



**Public Notice**  
**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)**  
**Division of Water Resources (DWR)**  
**Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft Permit Actions**  
**FILE # NRS23.192**

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The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following proposed permit action and solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on the aquatic environment.

Pursuant to The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, T.C.A. §69-3-108 and Tennessee Rules, Chapter 0400-40-07, the proposed activity described below has been submitted for approval under an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant obtain a water quality certification from the state when a federal permit is required. This notice is intended to inform interested parties of this permit application and draft permit and rationale, and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. At the conclusion of the public notice period a final determination will be made whether to issue or deny the permit.

**PERMIT COORDINATOR**

Nicholas Zemplachenko  
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation  
Division of Water Resources, Natural Resources Unit  
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
[Nicholas.Zemplachenko@tn.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Zemplachenko@tn.gov)

**APPLICANT**

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)  
c/o Kristin Spearman  
1101 Market Street, MR 4G  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

**LOCATION**

From the Watt Road 161-kV switching station (L5289) between structures 35 and 36, extending approximately 5.8 miles east to the new Hardin Valley 161-kV station switching station

Knox and Loudon Counties

Unnamed wetlands, Hickory Creek, misc. tributaries of Melton Hill Reservoir

From approximately 35.866052, -84.251733 to approximately 35.91655, -84.21176

To view the proposed location of these impacts and the watershed condition, visit the Division's Map Viewer at <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwr/> and search on the permit number or coordinates listed in this Public Notice.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PURPOSE**

TVA proposes unavoidable permanent impacts to 0.32 acres of wetland via conversion of forested wetland to emergent wetland habitat, temporary impacts to four streams through access road culvert crossings, and temporary impacts associated with streamside management zone (SMZ) clearing and construction access for a new 5.8-mile transmission line within new 100-foot TVA right-of-way (ROW), the Hardin Valley 161-kV Transmission Line in Knox and Loudon Counties. Wetland mitigation will be provided by purchase of 0.36 wetland mitigation credits from the Tennessee Wildlife Federation In-Lieu Fee Program.

## **ANTIDEGRADATION**

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 0400-40-03-.06):

For impacts to stream S001, the Division has made the preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in no more than de minimis degradation of waters with available parameters without mitigation and will not result in an appreciable permanent loss of resource value.

For impacts to stream S002, the Division has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in no significant degradation in a waterbody with unavailable parameters for habitat because the proposed activities will not result in an appreciable permanent loss of resource values.

For impacts to stream S003, the Division has made the preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in no more than de minimis degradation of waters with available parameters without mitigation and will not result in an appreciable permanent loss of resource value.

For impacts to stream S004, the Division has made the preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in no more than de minimis degradation of waters with available parameters without mitigation and will not result in an appreciable permanent loss of resource value.

For impacts to wetlands, the Division has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in greater than de minimis degradation of waters with available parameters. Any appreciable permanent loss of resource value associated with the proposed impact is proposed to be offset by sufficient mitigation to result in no overall net loss of resource value. Pursuant to Antidegradation Statement, in waters with available parameters for habitat, an activity that would cause degradation of habitat above the level of *de minimis* will only be authorized if applicant has demonstrated to the Department that there are no practicable alternatives to prevent or lessen degradation associated with the proposed activity and the degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area and will not violate the water quality criteria for uses existing in the receiving waters.

For more information, please reference Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement which is found in Chapter 0400-40-03 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

## **FACTORS CONSIDERED**

In deciding whether to issue or deny this permit, the Division will consider all comments of record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. The division will consider the nature, scale and effects of proposed impacts. The Division will consider practicable alternatives to the alteration, loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impacts to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

## **HOW TO COMMENT**

TDEC is requesting public comment on this proposed permit action. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure appropriate decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the Division. Written comments must be received within **thirty days following distribution of the approved public notice materials** (including signage and newspaper ad). Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced. Send all written comments to the Division's address listed below to the attention of the permit coordinator. You may also comment via email to [water.permits@tn.gov](mailto:water.permits@tn.gov).

After the Division makes a final permit determination, a permit appeal may be filed by the applicant or by any person who participated in the public comment period whose appeal is based on comments given to the Division in writing during the public comment period or in testimony at a formal public hearing. If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Alisha Looper at 615-571-4470 or [alisha.looper@tn.gov](mailto:alisha.looper@tn.gov).

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Alisha Looper al 615-571-4470 o [alisha.looper@tn.gov](mailto:alisha.looper@tn.gov).

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Interested persons may request in writing that the Division hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be received by the Division within the comment period, indicate the interest of the party requesting it, the reason(s) a hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the Division will hold a public hearing in accordance with 0400-40-07-.04(4) (f). Send all public hearing requests to the attention of the permit coordinator at the address listed below or via email to [water.permits@tn.gov](mailto:water.permits@tn.gov). Any scheduled public hearings will be advertised through a similar public notice process.

## **FILE REVIEW**

The permit application, supporting documentation, including detailed plans and maps, draft permit and rationale, and related comments are available for review on the internet at the Division's data viewer at [Report on Permits \(tn.gov\)](#) by entering the permit file number listed in the title of this Public Notice. The file may be viewed and copied at the address listed below.

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