

Cheatham
County
Informational
Webinar

January 22, 2025



#### **Agenda**

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Cultural Resources Update

**Transmission Siting Update** 

**NEPA Update** 

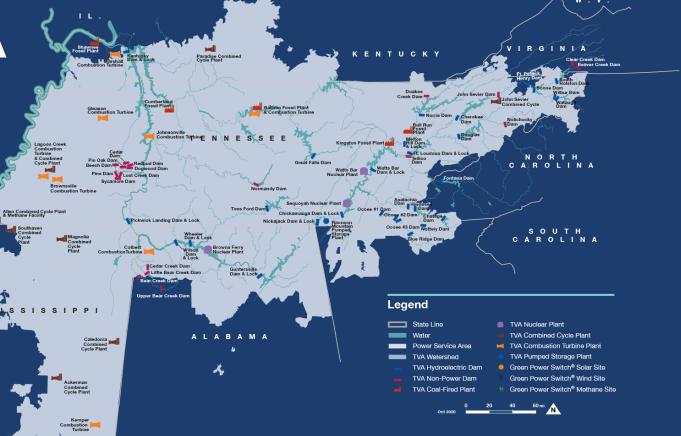
Community/Communications Updates

**Pre-Submitted Community Questions** 

Conclude

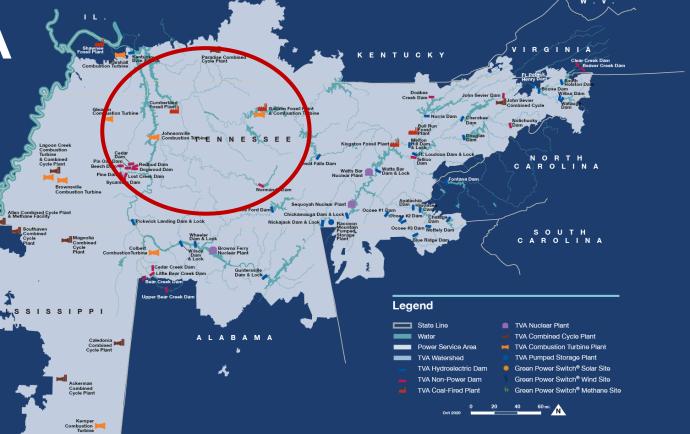


The TVA Power System





The TVA Power System





#### **Investing in Cleaner Energy**





Renewable

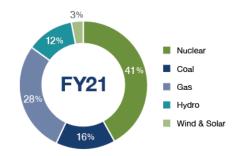


Hydro



**Natural Gas** 

**Nuclear** 



Coal



## Cultural Resources Update

Steve Cole, Manager of Cultural Project Reviews



#### **Cultural Resources**









#### **Cultural Resources Laws**

As a federal agency, TVA is subject to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

- Federal agencies must take potential project effects on historic properties into consideration.
- Outlines a process for agencies to identify historic properties that could be affected by their projects.
- Requires agencies to consult with others, including State Historic Preservation Officers and Indian tribes.



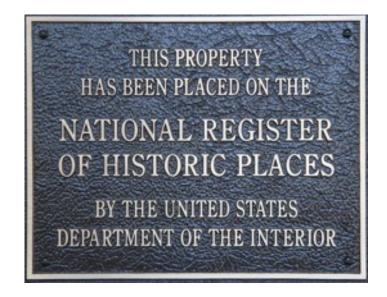




#### National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation

Historic properties: cultural resources that meet criteria of historic significance and have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association





#### **Cultural Resources Surveys**

- Identification of cultural resources in project area
- Archaeological surveys in project footprint
- Historic architectural surveys in viewshed
- Results documented in a report
- Report sent to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribes for comment
- TVA uses results to assess potential project effects





# TVA's Cultural Resources Compliance for Cheatham County Proposed Project

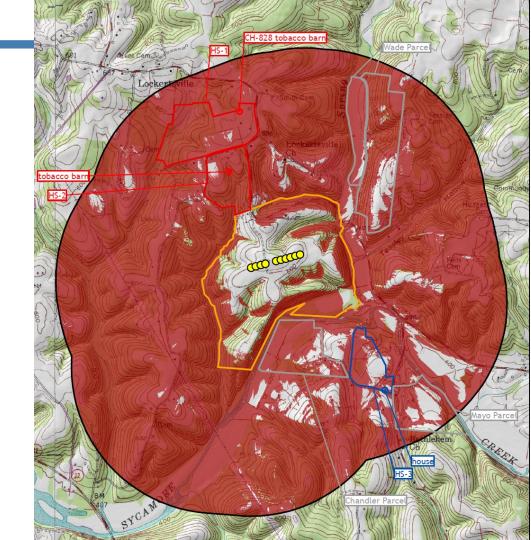
- Surveyed entire 286-acre property in 2020.
- In process of completing archaeological surveys for the transmission line.
- Consulted with SHPO and Tribes. All parties concurred there are no National Register-eligible archaeological sites on the property.





#### TVA's Cultural Resources Compliance for Cheatham County Project

- In 2024, TVA completed a survey of historic architectural resources in viewshed.
- We identified two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible properties. Analysis shows the Cheatham project would not cause adverse visual effects.
- Preparing to consult with Tennessee SHPO on the results.



