

Public Notice - Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
No Practicable Alternative for
Bridge Replacement Causeway in 100-year Floodplain

August 3, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is reviewing proposed construction of a temporary causeway in the 1 percent Annual Chance (AC, also known as the 100-year) floodplain at approximately Little Tennessee River Mile 59.8 in Graham and Swain Counties, North Carolina. TVA is considering issuing a construction license and 26 permit for the bridge replacement project under Categorical Exclusion #55956.

The temporary causeway is needed to support North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) bridge replacement project for State Route 28, Fontana Road. The temporary causeway is expected to be in place for up to 36 months after the start of construction. Other methods of demolition and construction were evaluated such as a crane pads or barges. However due to limited reach of equipment, safety and stability concerns, fluctuating water levels in the shallow reservoir, and potential for high flows, TVA has determined that there is no practicable alternative to locating the causeway in the 1 percent AC floodplain for accomplishing the bridge demolition and replacement.

All practicable design measures have been identified by TVA to minimize the impact to public safety, as well as the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain. These mitigating measures include:

- Whenever practicable, equipment, hazardous materials, or flood-damageable items will not be stored on the causeway or below elevation 1278.1'
- Developing a floodplain evacuation plan that utilizes weather forecast information and coordination with the TVA River Forecast Center
- Original floodplain contours would be restored upon completion of the project
- Using a site specific hydrology and hydraulic engineering analysis for the design of the causeway
- Incorporating pipes into the causeway to limit the amount of flow obstruction of the causeway
- Using clean graded solid rock of sufficient size to prevent washout
- Staging the causeway to limit the amount time material is in the floodplain and river channel to the greatest extent possible

TVA has therefore concluded that the proposed project is consistent with Executive Order 11988 because:

1. There is no practicable alternative to locating the causeway in the floodplain.
2. Impacts will be temporary, and original contours will be restored in the floodplain after completion of the project.
3. Identifiable long-term impacts to the floodplain are negligible.

Any party wishing to comment on the action's potential to affect floodplains should email comments to gtzimmerman@tva.gov on or before August 16, 2026.

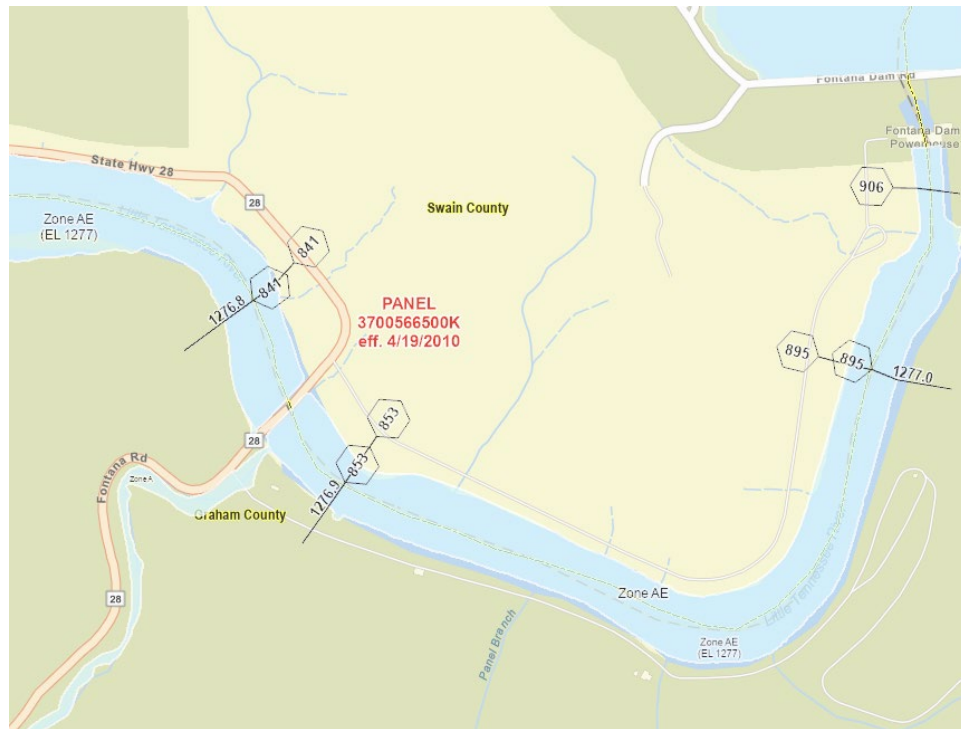


Figure 1 - Project Location



Figure 2 - Causeway Phasing Plan