, environmental resources, and property owners.

Independent Review. Provide Darke County sufficient information and opportunity to conduct independent engineering, agricultural, land-use, appraisal, and legal review of the proposed route and alternatives.

Property-Owner Protections. Require strong standards for restoration of drainage tile, topsoil, soil compaction, crop losses, temporary construction areas, access roads, fencing, gates, erosion control, and other construction impacts.

Fair Compensation. Recognize that compensation to affected property owners should account not only for the acreage physically contained within an easement, but also for legally compensable impacts to the remaining property.

Future Expansion. Clearly identify whether the proposed easements or infrastructure could accommodate additional circuits, telecommunications equipment, expanded rights-of-way, or other future facilities.

Local Consultation. Require meaningful consultation with affected property owners, township trustees, county officials, municipalities, agricultural organizations, and other local stakeholders before route selection is finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the appropriate county officials and legal counsel to review any application filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board and to take all reasonable steps necessary to protect the interests of Darke County and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the filing and service of an application affecting Darke County, the Board intends to evaluate formal intervention in the Ohio Power Siting Board proceeding and, where appropriate, participate as a party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Darke County encourages coordination among Darke County, Shelby County, Miami County, affected townships, municipalities, state legislators, agricultural organizations, and affected landowners regarding this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests that Grid Growth Ventures meet publicly with Darke County officials and affected residents before final route selection to discuss alternatives and mitigation measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the expenditure of county funds, subject to appropriation and applicable law, to retain independent legal counsel and qualified technical experts to evaluate the proposed transmission project and represent the interests of Darke County before the Ohio Power Siting Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Darke County Board of Commissioners, we

HEREBY, approve the signing of this said Agreement.