

Public Notice

Applicant: American Transmission Systems, Inc. Published: December 5, 2014
Expires: January 2, 2015

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Buffalo District
CELRB-TD-R

Application No: 2014-00563
Section: OH

All written comments should reference the above Application No. and be addressed to:
US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Regulatory Branch (Attn:) Shawn U. Blohm
1100 Graham Road Circle
Stow, Ohio 44224

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

Application for Permit under Authority of
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

APPLICANT: American Transmission Systems Incorporated (ATSI)

WATERWAY & LOCATION: Paine Creek, 13757 Leroy Center Road, Painesville, Ohio 44077

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE: Latitude North: 41.6877
Longitude West: -81.14148

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The site contains the existing footprint of the Leroy Center Substation. A majority of the site consists of maintained utility areas and maintained utility right-of-way. Wooded areas are located on the north side, east side and west side of the site. Old field is located on the south side of the site. The project location is depicted on Sheet 1 of 5.

Description of delineation of waters of the US, if applicable: A preliminary jurisdictional determination was issued for this site on October 16, 2014. The site contains 42.33 acres of wetland. Of this, 18.72 acres is forested wetland and 23.61 acres is emergent wetland. 1,025 linear feet of intermittent stream channel was identified on-site. Aquatic features identified on-site flow into Paine Creek and East Creek.

PROPOSED WORK: ATSI is proposing to expand the footprint of the existing Leroy Center Substation. In order to complete the project, ATSI is proposing to discharge 23,566 cubic yards of clean fill into 6.48 acres of wetland.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: Expansion of an existing substation.

Overall: Substation expansion in northern Lake County.

Water Dependency Determination: The proposed project is not a water dependent activity.

Avoidance and Minimization Information: The applicant has assessed five proposed Substation Locations. The table below summarizes the amount of wetland fill that would be associated with each alternative..

Substation Location	Total amount of Wetland Fill
Proposed Alternative	6.48
Eastern Alternative	3.04
Northern Alternative	4.34
Southern Alternative	6.74
Western Alternative	1.24

Proposed Alternative: The applicant's Proposed Alternative is the preferred alternative and is the alternative the applicant is seeking to permit. The Proposed Alternative would permanently fill 6.48 acres of wetland, of which 5.35 acre is forested wetland. An additional 1.56 acres of forested wetland would be non-mechanically cleared. Stream impacts are not proposed. The Proposed Alternative is depicted on Sheet 2 of 5.

In addition to the Proposed Alternative, the applicant has assessed four alternate locations for the substation expansion that would generally result in less wetland impact, with the exception of the Southern Alternative. Due to increased construction costs these alternatives were determined by the applicant to not be feasible. The amount of wetland fills and stream impacts for each alternative is briefly discussed below. The location of each alternative location is depicted on Sheet 3 of 5.

Eastern Alternative: The applicant's Eastern Alternative would permanently fill 3.04 acre of wetland, of which 0.56 acres is forested wetland. This option would also require an additional 3.66 acres of forested wetland to be cleared for new Right-of-Way (ROW) development in order to connect to the proposed and existing substations. Stream impacts are not proposed. The Eastern Alternative project footprint is depicted in Sheet 4 of 5.

Northern Alternative: The applicant's Northern Alternative would permanently fill 4.34 acres of wetland, of which 3.06 acres is forested wetland. This option would require an additional 5.39 acres of forested wetland to be cleared for new ROW development to connect the proposed and existing substations. Stream impacts are not proposed. The Northern Alternative project footprint is depicted in Sheet 4 of 5.

Southern Alternative: The applicant's Southern Alternative would permanently fill 6.74 acres of wetland, of which approximately 1.20 acres is forested wetland. Additional clearing of forested wetland to facilitate new ROW development is not anticipated for this alternative due to its proximity to Leroy Center Road. Stream impacts are not proposed. The Southern Alternative footprint is depicted in Sheet 4 of 5.

Western Alternative: The applicant's Western Alternative would permanently fill an estimated 1.24 acres of wetland. An additional 7.71 acres of forested wetland would need to be cleared. The Western

Alternative would likely require stream impacts to construct. The Western Alternative project footprint is depicted in Sheet 5 of 5.

