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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
PARCEL 141, PICKWICK RESERVOIR, SITE STABILIZATION
TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Proposed Action and Need

On April 1, 2009, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) terminated a commercial recreation easement with the Tishomingo County Development Foundation (TCDF) for an approximately 26-acre tract (Tract No. XPR-460RE or Parcel 141 as described in the TVA 2002 *Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan*). The former developer of Parcel 141 disturbed about half of the site and best management practices (BMPs) established in accordance with the state-approved storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) have not been implemented fully or maintained successfully to limit site erosion and sedimentation into Pickwick Reservoir. Management of the property has reverted to TVA, and TVA is currently stabilizing the site. Immediate corrective actions (Phase I) identified as necessary by TVA, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and TCDF to end ongoing site erosion have been successfully completed. TVA proposes to further stabilize the site to prevent additional water quality impacts to Pickwick Reservoir, and to mitigate the impacts of recent site erosion. At the request of MDEQ, TVA has developed a revised SWPPP. Further actions (Phase II) identified in the TVA SWPPP would provide long-term stabilization and would enable closure of the present site construction phase. Successful implementation of the TVA SWPPP should further reduce the potential for water quality impacts to Pickwick Reservoir.

Alternatives

TVA prepared an environmental assessment (EA), which is incorporated by reference, that evaluates two alternatives for site stabilization by TVA—the No Action Alternative and the Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would include no further action regarding long-term stabilization of the site. TVA would continue to monitor the newly installed BMPs weekly to ensure that they are working correctly. Under the Action Alternative, TVA would implement additional Phase II corrective measures identified in the TVA SWPPP. The Phase II corrective measures would ensure protection from erosion and sedimentation of the site and enhanced water quality protection to Pickwick Reservoir. The additional site stabilization efforts would be satisfactory for long-term site closure but would not prevent the future utilization of the tract for recreation development. Any new site development proposal would be reviewed in accordance with TVA procedures for environmental review under the *National Environmental Policy Act*.

Impacts Assessment

TVA's EA analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed alternatives. Since ongoing and potential impacts to water quality/aquatic ecology, visual resources, and vegetation management could occur, these resource areas are discussed in the EA. Additional stabilization measures (Phase II) would be implemented under the Action Alternative to further enhance water quality/aquatic ecology protection. TVA would also remove the sediment deposits from the reservoir that are presently contained with silt curtains. These actions would result in improved water quality and conditions for aquatic life.

No additional vegetation management beyond the planting of grass cover and encouragement of the regeneration of native species would occur. The 50-foot vegetation buffer would not be established at this time, and this requirement would be reevaluated if a new development proposal were presented to TVA. The existing 100-foot-wide woodland buffer along the cove at the north end of the property would remain undisturbed and would be managed by TVA at least until a new development proposal is received and evaluated. All previously disturbed areas would be planted and inspected weekly until a uniform perennial vegetative cover with a density of a least 70 percent for the disturbed areas has been established. This would result in the establishment of a more diverse, perennial vegetative cover with enhanced erosion control and wildlife habitat values. In addition, these actions would improve the appearance of the site by revegetating large areas of bare ground and removing some of the construction materials. Overall impacts from the proposed action are expected to be environmentally beneficial and are not expected to be significant.

Conclusion and Findings

TVA has assessed in the EA the potential impacts associated with implementation of the Phase II corrective measures in TVA's SWPPP, and TVA has determined there are no significant adverse impacts, individually or cumulatively, on the project impact area or its environment. TVA therefore concludes that implementation of the proposed Action Alternative would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed