

New TVA Land Policy

The TVA Board approved a new land policy at their November 30 meeting that protects and preserves all undeveloped public lands managed along reservoirs throughout the Tennessee Valley.

The final policy was approved after receiving more than 5,000 comments from the public, organizations, elected officials and government agencies. Community Relations Committee Chair, Susan Williams, reported that an overwhelming majority of the public comments supported the draft policy, which proposed no residential or retail development on TVA-managed land.

“Our committee worked through the comments from thousands of people and organizations to come up with a fair policy that protects public land while still allowing recreation and industrial development. The new policy reaffirms the usefulness and effectiveness of TVA’s land planning process”, said Williams.

The final land policy was developed after a deliberative process that took into account

advice and views by the Regional Resource Stewardship Council, past public input on land actions and land plans, and comments and resolutions submitted to the Community Relations Committee since August.

Changes in the final policy from the draft policy include:

- Under the draft policy, TVA would limit reservoir lands allocated for industrial use to manufacturing that required water access. The final policy says TVA will give preference for businesses making use of water access, but will also consider other businesses.
- Under the draft policy, TVA would not consider any deed modifications other than for flowage rights. Under the final policy, TVA will consider modifications that would open the land affected to recreational access, or in the case of land already open to the public, continue such access. TVA would also consider deed modifications for industrial use.

In addition to the provision of the policy that allows no residential or retail development, other key policy provisions include:

- TVA will continue to develop reservoir land management plans with substantial public input and approval from the Board.
- TVA will consider leasing and granting easements for commercial recreation or public recreation purposes if the property is allocated for that use in a reservoir land management plan.
- TVA’s non-reservoir property primarily power and commercial properties will continue to be managed as power assets, and decisions regarding disposal will be based on business considerations.

The new policy went into effect immediately upon its passage. The complete text of the policy is available on the TVA website at www.tva.com.

Two States Urged To Work as a Team