Proposed Mitigation: The applicant is proposing to purchase a combined total of 15.7 credits of off-site mitigation restoration bank credits from the Trumbull Creek Wetlands Mitigation bank and off-site preservation credits from the Pine Brook Wetlands Mitigation Bank.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings.

Comments or questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be reference the Application Number and be directed to the attention of Mr. Shawn U. Blohm, who can be contacted at the above address, by calling (330) 923-8214, or by e-mail at: shawn.u.blohm@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

The following authorization is required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Based on preliminary findings, there do not appear to be any properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places within the permit area as shown on Sheet 2 of 5. Therefore the Corps has determined that the proposed project will have no affect on any historic properties. This notice constitutes initiation of consultation with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. All currently available historic resource information pertaining to this proposed project if any has been provided to the SHPO. Additional information concerning historic properties should be submitted to the Corps before the end of the comment period of this notice. The Corps will forward that information to the SHPO for their review.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the Corps of Engineers is consulting, under separate cover, with the USFWS to evaluate any potential impacts to: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and to ensure that the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize their continued existence or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

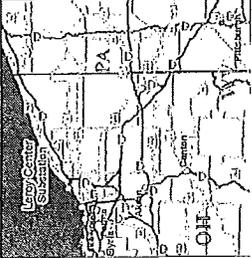
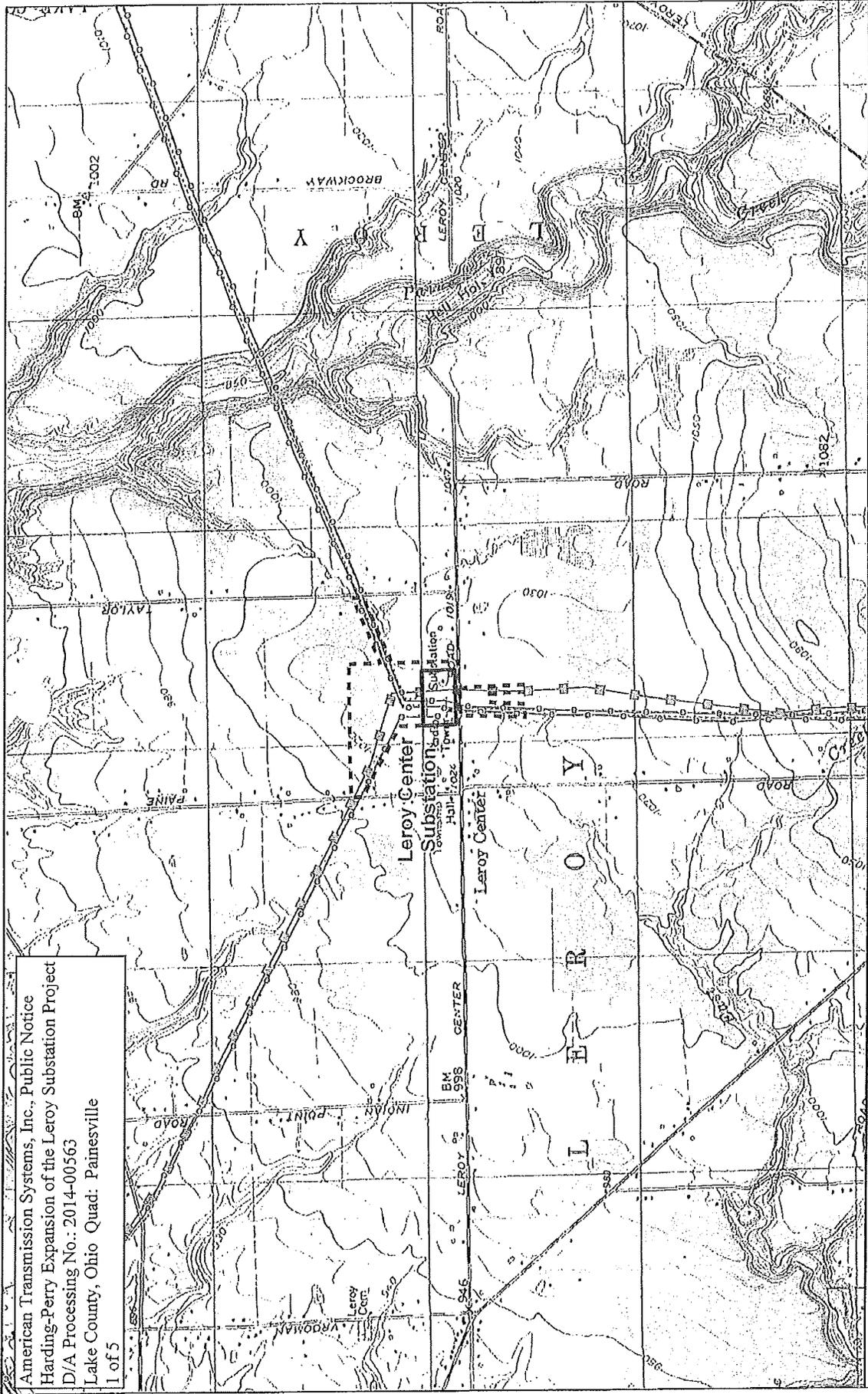
The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.


for Diane C. Kozlowski
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.

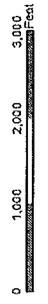
American Transmission Systems, Inc., Public Notice
 Harding-Perry Expansion of the Leroy Substation Project
 D/A Processing No.: 2014-00563
 Lake County, Ohio Quad: Painesville
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ATSI
 American Transmission Systems, Inc.
 a subsidiary of Hecla Energy Corp.
 Projected Coordinate System: State Plane Ohio
 North FIPS 3401
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet

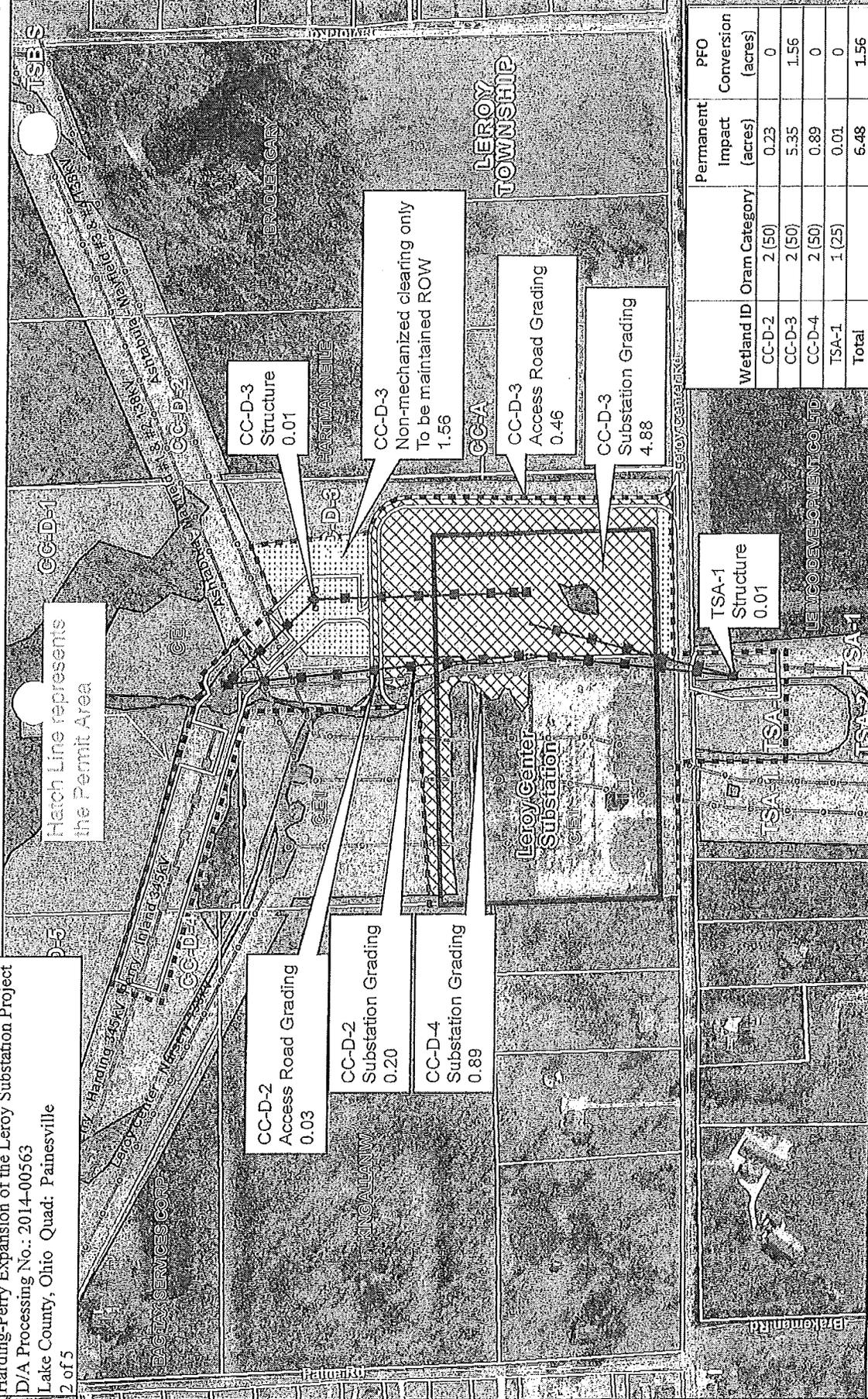


Figure 1
 Project Vicinity
 Harding - Perry 345 kV Transmission Line
 Loop to and Expansion of the
 Leroy Center Substation Project



- Legend**
- Delineation Area
 - Proposed Fenceline
 - Transmission
 - Existing 345kV
 - Existing 138kV

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Legend

- Layer
- Limits of Disturbance
- Proposed Fenceline
- Proposed Access Road and Pad
- Parcel
- Delineated Stream
- Delineated Wetland
- Wetland Impact
 - Permanent
 - PFO Conversion
- Transmission
 - Existing 345KV
 - Existing 138KV
 - Proposed 345KV

Figure 2
 Proposed Project Location, Plan View Drawing
 and Wetland Impacts
 Harding - Perry 345 kV Transmission Line
 Loop to and Expansion of the
 Leroy Center Substation Project

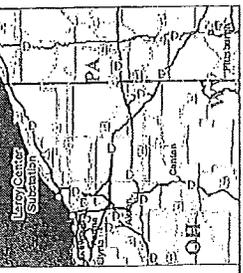
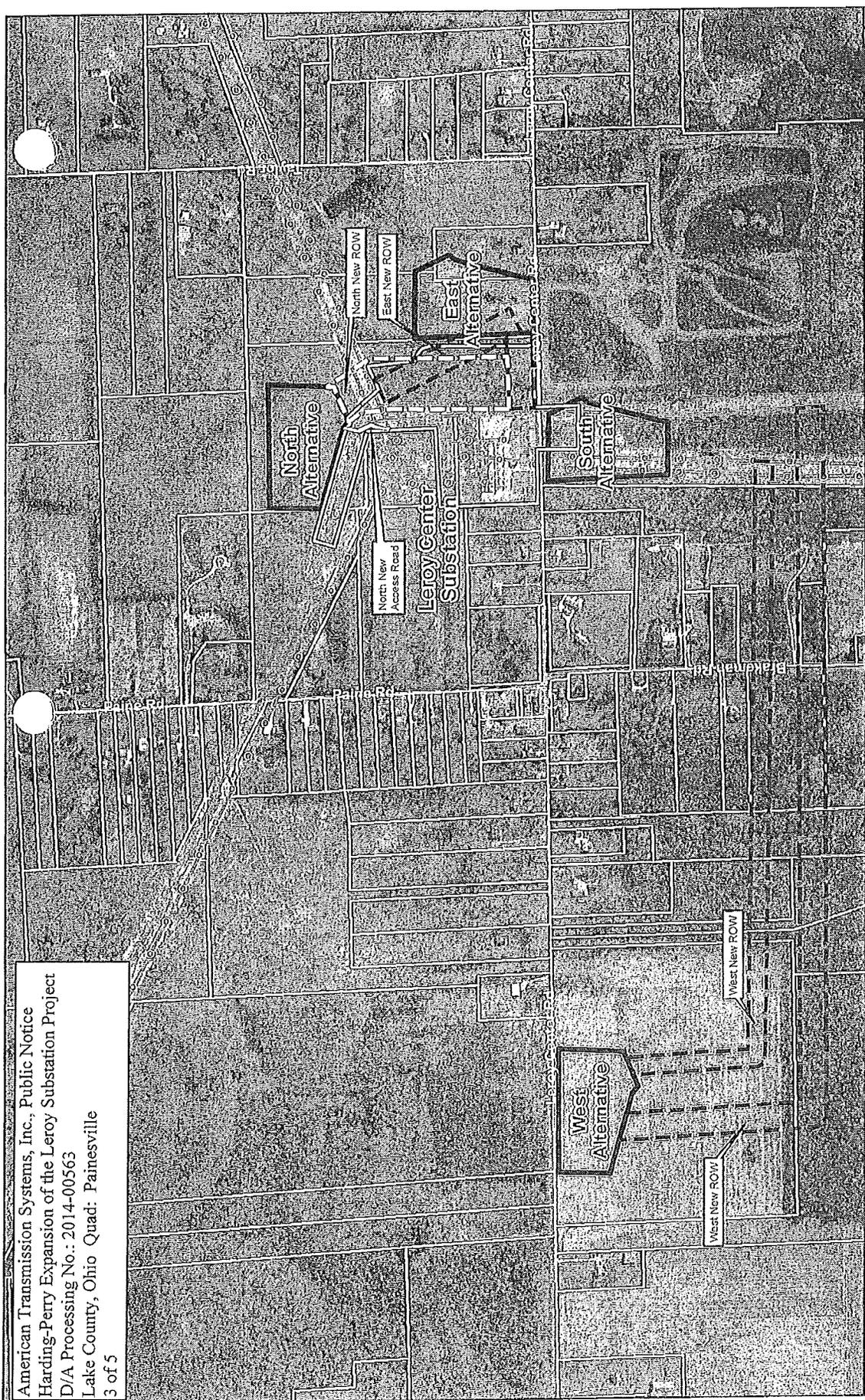
Scale: 0, 300, 600 Feet

