

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

WILLIAMS BEND ISLAND BANK STABILIZATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TVA proposes to place rock riprap along on the shoreline of Williams Bend Island in Melton Hill Reservoir (Clinch River Mile 35.5L, 6D, 138NW) in order to address severe erosion and undercutting of the island's shoreline and the resultant turbidity and sedimentation of reservoir waters. The entire island's shoreline (approximately 1,100 feet) would be stabilized. Rock riprap would be placed along the shoreline such that the bottom of the riprap would be two feet below the normal summer operating level (795 feet mean sea level) and the top would be three feet above. Placement of riprap along the shoreline may involve grading the bank to a gentler slope. A filter fabric would be laid under the riprap and anchored to the ground; anchors will be placed slightly above the riprap on the bank. Delivery and placement of the riprap would be by barge. TVA proposes to conduct the work in late 2016 or early 2017 and estimates that the work would be completed in less than one month.

The proposal supports and is consistent with TVA's mission of environmental stewardship, the objectives for water resource management in the TVA Natural Resources Plan (2011), and management goals set forth in TVA's Melton Hill Reservoir Land Management Plan in 1999. TVA has prepared an Environmental Assessment to address potential impacts of the proposed project as well as the alternative of not implementing the action (i.e., taking no action). The EA is incorporated by reference herein.

In the EA, TVA reviewed the potential impacts of implementing the project to endangered, threatened, or special status plant, aquatic, or wildlife species; sensitive cultural resources; floodplains; navigation; soils and water quality; and recreation. No potentially significant impacts were identified. The EA addresses the potential soil erosion or discharge of dredged or fill materials from project actions. Applying standard conditions and best management practices would control erosion and discharge such that impacts are minor. After construction, the project would result in a more stabilized island shoreline, reducing erosion of the bank and the resulting turbidity. The proposed project involves the placement of riprap for bank stabilization within the 100-year floodplain. Consistent with Executive Order 11988, bank stabilization is considered to be a repetitive action in the floodplain that would result in minor impacts to natural and beneficial floodplain values, provided TVA follows its standard approach of using the least amount of fill possible to stabilize the bank while still achieving project objectives.

As noted in the EA, TVA must obtain a permit from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act before implementing the proposal. In addition, TVA will notify the U.S. Department of Army, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at least two weeks prior to start of work so that USACE can issue a Notice to Navigation Interests.

Standard Conditions

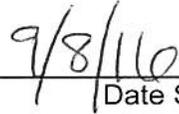
TVA would apply standard protective measures and conditions, including the use of best management practices, during placement of the riprap. These measures would minimize or mitigate potential impacts of the project.

Conclusion and Findings

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the EA, we conclude that placing riprap along the shoreline of Williams Bend Island in order to stabilize the island's banks 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