



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Memphis District

ISSUE DATE: 23 April 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: 9 May 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District**

U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 408 Permission Evaluation

TITLE: Section 408 Permission Evaluation for construction of transmission line towers by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Tipton County, TN and Mississippi County, AR.

INTRODUCTION: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent alterations of any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408. TVA requested relocating a portion of the Shelby-Driver 500kV Transmission Line in Tipton County, Tennessee where the line crosses the Mississippi River due to erosion of the riverbank threatening the structural integrity of the existing tower. TVA will install a new river crossing tower on each side of the river. New towers will be approximately 450' tall and on concrete pier foundations. The new river crossing will maintain the same minimum vertical clearances as the existing line (Figure 1).

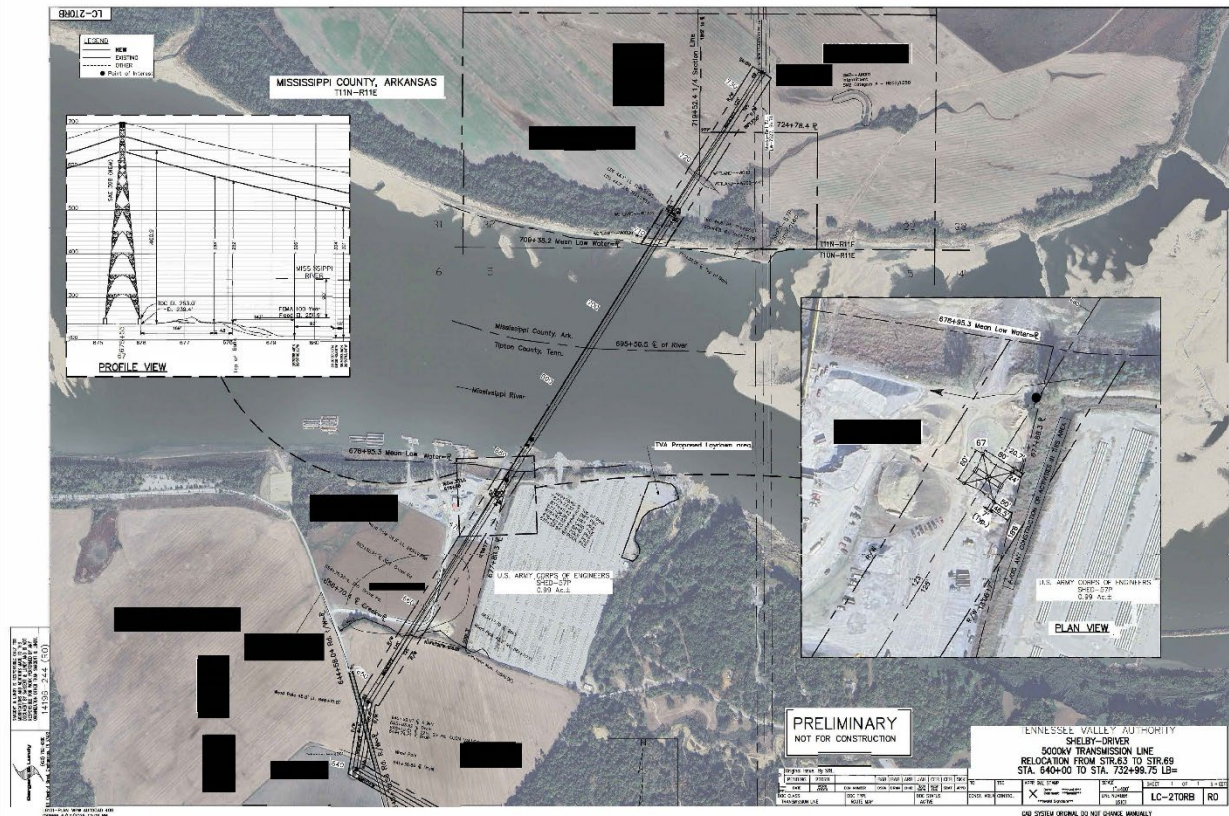


Figure 1. Location of proposed TVA transmission towers and laydown area across the Mississippi River near the Richardson Landing Mat Casting Field in Tipton County, Tennessee.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Section 408 authorizes USACE to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of the project if USACE determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The authorized federal project at this location proposed for alteration is the Mississippi River Channel Improvement project. This project provides for channel improvement to increase the flood carrying capacity and reduce flood heights, to stabilize alignment and prevent bank caving that would destroy the main line levees, and to provide an aligned navigation channel. The Richardson Landing Mat Casting Field facilitates the construction and storage of the associated articulated concrete mattress used to help prevent bank erosion.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE: A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review should be limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted by TVA on the overall proposed activities, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Specific to the footprint of the proposed Section 408 alteration, it was determined to have no effect on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. Additionally, it was determined to not jeopardize

the continued existence of the proposed threatened alligator snapping turtle (*Macrcheilus temminckii*), the proposed threatened Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*), and to may affect but not likely to adversely affect the proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Permyotis subflavus*).

Two cultural resources surveys have been completed just outside the project area:

- A phase 1 archaeological survey of access routes associated with the Shelby-Dell Transmission Line Relocation Project in Mississippi County, AR and Tipton County, TN by Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research in June 2020 for TVA.
- Archaeological investigations at the Richardson's Landing Site (40TP2/13) for the proposed Memphis Regional Megasite Wastewater Outfall, Tipton County, TN by PanAmerican in 2018 for USACE.

The USACE Memphis District Archaeologist determined that the proposed Section 408 alteration would have no potential to cause effect to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. All activities outside the Section 408 boundaries are the responsibility of the lead federal agency, TVA.

The decision on this Section 408 request is being analyzed in accordance with NEPA and is limited to the Section 408 boundaries described herein.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. Comments received within 15 days of this publication would be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources. All comments would be considered in preparing environmental documentation pursuant to NEPA. USACE has jurisdiction under 33 USC 408, only over the specific activities that have the potential to alter existing USACE projects. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the federally authorized civil works project described herein. **Comments may be submitted to robert.w.prebeck@usace.army.mil and should be received by 9 May 2026.**

Sincerely,

Mark R. Smith

Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Division
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