

AES Ohio Transmission Line Route Selection Siting Guidelines and Criteria

Route Selection Siting Guidelines

The Siting Team used the following siting guidelines to develop routes where feasible and practical. These guidelines are not in sequential order.

- Minimize route length, circuitry, cost, and special design requirements.
- Minimize route angles greater than 20 degrees.
- Minimize impacts when crossing agricultural land when considering structure placement.
- Minimize crossing of agricultural easements.
- Avoid conflicts with airports, heliports, and private air strips.
- Evaluate opportunities for paralleling existing highways and electric transmission lines.
- Avoid or minimize prolonged crossings of slopes steeper than 10 percent.
- Minimize impacts to residential areas, businesses, proposed developments, solar farms, and recreational areas.
- Parallel parcel boundaries where feasible.
- Avoid conflicts with underground utilities.
- Avoid paralleling pipelines and railroads where feasible.
- Avoid or minimize impacts to schools, churches, daycare centers, cemeteries, and federal or state land.
- Minimize Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain and floodway impacts.
- Avoid or minimize impacting natural resources and culturally sensitive land.
- Minimize tree clearing where feasible.
- Avoid crossing conservation easements and nature preserves.

Route Selection Siting Criteria Considered

The following siting criteria were considered when evaluating routes:

- Natural resources data associated with wetlands, streams, waterbodies, or springs located within the Study Area; tree clearing; impacts to threatened and endangered (T&E) plant and animal species; and karst topography and sinkholes.
- Land use considerations such as parcels crossed or bisected; buildings within the ROW; proximity to residences and businesses; mines or quarries crossed; developed or residential land crossed; agricultural land crossed; federal, state, and local lands; conservation easements; parks; and recreational lands.
- Social and cultural resources such as schools, places of worship, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and day care facilities; National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) resources; archaeological resources; historic inventory structures; historic districts; historic or scenic byways; and cemeteries.
- Engineering and technical factors such as the length of the route, turn angles (especially those greater than 20 degrees), and the Right-of-Way (ROW) area required; highways and roads crossed and paralleled; oil and gas lines crossed and paralleled; electric transmission lines crossed and paralleled; known utility conflicts; communication towers; flood zones; airports; and heliports.

Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) Review:

The OPSB is responsible for reviewing all the information related to the project – including input from the public – and determining whether the facility will meet the suitability and necessary requirements of the siting process. Ohio’s siting process requires that the proposed facilities:

- Satisfy the public need criteria for the facility;
- Satisfy all engineering requirements of the project;
- Address the compatibility of the facility with existing land use in the area; and
- Address the socioeconomic, land use, ecological, cultural, and environmental effects of the facility on the area.