

organizations focusing on watershed and water quality issues. Our active involvement in stakeholder driven initiatives is a hallmark of TVA's resource stewardship program. TVA has provided data and technical assistance to States for their use in development of reservoir water quality standards. Specifically, we have provided data to ADEM for its consideration of chlorophyll standards for Pickwick Reservoir. While water quality standards development are a State and EPA function, TVA provides the technical support necessary for development of standards to protect water quality. TVA continues to monitor water quality in its reservoirs and streams and systematically uses these data to target its management efforts. The importance and value of water quality monitoring is clearly understood by TVA.

In other agency comments, the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) concurred that phased compliance is an appropriate strategy, and requested that TVA submit all historic property survey reports to the office for review and comment. In accordance with standard section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, TVA will provide this information to the THC for all properties in Tennessee subject to land disturbance activity. The Alabama Historical Commission agreed with Alternative B provided that a phase II archaeological investigation be conducted for every site potentially eligible for National Register of Historic Places that could be affected by land disturbance activities proposed in the future. TVA will conduct archaeological and historic structure surveys to identify historic properties, and will submit phase II proposals to the Alabama Historical Commission for approval prior to testing for projects in Alabama.

Decision

The TVA Board decided on September 10, 2002, to adopt the Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan as described in Alternative B. TVA believes that Alternative B not only responds to community development and recreational development needs on Pickwick Reservoir, but also recognizes and preserves the aesthetic and sensitive resources which make the reservoir unique. Alternative B sets aside parcels containing sensitive resources and habitats in the sensitive resource protection and natural resource conservation categories. For lands where TVA proposes to consider development proposals, Alternative B adopt commitments that would further minimize the potential for adverse

impacts to the environment. These commitments are listed below, under Environmental Commitments.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Out of the 19,238 planned acres considered under Alternatives B and C, less than one percent (145 acres) are considered for development purposes under Alternative B. Potential adverse impacts can be substantially avoided or minimized through mitigation measures. TVA has therefore concluded that between the two action alternatives (Alternatives B and C), there is no clear environmentally preferable alternative for the Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan. Both B and C are environmentally preferable as compared to the no action alternative (Alternative A). TVA believes that Alternative B helps to meet the multiple objectives of the Pickwick project, and would result in substantially better environmental protection than previous shoreline development practices.

Environmental Commitments

The land plan envisioned in Alternative B advances TVA's commitment to resource stewardship and habitat protection through strong conservation approaches. Environmental protection measures are built into the formulation of Alternative B since the approximately 70 percent of the land is allocated to conservation uses (Zones 3 and 4). Further, the retention by TVA of fee ownership of Zones 5 and 7 lands would ensure appropriate buffers between the developed land and the water. In addition, TVA is adopting the following measures to minimize environmental impacts:

- All soil-disturbing activities, such as dredging, shoreline excavations, *etc.*, on Parcels 26, 36, 41, 61, 66, 67, and 68 would be conducted in a manner to avoid impacts to cultural resources.
- The construction of water use facilities and shorelines alterations within the marked limits of the safety landings and harbors would be prohibited.
- Requests for water use facilities on shoreline immediately upstream and downstream of the safety landings and harbors would continue to be reviewed to ensure that barge tows would have sufficient room to maneuver in and out of the safety landings and harbors without the risk of damaging private property.
- Because caves are extremely fragile and biologically significant, TVA has placed and would continue to maintain protective buffer zones around each of

the known caves on TVA public land on Pickwick Reservoir.

- Wetlands on Parcel 37 would be mitigated by avoiding wetlands areas, including small upland buffers.
- Corridors for water access across Parcel 53 would be designed to avoid impacts to terrestrial habitat and wetlands.
- Requests for the alteration or further development of this parcel would need to include BMPs and maintenance of a 50-foot SMZ to reduce potential impacts.
- Requests for the alteration or development of Parcel 156 would need to include mitigation measures, such as vegetation management plans, use of architecturally compatible styles/colors, and height restrictions to maintain the scenic attractiveness without adversely impacting the scene integrity.

With the implementation of the above environmental protection measures, TVA has determined that adverse environmental impacts of future development proposals on the reservoir would be significantly reduced. These protective measures represent all of the practicable measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm associated with the alternative adopted by the TVA Board.

As TVA implements the Pickwick Reservoir Land Management Plan, the agency will continue to work with all affected interests to promote environmentally sound stewardship of public lands.

Dated: January 10, 2003.

Kathryn J. Jackson,

Executive Vice President, Rivers System Operations & Environment.

[FR Doc. 03-1697 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8120-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Pueblo, CO

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project on Interstate 25 in Pueblo, Colorado, from south of Pueblo Boulevard/State Highway 45 (Milepost 94) to north of U.S. Highway 50/State Highway 47 (Milepost 102).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Horn, Federal Highway