

NEPA Process Strengthens Integrated Resource Planning

As a federal agency, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) must comply with numerous laws and executive orders relevant to environmental and cultural resources.

One such law is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to evaluate a proposed plan's impact on the human and natural environment before final decisions are made.

As TVA and stakeholders work together on TVA's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), part of the study includes a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which meets NEPA requirements.

A programmatic EIS is a high-level NEPA review that broadly assesses impacts. The more site-specific effects of actions that are later proposed to implement the IRP will be addressed in tiered environmental reviews.

The EIS's environmental review focuses on the regionwide impacts of the IRP on air quality, climate and greenhouse gases, water resources, land resources, solid and hazardous waste, and socioeconomic and environmental justice.

The IRP's Strategy A, which serves as a baseline, is the "No Action Alternative" in the EIS. The four other IRP strategies (B, C, D and E) represent the "Action Alternatives" in the EIS.

NEPA requires federal agencies to assess potential impacts, ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, provide opportunities for public review and input, and gather data on a plan's impact prior to making decisions.

TVA actively involves the public in the IRP/EIS process. During the public scoping period at the outset of the IRP/EIS, the comments provided helped define the analysis in the draft IRP and EIS.

During a second public comment period held after the draft IRP and EIS are published, TVA will hold multiple in-person and virtual public meetings. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input, and public comments will be addressed in the final EIS.

The NEPA process is intended to help agencies such as TVA make better decisions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment.

Environmental Review Focus Areas

