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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT PROPOSAL FOR EMORY VALLEY CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Anderson County, Tennessee

Prepared by: **TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY** Knoxville, Tennessee

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The Proposed Action and Need

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to administer a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to the Emory Valley Center (EVC) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (Figure 1). The EVC is a non-profit agency that serves children and adults with disabilities. With the ARC grant and other funding, the EVC would demolish portions of its existing facility and build a new 37,250 square foot building on approximately 1.5 acres as shown as Attachment A. The construction of the new facility includes installation of associated sewer, water, and gas lines. Existing infrastructure would be used to the extent possible.



Figure 1 Emory Valley Center Location Map

A new facility would enable the EVC to continue offering services to East Tennesseans with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Supported Employment, Workshop, and Early Learning Center Programs. The new center would serve 451 students in the Early Learning Center and 83 workers/trainees in the Supported Employment Program and Sheltered Workshop Program. The new center would also retain 265 existing jobs, while creating 15 new jobs. With the larger facility, the EVC would be able to employ service recipients on- and off-site, serve over 800 individuals every month, and expand the Pre-K program via Early Intervention Services.

The City of Oak Ridge is part of Anderson County, Tennessee, which has been designated by ARC as a 'transitional with distressed areas' county with a current unemployment rate higher than the state average. The project would have a positive effect on the county and surrounding area by increasing job opportunities and per capita income. TVA serves as the administrator for many projects funded by the ARC in the Tennessee Valley. These projects result in increased investment in infrastructure and capacity-building initiative for Tennessee Valley communities. TVA's action is to make a decision on the administration of an ARC grant for the EVC. To address the potential environmental impacts of the proposal, TVA has prepared this environmental assessment (EA) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and TVA's procedures for implementing NEPA.

Background

The current property owned by the EVC was donated to the parents of 16 mentally challenged children in 1955 by the Atomic Energy Commission to be used as a school for their children who were excluded from public school. The EVC grew and prospered for many years as a school for disabled children. As the children began to be served by the local school systems, the EVC focused on services to adults and preschoolers. The EVC began providing employment services in 1975. These efforts continue today, and the center has expanded to offer many other life-changing programs.

Parts of the EVC, including the administrative offices and its Workshop program, are located in a facility at 715 Emory Valley Road in Oak Ridge, on property owned by the EVC (see Figure 2). However, other EVC operations are conducted across Emory Valley Road in a portion of the former Daniel Arthur Rehabilitation Center (DARC) building. The Anderson County Commission owns and maintains the former DARC building, which also houses several other organizations and offices. The Anderson County Commission announced plans to transfer the facility to the City of Oak Ridge as of December 2014 and notified EVC of the need to relocate operations from the DARC building. The City of Oak Ridge is considering the eventual demolition of the building due to its age and high maintenance costs.



Source: Google Maps

Figure 2. Bird's Eye Aerial View of the Emory Valley Center Site (looking north)

The EVC owns the property containing its administrative offices, a warehouse, and the Work Training Center (or "Workshop") building as well as a vacant parcel adjacent to these existing facilities. The EVC is proposing to construct a new 37,250 square foot, multi-purpose facility at this location, thereby consolidating its operations on a single site.

Alternatives

Preliminary internal scoping by TVA has determined that from the standpoint of NEPA, there are two feasible alternatives available to TVA. These are the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative, which are described below.

The No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative TVA would not administer the ARC grant. Thus, \$500,000 in ARC funds to be used for the planned improvements would not be available to the EVC. In this event, the EVC would likely seek alternate funding for the planned improvements. If the EVC were to obtain alternate funding and proceed with its current plans to construct a new building, the overall environmental consequences would be similar to those expected from implementing the Action Alternative.

The Action Alternative

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would administer the ARC grant to the EVC. With the ARC grant and other funding, the EVC would demolish the existing Work Training Center building and construct a new 37,250 square foot multi-purpose building onsite as shown in the proposed site plan (see Attachment A). Services would be provided at another location during construction. The EVC 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.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion

Two feasible alternatives, i.e., the Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative are available to TVA, and the potential environmental effects of implementing those two alternatives were considered in this environmental review. However, the EVC considered multiple options for continuing its programs. These included extensive building renovations, relocating the Work Training Center to a separate location, and eliminating the Work Center. All these options involved potential changes in the programs offered by the EVC, primarily due to space constraints. Thus, the EVC determined that the most feasible approach would be to construct a new, multi-purpose building on its property.

Affected Environment and Evaluation of Impacts

Site Description

The proposed project is located within the city limits of Oak Ridge in Anderson County, Tennessee. The project area is bordered on the north Emory Valley Road, a divided fourlane street. The west side of the property abuts a vacant property consisting of a grassy area with a gravel access road. The south side of the property borders the Pathway Bellows industrial complex, which is currently inactive. A parcel owned by the Oak Ridge Power Squadron borders the EVC property on the east side. Fairbanks Road, which served as an access road to the Pathway Bellows property, lies to the southeast of the EVC property. The proposed building would be situated on an approximately 1.5-acre parcel designated for industrial development and owned by the EVC. The site is relatively flat with no streams or creeks. According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2007) for this portion of Oak Ridge, the project area is not within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. The soil within the project area is classified as the Colbert-Lyerly-Rock outcrop complex having 5 to 20 percent slopes (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2015). This soil classification is not considered prime farmland.

The closest public recreation facility is Carl Yearwood Park, a public ball field, which is located approximately 1,300 feet from the project site. A wooded greenbelt separates Yearwood field from the proposed project site. The closest managed area is the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area, which is approximately 2,000 feet from the EVC. No streams listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory or any Wild and Scenic Rivers are located within 3 miles of the project site.

The potential environmental effects of EVC's proposal to demolish an onsite structure and construct a new building were considered in this environmental review. TVA has determined that these proposed actions, subsequent to TVA's selection of the Action Alternative, would have no impact on floodplains, prime farmland, public recreation opportunities, managed areas, Nationwide Rivers Inventory streams or Wild and Scenic Rivers. Therefore, potential effects to these resources are not described further in this EA.

Resources that could potentially be affected directly, indirectly or cumulatively by implementing the proposed action included air quality, water quality and aquatic life, terrestrial ecology, threatened and endangered terrestrial species, wetlands, cultural resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, transportation, solid and hazardous waste, and aesthetic qualities. Potential impacts to these resources resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative are discussed in detail below.

Air Quality

Based on available ambient air quality data, the air quality in the vicinity of the project area is generally good. A nonattainment area is an area considered to have air quality worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards promulgated under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated Anderson County as nonattainment for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (i.e., PM_{2.5}). Nearby Knox and Loudon counties are also in nonattainment for PM_{2.5}, and part of neighboring Roane County is nonattainment for PM_{2.5}. Knox County is in nonattainment for ozone (8-hour). Anderson County is currently in attainment for all other criteria air pollutants (ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, 10-micron diameter particulate matter, and lead). However, as of July 20, 2012, Anderson County was re-designated partial nonattainment for ozone.

Demolition of the Work Training Center building, site clearing, and construction of the proposed building would generate some air pollutants. These include dust and other particulate matter from the exhaust of equipment. Additionally, minor amounts of nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides could be produced by the engine exhausts of construction equipment. The EVC would be responsible for ensuring that construction contractors keep construction equipment in proper running order and that fugitive dust emissions from the site during clearing and construction are controlled appropriately. Because of the limited duration of the proposed demolition, clearing, and construction, these effects to air quality

would be temporary and localized. Thus, these effects are expected to be minor and would not have a major influence on the air quality of Anderson County.

Water Quality and Aquatic Life

Although there is a small constructed stormwater catchment basin on the adjacent property to the west, no streams or open waters are present on the project area. EVC would be responsible for acquiring applicable permits, including a Construction Stormwater Permit from the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Thus, implementing the proposed project would not affect water flow, stream channels, or stream banks.

There are no surface waters on the site. Thus, undertaking the proposed project is not expected to affect any local aquatic life and would not contribute to the spread of exotic or invasive aquatic species. No unique or important aquatic habitats are known to occur within a 10-mile radius of the proposed project. Therefore, no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to important aquatic habitat, invasive aquatic species, or surface water quality are anticipated.

Because applicable precautions to prevent spills and other sources of groundwater contamination would be implemented, onsite demolition, clearing, and construction are not expected to affect groundwater supplies or quality. Likewise, post-construction operations at the EVC are not the type of activities that have the potential to affect groundwater.

Terrestrial Life

A unique prairie habitat, the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area, is located within a half mile of the proposed project. This habitat supports a rare assemblage of species, including three state-listed plants. Although this small remnant prairie is situated relatively close to the project area, plant communities on the EVC property are common and well represented throughout the region. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect any unique or important terrestrial habitats.

Several buildings and a parking lot are situated on the eastern half of the project footprint along with a wide layer of concrete and asphalt rubble (spoil). However, the western half is a mixture of woodland and early-successional habitat (i.e., grass, shrubs). Overstory and midstory trees within the woodland include shortleaf and Virginia pine, along with several species of red oak, white oak and eastern red cedar. The understory is comprised of a sizable proportion of exotic invasive plants, including bush honeysuckle, Chinese privet, and Mahonia. These non-native, invasive species are distributed widely throughout the region, and undertaking the proposed project is not expected to change this situation. Thus, implementing the project would not contribute to the spread of exotic or invasive plant species.

The project footprint is located in an urban landscape, with municipal and commercial infrastructure to the north, an industrial area to the south, a grass field to the west, and a residential neighborhood to the southeast. Birds commonly observed in such urban landscapes with woodlands and early successional habitat interspersed with human infrastructure and dwellings include Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, northern mockingbird, northern cardinal, eastern towhee, eastern bluebird, brown thrasher, field sparrow, and eastern meadowlark. Red-tailed hawk and American kestrel also forage along road rights-of-way. Mammals routinely observed in this type of landscape include Virginia opossum, raccoon, eastern cottontail, striped skunk, white-tailed deer, eastern mole, woodchuck, and

rodents such as white-footed mouse and hispid cotton rat. Common reptiles include black racer, black rat snake and eastern garter snake.

Woodland habitat in urban landscapes may be too fragmented and isolated to support most common forest animal species. However, birds in small forested areas typically include American crow, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, American goldfinch, blue-gray gnatcatcher, red-bellied woodpecker, and downy woodpecker. Mammals such as eastern chipmunk and eastern gray squirrel tend to occur in urban woodlands. Amphibian and reptile species that may be found in this habitat include ring-necked snake, gray rat snake, five-line skink, copperhead snake, spring peeper and upland chorus frog.

No wading bird colonies have been documented within 3 miles of the project footprint. No new heronries or other aggregations of migratory birds were reported from the February 19, 2014, field survey. No suitable habitat for heron colonies is available within the project footprint or in nearby areas. Work activities would not affect heronries or other aggregations of migratory birds.

No caves have been documented within 3 miles of the project area, and no caves or unique habitats were reported from the February 19, 2014, field survey.

The proposed building and associated infrastructure would occupy much of the project site, resulting in the loss of about an acre of forested habitat. Any wildlife present within the project site would likely disperse to similar habitat, which is present on the north side of Emory Road and in areas to the south. Although terrestrial animals inhabiting the site would likely move into surrounding areas during construction activities, some may return and continue using the area afterwards. Undertaking the proposed actions is not expected to impact the local population of any terrestrial animals with potential to occupy the project footprint.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Queries of the TVA Natural Heritage Database were conducted in April 2014 to determine records of federally or state-listed species in the vicinity of the proposed project. Likewise, a desktop review using aerial photographs, site-specific photographs, and topographic maps was also conducted to determine the likelihood of listed species occurring on the project site or in the vicinity. Occurrences of listed species are tabularized in Attachment B.

No federally listed plant species are known from Anderson County, Tennessee, or from within 5 miles of the proposed project site. However, twelve state-listed plant species are known from within 5 miles of the proposed project (Attachment B). All open areas on the site have been heavily disturbed and are incapable of supporting prairie species that have been previously reported from within 0.5 mile of the EVC. Wooded areas on the property have a large component of non-native plants and are highly unlikely to support rare plants that require closed canopy forest. Implementing the proposed action would not affect any federally listed or state-listed plant species.

The occurrence of one federally listed as endangered species (gray bat) has been documented within 3 miles of the project. However, no state-listed species have been documented within 3 miles of the project area. A record of one additional federally listed species (the Indiana bat) occurs within Anderson County (Attachment B). The project footprint falls within the range of the northern long-eared bat, which was proposed for listing as federally endangered in October, 2013 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The gray bat is a species associated year-round with caves, and they roost in various caves throughout the year. This species emerges from roost sites at dusk to forage for insects along waterways. Summer roosting gray bats have been documented in Marble Bluff Cave, located on the Tennessee River, approximately 20 miles southwest of the project site. Gray bats also have been detected on the Oak Ridge Reservation foraging along a pond approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the project. Habitat suitable for roosting or foraging by gray bats is not present within the project footprint.

Indiana bats inhabit caves during the winter and migrate to roost under exfoliating bark and within cavities of trees (typically greater than or equal to 5 inches in diameter) during the summer (Barbour and Davis 1974). Foraging occurs along riparian areas and along the tops of trees such as along a forested edge or tree line. The closest summer record of Indiana bat was a mist net capture of an adult male on the Oak Ridge Reservation on June 23, 2013. This capture occurred at Freels Bend Causeway over an inlet of Melton Hill Lake, approximately 6 miles southeast of the project site. The closest winter record of Indiana bat to the project site is of a hibernaculum¹ (Norris Dam Cave) approximately 27 miles to the northeast in Campbell County, Tennessee. However, no Indiana bats were observed in this cave during winter surveys conducted in 2002 and 2010 through 2013.

Northern long-eared bats inhabit caves and underground cave-like structures (e.g. abandoned or active mines, and railroad tunnels) in the winter. During summer this species roosts singly or in colonies in cavities, underneath bark, crevices, or hollows of both live and dead trees (typically greater than or equal to 3 inches in diameter). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. Northern long-eared bats forage in upland and lowland woodlots, tree-lined corridors, and over water surfaces, feeding on insects. In general, habitat use by the northern long-eared bats is thought to be similar to that used by the Indiana bat, although northern long-eared bats appear to be more opportunistic in selection of summer habitat (USFWS 2014).

In accordance with the recommendation from the USFWS (Attachment C), a site visit was conducted February 19, 2014, by an ecologist with Oak Ridge National Laboratory to assess the suitability of habitat for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat within the project footprint. None of the pine or oak trees on the site exhibited roost characteristics suitable for use by Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat. Suitable habitat was limited to two dead yellow poplar trees that contained exfoliating bark and crevices. At the time of the survey, these two snags were in a late stage of decay (i.e., broken tops and few limbs) such that suitable roost characteristics were not expected to be present within a year. TVA determined that the project footprint does not provide suitable habitat, based on the limited available habitat and existing surrounding development, which would likely deter use by either bat species.

Suitable habitat for gray bat would not be affected by the proposed construction. Impacts to gray bat would not occur as a result of proposed actions. Suitable habitat for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat is limited within the project footprint to two dead trees that are in the late stages of decay. TVA determined that with a winter cutting restriction in place that allows removal of these trees in the October 15 to March 31 timeframe when Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats are hibernating in caves, these bat species are not likely to be adversely affected by the proposed actions. The USFWS concurred with this

¹ A hibernaculum is a site, such as a cave, where bats congregate to hibernate.

determination (see Attachment C). These trees were removed in the winter of 2014, in the October 15 to March 31 timeframe.

Records of 17 federally listed as endangered mollusks (16 mussels and one snail), two federally listed as threatened fish, and five additional state-listed species (two fish, two mussels, and one snail) occur within Anderson County (Attachment B). However, 12 of the federally listed species are considered extirpated records and are believed to no longer occur within the project area. No streams or potential habitat for aquatic life were identified within the project footprint. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts to any federally listed or state-listed aquatic species would occur.

<u>Wetlands</u>

Wetlands are areas inundated by surface or ground water such that vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions are prevalent. Examples include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, and lacustrine or palustrine shoreline fringes. A wetland field survey was conducted on the EVC property project in May 2014. Two small emergent wetlands associated with a catchment basin are located on to the west of the site on an adjacent property. No wetlands are present on the EVC property or within the boundaries of the proposed project. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to wetlands from implementing the proposed actions are expected.

Cultural Resources

The area of potential effects (APE) for archaeological resources was considered to be any area affected by ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed undertaking. Background research was conducted prior the field reconnaissance, and no previously recorded archaeological resources were identified within the APE. On May 1, 2014, TVA conducted a field reconnaissance survey of the archaeological APE. Extensive ground disturbance and filling has taken place at this location. No previously unrecorded archaeological resources were identified within the APE. Thus, TVA determined that no archaeological resources would be affected by the construction of the proposed building.

The APE for architectural resources was considered to be the area within a 0.5-mile radius surrounding the proposed project area. A Phase I architectural survey of the architectural APE was conducted (Weaver 2014). One previously unrecorded architectural resource, the Emory Valley School (EVS) Complex, was identified within the APE. The EVS complex is comprised of a collection of buildings constructed between 1959 and 1992. These buildings include the DARC, the Anderson County Clerk Office, Early Childhood Center, Emory Valley School, Work Training Center, Warehouse, and Administration Building. Despite alterations to the complex which included demolition of the original EVS building, the complex largely retains its original appearance. The survey identified the DARC, the Early Learning Center and the EVS building as contributing resources to the EVS complex. The EVS complex is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of education as one of the earliest examples of a public school for disabled children in East Tennessee. The Work Training Center building, which would be demolished as part of the proposed action, is considered ineligible for listing on the NRHP.

The construction of the proposed building would have a visual effect on the EVS complex. However, this effect would not be adverse due to the presence of modern industrial development within view of the complex and construction of Emory Valley Road. As a result of these more recent changes in the setting, the property has experienced a loss of integrity. TVA, in consultation with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), finds that no historic properties eligible for or listed on the NRHP would be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking (Attachment C). The SHPO concurs with this finding.

Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Justice

Based on census data (USA.com 2015) per capita income in Oak Ridge was \$32,347, which is higher than that of Anderson County (\$24,946), Tennessee (\$24,294), and the nation (\$28,051). Percent of the population living below the poverty level in Oak Ridge is 16.09 percent, which was less than that of Anderson County (16.74 percent) and Tennessee (17.26 percent), but higher than the national average of 14.22 percent.

Approximately 84 percent of the population of Oak Ridge is white, while almost 92 percent of Anderson County is white. Within Oak Ridge, 8.12 of the population is black, and this percentage is approximately 3.8 percent for the county. Persons of Hispanic and Asian extraction constitute the majority of the balance of the city and county populations.

Much of the labor force for the proposed building demolition, clearing, and building construction would likely come from the local workforce. Thus, there would be a slight short-term increase in construction-related jobs in the local area. This would result in a very minor improvement in local economic conditions.

The EVC provides services to area residents and does not discriminate on ethnicity or economic situation. The proposed facility upgrade would likely have a beneficial effect in the local area by providing income opportunities to disabled and challenged people. The completed facility would have 280 employee positions and 45 contractor positions. The job training program creates opportunities for a vulnerable population, which increases per capita income for the community. During construction of the new facility, various services would be available at other EVC facilities.

Thus, the proposed actions would result in a minor beneficial effect to the economy of Oak Ridge, Anderson County, and the surrounding area. No disproportionate effects to any minority or economically disadvantaged populations are expected.

Transportation

Primary access to the EVC, including the site of the new building, is from Emory Valley Road. According to the proposed site plans (Attachment A), main access would be at the current driveway connection. Another driveway connection from Emory Valley Road to the parking lot would be provided at the west side of the property. Possible secondary construction access could be available via Fairbanks Road. Annual average daily traffic (as of 2013) on Emory Valley Road near its intersection with Lafayette Drive is approximately 13,920, while the count is approximately 7,400 a short distance east of the EVC (Tennessee Department of Transportation 2015).

The proposed demolition and clearing would cause a minor and temporary increase in heavy truck traffic to deliver equipment and materials and to remove debris. Construction-related traffic associated with equipment and workers' vehicles would be temporary and is not expected to interfere with normal traffic flow on local streets.

