

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT  
WEST INDUSTRIAL PARK, LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

An integral part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) mission is to promote the economic development of the TVA Valley region. TVA provides financial assistance to communities to help them bring new improved sites and facilities to market and to position communities to compete successfully for new jobs and investment. TVA needs to make a decision about providing a grant to the Logan Economic Alliance for Development (LEAD) for improvements to the existing zoned West Industrial Park in order to enhance the marketability and facilitate the development of the site located in Logan County, Kentucky. LEAD has proposed to purchase an additional 20 acres which will increase the West Industrial Park from 140 acres to 160 acres. TVA funding would be used to complete a boundary survey on the new parcel and clear any standing timber present on the 20 acre parcel. In addition, TVA funding would be used to clear an overgrown area on the existing 140 acre park and improve the existing entrance road by widening the road and installing signage.

The proposal is the subject of an EA prepared by TVA, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the EA, TVA addressed potential impacts of the proposed project as well as the alternative of not implementing the action (i.e., taking no action). Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide funding to LEAD for the improvements to the West Industrial Park. If LEAD were to obtain alternate funding and proceed with the site improvements, the overall environmental consequences would be similar to those expected from implementing the Action Alternative.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would provide funding to LEAD to acquire the 20 acre parcel, to complete a boundary survey for the new parcel, to clear standing timber on the acquired parcel, and to clear an overgrown area on the original West Industrial Park parcel. LEAD would take appropriate feasible measures, such as implementing best management practices (BMPs) and best construction practices, to minimize or reduce the potential environmental effects of the proposed project to insignificant levels. Under both the No Action and Action Alternatives, LEAD would pursue the development of the West Industrial Park. No specific plans currently exist for the eventual build-out, occupation, or future use of the site.

TVA has determined that the proposed actions would have no or negligible impacts on land use, recreation, floodplains, navigation, transportation, and noise.

The proposed clearing activities would result in minor impacts to water resources and water quality, aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, prime farmland, cultural resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, air quality, aesthetics, and waste materials. The proposed clearing activities are expected to have minor beneficial impacts to the local economy or workforce.

TVA conducted an onsite survey of the proposed project area in May 2016 to identify sensitive environmental resources. No wetlands were identified within the proposed project area. Suitable summer habitat for Indiana and northern long-eared bats exists within the forested areas of the site. TVA determined that proposed actions may have indirect adverse effects on northern long-eared bat that result in "take" as defined by the Endangered Species Act, and that this "take" is exempted from ESA Section 9 Take Prohibitions under the 2016 Programmatic Biological

Opinion on Final 4(d) Rule for Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Provisions. TVA entered into a Conservation Memoranda of Agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address removal of summer roosting habitat for Indiana Bat. Under that MOA, TVA agreed to impose a restriction in the grant that would allow LEAD to remove trees identified as summer roosting habitat only between October 15 and March 31 of any given year. Thus TVA determined that impacts to the Indiana and northern long-eared bats associated with the proposed actions would be minor. In a letter dated August 2, 2016, the USFWS concurred with TVA's species impact determinations and acknowledged that TVA's responsibilities under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act have been fulfilled for this project.

One portion of the current West Industrial Park contains a limestone cedar glade within which the state-endangered plant species limestone fameflower occurs. TVA's decision to fund the grant would not result in direct impacts to the limestone fameflower as this glade lies outside the area designated for the West Industrial Park improvements. Future development of the site is at the discretion of the developer. The cedar glade is located atop a small knoll and within a transmission line right of way. The remainder of the project site is lower, flat terrain. Because of the topography and the presence of the transmission line, it is likely that the cedar glade could be easily avoided during any potential future site development. Therefore, impacts to the limestone fameflower would be insignificant.

The majority of the 140 acre West Industrial Park property has been subject to a Phase I archaeological survey in 2001. In 2016, TVA conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the additional 13.3 acres not surveyed in 2001, and revisited the previously identified sites. No newly identified archaeological resources were found within the 13.3 acre area. Within the previously recorded boundaries of one of the previously surveyed sites (15LO200), a small stone outbuilding, Civil War era grave marker, and several possible depressions were observed. Because of the potential for intact burials, LEAD will place a 20 meter exclusion buffer around the possible grave depressions so there will be no disturbance within the buffer during the proposed action. LEAD would also comply with all Kentucky statutes related to the protection of graves. With this protection in place, TVA finds that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. On August 10, 2016, the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the TVA's determination that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking.

### **Mitigation**

To minimize or reduce the environmental effects of the proposed project, LEAD or its contractors will ensure all earth-disturbing activities are in compliance with stormwater, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and air permitting requirements, will comply with all Kentucky statutes related to the protection of graves, and will utilize applicable BMPs to minimize and control erosion and fugitive dust during the proposed actions.

TVA would include the commitments described below in its financial assistance grant to LEAD in order to reduce, minimize or mitigate environmental impacts associated with construction activities:

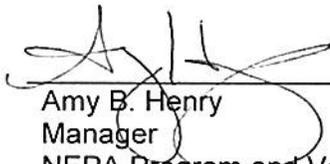
- BMPs will be utilized around ephemeral streams and sinkholes within the project action areas to minimize disturbance of riparian areas, erosion, and sediment inputs to groundwater.
- Tree clearing will occur between October 15 and March 31 of any given year.



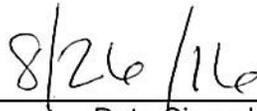
- TVA will provide LEAD with site information showing the location of the existing wetland to enable LEAD to ensure future development of the site is in compliance with state and federal wetland regulations.
- A 20 meter buffer will be flagged around the grave marker and possible depressions so there will be no disturbance within the buffer during the proposed action.

### Conclusion and Findings

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the EA, we conclude that the proposed action of TVA providing funding to LEAD for improvements to the West Industrial Park would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



Amy B. Henry  
Manager  
NEPA Program and Valley Projects  
Project Environmental Planning  
Tennessee Valley Authority



Date Signed