

Scoping Document
Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan
Environmental Impact Statement
Loudon, Meigs, Rhea, and Roane Counties, Tennessee

February 2005

Introduction

TVA develops reservoir land management plans to facilitate the management of reservoir properties in its custody. In general, TVA manages public lands to protect and enhance natural resources, generate prosperity, and improve the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley. Plans are submitted to the TVA Board of Directors for approval and adopted as policy to provide for long-term land stewardship and accomplishment of TVA responsibilities under the TVA Act.

TVA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential impacts of a proposed Reservoir Land Management Plan for TVA property on the Watts Bar Reservoir in East Tennessee (Loudon, Meigs, Rhea, and Roane Counties). TVA is considering updating a Reservoir Land Management Plan completed for Watts Bar Reservoir in 1988. The updated Land Plan would allocate lands to various categories of uses, which would then be used to guide the types of activities to be considered on TVA land. This would enable TVA to allocate additional lands that were not previously considered and to reassess past land use designations taking into account public needs, the presence of sensitive environmental resources, and TVA policies. The proposed land plan would involve approximately 14,000 acres of TVA land on Watts Bar Reservoir.

Background

Watts Bar Reservoir was completed in 1942 and is one of the multipurpose reservoirs operated by TVA for navigation, flood control, power production, recreation, and other uses. Water entering Watts Bar Reservoir flows from northeast to southwest through Loudon, Roane, Meigs, and Rhea counties in east Tennessee. The reservoir extends from Watts Bar Dam 72.4 miles to Fort Loudoun Dam on the Tennessee River and 23.1 miles on the Clinch River to Melton Hill Dam. It also includes portions of the Emory and Little Emory Rivers. TVA originally acquired 49,686 acres of land in fee simple ownership for reservoir construction. Of that, 38,600 acres are covered by water during normal summer pool. Subsequent transfers of land by TVA for economic, industrial, residential, or public recreation development have resulted in a current balance of approximately 14,000 acres of TVA land on Watts Bar Reservoir.

All lands under TVA control would be allocated in the planning process. Alternative approaches to land allocation would be analyzed in the EIS. In developing the new Watts Bar Reservoir Land Plan, lands currently committed to a specific use would likely be allocated to that current use; however, changes that support TVA goals and objectives would be considered.

The 1988 plan allocates land into 19 categories, including natural areas, forest and wildlife management, recreation, and industrial sites. The revised plan would propose options for allocating reservoir lands into the following categories: Zone 1 (Non TVA Shoreline), Zone 2 (Project Operations), Zone 3 (Sensitive Resource Management), Zone 4 (Natural Resource Conservation), Zone 5 (Economic Development), Zone 6 (Developed Recreation), and Zone 7 (Residential Access).

In addition to allocating TVA lands into land use zones, TVA proposes to incorporate Integrated Resource Management (IRM) planning by providing more detailed prescriptions for conserving, enhancing and integrating natural, cultural, visual, and recreation resources management on a reservoir-wide basis. IRM planning is proposed within the allocation zones for Project Operations, Sensitive Resource Management, Natural Resource Conservation, and Developed Recreation. This portion of planning would encompass the management or protection of public use and access, natural areas, forest health, exotic invasive species, nuisance wildlife, ecological diversity, water quality, scenic quality and uniqueness, archeological sites, historic structures and sites, and public outdoor recreation opportunities.

This EIS will tier from TVA's Final EIS, *An Assessment of Residential Shoreline Development Impacts in the Tennessee Valley*, which was issued in November 1998. TVA completed this EIS on possible alternatives for managing residential shoreline development throughout the Tennessee River Valley. In its May 24, 1999 Record of Decision, TVA decided to adopt the Blended Alternative identified in the Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI) EIS. Under the Blended Alternative, TVA sought to balance residential shoreline development, recreation use, and resource conservation needs in a way that maintains the quality of life and other important values provided by its reservoir system. Under this alternative, sensitive natural and cultural resource values of reservoir shorelines would be conserved under 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.

In accordance with the TVA Shoreline Management Policy (SMP) which implements SMI, TVA categorized the residential shoreline of Watts Bar 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 Watts Bar Reservoir.

Scoping Activities

The following scoping activities were undertaken to identify issues and define alternatives to be considered in the Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan:

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| <u>February 16, 2004</u> | A Notice of Intent was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> alerting other agencies and concerned public of the EIS. |
| <u>April 18, 2004</u> | A Revised Notice of Intent was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> extending the scoping comment period to June 30, 2004. |
| <u>August 16, 2004</u> | An announcement of the September 28, 2004 Public Meeting and extension of the Public Comment period to October 8, 2004 was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> . The announcement also provided supplemental information regarding a preliminary proposal by Valley Land Corporation, for a 310 acre mixed use commercial/recreation development on TVA lands on Watts Bar Reservoir which could be included in the scope of the Land Plan EIS, if a formal proposal is submitted. |
| <u>September, 2004</u> | TVA Staff met with Stakeholder Groups and individuals in the Watts Bar Area. |

September 28, 2004 A Public Scoping meeting was held at Roane State Community College in Kingston, Tennessee, attended by 142 people.

October 8, 2004 The scoping comment period concluded with over 200 comments on the proposal.

Public notices were also published in regional and local newspapers in August, 2004. In addition, several newspaper articles were published during the comment period. From March 2004 through October 2004, public participation was sought to assist the Watts Bar Clinch Watershed Team in developing a land management plan and EIS to identify specific future uses for TVA managed lands around Watts Bar Reservoir. TVA hosted a public meeting during which information forms, writing material, and a stenographer were available for people to make comments. Over 1,000 information forms were mailed to interested people and were distributed at over 20 briefing sessions with Stakeholder groups. Information about the proposed Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan and an interactive information form were available on the TVA web site. TVA received 95 individual letters or emails from 88 individuals, 126 information forms either mailed or directly input on the web site, and a petition with 183 signatures. In total, TVA received specific comments from 214 individuals or a total of 397 individuals including the petition.

Key Action Alternatives

TVA proposes to develop a reservoir land management plan to guide land-use approvals, private water use facility permitting, and resource management decisions on Watts Bar Reservoir. Under all of the action alternatives, the plans would identify land use zones in broad categories. Land currently committed to a specific use would be allocated to that current use unless there is an overriding need to change the use. Such commitments include transfers, leases, licenses, contracts, power lines, outstanding land rights, and TVA-developed recreation areas.

As a result of public comments, TVA has decided to develop two action alternatives; one is based on accommodating proposed economic and community development strategies, and the other is based on the conservation of natural resources to the exclusion of any new economic or community development. These alternatives would frame the environmental issues identified during scoping and provide baselines for the analysis of likely environmental impacts. Integrated Resource Management (IRM) of the natural resources on TVA lands would be an integral part of either alternative. The economic and residential development strategy would lead to private residences, commercial, natural resource, and/or industrial development ("mixed-use" development) of large tracts (500 acres or greater) of public land. The amount of land allocated for TVA Project Operations (Zone 2), Sensitive Resource Management (Zone 3), and Residential Access (Zone 7) would remain the same under all the alternatives.

TVA has not received a formal proposal from Valley Land Corporation, to use 237 acres of Meigs County Park and 73 acres of TVA project lands for mixed-use development. Therefore this proposal is not included within the current scope of this EIS. However these same properties are included as part of the larger Lowe's Branch proposal and would be considered for mixed use as described in the Development and Recreation alternative below.

No Action Alternative - Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would continue to use the 1988 Plan to guide land use decisions on TVA public land surrounding Watts Bar Reservoir. Except for the already approved Lower Watts Bar Unit (LWBU), resource management activities would likely be limited to regulatory compliance and maintaining public health and safety.

The 1988 Plan documents actual and prospective uses indicated for the public land. Currently, proposed land use requests received from external applicants or internal TVA organizations are evaluated for consistency with the 1988 Plan. Requested land uses that are consistent with the 1988 Plan can either be approved or denied based on a review of potential environmental impacts and other administrative considerations. If the request is not consistent with the designated land use, then formal TVA Board of Directors' approval, following necessary review, would be required to change the designated allocation.

Balanced Development and Recreation - Under this Alternative, TVA would update the 1988 Plan. The majority of land not previously allocated, along with parcels defined in the 1988 Plan and the LWBU plan would be placed into one of the seven land use zones that best fits the existing land use. TVA would promote economic development and recreation. Mixed-use development (land that could be used for a variety of uses, including residential, commercial/light industrial, and recreation) would be designed and implemented at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site (about 1,200 acres) and the Lowes's Branch site (1,200 to 1,700 acres). Further TVA would propose allocating 22 percent of the land on Watts Bar Reservoir to Natural Resource Conservation (Zone 4), 17 percent to Economic Development (Zone 5), and 10 percent to Developed Recreation (Zone 6). Also, under this Alternative, TVA would use IRM on suitable lands not allocated for economic development.

Balanced Conservation and Recreation - Under this Alternative, TVA would update the 1988 Plan. The majority of land not previously allocated, along with parcels defined in the 1988 Plan and the LWBU plan would be placed into one of the seven land use zones that best fits the existing land use designation. TVA would promote conservation of natural resources and informal recreation by allocating about 40 percent of the land on Watts Bar Reservoir to Natural Resource Conservation (Zone 4), 8 percent of the land to Developed Recreation (Zone 6), and one percent of the land to Economic Development (Zone 5). IRM would be used to plan management activities on suitable TVA land in Zones 2, 3, 4, and 6 around Watts Bar Reservoir. This alternative would promote conservation of natural resources.

Significant Environmental Issues to Be Addressed in Detail

The majority of the public response to the NOI focused on the use of public lands for private residential and commercial development and the associated environmental impacts that could occur. Many comments were received expressing concerns about the importance of water quality, of terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and questioning the economic need of the proposal given the success of similar past projects. There were also many comments about TVA's management of public lands, the planning for the management and use of public lands, and the potential results of TVA's management and planning.

The public responses in support of the increasing economic and community development described the potential to have a positive impact to the area economy. Commenters cited increases in the local economy, land values, jobs, and taxes available for local government as positive results.

Opposing commenters stated that TVA should keep all land public and not develop it. Commenters were concerned that other public lands similarly designated would also be made available for development. Commenters stated that selling the land is contrary to

public opinion, and would increase public distrust of TVA because it would also be contrary to past TVA decisions not to develop this public land.

Much public response focused on philosophical opposition to private residential and commercial development and use of public lands and the associated impacts that would occur. From all the comments provided, six predominant themes or general issues were identified: Natural Resources, Loss of Public Lands, Residential/Commercial Developments, Land Use Policy and Planning, Recreation Resources, and Proposals (i.e., Development of Lowe's Branch, and the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site). Of these, most comments were concerned with Loss of Public Lands, Natural Resources, Residential Commercial Developments, and Proposals.

Recreation - The majority of the comments on recreation focused on watercraft use, campgrounds and trails, and TVA recreation policies (e.g., marina placement, recreational opportunities, limiting commercial recreation). Commenters on watercraft use were concerned about noise and safety. They asked for speed limits, boater education, and enforcement of laws. Commenters on Campgrounds and Trails asked for better maintenance and management of trails and campgrounds, more primitive camping areas in several areas, and the reopening the Rhea Springs Campground.

Loss of Public Lands - Several stakeholder groups, Tennessee Conservation League (TCL), Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), Ducks Unlimited, and the Wildlife Society, as well as over 20 other commenters opposed the loss of TVA public lands. They stated that the idea of using public land to create economy is obsolete and unneeded and that the environmental and social uses of undeveloped land were of greater value.

Natural Resources - Comments received about natural resources included Air Quality, Wildlife (Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology), Water Quality, Litter and Debris, Navigation, Shoreline Stabilization, Threatened and Endangered Species, Wetlands, Cultural Resources, and Aesthetics. In particular, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) identified sensitive species found in the Watts Bar area and provided suggestions for their management. Many respondents also expressed concern for the preservation of natural resources (e.g., natural areas, wildlife habitat, and wetlands) and the ways in which these resources may be compromised by increased development.

Residential/Commercial Development and Socio-economics - Comments from local city and county government organizations (e.g., Chambers of Commerce) and developers encouraged the use of key parcels of TVA land for residential and commercial development. They cited the opportunity to create jobs, commerce, increase tax bases, and infrastructure as important to their communities and the need for a new 'Mixed Use' TVA land zone utilizing any possible combination of allocation zones within a land parcel. However, several respondents on this issue commented on the need to limit or stop industrial, commercial and residential development on Watts Bar Reservoir, expressing a concern for the destruction of natural surroundings due to continued development. They felt that the loss of undeveloped natural land would decrease the socio-economic value of the area.

Land Use Policy and Planning - Some commenters said TVA should continue good management practices and adopt a comprehensive long-term flexible plan. They also stated that Zone 3 and 4 parcels are important, that contiguous undeveloped shoreline should not be developed, that TVA should provide adequate funds and personnel to enforce their policies, and that property owners controlled too much shoreline. They also identified alleged inconsistencies in the treatment of large development versus

small land owners. Some stated that TVA should transfer the property to other federal agencies if TVA can't manage it. Many respondents expressed either support or opposition to the further proposed developments, particularly at the Lowe's Branch Area and the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor site.

Allocation Proposals - TVA received comments which either confirmed or requested changes for use allocations regarding 43 specific parcels of land around Watts Bar Reservoir. Requests to keep or change allocation to Zone 4 were most frequent by individuals, stakeholder groups including a petition. Local city and county governments requested large local tracts of TVA land to support commercial, residential, or recreation development. Specifically, the majority of the comments were concerned with the use allocation of parcels consisting of the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site and the Lowe's Branch site near Watts Bar Dam, with respondents expressing either support or opposition to the proposed developments. In general, opponents expressed concern that it would reduce wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. Proponents of the proposed land exchange expressed that it would result in an increase in commerce and jobs for the area. Specific comments on the two sites are summarized below.

Former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site: Respondents commented on a range of proposals for use of the land ranging from development to preservation. The City of Oak Ridge suggested the site should be developed, is a great opportunity for the area, and should be designated for mixed use. Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AORR) and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TWCP) provided a development plan recognizing previous disturbances and using TVA's existing land use zones. The Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau asked for the site to be leased (or control given) to the City of Oak Ridge to use for the Archery Shooters Association Tennessee Pro/Am Event for at least the next 5-years. Other commenters stated the site should not be developed and be left as a public wildlife management area.

Lowe's Branch Site: Rhea and Meigs County officials commented that development of the Lowe's Branch Area would be economically beneficial for Meigs and Rhea County, and that a 'Mixed Use' allocation zone could change the economic condition of the area. Conversely, a petition from the Friends of Watts Bar Lake, AORR, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), TCWP, TOS, and almost 40 individuals commented that the area was one of a few left for primitive recreation and should be allocated for Zone 4 and not be developed. Lastly, TWRA commented that the area is used heavily for hunting and other types of outdoor recreation and it should be transferred to TWRA.

Issues and Resources to be Addressed

Based on analysis of the scoping activities, TVA has identified the following resources and issues which would be affected by implementing a new Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan. For each resource, the potential direct and indirect effects of each alternative will be analyzed and disclosed. In addition, other activities (existing and proposed) that may affect resources of concern for Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan will be identified, and the potential effect of these activities on Watts Bar Reservoir resources and trends in the resources would be assessed. The major resources categories that will be considered in the EIS are listed below.

