

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE 7 - KENTUCKY HYDROELECTRIC PLANT-
GILBERTSVILLE 69-KV TRANSMISSION LINE, KENTUCKY DAM RESERVATION

Proposed Action and Need

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to replace Structure 7 on the Kentucky Hydroelectric Plant-Gilbertsville 69-kV Transmission Line, which is located on the Kentucky Dam Reservation. The subject structure, which is located within the previously-recorded archaeological site 15Lv24, is a wooden pole that has been damaged previously by woodpeckers and also by recent weather events. Failure of the structure could cause an outage of the 69-kV line and could compromise the reliability of adjacent TVA transmission lines that share the right-of-way.

Alternatives

Two alternatives, i.e., the Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative, were considered. Under the No Action Alternative, Structure 7 would not be replaced. In the event of a failure of the structure, the excessive sag in the line would exceed code standards set by the National Electric Safety Code, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the South Eastern Reliability Corporation.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would replace the existing wooden pole structure with a single metal pole of similar height. Low ground-pressure tracked equipment would be used to remove the existing pole and set the steel replacement pole. To reduce the potential for surface disturbance, the work would be done in dry conditions, and turning movements would be minimized.

To prevent potential long-term effects to archaeological site 15Lv24 resulting from right-of-way and transmission line maintenance, TVA is preparing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office. TVA will use the guidelines set forth in the resulting treatment plan to minimize the potential for adverse effects to site 15Lv24.

Impacts Assessment

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no environmental effects in the immediate short term. However, the eventual failure of Structure 7 and the probable outage of the Kentucky Hydro Plant-Gilbertsville 69-kV transmission Line would likely require TVA to take emergency action to correct the problem. This could involve an emergency pole replacement or emergency repairs to re-route power around the affected segment of the transmission line. Such actions could result in environmental effects greater than those expected under the Action Alternative.

With the exception of effects to known archaeological resources, implementation of the Action Alternative would not cause any significant environmental effects. The proposed pole replacement would result in minor and insignificant effects to archaeological resources in site 15Lv24 due to the limited amount of ground disturbance and the localized nature of the work.

Mitigation

TVA has not identified the need for any non-routine mitigation measures to avoid or further reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects.

Public and Intergovernmental Review

TVA consulted with the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*. The SHPO responded in letter of March 10, 2010 and April 14, 2010 that the proposed pole replacement would cause an adverse effect to archaeological resources within site 15Lv24. However, the SHPO recognized the urgency of the situation and did not object to TVA implementing the proposed undertaking.

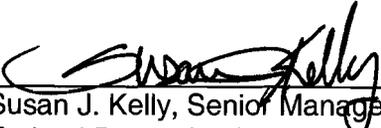
The following Native American tribes were consulted: the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, the Kialegee Tribal Town, the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma responded, stating no outstanding concerns about the project.

TVA notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and appropriate Native American tribes of the findings of adverse effect to site 15Lv24 and invited the Council to participate in the consultation process to resolve this adverse effect. The Advisory Council responded that its participation was not needed. The Thlopthlocco tribal Town responded, but had no comments.

Conclusion and Findings

No species listed as threatened or endangered would be affected by the proposed action. Implementation of the proposed action would affect archaeological resources within site 15Lv24. However, because the standard measures taken by TVA to avoid effects and due to the limited temporal and spatial nature of the pole replacement, these effects would be minor and insignificant. The proposed action would not involve activities in wetlands or floodplains. Thus, the undertaking is consistent with Executive Orders 11990 and 11988.

Based on the analyses in the EA, TVA concludes that the proposed action of replacing Structure 7 on the Kentucky Hydroelectric Plant-Gilbertsville 69-kV Transmission Line would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed