

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
TVA NUCLEAR TRAINING FACILITY
HOLLYWOOD, JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Proposed Action and Need

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to develop a new centralized training and processing center for workers at its nuclear facilities. To meet this goal, TVA proposes to purchase an existing 36,000-square-foot building and adjacent approximate 13.4 acres in the Jackson County Industrial Park near Hollywood, Alabama. TVA would remodel the building by furnishing necessary training facilities and equipment. TVA would also construct a new access road, provide additional parking, and install a new fiber optic cable to the site. As part of this effort, TVA would discontinue use of the current training and processing centers at the Watts Bar, Sequoyah, and Browns Ferry nuclear plants and consolidate their operations at the new central facility. This would reduce operating costs and provide standardized training opportunities. The potential environmental effects of this action have been described in an environmental assessment (EA), which is attached and incorporated by reference.

Alternatives

Two feasible alternatives, i.e., the No Action Alternative and the Action Alternative, were considered in the EA. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not purchase the property, including the vacant building, in the Jackson County Industrial Park. Consequently, TVA would continue to operate the training facilities and employee processing centers at Sequoyah, Browns Ferry, and Watts Bar nuclear plants. Under the Action Alternative, TVA would purchase the subject property and establish the proposed training and employee processing facility. This would involve the interior construction of offices, training rooms, etc., in the on-site building. Additional parking adjacent to the training building would also be provided, and a new access road to the facility from County Road 33 (i.e., an access road to Bellefonte Nuclear Plant) would be constructed.

Impacts Assessment

Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not undertake the purchase of the subject property. Thus, there would be no construction-related or operational effects from TVA action. Over time, other tenants would be recruited to occupy the site.

Adoption of the Action Alternative would not affect any federally listed species or their critical habitats. TVA determined that no cultural resources potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would be affected by the proposed undertaking. As stated in the EA, there would be no effects to managed areas. Socioeconomic effects, mainly as increases in local employment, would be minor and insignificant. The proposed action would not disproportionately affect any economically disadvantaged or minority populations and is consistent with Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice). Waste generated from construction and operation of the proposed training center would not significantly affect the capacities of the local landfill or sewage system.

Mitigation

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

Public and Intergovernmental Review

TVA consulted with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*. The Alabama SHPO responded in a letter of March 30, 2010, stating that the project would have no adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. Additionally, TVA notified appropriate Native American tribes and solicited comments regarding the proposed undertaking and any properties that may be of religious and cultural significance. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Chickasaw Nation responded, stating no objections to TVA's findings.

Conclusion and Findings

The proposed purchase of property in the Jackson County Industrial Park and the subsequent operation of the proposed training facility would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Thus, requirements of Section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act* are satisfied. Similarly, TVA has determined that the proposed undertaking would not affect any cultural resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. Thus, TVA's obligations under Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* have been met.

Implementation of the proposed action would not affect floodplains or floodplain functions and is consistent with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management). No wetlands would be affected if the Action Alternative were adopted and implemented. Thus, the undertaking is consistent with Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

Based on the analyses in the EA, TVA concludes that the proposed action of developing a new centralized training and processing center for TVA nuclear facility workers would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Federal Determinations
Environmental Permits and Compliance
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Date Signed