Aesthetics and Visual Resources - The aesthetic setting of the reservoir would be characterized and scenic and distinctive areas frequently seen by reservoir users and adjacent reservoir residents would be identified. Those areas and parcels of TVA land having excellent and distinct visual qualities would be identified. The effect of each alternative on the natural beauty of the shoreline would be evaluated.

Cultural Resources - Archaeological and historic resources in the Watts Bar Reservoir area would be characterized, and known National Register sites discussed. Parcels proposed for allocations that may affect cultural resources would be surveyed to determine the presence of any resources eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, cultural resources along the shoreline would be identified as part of the shoreline categorization effort (required by TVA's Shoreline Management Policy (SMP)). The potential effects of each alternative on historic and archaeological resources would be evaluated. The proposed reservoir land management plan would be reviewed by the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Endangered and Threatened Species - State or federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals, known to exist in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir, will be identified. In addition, parcels proposed for allocations that may provide endangered species habitat will be surveyed to determine if any populations exist. Endangered, threatened, and rare species found along the shoreline will be identified as part of the shoreline categorization effort (required by SMP). The effects of each alternative on endangered, threatened, and rare species in need of management would be evaluated. The proposed land plan would be reviewed by the USFWS.

Terrestrial Ecology - Ecosystems and broad natural community types found adjacent to Watts Bar Reservoir will be characterized and described. Significant natural features, including rare species habitat, important wildlife habitat, or locally uncommon natural community types will be identified. The effects of each alternative on terrestrial ecosystems in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir will be evaluated.

Wetlands and Floodplains - Wetlands and floodplains found on TVA land and along the reservoir shoreline will be identified as part of the shoreline categorization effort (required by SMP). The functions provided by these wetlands will be identified. The effects of each alternative on wetlands and floodplains in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir will be evaluated.

Recreation - Current recreation facilities available to meet public recreation needs will be identified, as well as, those lands that are important for consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife-oriented recreation. The effects of each alternative on recreation opportunities in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir will be evaluated.

Water Quality and Shoreline - Current water quality status and activities in the hydrologic units affecting water quality will be identified. These include: surface water, litter and debris control, and activities that are causing shoreline erosion as well as agricultural, municipal, and industrial activities. Overall aquatic ecological conditions will be identified. The extent to which each alternative may affect water quality and trends in reservoir water quality will be analyzed.

Aquatic Ecology - Aquatic biological resources found in Watts Bar Reservoir and its vicinity will be characterized. The Shoreline Aquatic Habitat Index for Watts Bar Reservoir will be calculated and compared to other reservoirs of similar physical characteristics. The effects of each alternative on aquatic habitat will be analyzed.

Socioeconomic - The current population, labor force, employment statistics, income, and property values for the Watts Bar region will be identified. Industrial sites and commercial and residential development near the reservoir will also be identified. The potential impacts of mixed use (a combination of residential, recreation, commercial, and light industrial development) would be analyzed for two sites. Current communities in

the area of Watts Bar Reservoir will be identified, including those with minorities and low-income components.

Navigation - Current boat traffic on the reservoir will be reviewed. The effect of each alternative on recreational boat traffic and commercial navigation will be analyzed.

Prime Farmland - Prime farmland in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir will be identified. The amount of prime farmland that could be converted to urban or industrial development in the vicinity as a result of implementation of the alternatives will be analyzed.

Land Use - The implications of TVA land use planning and policies will be identified and discussed, including the importance of contiguous undeveloped shoreline, enforcement of TVA policies, loss of public lands, and the affect on adjoining land use and backlying land.

Natural Areas - Special and unique natural areas in the vicinity of Watts Bar Reservoir will be identified. Impacts of the proposed alternatives to the natural areas will be discussed.

