

recommendations for the Associate Commissioner for Research, Evaluation and Statistics:

Use of Data for Statistical Purposes

The request for services should clearly state that the vital status data supplied will be used to support statistical calculations and/or study findings. Furthermore, the request must indicate those situations in which the death data furnished will be used to identify state death records. A request will be disapproved if it proposes to use the vital status data or state death data obtained from the vital status data for administrative, law enforcement or other nonstatistical purposes. The team can suggest that the applicant be given the opportunity to revise the application to eliminate any nonstatistical uses of the vital status data.

Disease Registries

Requests from individuals and or groups working with disease registries will be accepted. (Disease registry is a roster of persons diagnosed and/or treated for a particular disease and maintained for the purpose of morbidity and/or mortality surveillance without any specific hypotheses to be examined.) Registries usually employ a standardized methodology, are subject to informal and sometimes formal controls, and may rely on other methods for follow-up of a majority of the roster. Such registries deserve special considerations. Applicants who propose to submit a roster of names deriving from such a registry should specify the date the registry was founded, the purposes of the registry, the eligibility criteria for including persons in the registry, the provisions for internal and external approval of the registry's quality and methods (including human subject considerations), and the dates of the last documented internal and/or external reviews.

SSA will generally approve these submissions provided the requests give adequate documentation of the registries' activities.

Furthermore, registries will not be required to submit separate applications for each study. Multiple uses of SSA vital status data are permitted, provided that: (1) each study is solely used for statistical purposes in medical and health research, (2) adequate assurances are given confidentiality of the identifying vital status data under the "presumed living" category will be maintained, and (3) vital status data under the "presumed living" category will be kept separate from any administrative records.

Mortality Follow-Up on Non-Disease Cohorts

Most applicants are required to submit separate requests for specific studies. However, some organizations conduct mortality surveillance studies on "non disease" cohorts such as industrial workers, population samples, and members of particular families. Vital status data on such individuals may be used for multiple epidemiological studies. Such organizations, in essence, are maintaining exposure or other non-disease "registries" which facilitate epidemiological studies of groups with particular experiences. Such organizations will not be required to submit separate applications to SSA for each study, although they will be required to describe expected protocols and give specific, current or future examples.

Multiple uses of vital status data obtained from SSA under the "presumed living" category are permitted, provided that (1) each study is used solely for statistical purposes in medical or health research, (2) adequate assurances are given the confidentiality of identifying vital status data under the "presumed living" category will be maintained, and (3) vital status data under the "presumed living" category will be kept separate from any administrative records.

Use of Data by a Third Party

If the applicant indicates that another organization will receive identifying SSA vital status data under the "presumed living" category, that organization must be a party to the original submittal or submit a supporting memorandum. In this supporting documentation, the third party must indicate (1) how they will store data and maintain the confidentiality of data under the "presumed living" category and (2) how and when data under the "presumed living" category will be destroyed.

Final Disposition of Data

The applicant must indicate if, how and when identifiable data under the "presumed living" category furnished in support of a request, will be destroyed. If there is no indication that the identifiable data under the "presumed living" category will be destroyed, then the individual requesting the vital status data must explain, in some detail, why the data needs to be maintained.

E. Repeated Use of the Service

Once an applicant is approved to obtain vital status data for a specific study or project, the approval is valid as

long as there are no major changes in the project. Additional records may be submitted under the approved contract for services. If however, the project specifications change, the applicant must submit a new request for services. The following is a list of possible occurrences which would require the submission of a new request for services:

- The project will be supported by a new organization,
- A new organization will be receiving the vital status data,
- Confidentiality provisions under the "presumed living" category have changed,
- Provisions for disposing of data under the "presumed living" category obtained from this request have changed,
- Vital status data under the "presumed living" category will be used for legal, administrative or other actions which could directly affect particular living individuals or establishments,
- Changes have been made in the project's research objectives.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 96.007, Social Security—Research and Demonstration)

Dated: May 1, 1998.

