

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHELTON LANE INDUSTRIAL PARK LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY (RUSSELLVILLE)

An integral part of Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) mission is to promote economic development within the TVA service area. TVA provides financial assistance to help bring to market new/improved sites and facilities within the TVA service area and position communities to compete successfully for new jobs and capital investment. TVA proposes to provide an economic development grant through InvestPrep funds to the Logan Industrial Development Authority, Inc. (LIDAI) to assist with the development of a portion of the Shelton Lane Industrial Park (SLIP) in Logan County, Kentucky. The area of TVA's Proposed Action (herein referred to as the Project Area) encompasses 35.7 acres of open grassy lands located 0.5 mile east and south of Highway 68, in Russellville, Kentucky.

The proposal is the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by TVA, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the EA, TVA evaluated potential impacts of the Proposed Action (i.e., the Action Alternative) as well as the alternative of not implementing the action (i.e., the No Action Alternative). Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide InvestPrep funds to the LIDAI. TVA would not be furthering its mission of promoting economic development by assisting the local community to compete successfully for new jobs and capital investment through the Proposed Action. The LIDAI may seek alternate funding (if available) to combine with their existing funds to develop the site. Success in obtaining alternate funding would result in similar impacts and benefits as the Action Alternative. If the LIDAI were not able to secure the funding for the Proposed Action, the land use at the site would likely remain unchanged, no environmental impacts would be anticipated, and the economic benefits associated with the Action Alternative would not be accomplished.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would provide InvestPrep funds to the LIDAI, to be matched with non-TVA funds to facilitate development of a portion of the SLIP. TVA funds for the 35.7-acre Project Area would be used to support grading and construction of a 100,000 square foot (sf) speculative building and an adjacent 100,000 sf dirt building pad, expansion of an existing drainage basin, rock removal, and stabilization after grading. Erosion prevention, sediment control, and stabilization would be implemented after grading activities are completed. The Proposed Action is expected to require a 13-month duration and would require a small workforce that would most likely be assigned from a local contractor.

TVA's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action Alternative. This alternative would meet the purpose of the Project and would further TVA's mission to promote economic development in the TVA service area.

The potential impacts of the Action Alternative are described in detail in the EA. Implementation of the Action Alternative would have no impact on solid and hazardous wastes, floodplains, wetlands, aquatic zoology, land use, prime farmland, or recreation.

Resources that could potentially be impacted (negatively or positively) by implementing the Action Alternative include air quality and climate change, groundwater, surface water, soils, terrestrial zoology, natural areas, botany, archaeology, and historic structures and sites. Implementation of the Action Alternative could also create potential minor adverse impacts to the human environment, including visual effects, noise, socioeconomics and environmental justice, and transportation issues.

Construction-related activities would result in minor and short-term impacts to air quality and climate change. With the use of best management practices (BMPs) impacts would be minimal, temporary, and localized; and would not be anticipated to result in any violation of applicable ambient air quality standards or impact regional air quality.

Near-surface grading activities would not intersect with the principal water supply aquifer in the area and effects to groundwater would be minor. Soils disturbed by grading would be stabilized after construction, thereby preventing erosion and sedimentation.

The Action Alternative could affect 10 presumed non-jurisdictional waterbody features (wet-weather conveyances) if they cannot be avoided. Erosion control measures would be implemented, in accordance with a project-specific construction general permit/stormwater pollution prevention plan, to sufficiently reduce sedimentation. This would ensure that this TVA-funded Proposed Action would be compliant with the Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401, 402, and 404.

Impacts to common herbaceous plant species removed and wildlife species removed or disturbed would be minor and insignificant. No trees would be cleared in the Project Area. No habitat for uncommon or rare plant communities is present within the Project Area and those communities would not be affected by the Proposed Action. No plants protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or designated critical habitat for listed plant species, are present in the Project Area.

Neither migration nor overwinter habitat for the whooping crane exists within the Project Area. The whooping crane is listed as Endangered in the Southwest (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] Region 2). Outside of this region, the whooping crane is categorized as a non-essential experimental population, but federal agencies must not jeopardize their existence.

No suitable winter or summer roosting habitat exists in the Project Area for the gray bat, Indiana bat, tricolored bat or northern long-eared bat. No waterbodies that would provide summer foraging habitat for listed bat species are present, but foraging habitat is available along the forest edge at the northwestern border of the Project Area and on the tree line along the southeastern border of the Project Area. Tree removal is not within the scope of the Proposed Action.

A number of activities associated with the Action Alternative were addressed in TVA's programmatic consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on routine actions and federally listed bats in accordance with ESA Section 7(a)(2), which was completed in April 2018 and updated in May 2023. For those activities with potential to affect bats, TVA committed to implementing specific conservation measures. These activities and associated conservation measures are identified in the TVA Bat Strategy Project Screening Form (Attachment 2 of EA) and must be reviewed/implemented as part of the Action Alternative. With implementation of these conservation measures, no significant impacts are expected to affect federally listed bats. Therefore, the requirements under Section 7 of the ESA have been met.

Under the Action Alternative, there could be potential indirect impacts on one managed area, the Baker Natural Area located adjacent to the Project Area. However, there would be no direct impacts, and potential temporary indirect visual and noise impacts would be adequately minimized through the use of standard BMPs, the temporary nature of construction, construction being limited to daylight hours, as well as intervening distance and forest buffers.

One new archaeological site and two isolated finds were identified during the field survey. Under the Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on archaeological resources because the sites in the Project Area would not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No historic structures or sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places were identified.

Construction vehicles and equipment visible during grading activities would have a minor visual impact over the temporary construction period. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in only a minor overall change in visual quality.

Noise would be localized and temporary, and no receptor would be exposed to significant noise levels for an extended period. Further, construction activities would be expected to be conducted during daylight hours, when ambient noise levels are often higher, and most individuals are less sensitive to noise. Thus, noise-related impacts resulting from implementation of the Action Alternative are anticipated to be temporary and minor.

Minor beneficial socioeconomic impacts during construction and operation would occur. No long-term impacts to community services are anticipated and there would be no disproportionate impacts to low-income or minority communities in the area.

Additional traffic would be generated during construction activities. However, the amount of additional traffic generated would be minor and have a negligible impact on overall traffic volumes.

Mitigation

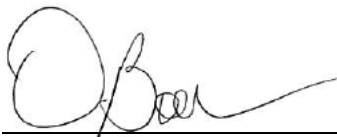
To minimize or reduce the environmental effects of site activities associated with the Action Alternative, the LIDAI, or its contractors, are expected to ensure all grading activities conducted comply with construction stormwater permitting requirements and utilize applicable BMPs to minimize and control erosion and fugitive dust during these actions. These practices include, but are not limited to, installation of sediment and erosion controls (silt fences, sediment traps, etc.); management of fugitive dust; and a restriction allowing work during daytime work hours only.

Operations involving chemical or fuel storage or resupply and vehicle servicing are expected to be handled outside of riparian areas and in such a manner as to prevent these items from reaching a watercourse. Earthen berms or other effective means are expected to be installed to protect nearby surface waters from direct surface runoff. Servicing of equipment and vehicles is expected to be done with care to avoid leakage, spillage, and subsequent surface or ground water contamination. Oil waste, filters, and other litter are expected to be collected and disposed of properly.

Specific avoidance and conservation measures would be implemented as a part of the Action Alternative to avoid or reduce effects to listed bats. These measures are identified in the TVA Bat Strategy Project Screening Form (Attachment 2 of EA).

Conclusion and Findings

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the EA, we conclude that the Proposed Action of TVA funding to assist with the development of a portion of the SLIP would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. This finding is dependent on implementation of the mitigation measures described above. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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May 9th, 2024
Date Signed