Probable Non-Significant Environmental Issues

Potential impacts to resources listed below were identified in scoping. At this time, impacts to these resources are not likely to be important issues. Therefore, TVA plans to mention them but does not plan to discuss them in detail in the EIS. However, if TVA finds that any alternative would result in significant changes to these resources, the changes will be discussed in detail in the EIS.

- air quality
- noise

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

TVA will be the lead Federal agency for this environmental review. The U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) will be invited to be a cooperating agency because of its similar role with management of public land on Watts Bar Reservoir under its jurisdiction and its proximity to potential development areas. No other agencies were identified as potential cooperating agencies for the purposes of environmental review.

Related Environmental Documents

Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan (TVA, 1988)

In August 1988, the TVA Board of Directors approved a land management plan to guide TVA resource management and property administration decisions on 10,405 acres of TVA land on Watts Bar Reservoir. A multidisciplinary TVA team undertook a detailed planning process that resulted in the land use designation in the plan. Both public input and information from TVA specialists were analyzed in making land use decisions. It was determined that Watts Bar Reservoir supported 19 land use allocations. The 207 tracts of land on Watts Bar reservoir were allocated for one or more of these 19 uses.

Record of Decision for the Lower Watts Bar Reservoir (USDOE, 1995).

The Record of Decision for Lower Watts Bar Reservoir was prepared by the USDOE in accordance with the requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to present the remedy which addresses the

contamination of the Watts Bar Reservoir Area by past USDOE operations. Remediation includes the continuance of institutional controls and long-term monitoring of water, sediment, and fish. Institutional controls are implemented primarily by the Watts Bar Working Group (WBWG), created in 1991, of which TVA is a signatory member along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TDEC, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the USDOE. The WBWG implements a notification and screening methodology for member agency actions which may be impacted by the contaminants, whereby USDOE can then identify contaminants and provide appropriate remediation.

Proposed Sale of TVA Tract No. XWBR-688IE (Parcels 1 and 2) on Watts Bar Reservoir to Scientific Ecology Group, Inc. and Approval of Operations of Additional Facilities and Modifications to Existing Facilities, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 1995).

TVA assessed the environmental impacts associated with alternatives derived from a request by Scientific Ecology Group, Inc. (SEG) to purchase TVA tract XWBR-688IE. SEG had been using this land under a lease agreement with TVA. In addition SEG requested approval to build and operate additional waste management facilities and modify the operation of existing facilities. The preferred alternative allowed the sale and operation changes with commitments by SEG to reduce impacts to water quality, and expand and maintain the TVA Grassy Creek Habitat Protection Area onto adjacent portions of Parcels 1 and 2.

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

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 Watts Bar Integrated Reservoir Land Management Plan EIS will tier from the Final SMI EIS.

Sale of Boeing Land, Environmental Assessment (USDOE, 2000)

USDOE prepared this EA to evaluate the impacts of selling a narrow strip of former TVA land on the Clinch River to a private developer. Sale of this property reduced the amount of non-TVA owned publicly owned shoreline and changed it to shoreline available for residential access.

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Kingston Fossil Plant Alternative Coal Receiving Systems (TVA, 1999)

In a Record of Decision dated March 10, 1997, TVA decided to implement an alternative from the 1997 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Kingston Fossil Plant (KIF) Alternative Coal Receiving system which would reduce coal transportation costs by the construction of a new railroad spur from Harriman, Tennessee to KIF. This alternative would cross the Emory River and several streams and impact the Swan Pond area of Roane County including both private and TVA lands. Prior to implementation and construction of the alternative, TVA decided to implement another proposal providing railroad service to KIF using existing facilities. However, TVA plans to retain the property purchased before cancellation of the railroad spur.

