

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 Background

Pickwick Reservoir is an impoundment of the Tennessee River formed by Pickwick Landing Dam, which is located at Tennessee River Mile (TRM) 206.7 in Hardin County, Tennessee. Pickwick Reservoir is located in parts of three states—Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee (see Figure 1.1). The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) originally acquired 63,625 acres of land for construction of the reservoir, which was begun in December 1934 and completed in February 1938. TVA has retained 19,238 acres of land lying above full pool elevation. At full pool, the reservoir is 52.7 miles long; shoreline length is 490.6 miles; and surface area is 43,100 acres (see Table 1-1). Of the 490.6 miles of shoreline, 95.8 miles (20 percent) is available for Residential Access, which includes current development.

Table 1-1. Pickwick Reservoir Project Data	
TVA public land (current)	19,238 acres
Length of reservoir	52.7 miles
Length of shoreline	490.6 miles
June 1 summer level	414 mean sea level (msl)
January 1 winter level	409 (msl)
Impoundment at elevation 576	43,100 acres

TVA is proposing to update the 1981 Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan (1981 Plan) and allocate additional land that was not considered in the 1981 Plan. This additional land was generally narrow shoreline strips known as the marginal strip. This strip is made up of certain shoreland owned by TVA or subject to easement rights retained by TVA on behalf of the public. It lies between the waters of the reservoir and abutting private noncommercial property, which normally ends at the maximum shoreline contour (elevation 423 on Pickwick). Construction in this marginal strip by adjacent landowners is subject to criteria for permissible improvements identified in the Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI) (TVA, 1998a). Further, proposed construction anywhere on the marginal strip is subject to approval under Section 26a of the TVA Act. Because the 1981 Plan may not reflect current demands for the land, TVA is proposing that it be updated to reflect new information, stakeholder needs and current TVA policies.

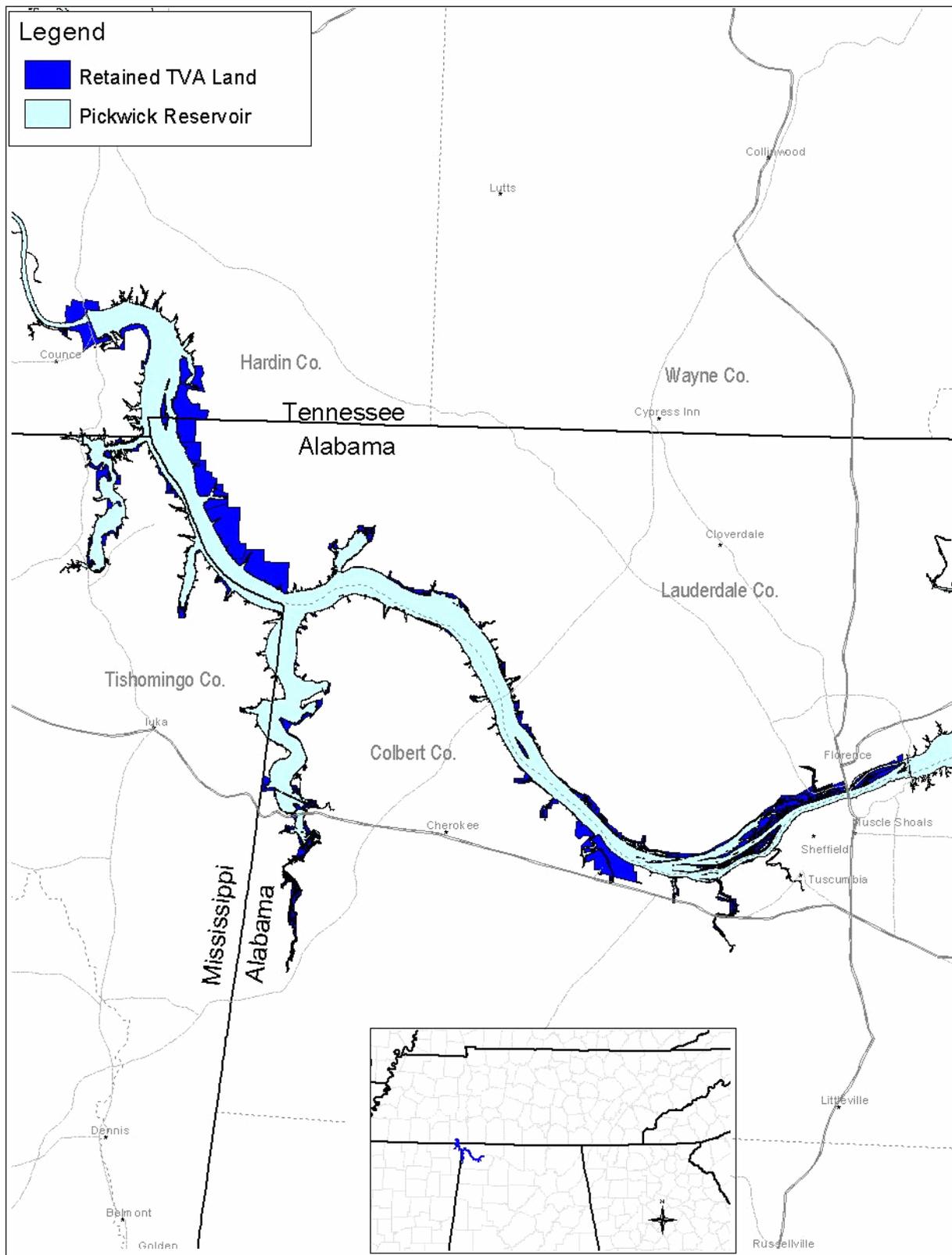


Figure 1.1. Map of Pickwick Reservoir

1.2 Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

TVA manages public land on Pickwick Reservoir to protect and enhance natural resources, generate prosperity, and improve the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley. This TVA public land, together with adjoining private land, is used for public and commercial recreation, industrial development, natural resource management, and a variety of other community needs. The purpose of the land planning effort is to apply a systematic method of evaluating and identifying the most suitable use of public land under TVA stewardship. Public input, resource data, computer analyses, and TVA staff are used to allocate land to the following land management categories: Project Operations, Sensitive Resource Management, Natural Resource Conservation, Industrial/Commercial Development, Developed Recreation, and Residential Access (see Section 2.2). These allocations are then used to guide the types of activities that would be considered on each parcel. Each Reservoir Land Management Plan (Plan) is submitted for approval to the TVA Board of Directors and adopted as policy to provide for long-term stewardship and accomplishment of TVA responsibilities under the TVA Act of 1933.

Plans have been completed and implemented for seven Tennessee River mainstream reservoirs and five tributary reservoirs. Older plans are being updated for selected mainstream reservoirs including Pickwick Reservoir.

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to assess environmental impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives for allocating TVA public land on Pickwick Reservoir and to provide a means for involving the public in the decision-making process.

1.3 Other Pertinent Environmental Review of Documents

This EIS relies on and tiers from information contained in the following documents.

Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan (TVA, 1981)

The 1981 Plan sets forth the permissible uses for approximately 17,370 acres of TVA public land on Pickwick Reservoir. The most suitable uses for each parcel of TVA public land around the reservoir were identified. Each parcel was allocated into one or more of 10 land use categories. The 1981 Plan currently serves as guidance for all administrative land use requests and resource management decisions on Pickwick Reservoir.

An area of special concern was identified in the 1981 Plan as The Bend of the River along Upper Pickwick Reservoir, because of the area's level terrain and its industrial potential to the region. This area included the Seven Mile Island Wildlife Management Area, which is known to contain significant archeological resources, habitat for threatened and endangered species, and prime farmland. The divergent interests of the wildlife and agricultural groups, the general community's desire to preserve the area, and the potential of this area for industrial development produced conflicts during the planning process. The 1981 Plan resolved these conflicts by allocating this area to agricultural, forestry, and wildlife uses with some limited industrial access along the south side of the Tennessee River.

Final Environmental Impact Statement: Patton Island Bridge and Approaches Crossing the Tennessee River and Connecting the Cities of Florence and Muscle Shoals, Lauderdale and Colbert Counties (FHWA, 1991)

In 1991, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the Patton Island Bridge Project. TVA was a cooperating agency in the preparation of this document. Subsequently, TVA issued a Record of Decision on September 20, 1994, on its decision to provide a permanent easement over 63.7 acres of TVA public land for the bridge and highway approaches, and to provide 26a approval for a bridge over the Tennessee River at TRM 258. This bridge has been constructed.

The FEIS concluded that implementation of the Patton Island Bridge Project would not have substantial land use impacts. The south shoreline of Patton Island was found to be a valuable fish spawning area, as well as mussel sanctuary. Two endangered mussels inhabiting the Tennessee River in the vicinity of the bridge were relocated to a suitable area prior to the placement of bridge piers. No adverse impacts to aquatic resources were expected from implementing the project as long as Best Management Practices (BMPs) were used to control erosion and sedimentation.

Lighthouse Fuels, Inc. (TVA, 1997a)

This Environmental Assessment (EA) assessed the environmental impacts of Lighthouse Fuels' request for 37 acres of TVA public land on Pickwick Reservoir and construction of a barge terminal with three separate loading areas. The proposed site is adjacent to the Yellow Creek Port Authority's industrial complex and barge terminal easement, which was sold to the state of Mississippi in 1974. The primary purpose of the facility to be constructed would be to provide procurement, merchandising, and delivery of wood waste to fossil fuel power plants. Other commodities, such as dirt, sand, gravel, rock, minerals, grain, and other agricultural products, including switchgrass, also would be loaded. The TVA public land would be used to store fuels awaiting processing and barge loading, to construct an access road, construction of concrete pads for wood and rock storage, construction of grain silos, and construction of associated material handling equipment. Also, a scale house, office, and maintenance shop would be built on the site.

The EA assessed the environmental consequences of two alternatives, No Action and the Proposed Action. The EA concluded that adoption of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to noise, traffic, aesthetics, air quality, water quality, navigation, wildlife, and aquatic resources. Economic impacts would be expected to be positive. Conditions placed in the approval by TVA prohibit the shipping by the applicant of chips produced at existing chip mills (now producing green chips) or pulp mills.

Lighthouse Fuels made no improvements to the property except partial clearing. The easement was canceled by TVA.

City of Florence, Alabama; Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion (TVA, 1997b)

The City of Florence, Alabama, requested that TVA grant a permanent easement over approximately 121.8 acres of TVA public land abutting the Cypress Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for the purpose of making improvements in the facility. The requested land is part of the area identified in the Pickwick Reservoir 1981 Plan as Planned Tracts

XPR-74PT and XPR-75PT. They are allocated for wetland and upland wildlife management, waterfowl management, general forest management, agricultural research, general agriculture, archaeological resources management, visual protection, habitat protection, and open space. The existing facility would be upgraded by adding an additional 20 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater treatment capacity. This would be accomplished by expanding the current wastewater treatment plant by 5 mgd (from 15 mgd to 20 mgd) and by constructing a three-cell lagoon with a treatment capacity of 15 mgd. It is estimated that the additional sewerage would increase the average daily flow from 11.1 mgd to 13.7 mgd. By adding the lagoon (15 mgd), the city would have sufficient wastewater treatment capacity to treat excessive infiltration/inflow and wet weather flows that have in the past resulted in frequent sewer overflows.

The EA assessed the environmental consequences of two alternatives, No Action and the Proposed Action. The EA concluded that adoption of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to threatened and endangered species, cultural, archaeological, and historical resources, flood storage, prime farmland, water quality (surface water and groundwater), recreation, wildlife habitat, wetlands and non-navigable waterways, land use, navigation, and road access.

Florence Wagon Works Site Remediation at Pickwick Reservoir, Wilson Dam Reservation (TVA, 1998b).

This EA determined the environmental impacts of TVA's proposed corrective action plan and alternatives to conduct remediation at the former site of the Florence Wagon Works (FWW) in the spring and summer of 1998. The FWW site is located in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in the city of Florence on the north bank of the Tennessee River at TRM 258.6R. Lead contamination was identified at the site in the fall of 1994 during a preliminary survey of the area for a proposed historic riverside trail route. The contamination at the site is caused by paint and other chemicals used during the operation of the FWW plant. The EA describes and documents the health and ecological basis for TVA's decision and evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed corrective action and alternatives. Together with the studies and other documents referenced herein, it generally corresponds to a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the selection of remedy under 40 CFR §300.430. The proposed remediation action was designed to reduce the level of lead (the principal chemical of potential concern) below the health-based cleanup level of 500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), which equals 500 parts per million.

Barton Industrial Site (TVA, 1998c)

This EA evaluated the environmental impacts of developing the Barton industrial site as an industrial park. In this EA, TVA proposed to lend \$1,850,000 to the Shoals Economic Development Authority (SEDA) for the purchase and development of a 1,284-acre industrial site at Barton, Alabama, 12 miles west of Tusculumbia. The Barton site is located in western Colbert County with close proximity to rail, water, and U.S. Highway 72. Future development would be based on specific projects centered around industries proposing to locate in the park.

SEDA received a bridge loan from a local bank to exercise its option on the property and needed a long-term loan for purchase and development of the property. A total of \$1,350,000, including closing costs, attorney's fees, and bridge loan expenses would be used to purchase the property. The remaining \$500,000 would initially be put in trust for use in developing a marketing plan and marketing the site. TVA would approve the use of the money in trust. None of the TVA money would be used for construction of a road or other infrastructure unless specifically approved by TVA as part of a project to site a facility in the park. Any such project would be included in the required infrastructure plan. The activities to be paid for with the trust fund addressed in this environmental review were:

- Development of a marketing plan and materials.
- Marketing activities to attract industries to the site.
- Erection of signs identifying the site.
- Remodeling of the "Gilbert" house on the site for use in the marketing efforts.

Barton Site Expansion EA (TVA, 1999a)

The proposed action for this EA was for TVA:

- To allow the SEDA to use \$560,000 of Economic Development Loan funds to refinance the purchase of two parcels of land known as the McWilliams property and the Blankenship property (approximately 320 acres). These parcels border the Barton industrial site in Colbert County, Alabama.
- To approve Section 26a permits for the development of a port facility on the Tennessee River at TRM 244.0L and extending downstream approximately 1,300 feet.
- To approve a permanent industrial easement for an access road and approximately 8 hectares (19.76 acres) of TVA property needed to develop the port.

The EA evaluated the environmental impacts of refinancing the purchase of the two additional tracts of land, approving a port facility under Section 26a of the TVA Act, and approving an industrial development easement for development of a port facility. The impacts of specific industries locating on the site would be addressed by development standards that would take into account the environmental impacts of the proposed industry.

Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI): An Assessment of Residential Shoreline Development Impacts in the Tennessee Valley (TVA, 1998a)

TVA completed an EIS on possible alternatives for managing residential shoreline development throughout the Tennessee River Valley. Under the alternative selected, sensitive natural and cultural resource values of reservoir shorelines would be conserved and retained by preparing a shoreline categorization for individual reservoirs; by voluntary donations of conservation easements over flowage easement or other shore land to protect scenic landscapes; and by adopting a "maintain and gain" public shoreline policy when considering requests for additional residential access rights. The Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan EIS will tier from the Final SMI EIS.

In accordance with the TVA Shoreline Management Policy (SMP), TVA categorized the residential shoreline of Pickwick Reservoir based on resource data collected from field surveys. A resource inventory has been conducted for sensitive species and their potential habitats, archaeological resources, and wetlands along the residential shoreline of Pickwick Reservoir.

The shoreline categorization is composed of three categories:

Shoreline Protection for shoreline segments that support sensitive ecological resources, such as federal-listed threatened or endangered species, high-priority, state-listed species, wetlands with high function and value, archaeological or historical sites of national significance, and certain navigation restriction zones. Within this category, all significant resources will be protected.

Residential Mitigation for shoreline segments where resource conditions or certain navigation restrictions would require analyses of individual development proposals, additional data, or specific mitigation measures.

Managed Residential for shoreline segments where no sensitive resources are known to exist. Standard environmental review would be completed for any proposed action.

The residential shoreline on Pickwick Reservoir comprises 95.8 miles or 20 percent of the total 490.6 miles of shoreline. Approximately 38.3 miles (40 percent) of the residential shoreline has archaeological resources; 19.2 miles (20 percent) of the residential shoreline has wetland vegetation; 37.4 miles (39 percent) has sensitive plant and/or animal resources present and 4.8 miles (five percent) has navigation restrictions. Depending on the sensitivity of the resource, these shoreline reaches were placed in either the Shoreline Protection or Residential Mitigation Categories. When these four sensitive resources are tallied for Pickwick Reservoir, the result is that approximately 1.9 miles (two percent) of the residential shoreline is in the Shoreline Protection Category; 77.6 miles (81 percent) is in the Residential Mitigation Category; and approximately 16.3 miles (17 percent) is in the Managed Residential Category.

Docks and other residential shoreline development would not be permitted on land within the Shoreline Protection Category because of the sensitive nature of the resources contained in this area or because of navigation restrictions. Section 26a applications for docks and other residential shoreline development in the Residential Mitigation Area would be reviewed by TVA for compliance with the SMP (TVA, 1998a) and the Section 26a regulations. Development restrictions or mitigation measures may be necessary in this shoreline category. Section 26a applications for docks and other shoreline development in the Managed Residential Area would also be reviewed for compliance with the SMP and Section 26a regulations.

As new data are collected on the spatial location and significance of endangered species, wetlands, cultural resources, or navigation restrictions, adjustments to category boundaries may be necessary. Property owners should check with the TVA Pickwick Watershed Team Office for the current categorization of an area.

Tishomingo County Development Foundation Request for Long-term Tenure Commercial Recreation Easement on Tract XPR-460RE EA (TVA, 2000a).

The Tishomingo County Development Foundation (TCDF) requested long-term tenure for 31 acres in two 1981 planned tracts (Tract E and Tract 11, now combined as Tract XPR-460RE) on the Yellow Creek embayment at mile 448.4R on the Tennessee-Tombigbee (Tenn-Tom) Waterway. TCDF requested the property for development of commercial recreation facilities. Tentative plans for the proposed action include a convention center, a marina, cabin sites, and covered boat slips. TCDF would solicit proposals for actual design, construction, and operation of the facilities. Under the proposed action, environmental safeguards include maintenance of shoreline and woodland buffers around the perimeter of the property, use of construction BMPs, and emphasis of bioengineering methods in shoreline stabilization. Buildings would be required to blend into the aesthetics of the surrounding area. In addition, entrance and exit roads would be designed to allow for safe turning maneuvers into and out of the facility. Marina plans would be required to include sewage pump-out facilities with spill-proof connections. Any above ground or underground storage tanks would also be required to have secondary containment and a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan. Final site development and marina development plans would be subject to TVA approval.

Memphis to Atlanta Corridor Study, Mississippi/Alabama State Line to Interstate 65, Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan Counties, Project DPS - A002, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 2001

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), prepared by the FHWA, assesses the impacts for a proposal to build a controlled access highway from the Mississippi/Alabama state line to Interstate 65, a distance of approximately 75 miles. This statement documents the need for the project, describes the existing and projected conditions in the area, and evaluates alternative corridor locations with respect to costs, social economic impacts, and environmental consequences. The proposed Corridor A would cross Pickwick Reservoir at approximately TRM 240.9. All proposed corridors cross Bear Creek on Pickwick Reservoir at the existing U.S. Highway 72 bridge crossing. Implementation of this corridor would require approval under the Section 26a of the TVA Act and a land use agreement for Parcels 29 and 56.

1.4 Public Involvement

1.4.1 The Scoping Process

TVA determined that the development of an EIS would allow a better understanding of the impacts of the proposed land use changes. Accordingly, TVA published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register* on March 26, 2001.

From March 26, 2001 to June 1, 2001, TVA sought comments from citizens, various state and federal agencies, elected officials, resource conservation groups, and other organizations. TVA advertised public participation opportunities through news releases, paid advertisements in newspapers, and letters and questionnaires were sent to individuals on the Pickwick Reservoir mailing list. Stakeholder organizations and local, state, and federal agencies were contacted for scoping meetings. To announce the public comment period and public meeting dates, TVA placed paid advertisements in numerous local newspapers (Table 1-2) and issued a news release on March 20, 2001,

to the media sources listed in Table 1-3. Public notices were also displayed at various public places (see Table 1-4).

Table 1-2. List of Newspapers with Paid Advertisements		
Newspaper	Location	Date Ad Appeared
The Florence Times Daily	Florence, Alabama	Wednesday, April 11, 2001
The Commercial Appeal	Memphis, Tennessee	Sunday, March 25, 2001
The Tishomingo County News	Iuka, Mississippi	Thursday, April 5, 2001
The Courier	Savannah, Tennessee	Thursday, April 5, 2001
Franklin County Times	Russellville, Alabama	Wednesday, April 11, 2001
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal	Tupelo, Mississippi	Sunday, March 25, 2001
East Lauderdale News	Florence, Alabama	Thursday, April 5, 2001

Table 1-3. Media Distribution List for Press Release	
Newspapers	
The Tennessean	Nashville, Tennessee
The Commercial Appeal	Memphis, Tennessee
The Jackson Sun	Jackson, Tennessee
The Florence Times Daily	Florence, Alabama
The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal	Tupelo, Mississippi
East Lauderdale News	Florence, Alabama
Franklin County Times	Russellville, Alabama
Tishomingo County News	Iuka, Mississippi
The Daily Corinthian	Corinth, Mississippi
The Collierville Herald	Collierville, Tennessee
The Lexington Progress	Lexington, Tennessee
Independence Appeal	Selmer, Tennessee
The Courier	Savannah, Tennessee
Sheffield Standard and Times	Sheffield, Alabama
Colbert County Reporter	

Table 1-3 (cont.). Media Distribution List for Press Release	
Radio Stations	
WBCF	Florence, Alabama
WLAY	Florence, Alabama
WBHL	Florence, Alabama
WXFL/WSBM/WQLT	Florence, Alabama
Corinth	Corinth, Mississippi
Savannah	Savannah, Tennessee
Television Stations	
WTVA TV	Tupelo Mississippi
WAFF TV, Channel 48	Huntsville, Alabama
WHNT TV, Channel 19	Huntsville, Alabama
WAAY TV, Channel 31	Huntsville, Alabama
WMC TV 5	Memphis, Tennessee
WREG TV 3	Memphis, Tennessee
WHBQ TV 13	Memphis, Tennessee

Table 1-4. Public Places Where Public Notice for Meetings were Displayed	
Courthouses	Marinas
Colbert County, Alabama	Aqua Yacht Harbor, Mississippi
Lauderdale County, Alabama	Grand Harbor Marina, Mississippi
Hardin County, Tennessee	Florence Harbor, Alabama
Wayne County, Tennessee	Pickwick Landing State Park, Tennessee
Tishomingo County, Mississippi	Eastport, Mississippi
	Mill Creek, Mississippi
	J. P. Coleman, Mississippi

Table 1-4 (cont.). Public Places Where Public Notice for Meetings were Displayed	
Businesses	Jim Bennett Yacht Sales, Iuka, Mississippi
Lakeview Market, Waterloo, Alabama	Lowe's, Muscle Shoals, Alabama
Burch Outdoors, Florence, Alabama	The Corner Store, Iuka, Tennessee
Scotty's, Iuka, Mississippi	Wal-Mart Locations
Bruton 4-Way Market, Bruton Branch, Tennessee	Iuka, Mississippi
Fouch's Grocery, Pickwick Dam, Tennessee	Muscle Shoals, Alabama
Bass Plus, Muscle Shoals, Alabama	Savannah, Tennessee
State Line Grocery, Margerum, Alabama	Other Locations
Big Daddy's Bait shop, Florence, Alabama	Colbert Park Boat Ramp