Jane L. Ross,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 98-22463 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Red Hills Power Project

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority.
ACTION: Issuance of record of decision.

SUMMARY: This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 to 1508) and TVA's procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. TVA has decided to adopt the preferred alternative identified in its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Proposed Purchase of Electricity Generated by the Red Hills Power Project (RHPP). The Final EIS was made available to the public on July 3, 1998. A notice of Availability of the Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 10, 1998. Under the preferred alternative, TVA would commit to purchase all of the electricity generated by the Red Hills Power Project in Choctaw County, Mississippi. This would result in the construction and operation of a 440-megawatt (MW) lignite-fueled generation facility by Choctaw Generation Limited

Partnership and an adjacent surface lignite mine by Mississippi Lignite Mining Company. TVA would also construct a transmission line connecting the generation facility to the TVA power distribution system; this transmission line would be constructed within Corridor A (the preferred alternative corridor).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles P. Nicholson, NEPA Specialist, Environmental Management, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 8C, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499; telephone (423) 632-3582 or e-mail cpnicholson@tva.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In December 1995, TVA issued its "Energy Vision 2020 Integrated Resource Plan and Final EIS." This document projected demands for electricity in the TVA power service area through the year 2020 and evaluated different ways of meeting these projected increases. Under the load forecast adopted by TVA, the demand for electricity was projected to exceed TVA's 1996 generating capacity of 28,000 MW by 6,250 MW in 2005. TVA plans to meet this demand through a combination of supply-side options, customer service options, and environmental control options. One of the supply-side options is purchasing power from independent power producers. An independent power producer, Tractebel Power, Inc., parent company of Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership, and Phillips Coal Company, parent company (along with The North American Coal Company) of Mississippi Lignite Mining Company, joint venture partners in the RHPP, submitted a proposal to TVA for the sale of the total electric power output from the RHPP.

TVA provided public notice of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on its proposed purchase of power from the RHPP on October 16, 1996. A public meeting on the proposal was held on November 15, 1996. TVA released its draft EIS on February 13, 1998, and held a public meeting to receive comments on the document on March 12, 1998. Comments were received from two federal and four state agencies, two corporations, one university institute, seven representatives of local governments or development corporations, and seven individuals. After considering all comments, TVA revised the EIS appropriately. The Final EIS was distributed to commenting agencies and the public on July 2, 1998.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative methods of meeting TVA's future electrical generation capacity requirements were evaluated in "Energy Vision 2020." One of the selected methods was the purchase of power from independent power producers such as Tractebel. Tiering from "Energy Vision 2020," the RHPP Final EIS evaluates a No Action Alternative and an Action Alternative.

Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not purchase the electricity generated by the RHPP. TVA would also not construct a transmission line connecting the generation facility to the TVA power distribution system. The environmental impacts associated with TVA's purchase of this electrical power would not occur, and TVA would consider other options for meeting its future electrical demands. This would not necessarily preclude eventual development of the generation facility and/or mine, with the electricity sold to another purchaser.

Under the Action Alternative, TVA would commit to purchasing the electricity generated by the RHPP and would construct a transmission line connecting the generation facility to the TVA power distribution system. The generation facility would be built near the town of Ackerman, Choctaw County, Mississippi. It would use two circulating fluidized bed boilers with limestone injection, feeding a single steam turbine with a net output of 440 MW of electricity. The facility would consume about 3 million tons per year of lignite from the adjacent lignite mine. To control sulfur emissions, the lignite would be burned with about 235,000 tons per year of limestone from existing quarries in central Mississippi. Other air emissions would be controlled by use of the circulating fluidized bed boilers, combustion controls, and a fabric filter baghouse. The facility would also be capable of cofiring up to 245,000 tons per year of wood waste. Both limestone and wood waste would be transported to the facility by truck. The generation facility would produce about 677,000 tons per year of ash, which would be trucked from the facility to an adjacent ash management unit.

The generation facility would use a wet mechanical draft cooling tower system. With the anticipated maximum reuse of cooling water, a continuous source of about 6.33 million gallons per day of blowdown makeup water would be required. This would be supplied by three nearby wells pumping water from the Massive Sands of the Tuscaloosa Aquifer System at depths of about 3,000 feet. Blowdown from the cooling tower

would be processed for removal of silica and other dissolved solids and recycled to the cooling system. Reject water from the silica removal process would be used to wet the ash to control dust. There would be no discharges of wastewater from generation facility systems.

The lignite mine would be located between the generation facility and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Mine development would begin in late 1998, and consist of construction of access roads, mine support facilities, a lignite handling facility, temporary stream diversions, a stormwater runoff control pond, and sedimentation control ponds. Overburden removal would begin in 1999 and actual lignite mining operations would begin in 2000, concurrent with the completion of the generation facility.

Mining would begin near the generation facility, progress towards the northwest, and disturb about 110 acres per year. Over the 30-year life of the mine, about 4,700 acres would be disturbed, 1,400 acres by mine development activities and 3,300 by lignite removal operations. Lignite would be mined from six seams. Overburden would be removed by a combination of electric or diesel-powered shovels, trucks, dozers, and a dragline. Lignite would be loaded by front-end loaders and hydraulic backhoes, and transported from the mine pit to the lignite handling facility by high capacity dump trucks. The lignite would be crushed at the lignite handling facility and transported by conveyor to the generation facility.

Reclamation would be concurrent with mining. Following removal of the final lignite seam, the mine pit would be filled with overburden spoil from the adjacent active mine pit. Spoil would be regraded to approximate the original contours and drainage patterns. A topsoil substitute consisting of selected, oxidized overburden materials would then be spread over the graded mine spoil. Soil amendments would be added as necessary. A cover crop would be planted or mulch spread over the area being reclaimed. The plant species used in establishing the permanent vegetative cover would vary with the postmining land use, which would be dependent on premining land use and surface landowner preferences. Most of the mined areas would likely be reclaimed as commercial forest planted with loblolly pine.

Two potential routes for the transmission line connecting the generation facility to the TVA power distribution system were evaluated, Corridor A and Corridor B. Corridor A

is 10.3 miles long. About 5.4 miles of Corridor A would parallel an existing transmission line; the remainder would be on new right-of-way. Corridor B is 10.9 miles long and all on new right-of-way. The cleared right-of-way for each corridor would vary from 100 to 175 ft wide. The transmission line would be a double-circuit, 161-kV line using steel double pole structures with horizontal cross arms. TVA would also expand the switchyard facilities at its Sturgis substation to accommodate the new line.

Choctaw County and the state of Mississippi plan to develop the Red Hills EcoPlex industrial park near the generation facility. Targeted industries would use steam and other generation facility byproducts. Initial EcoPlex development would occupy about 500 acres and, when fully occupied, about 1,000 acres would be developed. The Final EIS describes cumulative impacts of EcoPlex development and operation, which are not TVA actions.

Decision

TVA has decided to purchase the electricity generated by the RHPP, and to construct the associated transmission line within Corridor A. Purchasing power from the RHPP will help TVA meet the demand for electricity in its service area and maintain reliable service to its customers. TVA's actions were identified as both the Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Because the No Action Alternative would make the construction and operation of the generation facility, lignite mine, and transmission line less likely, it could be characterized as the environmentally preferable alternative. It would not, however, accomplish TVA's goal of securing additional electrical generation capacity, and would not provide the significant local socioeconomic benefits forecast under the Action Alternative. TVA would have to choose another source of electrical generation capacity. Other potential sources, described in "Energy Vision 2020," would result in their own impacts which would likely be equal to or less than those resulting from the Action Alternative. However, none of these other generation alternatives would produce the local socioeconomic benefits that would result from the RHPP.

Environmental Consequences and Commitments

TVA, Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership, and Mississippi Lignite

Mining Company have adopted many mitigation measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm. TVA has adopted the following mitigation measures pertaining to its construction and operation of the transmission line:

- All construction and maintenance activities will utilize applicable Best Management Practices. Construction activities will also adhere to the Right-of-Way Clearing Specifications and Environmental Quality Protection Specifications for Transmission Line Construction listed in Appendix B-2 of the Final EIS. These list requirements for protecting sensitive areas, water and air quality, reducing noise, and disposing of wastes.
 - Wetlands will be avoided to the extent practicable. Identified wetlands, streams, and drainage ways will not be modified so as to alter their natural hydrological patterns during transmission line clearing, construction, and maintenance. Hydric soils will not be disturbed or modified in any way that would alter their hydrological properties.
 - Initial right-of-way clearing within forested wetlands will be accomplished using accepted silvicultural practices for timber/vegetation harvesting within wetlands.
 - Within streams, riparian zones, and wetlands, trees will be above ground level and stumps will not be uprooted or removed.
 - Transmission line maintenance using mechanical means in areas surrounding or adjacent to identified wetlands will only be conducted during seasonal dry periods, usually late summer or early fall, and will be accomplished without the use of heavy equipment.
 - Potential impacts to the two historic properties will be minimized by maintaining existing trees between the churches and the transmission line, and by placing transmission line poles in locations where they will not be visible from the properties.
 - Any herbicide applications would be by licensed personnel and use EPA-registered herbicides.
- Many mitigation measures are required as conditions of permits issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These include the following:
- Air emissions will comply with limits set in the PSD permit to be issued by MDEQ.
 - During all construction activities and mine operations, open burning will only be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations and Mississippi Forestry Commission guidelines.

Fugitive dust will also be controlled as necessary.

- Best Management Practices for silt control will be utilized during all construction activities and during mine operations. These practices include use of filter fabric fences, hay bale dikes, sedimentation ponds and revegetation.
- Discharges to surface waters will comply with limits set in NPDES permits to be issued by MDEQ. Stormwater will be managed in accordance with Storm Water Pollution Prevention plans and accidental spills will be managed in accordance with Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plans.
- Well operations will comply with MDEQ water supply permit limitations. Alternative water supplies will be provided to residents whose supplies are disrupted by project operations.
- Streams impacted by mining will be restored to their premining locations and approximate drainage patterns. Streambanks will be revegetated and approximate premining drainage patterns will be restored.
- Special handling techniques will be used for unoxidized mine overburden containing acid-or toxic-forming materials. Anoxic limestone drains or other techniques will be used to neutralize acidic seeps if they appear following mine reclamation.
- Liquid fuels, oils, and other chemicals will be stored in curbed or diked areas. Pollution Prevention Plans will be implemented.
- The generation facility and mine will register with EPA as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators or Small Quantity Generators. Hazardous wastes will be managed in accordance with applicable RCRA regulations.
- The ash management facility will be built and operated in accordance with conditions of the MDEQ Special/Industrial Solid Waste Permit.
- Wetlands eliminated by mining activities will be mitigated to a minimum mitigation ratio of 2:1 in compliance with U.S. Corps of Engineers permit requirements. Wetland mitigation for the generation facility will consist of creation of 8.8 acres of wetlands and purchase and preservation of 19 acres of forested wetlands, which also meets Corps requirements. All wetland mitigation for mining activities will occur on the mine site or elsewhere in affected watersheds. Only native plant species will be used in creating or restoring wetlands. All wetland mitigation projects will include multi-year monitoring plans and success determination criteria.

- Backfilling and grading of mined areas will be contemporaneous with mining.
 - Mined areas will be reclaimed to have a soil productivity at least as high as existed before mining.
 - Native plant species, in combination with approved introduced species, will be used in establishing permanent vegetative cover during mine reclamation. The survival of permanent plantings will be monitored for at least five years and additional plantings made as necessary to meet reclamation requirements.
 - Hardwood trees will be planted in buffer strips at least 50 feet wide on each side of reclaimed streams. Mast and fruit-bearing trees and shrubs will be planted in clumps throughout the reclaimed mine area.
 - Except for the populations of swamp hickory and pin oak, the populations of state-listed plants within the mine area will be either avoided or transplanted to protected areas.
 - The cactus community and spring-head seepage area located near the northwest corner of the mine will either be avoided or mitigated by transplantation or other means.
 - Mining impacts to historic and archaeological resources will be mitigated in accordance with the June, 1998 Memorandum of Understanding among the Mississippi Lignite Mining Company, MDEQ, Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No mining will occur within 100 feet of the Tullos Cemetery.
 - Road closure and relocation plans will be approved by the Choctaw County Board of Supervisors. All public roads will be rebuilt to meet or exceed existing standards in their original locations or more suitable, approved locations. Access by surface landowners to lands not being mined will be maintained throughout mine operations.
- Following are additional mitigation measures which Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership and Mississippi Lignite Mining Company have committed to carrying out, as described in an agreement with TVA:
- No mining construction activities, such as construction of sedimentation ponds, will occur within 500 feet of National Park Service lands, and no lignite removal will occur within 2,000 feet of the Natchez Trace Parkway centerline or within 1,000 feet of the property line around the Little Mountain Overlook.
 - Tree buffers will be maintained or planted around the edge of the generation facility site.

- Lighting techniques designed to reduce impacts to the darkness of the night sky will be used by the generation facility and mine. Replacement "dark sky" lighting equipment will be provided by the generation facility for existing commercial facilities at the entrance to the Jeff Busby developed area.
- Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership and Mississippi Lignite Mining Company will instruct their vendors that the vendors' trucks are not to use the Natchez Trace Parkway when delivering materials and supplies to the RHPP. Employees will be discouraged from commuting on the Parkway.
- Project facilities and operations will be designed to minimize noise levels. Mississippi Lignite Mining Company and the National Park Service will cooperatively monitor noise at Little Mountain Overlook using the L₉₀ noise metric.
- Generation facility and mine employees will receive fire and safety training. Mine employees will receive emergency medical training. Emergency services will be coordinated with local providers.

Dated: August 10, 1998.

William J. Museler,

*Executive Vice President, Transmission/
Power Supply Group.*

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BILLING CODE 8120-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 186/Eurocae Working Group 51; Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast (ADS-B)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee (SC)-186/EUROCAE Working Group (WG)-51 joint meeting to be held September 1-3, 1998, starting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1. The meeting will be held at the Grand Hotel Saltsjobaden in Stockholm, Sweden.

The agenda will include: September 1 (SC-186 Meeting Separately): (1) Chairman's Introductory Remarks/Review of Meeting Agenda; (2) Review and Approval of Minutes of the Previous SC-186 Meeting; (3) Review of the SC-186 Work Plan, Organization, and Objectives. September 2-3 (SC-186 Meeting Jointly with EUROCAE WG-51): (1) Approval of the Agenda; (2) Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Joint SC-186/WG-51

Meeting; (3) WG-51 Activities Report: a. Subgroup-1 Status Report (Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards, Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) 1090); b. Subgroup-2 Status Report (VHF MOPS); (4) RTCA SC-186 Organization; (5) RTCA SC-186 Activities Report: a. WG-1 (Operations and Implementation); b. WG-2 (Separation Assurance); c. WG-3 (1090 MHz MOPS); d. WG-4 (Application Technical Requirements); (6) Clarification of Operational/Technical Rationales behind ADS-B System Requirements; (7) Rationale for UAT MOPS; (8) U.S. ADS-B Programs/Trials; (9) Procedures for Possible SC-186/WG-51 Joint Work; (10) Eurocontrol ADS Program: a. Results from EMERALD Study; b. Update on VDL 4 Program Including a Demonstration; (11) New Business; (12) Date and Place of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 14, 1998.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Monterey County, California

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplement to a final environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Monterey County, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John R. Schultz, Chief, District Operations North, Federal Highway Administration, 980 Ninth Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, California, 95814-2724; telephone: (916) 498-5041.