Environmental Assessment, Agricultural Lands Licensing for 1999 through 2003 Crop Years; Fontana, Fort Loudoun, Melton Hill, Tellico and Watts Bar Reservoirs (TVA, 1999)

TVA evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with licensing 74 tracts of TVA land totaling over 1,200 acres to individuals for agricultural use on lands around five TVA reservoirs in east Tennessee and North Carolina. Thirty-four of these tracts totaling 335 acres are on Watts Bar Reservoir, and are part of the TVA lands under consideration in the proposed plan. TVA is currently reassessing the continued licensing of these tracts.

Lower Watts Bar Management Unit Watts Bar Reservoir, Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2000).

TVA completed an EA on possible alternatives for determining the scope and intensity of TVA's resource management activities for the Lower Watts Bar Management Unit (LWBU) and implementing a management plan for the LWBU. The 3,481-acre LWBU is a major component of the TVA land expected to be available for planning on the Watts Bar Reservoir. The LWBU plan will be incorporated into the Watt Bar Integrated Resource Management Plan and modified as appropriate.

Proposed Land Use Allocation Change and Request for a Commercial Recreation License and Section 26a Approval for Whitestone Country Inn, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001)

TVA reviewed the environmental impacts associated with the approval of a request by Whitestone County Inn to change the land use allocation from Wildlife and Forest Management, and historic preservation to Commercial recreation; issue approval under section 26a; and issue a commercial recreation license for a 6 boat slip marina for 0.76 acres of TVA land. Included in the approval conditions is the transfer of 11.47 acres of lakefront and shoreline property to TVA to replace resources degraded by the operation.

Modernization of Turbines at Watts Bar Hydro Plant, Rhea County, Tennessee; Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001)

The environmental impacts attributed to the proposed modernization of the electric generating turbines at the Watts Bar Dam and Hydro Plant were reviewed. Commitments of the action alternative include the stabilization of shoreline on TVA land considered by the current planning process.

Proposed Issuance of Regulations Under Section 26a of the TVA Act for Non-navigable Houseboats, Storage Tanks, Marina Sewage Pump-Out Stations, Wastewater Outfalls and Septic Systems, and Development within Flood Control Storage Zones, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2001)

TVA completed an EA for its issuance of regulations for non-navigable houseboats, storage tanks, marina sewage pump-out stations, wastewater outfalls, septic systems, and development within flood control storage zones of TVA reservoirs. The complete update of the 1971 Section 26a regulations, incorporating the standards for residential development in the SMI EIS and the miscellaneous updates above, became final on September 8, 2003. These regulations comprehensively updated the TVA requirements for development along the shoreline of TVA reservoirs, including Watts Bar. The regulations for marina sewage pump-out stations and holding tanks, fuel storage tanks and handling facilities, and development within the flood control storage zones were new.

Commercial Recreation License and Marina Expansion for Blue Springs Marina, Roane County Tennessee, Environmental Assessment (TVA, 2002)

TVA identified the environmental impacts associated with approving and issuing a license for a request by Blue Springs Marina to expand and operate its marina on Watts Bar Reservoir. The proposal includes the addition of 104 boat slips and improvements to private property, the use of TVA land, and the modifications of the adjacent TWRA boat ramp facility.

Other Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements

Other environmental and permitting agencies, including the EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), USDOE, TDEC, Tennessee SHPO, and TWRA will be sent a copy of the Draft EIS for review.

Delegation of Work Assignments

River System Operations & Environment, Environmental Policy and Planning will have primary responsibility for management of the EIS process and assembly of the Draft EIS, in consultation with Resource Stewardship and the Office of General Counsel. Other TVA groups, including Environmental Research & Technical Services, River Operations, Economic Development, Facilities & Realty Management, and Fossil Power Group, may contribute to the analysis.

Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

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Norris Nielson, ER&TA, Muscle Shoals	Air Quality
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Denny Painter, ED, Nashville	Economic Development/Industrial
Chett Peebles, RS, Knoxville.....	Visual Resources
Ralph Perhac, ED, Nashville	Social Economic Resources
Kim Pilarski, RS, Knoxville	Wetland Resources
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