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Project Name: Economic Development Grant – Dickson County, TN
Project Number: 2021-31

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL FOR
THE CANTERBURY SITE
Dickson County, Tennessee (Dickson)

An integral part of Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) mission is to promote economic development within the TVA service area. TVA provides financial assistance to help bring to market new/improved sites and facilities within the TVA service area and position communities to compete successfully for new jobs and capital investment. TVA proposes to provide an economic development grant through InvestPrep funds to the Industrial Development Board of Dickson County (the County) to assist with the development of the Canterbury Site. The area of TVA's proposed action (herein referred to as the Project Area) comprises approximately 28.4 acres of the total 55 acres of the Canterbury Site. The Canterbury Site is located north of the intersection of Sanker Road and Premdor Drive (also known as Adcock Cemetery Road), approximately 3.7 miles southeast of the City of Dickson, Tennessee (TN) in Dickson County.

The proposal is the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by TVA, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the EA, TVA evaluated potential impacts of the Proposed Action (i.e., the Action Alternative) as well as the alternative of not implementing the action (i.e., the No Action Alternative). Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide InvestPrep funds to the County. TVA would not be furthering its mission of promoting economic development by assisting the local community to compete successfully for new jobs and capital investment through the Proposed Action. The County may seek alternate funding (if available) to combine with their existing funds to develop the site. Success in obtaining alternate funding would result in similar impacts and benefits as the Action Alternative. If the County were not able to secure the funding for the Proposed Action, the land use at the site would likely remain unchanged, no environmental impacts would be anticipated, and the economic benefits associated with the Action Alternative would not be accomplished.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would provide InvestPrep funds to the County, facilitating the improvement of the Project Area within the Canterbury Site. TVA funds would be used for the clearing of approximately 9.5 acres of trees, rough grading of 28.4 acres, removal of an existing gravel access road (1,670 linear feet), and construction of a new access road (estimated 2,015 linear feet). Trees, including stumps, would be cut or removed and hauled off-site. Rough grading would require approximately 137,000 cubic yards of fill that would be obtained on-site. No off-site borrow would be needed. The final crown elevation would be 846 feet above mean sea level (msl). Access to the public cemetery outside, but immediately adjacent to the Project Area would be maintained. As stated, the existing gravel access road would be removed and a new re-routed access

road would be constructed that would terminate adjacent to the cemetery. The Project Area would be stabilized following the completion of grading activities with actions such as installation of erosion control blankets on the side slopes and permanent seeding on remaining disturbed areas. The Project is expected to require an eight-month duration and would require a small workforce that would most likely be assigned from a local contractor.

TVA's preferred alternative is the Action Alternative. This alternative would meet the purpose of the Project and would further promote TVA's mission to promote economic development in the TVA service area.

The potential impacts of the Action Alternative are described in detail in the EA. Implementation of the Action Alternative would have no impact on floodplains, wetlands, aquatic ecology, land use, prime farmland, managed and natural areas, or recreation.

Minor adverse impacts related to solid and hazardous waste, air quality and climate change, groundwater, soils, terrestrial zoology, and botany would occur as a result of the site grading and construction. Implementation of the Action Alternative could create potential minor adverse impacts to the human environment, including visual effects, noise, socioeconomics and environmental justice, and transportation issues.

One ephemeral waterbody/wet weather conveyance is located within the Project Area. This ephemeral waterbody/wet weather conveyance would be avoided by the construction.

Construction-related activities would result in minor and short-term impacts to air quality and climate change. With the use of best management practices (BMPs) impacts would be minimal, temporary, and localized; and would not be anticipated to result in any violation of applicable ambient air quality standards or impact regional air quality.

No uncommon or rare plant or animal communities are present within the proposed Project Area and the impacts to vegetation and wildlife would be minor and insignificant. No plants or animals protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or habitat suitable for these listed species are present on these sites; therefore, the requirements under Section 7 of that Act have been met. No state-listed protected species would be significantly affected.

No archaeological or architectural/historic resources eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project Area. TVA has determined that there would be no effects on historic properties and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this determination.

Construction vehicles and equipment visible during construction activities would have a minor visual impact over the temporary construction period. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Action Alternative would result in only a minor overall change in visual quality.

Noise would be localized and temporary, and no receptor would be exposed to significant noise levels for an extended period. Further, construction activities would be expected to

be conducted during daylight hours only, when ambient noise levels are often higher, and most individuals are less sensitive to noise. Thus, noise-related impacts resulting from implementation of the Action Alternative are anticipated to be temporary and minor.

Minor beneficial socioeconomic impacts during construction and operation would occur. No long-term impacts to community services are anticipated and there would be no disproportionate impacts to low-income or minority communities in the area.

Additional traffic would be generated during construction activities. However, the amount of additional traffic generated would be minor and have a negligible impact on overall traffic volumes.

Suitable summer roosting habitat for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat (NLEB) occurs in the Project Area. A number of activities associated with the Action Alternative, including tree removal, were addressed in TVA's programmatic consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on routine actions and federally listed bats in accordance with ESA Section 7(a)(2) and completed in April 2018. For those activities with potential to affect bats, TVA committed to implementing specific conservation measures. These activities and associated conservation measures are identified on page 5 of the TVA Bat Strategy Project Screening Form (Attachment 2 of EA) and must be reviewed/implemented as part of the Action Alternative. With implementation of these conservation measures, no significant impacts are expected to federally listed bats.

Mitigation

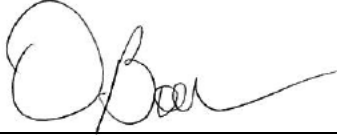
To minimize or reduce the environmental effects of site activities associated with the Action Alternative, the County, or its contractors, are expected to ensure all clearing and grading activities conducted comply with construction stormwater permitting requirements and utilize applicable BMPs to minimize and control erosion and fugitive dust during these actions. These practices include, but are not limited to, installation of sediment and erosion controls (silt fences, sediment traps, etc.); management of fugitive dust; and a restriction allowing work during daytime work hours only. Trees and stumps would be hauled off-site and no burning is planned.

Operations involving chemical or fuel storage or resupply and vehicle servicing are expected to be handled outside of riparian areas and in such a manner as to prevent these items from reaching a watercourse. Earthen berms or other effective means are expected to be installed to protect nearby surface waters from direct surface runoff. Servicing of equipment and vehicles is expected to be done with care to avoid leakage, spillage, and subsequent surface or ground water contamination. Oil waste, filters, and other litter are expected to be collected and disposed of properly.

Specific avoidance and conservation measures would be implemented as a part of the Action Alternative to reduce effects to Indiana bat and NLEB. These measures are identified in the TVA Bat Strategy Project Screening Form (Attachment 2 of EA).

Conclusion and Findings

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the EA, we conclude that the Proposed Action of TVA funding the improvement of the Project Area within the Canterbury Site would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. This finding is dependent on implementation of the mitigation measures described above. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



Dawn Booker
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NEPA Programs

04/13/2022

Date Signed