Once the new facility is in place, the EVC would be able to service more individuals, which could cause a minor increase in traffic on the local road network. Nevertheless, any

increases in local traffic volume are not expected to result in decreases in the level of service of local roads.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

The Work Training Center building, constructed in about 1971, is a single-story building situated on a concrete slab foundation. It has a brick veneer exterior and a flat roof. An addition was constructed about 1985. The addition has a concrete block foundation, an exterior clad with board and batten steel siding, and a low-pitch metal gable roof. Undertaking the proposed action would result in the demolition of the existing Work Training Center building. Additionally, some concrete rubble on the site would likely require disposal. The EVC is responsible for notifying the Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control regarding the planned demolition. If friable asbestos-containing material is present, the EVC would be responsible for submitting a completed Notification of Asbestos Demolition or Renovation Application (Form CN-1055) at least 10 days prior to any asbestos removal. Subsequently, any asbestos demolition or removal activities would be conducted by the EVC strictly in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations applicable to such activities. The EVC is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate lead abatement procedures are followed and that construction debris is disposed properly. The demolition waste and debris, much of which would be concrete and steel, would be disposed of in landfill that is approved for accepting construction and demolition waste. Disposal of these wastes is not expected to cause any major declines in the capacity or capability of local landfills.

Aesthetic Qualities

The proposed new facility is located in an industrial/commercial area. No residences are located adjacent to the project area. However, an apartment complex is located approximately 500 feet to the southeast of the site, and an assisted living facility for senior adults is situated approximately 600 feet to the west. Both of these are screened somewhat by intervening trees and shrubs. No sources of obnoxious odors or excessive noise are located in the vicinity of the project. The visual character of the EVC and the immediately surrounding area is a mixture of institutional, commercial/industrial, and multifamily residential.

Onsite demolition, clearing, and construction would create visual discord for the duration of this work. However, the new building would likely improve the aesthetic qualities of the EVC property and would be consistent with the current visual character of the area. Likewise, the proposed work would generate noise during normal working hours for the duration of the proposed project. However, this noise is not expected to be excessive and would be of short duration. The proposed work is not expected to produce any objectionable odors. Thus, there would be minor, temporary visual and noise impacts during the demolition of the existing facility and construction of the new facility. There would be no direct or indirect noise impacts or visual effects during operation of the proposed facility.

Long-term and Cumulative Impacts

Implementing the proposed action would result in the loss of approximately 1 acre of wooded habitat within a developing commercial/industrial area. This cumulative loss of wildlife habitat would be minor, as most species would move into adjacent areas. This loss of wooded area and the subsequent construction of a large building on the site would constitute a visual change in the local area. However, the new building would be consistent with the commercial and industrial character of the immediate area.

The proposed EVC facility would allow the EVC to continue and expand its operations to help local persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become more socially and economically independent. In the long term, this would create a minor beneficial socioeconomic effect as these persons achieve more economic independence and become less reliant on community social services.

Public and Agency Involvement

The EVC sent a completed application for the proposed facility to the ARC for a grant for part of its construction on May 29, 2012. Similar information was also sent to interested state and federal agencies.

The EVC's environmental consultant, Michael Brady, Inc., corresponded with the USFWS regarding the presence of federally listed species at the site of the proposed project. The USFWS responded in a letter of January 15, 2013 (Attachment C), stating that adherence to winter cutting restrictions for suitable bat habitat trees would ensure that the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat are not likely to be adversely affected.

TVA consulted with the Tennessee Historical Commission in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The SHPO responded in a letter of January 7, 2015 (Attachment C) that the proposed project would not adversely affect any property that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. TVA also consulted with the following Native American Tribes: Cherokee Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Kialegee Tribal Town, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Band of Cherokee of Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Shawnee Tribe, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. No responses were received from any of the Tribes.

Mitigation Measures

The EVC would be responsible for ensuring that the proposed demolition and construction is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, including the implementation of appropriate BMPs, best construction practices, and any measures stipulated in its Construction Stormwater Permit or other applicable permits. TVA has not identified any non-routine measures necessary to prevent or compensate for adverse environmental effects.

Preferred Alternative

TVA's preferred alternative is the Action Alternative. Under this alternative, TVA would administer the ARC grant. Consequently, the existing EVC Work Training Center building would be demolished, and a new building and associated facilities would be constructed at the proposed location.

TVA Preparers

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James F. Williamson, Contract NEPA Specialist, Document Preparation

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Agencies and Others Consulted

In preparing this EA, TVA consulted the following state and federal agencies.

- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources, Knoxville, Tennessee
- Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Cookeville, Tennessee

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Attachments

- A Emory Valley Center Site Plan
- B Federal and State-listed Species
- C Agency Correspondence

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Attachment A – Emory Valley Center Site Plan





Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	State Status ¹	State Rank ²
Plants				
Spreading false-foxglove	Aureolaria patula		SPCO	S3
Tall larkspur	Delphinium exaltatum		END	S2
Northern bush-honeysuckle	Diervilla Lonicera		THR	S2
Branching whitlow-wort	Draba ramosissima		SPCO	S2
Willow-herb	Epilobium ciliatum		THR	S1
Witch-alder	Fothergilla major		THR	S2
Naked-stem sunflower	Helianthus occidentalis		SPCO	S1
Red iris	Iris fulva		THR	S2
Butternut	Juglans cinerea		THR	S3
Torrey's mountain mint	Pycnanthemum torrei		SPCO	S1
Prairie goldenrod	Solidago ptarmicoides		END	S1S2
Northern white cedar	Thuja occidentalis		SPCO	S3
Mammals				
Gray bat	Myotis grisescens	END	END	S2
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septentrionalis	PE		
Indiana bat	Myotis sodalis	END	END	S1
Fishes				
Blue sucker	Cycleptus elongatus		THR	S2
Slender chub ³	Erimystax cahni	THR	THR	S1
Tennessee dace	Phoxinus tennesseensis		NMGT	S3
Yellowfin madtom ³	Noturus flavipinnis	THR	END	S1
Mussels				
Alabama lampmussel ³	Lampsilis virescens	END	END	S1
Birdwing pearlymussel ³	Lemiox rimosus	END	END	S1
Cracking pearlymussel ³	Hemistena lata	END	END	S1
Dromedary pearlymussel ³	Dromus dromas	END	END	S1
Fanshell ³	Cyprogenia stegaria	END	END	S1
Fine-rayed pigtoe ³	Fusconaia cuneolus	END	END	S1
Green blossom pearlymussel ³	Epioblasma torulosa gubernaculum	END	EXTI	SX
Orange-foot pimpleback ⁴	Plethobasus cooperianus	END	END	S1
Pink mucket	Lampsilis abrupta	END	END	S2
Pyramid pigtoe	Pleurobema rubrum		TRKD	S2S3
Rough pigtoe ³	Pleurobema plenum	END	END	S1
Sheepnose	Plethobasus cyphyus	END	TRKD	S2S3
Shiny pigtoe pearlymussel ⁴	Fusconaia cor	END	END	S1
Slabside pearlymussel	Lexingtonia dolabelloides	END	TRKD	S2
Spectaclecase	Cumberlandia monodonta	END	TRKD	S2S3
Tan riffleshell ³	Epioblasma florentina walkeri	END	END	S1

Attachment B -	Federal and	State-listed	Species
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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	State Status ¹	State Rank ²
Tennessee clubshell	Pleurobema oviforme		TRKD	S2S3
White wartyback ⁴	Plethobasus cicatricosus	END	END	S1
Snails				
Anthony's river snail ³	Athearnia anthonyi	END	END	S1
Spiny riversnail	lo fluvialis		TRKD	S2

Source: TVA Natural Heritage Database, queried on 04/17/2014 ¹ Status Codes: END = Endangered; THR = Threatened; EXTI = Extirpated from state or region; PE = Proposed endangered; NMGT = Listed in Need of Management; TRKD = Tracked by state natural heritage program (no legal status); SPCO = Special Concern
² State Ranks: S1 = Extremely rare and critically imperiled; S2 = Very rare and imperiled; S3 = rare or

uncommon and vulnerable; SX = Presumed extirpated; S#S# denotes a range of ranks because the exact rarity is uncertain (e.g., S1S2)

³ Species is considered extirpated.

⁴ Historical record greater than 25 years old

Attachment C – Agency Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE 446 Neal Street Cookeville, TN 38501

January 15, 2013

Ms. Alicia McAuley Project Coordinator Michael Brady Inc. 299 North Weisgarber Road Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Subject: FWS #14-CPA-0167. Proposed development at 715 Emory Valley Road in Knox County, Tennessee.

Dear Ms. McAuley:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 12, 2013, regarding the proposed development for the Emory Valley Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) personnel have reviewed the information submitted, and we offer the following comments.

Information available to the Service does not indicate that wetlands exist in the vicinity of the proposed project. However, our wetland determination has been made in the absence of a field inspection and does not constitute a wetland delineation for the purposes of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation should be contacted if other evidence, particularly that obtained during an on-site inspection, indicates the potential presence of wetlands.

Upon review of photographs provided, it would appear that some suitable summer roosting habitat (see enclosure) for the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) would be removed as a result of the project. At this point, we are unable to determine the quality and quantity of suitable roosting trees. We recommend that a qualified individual (biologist, ecologist, etc.) with some knowledge of Indiana bats and their habitat requirements quantify numbers of trees or acreage of suitable roosting trees to be removed. If 10 or fewer trees exhibit suitable roosting characteristics, we could arrive at a "not likely to adversely affect" finding with a winter cutting timeframe restriction (removal of trees from October 15 through March 31). If more than 10 trees to be removed contain suitable bark characteristics, a winter cutting timeframe restriction would not suffice alone in addressing potential impacts. Options at that point include (1) conducting summer acoustic or acoustic/mist net surveys between May 15 and August 15 to determine presence/probable absence or (2) cut the trees during a timeframe that would minimize impact to the species (preferably during the winter) and contribute to a conservation fund for the Indiana bat. A list of individuals

http://www.fws.gov/cookeville/pdfs/bat_consultants.pdf. If you are interested in more information concerning our Indiana bat conservation fund, please contact Mr. David Pelren at 931-525-4974 or by email at david_pelren@fws.gov. Please let us know how you wish to proceed with addressing potential impacts to the Indiana bat.

One other species that we should mention here is the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Summer habitat use for this species is similar to that of the Indiana bat, but it is more of a generalist that has been documented using a wider array of habitat. The NLE was proposed for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on October 2, 2013. No designated critical habitat has been proposed at this time. While proposed species are not afforded protection under the ESA, if/when the species is listed, the prohibition against jeopardy, and the prohibition against taking a listed species under section 9 of the ESA, becomes effective immediately, regardless of the proposed action's stage of completion. The timeframe for listing is typically about one year from the point at which a species is officially proposed for listing. If clearing of trees would occur after listing of this species, we would need to coordinate for potential impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this action. If you have any questions regarding the information which we have provided, please contact Robbie Sykes of my staff at 931/525-4979 or by email at *robbie sykes@fws.gov*.

Sincerely,

y C Jenninge

Mary E. Jennings Field Supervisor



Received 1/12/15 CD

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE 2941 LEBANON ROAD NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214 OFFICE: (615) 532-1550 www.tnhistoricalcommission.org

January 7, 2015

Mr. Clinton E. Jones Tennessee Valley Authority 400 W. Summet Hill Dr. Knoxville, Tennessee, 37902-1499

RE: TVA, EMORY VALLEY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS, UNINCORPORATED, ANDERSON COUNTY

Dear Mr. Jones:

In response to your request, received on Monday, December 22, 2014, we have reviewed the documents you submitted regarding your proposed undertaking. Our review of and comment on your proposed undertaking are among the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This Act requires federal agencies or applicant for federal assistance to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office before they carry out their proposed undertakings. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has codified procedures for carrying out Section 106 review in 36 CFR 800. You may wish to familiarize yourself with these procedures (Federal Register, December 12, 2000, pages 77698-77739) if you are unsure about the Section 106 process. You may find additional information concerning the Section 106 process and the Tennessee SHPO's documentation requirements at http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/hist/federal/sect106.shtml

Considering available information, we find that the project as currently proposed will NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ANY PROPERTY THAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. Therefore, this office has no objection to the implementation of this project. Please direct questions and comments to Joe Garrison (615) 770-1092.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr. Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM/jyg