

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

June 10, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is reviewing proposed construction of a temporary haul road in the 1 percent Annual Chance (AC, also known as the 100-year) floodplain at approximately French Broad River Mile 54.5 in Jefferson County, Tennessee. TVA is considering issuing a construction license and 26 permit for the bridge replacement project under Categorical Exclusion #55984.

The temporary haul road is needed to support Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) bridge replacement project for Interstate 40. The temporary haul road 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 haul road 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:

- Not storing equipment, hazardous materials, or flood-damageable items on the temporary haul road or below elevation 1002.0' during times when no one is on site
- Developing a floodplain evacuation plan that utilizes upstream stream gauges and weather forecast information
- Removing all haul road material when it is no longer needed for the project
- Minimizing the footprint and material of the haul road by redesigning for 1.5:1 side slope
- Using clean graded solid rock of sufficient size to prevent washout
- Staging the haul road to limit the amount time material is in the floodplain 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 haul road in the floodplain.
2. Impacts will be temporary, and material will be removed from the floodplain when the haul road is not necessary for bridge construction or demolition and before the 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 June 23, 2026.



Figure 1 - Project Location