Anderson Substation Transmission Project

Prior to closure of the Bull Run Fossil Plant in 2023, TVA needs to upgrade the transmission system to ensure power supply to the area remains reliable. The impending retirement of Bull Run requires the following upgrades:

- A new Anderson 500-kilovolt Substation to be built on existing TVA property near the plant,
- Modification of several transmission lines to connect the new substation, and
- Improvements to existing transmission equipment in Anderson, Blount, Knox and Roane counties.

Environmental Review and Public Comments

TVA analyzed the potential impact of this proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act. A draft environmental assessment was available for a 30-day public comment period beginning March 13, 2020. Comments from the City of Oak Ridge have been addressed and are incorporated in the Final Environmental Assessment, which is available at tva.com/nepa or https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/environmental-reviews

The community will have the opportunity to learn more about the project at an open house. (A public meeting that meets pandemic health recommendations is being planned for summer 2020.)

Substation

The site for the new substation is located west of Melton Hill Reservoir (Clinch River), across from the Bull Run site, and south of Edgemoor Road, where 123.2-acres are managed by TVA’s River and Resources Stewardship organization for multiple uses. About 50-acres will now be managed by the Transmission & Power Supply organization. Of that, about 14 acres will be fenced for the new substation.

Nearby areas can expect minor construction impacts (noise, traffic), but the areas will not be directly impacted by the project. This includes Melton Lake Greenway, Centennial Golf Course, Haw Ridge Park, J. B. Jones House and residential areas. The wooded area between the J. B. Jones House and the substation will remain as a visual buffer.

Transmission and Communications

Modifications to TVA’s existing transmission system in Anderson, Blount, Knox, and Roane counties are required to support the new substation, including

- Relocating and adding new transmission structures near the substation site,
- Installing fiber optic ground wire, and

No new property or new transmission rights of way are required for the project, thereby minimizing impacts while meeting the needs of the power system.
Construction

As mentioned, nearby areas can expect minor construction impacts such as noise and increased traffic during some phases of the project. All state and local permits will be obtained for the work, and local codes will be followed.

Project timeline

- June 11, 2020 – Begin relocating transmission lines at the site
- July 27, 2020 – Begin grading/foundation work at the site
- June 1, 2021 - Begin substation construction
- Fall 2023 - Project in-service

TVA is committed to working with area stakeholders to address concerns during the course of the project.

Additional Information

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Project information is available online at tvacom/transmissionprojects or https://www.tva.com/energy/transmission/transmission-system-projects. Additional details are available in the Final Environmental Assessment. See the link above.