

Public Meeting

Koppers Coal Reserve Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Scoping

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

4 – 8 pm, EST

Cove Lake State Park Recreation Building



TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

SCOPING
KOPPERS COAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Thank you for attending our Information Open House. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to give members of the public the opportunity to let TVA know what **issues** they think are important to consider as TVA analyzes alternative solutions to the question of how best to manage its Koppers Coal Reserve in Campbell and Scott Counties, Tennessee (see the attached map for location). We also want your ideas about additional **alternatives** that should be addressed in the preparation of this EIS.

We want to know what issues and alternatives are important to you. If you have comments you may complete the attached comment form and leave it in the basket at the Comments Table. There is also a court reporter available if you wish to leave spoken comments. If you do not wish to make your comments at this time, or if you want to make additional comments after leaving, please return the form by mail in the envelope provided, or fax or e-mail your comments to the address below. ***Comments should be received no later than June 15, 2003.***

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Proposed Action

TVA is undertaking the development of a plan for managing its coal reserves on the Koppers property in response to an anticipated increase in demand for this coal. The market for coal from the Koppers Coal Reserve is expected to improve as a result of utility industry efforts to comply with the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act which put a cap on the emission of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from electric utility boilers. These efforts by TVA and other electric utilities include constructing flue gas desulfurization units (scrubbers) at existing coal-fired generating plants. Due to their high SO₂ removal efficiency, the scrubbers will allow TVA and other utilities to burn more of the higher sulfur coal from eastern coalfields like Koppers while still meeting emissions limits and reducing the amount of SO₂ released.

A management plan will help TVA manage mineral resources at Koppers Coal Reserve to meet the future coal demand in a manner that protects both the environment and the value of TVA's coal assets for the benefit of its ratepayers. This EIS will assess the environmental impacts of alternative strategies for managing the Koppers Coal Reserve.

Background

- The Koppers Coal Reserve is a 53,000 acre area in western Campbell County and eastern Scott County. The area is typical of coal properties in eastern Tennessee and eastern Kentucky, with 19 coal seams of various thickness and quality.
- TVA acquired the rights to the Koppers Coal Reserve in 1962 as part of an effort to ensure reliable fuel supplies.
- The property was heavily surface- and underground-mined in certain areas from the 1930s through the 1970s, producing a significant quantity of coal and providing substantial employment to miners and other satellite businesses.
- Since 1979, TVA has issued 10 leases for coal mining in the Koppers Coal Reserve, only one of which was a surface mine.
- In December 2002, TVA issued a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for a proposal to mine coal at Braden Mountain which is located in the northwest corner of the Koppers Coal Reserve. TVA has deferred consideration of the Braden Mountain mine lease and will include the review of Braden Mountain coal mining activity in this EIS.
- Total recoverable coal is estimated at approximately 70 million tons, including 28 million tons from surface mining and 42 million tons from deep mining. Royalty income from this coal is presently valued at approximately \$140 million.
- In 1992, the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) acquired the surface overlying most of the Koppers Coal Reserve and established the 50,000 acre Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area (WMA), with the clear understanding that the underlying minerals would be mined. Royal Blue WMA is a multiuse area featuring hunting, off-road vehicle use, horseback riding, hiking and bird watching, and provides habitat for rare species of fish, mammals, amphibians and birds.
- The Royal Blue WMA is adjacent to the newly created 74,000 acre Sundquist WMA. Additionally, the Smokey Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail State Park crosses the southern portion of the Royal Blue WMA and the Koppers Coal Reserve.
- The Koppers Coal Reserve drains into two major watersheds, the Clinch River watershed of the Tennessee River, and the New River watershed of the Cumberland River.
- The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRRRA) is located downstream of the Koppers Coal Reserve in the New River watershed. BSFNRRRA, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), consists of 125,000 acres. The NPS is mandated to protect and enhance water quality in the BSFNRRRA.

Project Alternatives

At this time, TVA anticipates assessing the following alternatives:

- **No Action**—Continued consideration of requests for both surface and deep mine leases on an ad hoc basis.
- **Managed surface and deep coal mining**—Different intensities, rates, quantities, and types of surface and deep coal mining would be explored.
- **Deep mining only**—No surface mining would be considered.
- **No mining beyond current leases**—No additional leases for mining Koppers coal would be considered beyond current leases.
- **Disposal of TVA's mineral rights at fair market value:**
 - TVA's mineral rights could be purchased by a coal company for the purpose of mining.
 - All or part of TVA's mineral rights could be purchased by an entity that does not intend to mine.

Other alternatives proposed by the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and cooperating agencies during scoping also will be considered.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

TVA is the lead agency in the development of this EIS. As provided for in the regulations that guide the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Section 1501.6), the following will participate as cooperating agencies:

- United States Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining—Knoxville Field Office
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- National Park Service—Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

Next Opportunity for Public Input

TVA will use the input it receives from public scoping as well as other data to refine the list of issues and alternatives to be studied in the EIS. Over the next year, TVA and the cooperating agencies will carry out a review of the possible environmental effects of the proposed management plan alternatives. Data about the known environment will be assembled and an assessment of the environmental consequences of each proposed alternative will be conducted. This study is expected to take a little over one year.

