

## CHAPTER 7

### 7. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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## 7.2. Glossary of Terms

**30 U.S.C. §1314** - This act approved on October 23, 1962, authorizes the heads of executive agencies of the United States, including wholly-owned corporations, to grant easements over real property of the United States under their control for rights-of-way or other purposes. Term or permanent easements may be granted to state and local governments or private corporations or individuals.

**100-year floodplain** - the area inundated by the 1 percent annual chance (or 100-year) flood.

**benthic** - refers to the bottom of a stream, river, or reservoir.

**best management practices (BMPs)**- a practice, or combination of practices, that has been determined, after problem assessment and examination of alternatives, to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality.

**Contract No. TV-60000A** - an agreement between the TVA and Tellico Reservoir Development Agency to provide comprehensive Industrial, Residential, Commercial, Recreational, and Public Use Recreational development activities. A land use plan and development standards were incorporated into the agreement. The agreement was signed on August 25, 1982.

**cultural resources** - any historic structure, historic site, or archaeological site that is protected by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or other preservation legislation. The broad mission of TVA Cultural Resources includes evaluating, protecting, and preserving significant cultural, archaeological, and historic sites and structures, and maintaining a record of the history of TVA.

**cumulative impacts** - impacts which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions (40 CFR 1508.7).

**dam reservation** - lands generally maintained in a park-like setting by TVA to protect the integrity of the dam structure, hydroelectric facilities, and navigation lock. The reservation also provides for public visitor access to the TVA dam facilities and recreational opportunities such as public boat access, bank fishing, picnicking, etc.

**direct impacts** - effects which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.4).

**dissolved oxygen (DO)** - the oxygen dissolved in water, necessary to sustain aquatic life. It is usually measured in milligrams per liter or parts per million.

**drawdown** - lowering the water level in a reservoir to make room for winter and spring precipitation that often fall in higher elevations. The reservoir serves as an emergency storage system to prevent flooding downstream.

**dredging** - the removal of material from an underwater location, primarily for deepening harbors and waterways.

**embayment** - a bay or arm of a reservoir.

**emergent wetland** - wetlands dominated by erect, rooted herbaceous plants such as cattail and bulrush.

**Executive Order (EO)** - a governmental order issued by the President with force of law.

**extirpated** - pulled up by the roots; destroyed; exterminated.

**fecal coliform** - common intestinal bacteria in human and animal waste.

**floodplains** - any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any source by a flood of selected frequency. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the floodplain, as a minimum, is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding (100-year flood) in any given year.

**flowage easement tracts** – privately owned lakeshore properties where TVA has (1) the right to flood the land as part of its reservoir operations, and (2) the authority to control structures, under Section 26a of the TVA Act.

**fragmentation** - the process of breaking up a large area of relatively uniform habitat into one or more smaller, disconnected areas.

**Greenway** - a linear park located along natural features such as lakes or ridges, along man-made features including abandoned railways or utility rights-of-way, which link people and resources together.

**indirect impacts** - effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.4).

**macroinvertebrates** - aquatic insects, snails, and mussels whose species, genus, etc., can be determined with the naked eye.

**mainstream reservoirs** - impoundments created by dams constructed across the Tennessee River.

**marginal strip** - the narrow strip of land owned by TVA between the water's edge and the adjoining private property, on which the property owner may construct private water use facilities upon approval of plans by TVA.

**maximum shoreline contour (msc)** - an elevation typically 5 feet above the top of the gates of a TVA dam. It is often the property boundary between TVA property and adjoining private property.

**NEPA** (National Environmental Policy Act) - Legislation signed into law in 1970 that requires federal agencies to consider the potential physical environmental impacts of actions that they propose to undertake or approve.

**neotropical migrant birds** - birds which nest in the United States or Canada and migrate to spend the winter in Mexico, central America, the Caribbean, or South America.

**nutrient cycling** - Nutrients which provide the basis of many food chains are contributed to the wetland ecosystem internally in leaf litter, plant debris, and animal waste and remains. These nutrients are cycled internally and are both taken up by plants in the wetland and exported out of the wetland area.

**physiographic provinces** - general divisions of land with each area having characteristic combinations of soil materials and topography.

**plan tract** - a numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land which, prior to the plan, has had no long-term commitments affecting future land uses as assigned through the reservoir land planning process.

**prime farmland** - generally regarded as the best land for farming, these areas are flat or gently rolling and are usually susceptible to little or no soil erosion. Prime farmland produces the most food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops with the least amount of fuel, fertilizer, and labor. It combines favorable soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply and, under careful management, can be farmed continuously and at a high level of productivity without degrading either the environment or the resource base. Prime farmland does not include land already in or committed to urban development, roads, or water storage.

**riparian zone** - an area of land that has vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Typically a streamside zone or shoreline edge.

**riprap** - stones placed along the shoreline for bank stabilization and other purposes.

**riverine** - having characteristics similar to a river.

**scrub-shrub** - woody vegetation less than about 20-feet tall. Species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.

**shoreline** - the line where the water of a TVA reservoir meets the shore when the water level is at the summer operating range which is 812-813 feet elevation for Tellico Reservoir.

**shoreline stabilization** - The roots of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation help to stabilize shorelines against erosion resulting from wave action.

**sensitive resources** - As defined by TVA, include resources protected by federal law or executive order and other land features/natural resources TVA considers important to the area viewscape or natural environment.

**Shoreline Aquatic Habitat Index (SAHI)** - the index used to determine quality of shoreline aquatic habitat, based on seven characteristics important to support good populations of sport and commercial fish.

**Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI)** - an assessment of residential shoreline development impacts in the Tennessee Valley. TVA completed an EIS on residential shoreline development impacts throughout the Tennessee Valley and adopted a policy for controlling residential shoreline uses along its reservoirs.

**stratification** - the seasonal layering of water within a reservoir due to differences in temperature or chemical characteristics of the layers.

**summer operating range** - the level to which reservoirs are filled during the summer; for Tellico Reservoir, the summer operating range is 812-813 feet elevation. Where storage space is available above this level, additional filling may be made as needed for flood control.

**Tellico Reservoir Development Agency (TRDA)** - a public corporation created by the Tennessee Legislature in April 1982 (Chapter 679, codified as Section 64-1-70 et seq., Tennessee Code Annotated). This legislation provided “*The agency is created for the purpose of developing and effectuating plans and programs for the comprehensive development of, including acquisition, operating, managing, selling, and leasing and development of, all or a portion of the lands lying within the Tennessee Valley Authority Tellico Reservoir project...*”

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)** - the state agency dedicated to protecting the quality of Tennessee’s air, land and water and preserving, conserving, enhancing and promoting the state’s natural and cultural resources.

**tributary reservoirs** - impoundments created by dams constructed across streams and rivers that eventually flow into the Tennessee River.

**turbidity** - all the organic and inorganic living and nonliving materials suspended in a water column. Higher levels of turbidity affect light penetration and typically decrease productivity of water bodies.

**upland** - the higher parts of a region, not closely associated with streams or lakes.

**wetlands** - as defined in *TVA Environmental Review Procedures*, “Wetlands are those areas inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do or would support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonably saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, mud flats, and natural ponds.”

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