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Mary C. Miner,

Managing Director for Professional and Cultural Exchanges, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Hillsboro Solar Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has decided to adopt the preferred alternative identified in its final environmental impact statement (Final EIS; Document ID EISX–455–00–000–1729685595) for the Hillsboro Solar Project. The Final EIS was made available to the public on June 20, 2025. A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2025 (90 FR 27538). TVA's preferred alternative, analyzed in the Final EIS as the Proposed Action Alternative, consists of TVA executing a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Hillsboro Solar, LLC (Hillsboro Solar), a wholly owned subsidiary of Urban Grid, to purchase power generated by the proposed 200-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility, which would occupy approximately 1,610 acres of a 3,779-acre Project Site, on the north side of U.S. Highway 72 Alternate/State Route 20 between Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama. The facility would connect to TVA's existing adjacent Trinity-Nance 161-kilovolt (kV) transmission line (TL), proposed to be renamed Trinity-Brides Hill (Line [L]5832), that extends east-west through the Project Site. To interconnect to TVA's existing electrical grid, Hillsboro Solar, LLC would build a new on-site Hillsboro III Solar, AL 161-kV substation. This alternative would achieve the purpose and need of the Project to meet the demand for increased energy generation established in TVA's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Smith, NEPA Project Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11B Knoxville, TN 37902; telephone 865–632–3053; or email *esmith14@tva.gov.* To access and review the Final EIS, this Record of Decision (ROD), and other project documents, go to TVA's website at *https://www.tva.gov/nepa.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is provided in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and TVA's procedures (18 CFR 1318) for implementing NEPA. TVA is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving 10 million people in the Tennessee Valley—an 80,000-square-mile region comprised of Tennessee and parts of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky. TVA receives no taxpayer funding and derives virtually all revenues from the sale of electricity. In addition to operating and investing revenues in its power system, TVA provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee Valley watershed and provides economic development and job creation assistance within the TVA Power Service area.

In June 2019, TVA completed its 2019 IRP and associated EIS. The 2019 IRP identified the various resources that TVA intends to use to meet the energy needs of the TVA region over a 20-year planning period, while achieving TVA's objectives to deliver reliable, low-cost, and cleaner energy with fewer environmental impacts. The 2019 IRP anticipates growth of solar generating capacity in all scenarios analyzed, with most scenarios anticipating 5,000 to 8,000 MW and one anticipating up to 14,000 MW by 2038. The 2019 IRP remains valid and guides future generation planning consistent with least-cost planning principles.

TVA has prepared an EIS pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to execute a PPA with Hillsboro Solar for TVA to purchase power generated by the proposed 200-MW AC solar PV facility, which would occupy approximately 1,610 acres of a 3,779-acre Project Site, on the north side of U.S. Highway 72 Alternate/State Route 20 between Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama.

Alternatives Considered

TVA considered a no action and one action alternative in the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not execute the PPA with Hillsboro Solar to purchase the power generated by the Hillsboro Solar Project. Under the No Action Alternative, Hillsboro Solar would not develop, operate, maintain, and decommission a solar facility at this location, and TVA would meet renewable energy demand by other actions.

Proposed Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, TVA would execute the PPA with Hillsboro Solar, LLC to purchase power generated by the proposed 200-MW AC solar PV facility known as Hillsboro Solar Facility, which would occupy 1,610 acres of a 3,779-acre Project Site, on the north side of U.S. Highway 72 Alternate/State Route 20 between Courtland and Hillsboro, Alabama. The facility would connect to TVA's existing adjacent Trinity-Nance 161-kilovolt (kV) TL, proposed to be renamed Trinity-Brides Hill (Line [L]5832), that extends east-west through the Project Site. Under the PPA, Hillsboro Solar would construct, operate, and maintain Hillsboro Solar Facility for a 20-year period. At the end of the 20-year PPA, Hillsboro Solar would assess whether to cease operations at the solar facility or to replace equipment, if needed, and attempt to enter into a new PPA with TVA or make some other arrangement to sell the power.

Purpose and Need. The purpose and need of the Proposed Action is to provide cost effective renewable energy consistent with the 2019 IRP and in response to customer demand. TVA's preferred alternative for fulfilling its purpose and need is the Proposed Action Alternative, which would generate renewable energy for TVA and its customers with only minor to moderate environmental impacts due to the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and minimization and mitigation efforts. Implementation of the Project would help TVA meet customer-driven energy demands on the TVA system.

Preferred Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in the lowest level of environmental impacts as the impacts associated with construction and operation of the solar facility would not occur. However, the No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the project. Overall, environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action Alternative would be minor to moderate with the implementation of BMPs and minimization and mitigation efforts. The Proposed Action could have minor adverse impacts to geology, soils, water quality, federally listed species, and utilities; minor to moderate adverse impacts to recreation and visual resources; moderate adverse impacts on land use; moderate to large adverse impacts to prime farmland and transportation; minor beneficial impacts