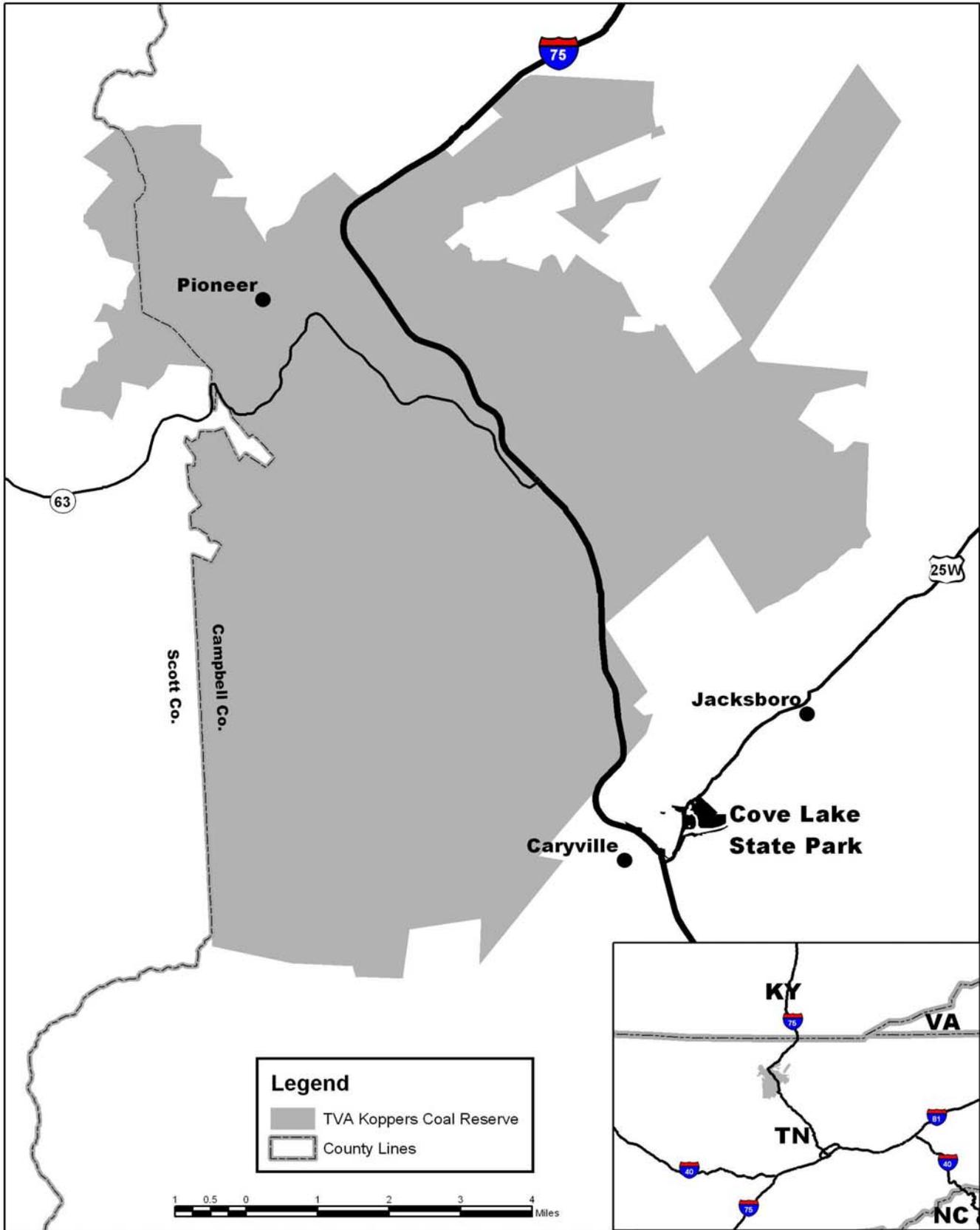
TVA will prepare and issue a Draft EIS describing the project and its expected environmental impacts around October 2004. The public will have an opportunity to review the DEIS and make comments during a 45-day review period. These comments will be taken into consideration in preparing and issuing a Final EIS. TVA will not make a decision on the selection of an alternative until 30 days after the publication of a notice of availability of the Final EIS.

A list of anticipated project milestones is attached.

KOPPERS COAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Project Milestones

Public Scoping Period	May 15 – June 15, 2003
Public Scoping Meeting	June 3, 2003
Conduct Field Research and Analysis	May 2003 – July 2004
Complete Draft EIS	September 2004
Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Public Meeting	October – November 2004
Issue Final EIS	March 2005
Issue Record of Decision	Spring 2005



Koppers Coal Reserve Management Plan Scoping Comments

1. The following is a preliminary list of environmental issues associated with the proposed action that will be considered in the environmental review. Please check the issues that are of concern to you and identify any additional issues you may have in the blank areas.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Ecology | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation and Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered and Threatened Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical and Archeological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Economic Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Natural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Disposal | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface and Groundwater Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

2. Explain your interest or concern about each selected issue in the space provided below. Please tell us why each issue is important to you.

Issue: _____