TVA hosted four public meetings at the following locations:

- Tishomingo County High School, Iuka, Mississippi
- Adams Mark Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee
- Pickwick Landing State Park, Pickwick Dam, Tennessee
- TVA Environmental Research Center, Muscle Shoals, Alabama

A total of 203 participants attended these public meetings. At each meeting, all attendees were invited to participate in small discussion groups where they were asked to provide input on which parcels of land in the 1981 Plan should be designated for uses other than their currently designated use. Participants were also asked to provide input on how TVA should manage the public land under each designation.

TVA also received comments via questionnaires and letters. In all, 115 questionnaires were completed and mailed to the Pickwick Watershed Team Office. The questionnaire (see Appendix A) asked respondents to rate their preference regarding services, facilities, and recreation around the Pickwick Reservoir. Comments recorded during public meetings and scoping meetings were compiled and analyzed and are presented in Appendix A.

Issue Identification – TVA internal reviews of current and historical information, reservoir data collected, and public input were used to identify the following resources/issues for evaluation in this EIS:

- **Terrestrial Ecology.** Many respondents also expressed concern for the preservation of natural resources (e.g., natural areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands) and the ways in which these resources may be compromised by increased development (e.g., loss of sensitive habitat, clear-cutting of land).
- **Sensitive Plant and Animal Species.** Respondents expressed a preference for more protection of endangered species, especially eagles.

- **Significant Natural Areas.** Although not identified by participants, the effects of the allocations on designated or recognized natural areas was an issue identified by TVA staff.
- **Water Quality.** Participants requested more protection of water quality.
- **Aquatic Ecology.** Erosion caused by wave action from boats was also a concern among many respondents.
- **Wetlands.** Participants requested more protection of wetlands.
- **Floodplains.** The effects of the allocations on floodplain development was an issue identified by TVA staff.
- **Land Use and Prime Farmland Conversion.** Although not identified by participants, this issue was identified by TVA staff.
- **Cultural Resources.** Respondents expressed a need for increased protection of cultural and historic sites.
- **Navigation.** The effect of the allocations on navigation safety was an issued identified by many respondents and TVA staff.
- **Recreation.** Opinions were divided between respondents who expressed a need for more water recreation opportunities/facilities and respondents who requested greater restrictions on water recreation. For instance, those in favor of more water recreation expressed a need for more boat ramps, marinas, access points, dry stack storage, or pump-out stations. Other respondents expressed concern about increased boat traffic and its potential consequences on the environment and safety.
- **Visual Resources.** Participants valued the scenic beauty and setting of the reservoir and requested more protection of natural lands and open space.
- **Socioeconomic Impacts and Environmental Justice.** The effects of the allocations on promoting economic growth, minorities, and low income communities were issues identified by TVA staff. Some respondents expressed a need for less development.

The Montana Land Company (MLC) Maintain and Gain Proposal was raised as an issue during the public scoping meetings. MLC has requested fee transfer of TVA retained Parcels 3, 4, and 5 in exchange for approximately 164 acres and 4,800 feet of residential shoreline. The environmental impacts of MLC's proposal will be assessed through a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that is not expected to be complete prior to the finalization of the proposed Plan. Therefore, these parcels (Parcels 3, 4, and 5) are allocated to Zone 4, Natural Resource Conservation, under the proposed action alternatives being assessed in this EIS. Several people raised a concern about a casino, however, no such proposal was ever made to TVA.

1.4.2 Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Land Management Plan

On May 3, 2002, TVA released the DEIS for the Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan for public review. Copies of the DEIS were mailed to individuals, agencies, and organizations. The DEIS was also available on TVA's Web site. The Notice of

Availability of the DEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on May 3, 2002. To announce the public comment period and public meeting dates, TVA placed paid advertisements in numerous local newspapers (Table 1-5) and issued a news release on May 3, 2002, to the media sources listed in Table 1-3.

Table 1-5. List of Newspapers with Paid Advertisements		
Newspaper	Location	Date Ad Appeared
The Florence Times Daily	Florence, Alabama	Saturday, May 4, 2002
The Commercial Appeal	Memphis, Tennessee	Monday, May 6, 2002
The Tishomingo County News	Iuka, Mississippi	Thursday, May 9, 2002
The Courier	Savannah, Tennessee	Thursday, May 9, 2002
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal	Tupelo, Mississippi	Monday, May 6, 2002

Approximately 64 comments were received on the DEIS. These comments primarily related to recommendations for proposed uses of TVA public land. TVA responses to the comments are provided in Appendix H.

1.5 The Goals of the Plan

The goals of the Pickwick Plan include the following:

Goal 1: Protect Sensitive Resources on TVA public land. These resources include threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, and distinctive visual resources. During the public scoping process, the respondents to the scoping questionnaire indicated that TVA should place a high priority on protection of these resources. Under the preferred alternative, 1,351.78 acres of land are allocated to Zone 3, Sensitive Resource Management. Parcels allocated to Zone 3 may be used for activities, such as informal recreation opportunities and Natural Resource Conservation, but protection of the sensitive resource is the overall guide to the management of these parcel.

Goal 2: Protect Water Quality. The allocation team reviewed capability and suitability criteria (Appendix J) for parcels that were previously allocated for future industrial development and eliminated parcels that did not support Industrial/Commercial Development suitability/capability criteria. This reduced potential cumulative impacts on water quality by removing up to 2,066 acres that were potentially available for development under Alternative A. Additionally, a majority of the reservoir lands was allocated to Zones 3 and 4, providing 13,429.93 acres of largely undeveloped land that would buffer water runoff, protect against erosion and sedimentation, and provide shade and cover for aquatic communities. In addition, the allocation team did not propose any new development in the only poorly rated hydrologic unit (Bear Creek) on Pickwick Reservoir.

Goal 3: Maintain visual character of the Reservoir. A major objective in the 1981 Plan was to preserve the natural setting and visual character of the Reservoir. The

allocation team wanted to continue this goal, which was supported the public scoping data and the allocation team. By eliminating previously allocated tracts for future industrial development that did not support Industrial/Commercial Development suitability/capability criteria, and by maintaining large contiguous parcels in Zones 3 and 4, the scenic setting of the reservoir would not change significantly. The team also allocated parcels within the viewshed of the Natchez Trace Parkway so that they would be compatible with the visual character of the scenic parkway. Additionally, the allocation of parcels near the mouth of Yellow Creek to Zone 3, Sensitive Resource Management, would allow preservation and maintenance of a more natural setting at the mouth of Yellow Creek.

Goal 4: Support local communities' economic development goals. The proposed plan supports future development opportunities by: 1.) providing industrial/commercial access corridors when compatible with existing uses and when there is minimal impact on natural resources and sensitive resources; and 2.) considering proposals by SEDA to obtain water access for the Barton Industrial Site and the City of Florence to develop the River Heritage Trail. Under the preferred alternative, Parcel 37 would be allocated to Zone 6, Developed Recreation, to accommodate the city of Florence's request for public recreation facilities including trails and overlooks. Parcel 53 would be allocated to Zone 5, Industrial/Commercial Development, to be compatible with the back-lying land use of the Barton industrial site.

1.6 TVA Decision

The TVA Board of Directors will decide whether to adopt an updated Pickwick Plan (Alternatives B or C) or to continue the use of the existing 1981 Plan (Alternative A).

1.7 Necessary Federal Permits or Licenses

No federal permits are required to develop a Plan. Site-specific information on reservoir resources has been characterized in this EIS and potential impacts on these resources were considered in making land use allocation recommendations. Appropriate agencies regulating wetlands, endangered species, and historic resources have been consulted during this planning process. When specific actions, such as a dock, building, road or walking trail, are proposed, additional environmental reviews for these actions would be undertaken.