# Transmission Siting Update

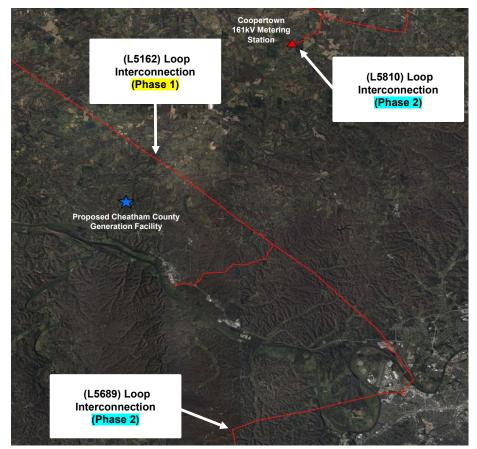
Taylor Warden, Senior Civil Engineer, Transmission Siting



#### **Transmission Overview**

• Phase 1 vs. Phase 2







#### **Recap / Ongoing Efforts**

- Open house held on March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ Hampton Inn in Ashland City, TN
- 391 property owners representing 479 parcels invited
- Over 320 people attended in-person open house across both days
- Over 100 comments received during 30-day period
- Phase 1 route announcement in April 2024
- Transmission & Environmental Field Surveys for Phase 1





#### What's next?

- Phase 2 route announcement (Late Feb. 2025)
- What to expect if you receive a letter that a preferred proposed route is affecting your property?

#### **Helpful Links / Contact Information**

Middle Tennessee Generation and Transmission Capacity Expansion Project (Cheatham and Robertson Counties)

Contact
Taylor Warden
Newtransline@tva.gov
800-362-4355

Transmission Line 101





## NEPA Update

Elizabeth Smith, NEPA Specialist



#### What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

- Signed into law on January 1, 1970, NEPA was the first major environmental law in the United States and is often called the "Magna Carta" of Federal environmental laws.
- NEPA requires federal agencies to:
  - Consider the potential environmental consequences of their proposals;
  - Consult with other interested agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and state historic preservation offices;
  - Document the analysis; and
  - Engage stakeholders by sharing information and soliciting input.
- A NEPA environmental review is intended to inform agency decision-making and must be completed prior to taking an action but does not require any particular outcome.



#### What is an EIS?

There are three types of environmental reviews conducted under NEPA:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

TVA is studying the environmental impacts of the proposed **Cheatham County Generation Project** in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is the most thorough type of environmental review and includes opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

#### The following resource areas are typically studied in an EIS:

- Environmental Justice & Socioeconomics
- Air and GHG emissions
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Aquatic Species
- Botany
- Terrestrial Species
- Cultural Resources
- Wetlands & Floodplains
- Geology
- · Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Navigation
- Transportation
- Noise
- Natural Areas & Recreation
- Prime Farmland



#### What is the Status of the EIS?

Stay informed by checking the Cheatham County Generation Project and NEPA pages on TVA.com.



TVA considers scoping comments, conducts studies, and completes analysis of resource areas.

TVA considers and responds to public comments and conducts additional studies if needed.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

May 2023

Draft EIS

Late 2025

**Final EIS** 

Mid 2026













Public Scoping Period

WE ARE

Public Comment Period/Public Meeting

Opportunity for members of the public to review the draft results of the study and provide formal comments on the EIS. Record of Decision

Mid 2026

Opportunity for members of the public to review proposed action and provide input on the scope of the environmental study.



# Community and Communications Update

Justin Maierhofer, North Region Executive



#### **Dedicated Information Page**



ENERGY ENVIRONMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ABOUTTVA NEWS CAREERS INVESTORS

#### **Essential Facts to Know**

As part of the NEPA process, TVA considers light, noise, endangered species, architectural history. Environmental Justice and general community concerns among other factors before making decisions about proposed electricity generation. To learn more about NEPA and opportunities to share feedback, visit the page below.

Cheatham County Generation Site

Natural gas generation uses the same fuel many people use in their homes, businesses and farms for water heaters, stoves, fireplaces and other appliances.

Learn more about natural gas

The potential natural gas generation and BESS facility at the Cheatham County site would require a small footprint of about 75 acres. The majority of the 286acre site would remain largely forested.

> Learn more about energy storage and BESS

#### Learn About NEPA

Watch this brief, informative video and learn about how the National Environmental Policy Act guides TVA's projects.

#### Siting Transmission Lines

Spencer Whittier's role is to find the best route between points A and B while minimizing impacts on people, communities, and the environment.





#### Frequently Asked Questions

Why is TVA considering natural gas generation for the Cheatham County site?  $\ensuremath{\checkmark}$ 

Do gas plants operate continuously?

www.tva.com/cheatham

Q





#### **TVA** in Cheatham County

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Grants
- EnergyRight
- Natural Resources
- Community Care Fund in Partnership with CEMC
  - Safe Haven Cheatham County
  - Cheatham County Community Enhancement Coalition
  - Cheatham County Ministerial Alliance
  - Camp Rainbow
  - Bethesda Center
  - Special Olympics Tennessee
  - Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennesse
  - · Cope, Inc.
  - United Way of Middle Tennessee



#### Connected Communities Project at Sycamore High School



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nuniti

Commute

Partnership with CCSD began in 2020

Groundbreaking took place in 2022

Construction took place in 2024

Ribbon cutting ceremony took place in 2024

\$188,000 donated from TVA's Connected Communities Program

50 kW Solar Array with Battery Backup



# **Question and Answer Session**

## Thank you

Please visit www.tva.com/cheatham for more information or contact the following team members:

Cultural Resources: Steve Cole | sccole0@tva.gov

**Transmission:** Taylor Warden | newtransline@tva.gov

**NEPA:** Elizabeth Smith | esmith14@tva.gov

General Questions: tvainfo@tva.gov

The recording of this event will be available on www.tva.com/cheatham in the next 48 hours.

