

Document Type: EA-Administrative Record
Index Field: Finding of No Significant
Impact
Project Name: Section-Dutton Water Plant
Expansion
Project Number: 2003-109

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

**PROPOSED PROPERTY SALE TO WATERWORKS BOARDS OF SECTION AND
DUTTON**

**FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION
GUNTERSVILLE RESERVOIR
JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

Proposed Action and Need

On April 22, 2003, the Waterworks Boards of the Towns of Section and Dutton requested the use of TVA property for the expansion of their existing drinking water treatment facilities. The current facilities are located on 7.6 acres of TVA land adjacent to Jackson County Road (CR) 67. The proposed expansion area would be to the north of the existing plant. In February 2004, TVA agreed to consider the request as a property sale under Section 31 of the TVA Act.

Alternatives

Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not sell its property. The Waterworks Board would likely pursue other sludge drying alternatives. The TVA property would remain in Natural Resource Conservation zoning and be available to the public for uses such as hiking, hunting, and wildlife observation. Under the Action Alternative, TVA would sell 31 acres of its property requested by the Waterworks Boards. If the Boards are the successful bidder under Section 31, the Boards would construct a series of 75' by 75' drying beds on TVA property and clear areas for use in land application of sludge.

Impacts Assessment

TVA has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to better understand the potential impacts from the proposed property sale. Impacts from the use of the property for sludge drying and land application, impacts of land clearing, the potential for cultural resource impacts, and the potential for affecting recreation were identified as potential environmental impacts.

The alum sludge to be dried and land-applied consists of water, clay, sand, and aluminum oxide. Trace amounts of heavy metals are found in the sludge, but these are at levels below the regulatory thresholds that would classify the sludge as hazardous waste. Therefore, no adverse impacts of land application are expected. Only about 10 acres of the 31-acre tract would be cleared; the rest would be used for a security buffer.

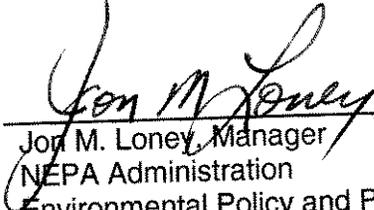
No unique terrestrial resources were identified on the tract and the clearing would represent a small percentage of forested property in the area. No cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were identified. Elimination of the limited informal public use on the tract would be insignificant, and a nearby public boat ramp would not be affected by use of the property for water treatment plant expansion.

Public and Intergovernmental Review

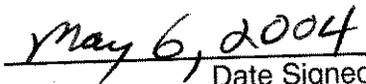
A draft EA was circulated to four Alabama state agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for comment. Public notice of the proposed land sale was made at the same time in the Guntersville *Advertiser Gleam* and Scottsboro *Daily Sentinel* newspapers. The public notice was also available on a TVA external Web page that lists current actions involving TVA public land under consideration. TVA received one comment. The Alabama Historical Commission stated that the document adequately reflects their comments regarding cultural resources.

Conclusion and Findings

TVA has assessed its proposed property sale to facilitate the expansion of the Section-Dutton water treatment plant. Based on the EA, we conclude that the property sale and associated actions adjacent to the existing water treatment plant would not be a major action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed