

Northern Loop Update and Initial Written Notice

Project overview

The Northern Loop (formally known as the Northern Columbus Loop - Phase 7 Pipeline Project) will bring natural gas to the growing areas north and west of Columbus, including Union, Delaware and Madison Counties. We've been keeping residents and stakeholders "in the loop" on this project since we first announced it in the early spring of 2020. You may have attended the public meeting we conducted in August, 2020.

What's new?

We have filed an application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). It has accepted our application and scheduled a public hearing to receive input from the community.

About this notice

We are required to provide a formal notice to the community, and it begins on the next page. We encourage you to read this notice, including the ways you can learn more about the project and how you can comment to the OPSB.

Contact information

For information about the OPSB, including its website, phone number and email address, please see information located on the following page.

You are also welcome to contact us

Phone – 833-903-1056

Email – Intheloop@nisource.com

Web - <https://www.columbiagasohio.com/services/work-in-your-neighborhood/northern-loop-project>

The Northern Loop-Phase 7 Pipeline Project

Columbia Gas of Ohio is proposing a project known as the Northern Loop – Phase 7 Pipeline Project. This Project will install approximately 12 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline, and four miles of 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Review Process

Columbia submitted an application to the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) to obtain permission to construct, operate and maintain the Project. The OPSB assigned Case Number 20-1236-GA-BTX to the application. The OPSB will review the application and, if certain legal criteria are met, will issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, which will allow construction to proceed.

Where You Can View the Application

You can view the application on Columbia’s website here: ColumbiaGasOhio.com/intheloop. You can also access the application on the OPSB’s website: www.opsb.ohio.gov or by contacting the **OPSB at 1-866-270-6772 or 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215**. Paper copies of the application are also available at the following public libraries:

Delaware County Library - Powell Branch
460 Liberty Street
Powell, Ohio 43065

Plain City Public Library
305 W. Main Street
Plain City, Ohio 43064

Marysville Public Library
231 S. Plum Street
Marysville, Ohio 43040

Columbus Metropolitan Library – Dublin Branch
75 N. High Street
Dublin, Ohio 43017

Requirements for a Certificate

The OPSB will need to determine eight things about the Project. These are listed in division (A) of section 4906.10 of the Ohio Revised Code:

- (1) The basis of the need for the facility if the facility is an electric transmission line or gas pipeline;
- (2) The nature of the probable environmental impact;
- (3) That the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives, and other pertinent considerations;
- (4) In the case of an electric transmission line or generating facility, that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving this

state and interconnected utility systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability;

(5) That the facility will comply with Chapters 3704., 3734., and 6111. of the Revised Code and all rules and standards adopted under those chapters and under section 4561.32 of the Revised Code. In determining whether the facility will comply with all rules and standards adopted under section 4561.32 of the Revised Code, the board shall consult with the office of aviation of the division of multi-modal planning and programs of the department of transportation under section 4561.341 of the Revised Code.

(6) That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

(7) In addition to the provisions contained in divisions (A)(1) to (6) of this section and rules adopted under those divisions, what its impact will be on the viability as agricultural land of any land in an existing agricultural district established under Chapter 929. of the Revised Code that is located within the site and alternative site of the proposed major utility facility. Rules adopted to evaluate impact under division (A)(7) of this section shall not require the compilation, creation, submission, or production of any information, document, or other data pertaining to land not located within the site and alternative site.

(8) That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices as determined by the board, considering available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives.

Public Officials Notified

The Ohio Administrative Code requires Columbia to provide a copy of the application to certain public officials. The following officials were given copies:

Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Bill Reineke
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Bob Hackett
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Tracy Richardson
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Gary Click
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Rick Carfagna
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Jon Cross
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Commissioner Chris Schmenk
233 W. 6th Street
Marysville, OH 43040

Commissioner Dave Burke
233 W. 6th Street
Marysville, OH 43040

Commissioner Steve Robinson
233 W. 6th Street
Marysville, OH 43040

Hon. JR Rausch
209 S. Main Street
Marysville, OH 43040

Terry Emery, Marysville City Manager
209 S. Main Street
Marysville, OH 43040

Commissioner Barb Lewis
101 N. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Commissioner Jeff Benton
101 N. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Michael Frommer
Delaware County Administrator
101 N. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Commissioner Gary Merrell
101 N. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Public Hearings

A local public hearing is an opportunity for members of the community to provide sworn testimony about the Project to representatives from the OPSB. The local public hearing to review this project has been scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 6:00pm. Due to the continued state of emergency, the local public hearing will be held using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone and/or live video on the internet. Interested persons who wish to provide testimony regarding the Project must pre-register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. EST, on April 27, 2021, at <https://opsb.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/opsb/events/20-1236-GA-BTX-Local-Public-Hearing> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Division (C) of Section 4906.08 of the Ohio Revised Code states: "The board shall accept written or oral testimony from any person at the public hearing, but the right to call and examine witnesses shall be reserved for parties. However, the board may adopt rules to exclude repetitive, immaterial, or irrelevant testimony."

An adjudicatory hearing will take place May 11, 2021 at 10:00am. Due to the continued state of emergency, it too will be held using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone and/or live video on the internet. At this hearing, parties who have formally intervened in the OPSB case will have the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses as well as cross examine witnesses presented by others. The deadline to intervene is March 5, 2021 or 30 days following the service of the notice required by Ohio Adm.Code 4906-3-09, whichever is later.

Section 4906.07 of the Ohio Revised Code governs these meetings:

(A) Upon the receipt of an application complying with section 4906.06 of the Revised Code, the power siting board shall promptly fix a date for a public hearing thereon, not less than sixty nor more than ninety days after such receipt, and shall conclude the proceeding as expeditiously as practicable.

(B) On an application for an amendment of a certificate, the board shall hold a hearing in the same manner as a hearing is held on an application for a certificate if the proposed change in the facility would result in any material increase in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of such facility other than as provided in the alternates set forth in the application.

(C) The chairperson of the power siting board shall cause each application filed with the board to be investigated and shall, not less than fifteen days prior to the date any application is set for hearing submit a written report to the board and to the applicant. A copy of such report shall be made available to any person upon request. Such report shall set forth the nature of the investigation, and shall contain recommended findings with regard to division (A) of section 4906.10 of the Revised Code and shall become part of the record and served upon all parties to the proceeding.

Map of the Project

