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Project Number: 2014-23

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL FOR SITE PREPARATION AT GRENADA
INTERSTATE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK NORTH
GRENADA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to provide a grant to the Grenada County Economic Development District in Mississippi for site preparation of two building pads, extension of sewer lines to the site, construction of industrial grade connector road, and construction of a gravel roadbed for creating future industrial and/or commercial opportunities within the existing Grenada Interstate Business and Technology Park North. The areas to be disturbed by this proposed project are mostly within the TVA-served, largely undeveloped 1,175-acre Grenada Interstate Business and Technology Park North. A portion of the proposed access road improvements, along with most of the sewer line extension, is located outside of this property. The total disturbed area for the project (including entrance road and pads) is estimated to be approximately 33.5 acres. A 22 acre borrow area is located northeast of the site in the industrial park.

Pursuant to the TVA Program Guidelines, TVA provides financial assistance for projects within the TVA area of service for economic development. The multi-year economic development program designed to bring to market new/improved sites and facilities within the TVA area and position communities to compete successfully for new jobs and investment. An industrial or commercial facility at this site could provide long-term economic growth and development opportunities for Northeast Mississippi by creating a more diverse regional economy and stronger economic base.

The potential environmental effects of this proposed action are described in an environmental assessment (EA) which is incorporated by reference.

Alternatives

The subject EA evaluates two alternatives, i.e., the No Action Alternative and the Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not provide the grant. In this event, the County could seek alternative funding from alternative sources for the project, resulting in impacts similar to the Action Alternative. Under the Action Alternative, TVA would provide the grant. The site would be prepared and available for industrial and/or commercial development. The Action Alternative is TVA's preferred alternative.

Impacts Assessment

The construction of the building pads and other infrastructure would not have impacts on groundwater, navigation, unique or important aquatic wildlife habitats, threatened and endangered species, prime or unique farmland, visual resources, wetlands, and wild and scenic rivers. The impacts on floodplains, natural areas and recreation, cultural resources, terrestrial ecology, environmental justice, transportation, noise, air quality, and solid waste, would be minimal and insignificant. The impacts on socioeconomics are considered beneficial but insignificant on a regional basis.

A proposed road to the facility site is located within a floodplain; however, a road is considered to be a repetitive action in the 100-year floodplain under the provisions of Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplains Management. Thus, the proposed action is consistent with EO 11988. No wetlands or permanent streams occur on the site. Thus, the proposed action would not require permitting under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, and complies with EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands). Adoption of the Action Alternative is not expected to cause direct or indirect impacts to any threatened or endangered terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal species or their habitats. Therefore, the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are satisfied.

The proposed project area contains archaeological or cultural resources; however, with avoidance measures in place for site 22GR886, no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with TVA's finding that historic properties would not be affected by TVA's proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are satisfied.

Public and Intergovernmental Review

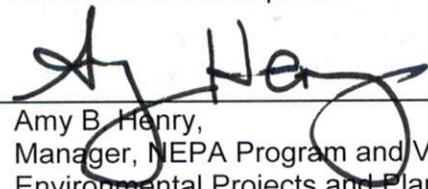
The North Central Planning and Development District solicited reviews of the proposed action by several federal and state agencies when the grant application was transmitted to TVA. Responses were received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). In addition, TVA coordinated its proposed action with MDAH and with federally recognized Indian tribes potentially affected by the proposal.

Mitigation

Best management practices and other routine measures will be implemented during construction activities. Archeological site 22GR886 will be avoided, with a 50 foot buffer, in order to ensure that the site will not be disturbed during construction and operation.

Conclusion and Findings

Based on the findings in the EA, TVA concludes that providing a grant to the Grenada County Economic Development District as described under the Action Alternative will not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.



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Date Signed