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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR ACCESS ROAD EXTENSION AND SITE DRAINAGE STUDY ALCORN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to provide an economic development grant to The Alliance, an economic development corporation representing the City of Corinth and Alcorn County, Mississippi. The grant would be used to expand the first phase of access improvements evaluated in TVA’s March 2015 environmental assessment. The newly proposed access road is located outside the 2015 EA project area. The proposed grant to The Alliance would help expand access to the Alcorn site to increase its attractiveness to potential industrial or commercial tenants.

The proposed action is the subject of a supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) prepared by TVA. The SEA is incorporated by reference. Two viable alternatives were available for consideration in the SEA. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide the requested funds to The Alliance. However, the previously funded activities at the industrial site would continue including clearing of the 42-acre site and access road construction.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, TVA would provide the requested funding to The Alliance for access road extension. The improvements would include expanding the access road by 2,000 feet, which would include approximately 250 feet of paved roadway and approximately 1,750 feet of gravel roadway (crushed stone surfacing). The access road would be expanded by 2,000 feet and would consist of 7.5 inches of crushed stone that would be used for the base of a future 24 foot wide paved roadway with 4 foot shoulders. The typical section would have 3:1 side slopes to accommodate for drainage and ditches. Typical erosion control efforts would be implemented including seeding, mulching, temporary silt fence, wattles, and riprap check dams. There would be no tree clearing under the proposed action. The proposed grant would also help fund a study of site grading and drainage, which would be used to map the topography following completion of the access road expansion and would not require ground disturbance. The Proposed Action Alternative is TVA’s preferred alternative.

Due to the nature and location of the proposed action, there is no potential for impacts to wild and scenic rivers, parks, or natural areas. There are no wetlands or no water features (streams, wet weather conveyances, etc.) within the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact on wetlands, water quality or aquatic species associated with the proposed action. Potential effects on transportation, socioeconomic and environmental justice, and aesthetic resources are absent or minor. The proposed study of site grading and drainage would not require ground disturbance and therefore would have no impact on any of the resources identified in the SEA.

The project area was cleared and graded by the previous owner. Due to the heavy disturbance at this site, the project footprint is unlikely to be used by any wildlife species, common or rare. Plant communities currently found on the site do not support native plant communities with conservation value. The implementation of the proposed project would have a negligible impact on the terrestrial ecology of the region. The proposed actions would not impact federal or state-listed plant, wildlife or aquatic species because no individuals or habitat capable of supporting listed species occurs in portions of the project area where work would occur.

On March 24, 2016, TVA cultural compliance staff conducted a field reconnaissance review of the proposed road location. The entirety of the area of potential effects (APE) had already been cleared and much of the top soil had been removed or relocated from grading the existing slope prior to TVA's involvement. The reviewers encountered 100 percent visibility within the archaeological APE. A pedestrian survey was completed on the entirety of the project area. All but one of the shovel test pits were not excavated due to slope and high visibility. No cultural materials were observed. Per the results of this review, TVA determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. TVA consulted with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer in a letter dated April 28, 2016 regarding TVA's findings of no effect. In a letter dated May 13, 2016, the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office responded that it had no comments to the proposed undertaking because the area had been previously disturbed. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(f) (2), TVA also consulted with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties that may have religious and cultural significance to their tribe and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and received no responses.

### **Mitigation**

As discussed in the 2015 EA, in order to minimize or reduce the environmental effects of the proposed project in SEA, The Alliance will ensure that its construction contractors are in compliance with storm water permitting requirements, and The Alliance will be responsible for ensuring that applicable BMPs to minimize and control erosion and fugitive dust are implemented during construction. TVA has not determined the need for any non-routine measures to reduce potential environmental effects.

### **Conclusion and Findings**

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the SEA, TVA concludes that the proposed action of providing an economic development grant to The Alliance would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed