

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL FOR  
PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL SITE STUDIES, TREE CLEARING, ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING

An integral part of Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) mission is to promote economic development within the TVA service area. TVA provides financial assistance to help bring to market newly/improved sites and facilities within the TVA service area and position communities to compete successfully for new jobs. The Proposed Action is comprised of TVA providing an economic development grant through TVA InvestPrep funds to the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority to assist with completing due diligence studies, remediating a sinkhole, creating a grading plan, grading the site, and designing and constructing a building pad, a roadway, and signage at a 60-acre property. The site of the Proposed Action is located at the intersection of Highway 231 and Johnson Road in Allen County, Kentucky near Scottsville, Kentucky and is comprised of an approximately 60-acre portion, herein referred to as the Project Area, of the Allen Springs Site, the larger 136 acre property.

The primary purpose of the Proposed Action is to enable the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority to improve the marketability of the Allen Springs Site by assisting with the activities outlined above. The Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority will use non-TVA funding for approximately 30 percent of the total cost of the Proposed Action. TVA is proposing to fund approximately 70 percent of the cost of the Proposed Action and would, therefore, partially facilitate the Proposed Action.

The proposal is the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by TVA, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the EA, TVA evaluated potential impacts of the Proposed Action (i.e., the Action Alternative) as well as the alternative of not implementing the action (i.e., the No Action Alternative). Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide TVA InvestPrep funds to the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority to improve the marketability of the Allen Springs Site. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not satisfy its mission of promoting economic development within the TVA service area at this specific site and would not position this specific community to compete successfully for new jobs through the Proposed Action. The Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority could presumably seek alternate funding (if available) to complete the due diligence studies, install signage, develop a grading plan, remediate a sinkhole, and design and construct a roadway a building pad for the Project Area, which would result in similar impacts and benefits of the Action Alternative. If the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority were not able to secure the funding for the actions listed above, the land use at the site would likely remain unchanged, no direct environmental impacts would be anticipated, and the economic benefits associated with the Action Alternative would not be realized.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would provide TVA InvestPrep funds to the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority to support the improvement of the marketability of the Project Area for future use as an industrial park. Implementation of the TVA-funded

activities would disturb approximately 60 acres, including 49.96 acres of open pasture, 0.01 acres of wetlands, 7.44 acres of open grass land, and clearing of approximately 2.74 acres of mixed-deciduous trees. The Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority or its contractors would be expected to implement best management practices (BMPs) and best construction practices, in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations, permits and/or consultations, to minimize or reduce negative potential environmental impacts of the Action Alternative to insignificant levels. These practices would include, but would not be limited to, the installation of sediment and erosion controls (silt fences, sediment traps, etc.); the management of fugitive dust; and the restriction of only allowing work during day time work hours.

TVA has determined that the Proposed Action would have no impact on floodplains, natural and managed areas, land use and prime farmland, public recreation opportunities, archaeological and historical resources, solid and hazardous wastes, Nationwide Rivers Inventory streams, or Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Implementing the Action Alternative would result in minor impacts to air quality and climate change, vegetation, wetlands, water resources and water quality, wildlife, aquatic ecology, threatened and endangered species, visual resources, noise, socioeconomics, transportation resources, and safety.

A December 2018 environmental survey identified one isolated wetland, one intermittent stream, and four ephemeral streams within the Project Area. The sinkhole remediation plan will impact 0.1 acre of non-jurisdictional wetland through the placement of fill material gathered during grading of the site to the desired contours. There is no practical or feasible alternative to the placing of fill within the 0.1 acre of non-jurisdictional wetland as the sinkhole remediation is part of the Proposed Action and all practical measures to avoid wetland areas have been considered. Therefore the Proposed Action would be in compliance with EO 11990. The intermittent stream and three of the four ephemeral streams, flow offsite into an unnamed tributary of Bays Fork, which eventually flow into Barren River and therefore should be considered Waters of the U.S. The remaining ephemeral stream flows offsite and loses bed and bank definition and has no surface water connection to a stream and therefore should be considered an isolated feature. Because impacts to waterbodies cannot be avoided, consultation and permitting with the USACE Louisville District and KDOW would be required prior to initiation of construction.

The December 2018 environmental survey of the Project Area did not identify occurrences of or suitable habitat for federally or state-listed plant and aquatic species. The survey did identify a limited amount of suitable roost habitat (10 potential roost trees) for the federally listed Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat proposed for removal within the Project Area. Trees proposed for removal and aquatic resources to be impacted within the Project Area do provide suitable foraging habitat for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, as well as gray bat.

Removal of suitable bat roost and foraging habitat, as well as other activities (grading, grubbing, burning and woody debris) that may affect Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat and gray bat, were included in a programmatic consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that addresses TVA routine actions and federally listed bats that occur in the TVA region. This consultation was completed in March 2018; therefore, activities associated with the Action Alternative are adequately addressed by the consultation. Implementation of these activities would include avoidance and minimization measures. If removal of suitable roost trees needs to occur outside of winter (i.e., use of Incidental Take) this activity also is covered by the

programmatic consultation with implementation of appropriate best management practices and mitigation.

A December 2018 Phase I cultural resources investigation of the Project Area identified no new or previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties within the Project Area. Accordingly, TVA determined that no archaeological sites or historic properties would be affected by the Action Alternative. In a letter dated March 29, 2019 the Kentucky SHPO concurred with TVA's finding of no effect. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(f) (2), TVA also consulted with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties that may have religious and cultural significance to their tribe and be eligible for the NRHP and no response was received.

Resources that could be cumulatively impacted by the Proposed Action and the future Allen Springs Site are: air quality and climate change, biological resources, visual resources, noise, socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice, and transportation. Cumulative impacts to these resources are anticipated to be minor. Although it would have a somewhat greater impact than the No Action Alternative, the Action Alternative would result in a minimal impact on the environment. Therefore, TVA has determined that cumulative impacts of the Action Alternative would be insignificant.

### **Best Management Practices and Mitigation**

To minimize or reduce the environmental impacts of construction activities associated with the Action Alternative, the Allen County-Scottsville Industrial Development Authority or its contractors would be expected to ensure all construction activities are conducted in compliance with local, state and federal regulations, permitting, and consultation requirements and would be expected to utilize applicable BMPs to minimize impacts during these actions.

Operations involving chemical or fuel storage or resupply and vehicle servicing would be handled outside of riparian areas and in such a manner as to prevent these items from reaching a watercourse. Earthen berms or other effective means would be installed to protect stream channels from direct surface runoff. Servicing of equipment and vehicles would be done with care to avoid leakage, spillage, and subsequent surface or ground water contamination. Oil waste, filters, and other litter would be collected and disposed of properly.

Specific avoidance and conservation measures would be implemented as a part of the Proposed Action to reduce effects to Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and gray bat as identified in the TVA Bat Strategy Project Screening Form. These measures include tracking, documenting and reporting to the USFWS the removal of suitable summer roosting habitat under the Action Alternative. In addition, if removal needs to occur when bats may be present on the landscape (April 1 to November 14), a funding contribution towards bat conservation and recovery efforts would be required.

**Conclusion and Findings**

Based on the findings listed above and the analyses in the EA, we conclude that the Proposed Action of TVA providing funding to complete due diligence studies, remediate a sinkhole, create a grading plan, conduct site grading, and construct a building pad, a road, and signage would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. This finding is dependent on implementation of the mitigation measures described above. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed