September 9, 2014

Memorandum to Files

PARADISE FOSSIL PLANT UNITS 1 & 2 MERCURY AIR TOXICS STANDARDS (MATS) COMPLIANCE PROJECT - FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

On November 13, 2013, TVA issued a final environmental assessment (EA) and FONSI for its proposal to comply with MATS by replacing Paradise Fossil Units 1 & 2 with two natural gas units on the plant site to provide needed generation. Although not required, TVA provided the public 30 days to review and comment on a draft of the EA. TVA considered and responded to the comments it received on the draft EA and provided responses to them in the final EA.

TVA believes that providing the public an opportunity to comment on a draft EA rather than a draft FONSI is a better way to meaningfully involve the public. EAs are the analytical basis for FONSIs. The latter is primarily a summary of the significance determinations in an EA. However, because TVA's procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act require it to make available for comment a draft FONSI in limited situations, TVA notified the public on July 30, 2014 via its public website and a local newspaper that it would accept comments on the Paradise project FONSI until August 29. TVA received two short comments in response to these notices. Both comments supported TVA's decision to replace the two coal units with natural gas units. Neither of these comments questioned TVA's environmental impact significance determinations. I therefore conclude that there is no reason to modify the November 13, 2013 FONSI and hereby affirm it.

Amy B. Henry

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