North Arrow

ATSI
 American Transmission Systems, Inc.
 40000 W. Main St.
 Painesville, OH 44060
 Projected Coordinate System: State Plane Ohio
 North FIPS 5002
 American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet

Wetland ID	Oram Category	Permanent Impact (acres)	PFO Conversion (acres)
CC-D-2	2 (50)	0.23	0
CC-D-3	2 (50)	5.35	1.56
CC-D-4	2 (50)	0.89	0
TSA-1	1 (25)	0.01	0
Total		6.48	1.56

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ATSI[®]

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 Projected Coordinate System: State Plane Ohio
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet



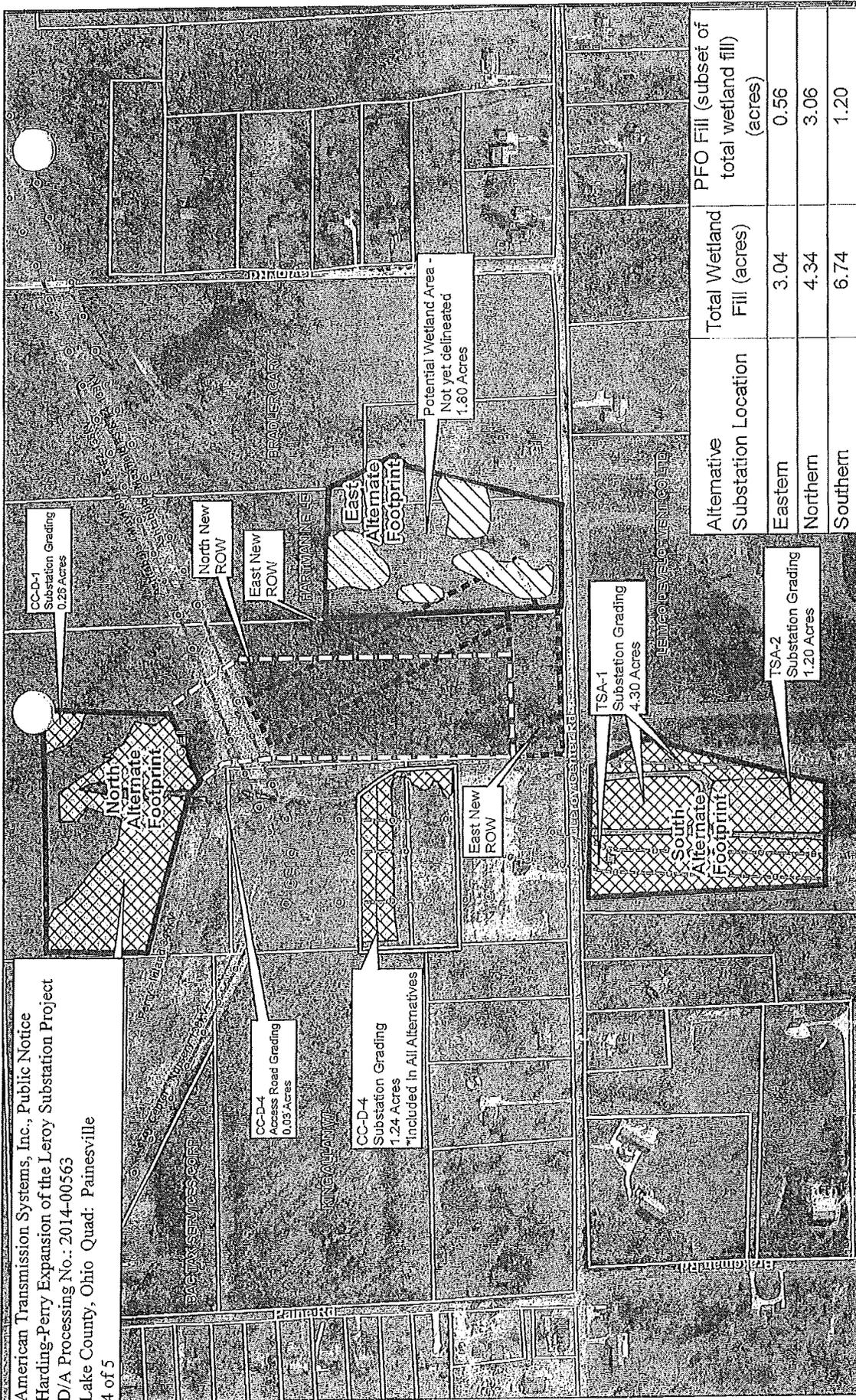
Figure 3
 Alternative Location Overview
 Harding - Perry 345 kV Transmission Line
 Loop to and Expansion of the
 Leroy Center Substation Project



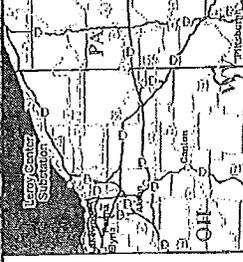
- Legend**
- Preferred Design Boundary
 - ▭ Alternative Location
 - Existing 345kV Transmission
 - Existing 138kV Transmission
 - ▭ New ROW
 - ▭ North Access Road
 - ▭ Parcel

North new ROW shown
 in white dashed line.

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Alternative Substation Location	Total Wetland Fill (acres)	PFO Fill (subset of total wetland fill) (acres)
Eastern	3.04	0.56
Northern	4.34	3.06
Southern	6.74	1.20



Projected Coordinates: State Plane Ohio
 North FIPS 3401
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet

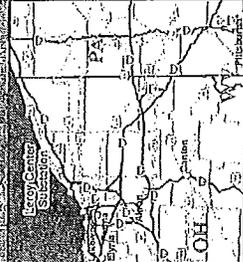
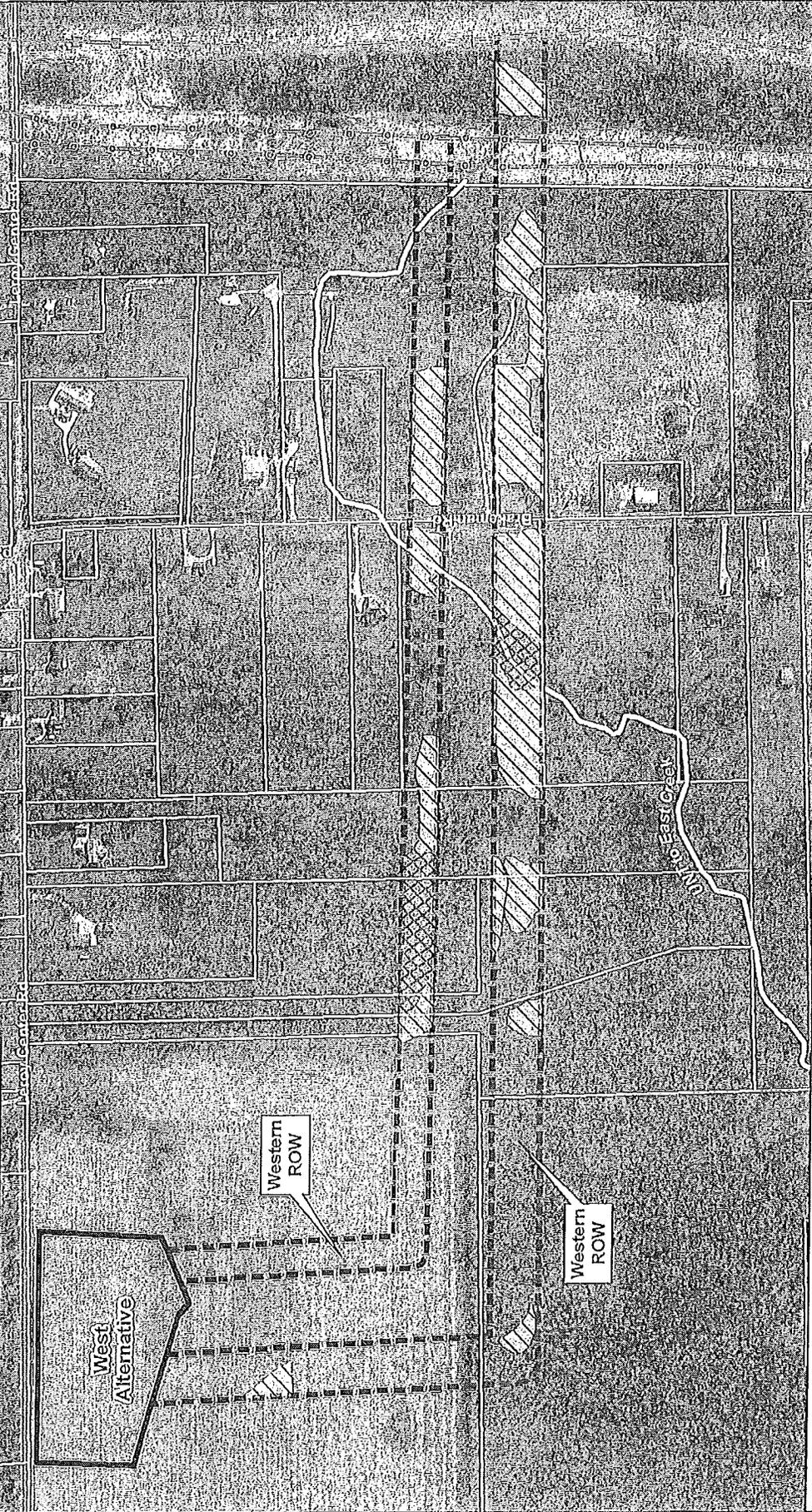


Figure 4
 Northern, Eastern, and Southern Alternative
 Permanent Wetland Impacts
 Harding - Perry 345 kV Transmission Line
 Loop to and Expansion of the
 Leroy Center Substation Project

- Legend**
- Parcel
 - Expanded Switching Station
 - Alternative Location
 - Transmission
 - Existing 345kV
 - Existing 138kV
 - East New ROW
 - Permanent Wetland Impacts
 - Eastern Probable Wetlands
 - Northern New ROW shown in dashed white line.



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Legend

- Alternative Location
- New ROW
- Transmission
 - Existing 345kV
 - Existing 138kV
- Stream (NHD)
- Parcel
- Probable Wetlands
 - High Probability
 - Medium Probability

Figure 5
 Western Alternative Potential Impacts
 Harding - Perry 345 kV Transmission Line
 Loop to and Expansion of the
 Leroy Center Substation Project

ATSI.
 American Transmission Systems, Inc.
 a subsidiary of American Electric Power
 Projected Coordinate System: State Plane Ohio
 North FIPS 3201
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet

0 500 1,000 Feet