UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

June 21, 2016

Ms. Ashley Farless
NEPA Compliance
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, BR 4A
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37902

Re: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for Ash Impoundment Closure (Part 1- Programmatic NEPA Review); ERP TVA-E09819-00; CEQ No: 20160134

Dear Ms. Farless:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced document in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) is to address the closure of coal combustion residuals (CCR) impoundments at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) coal-fired power plants. Part II of the FPEIS consists of six (6) site specific NEPA reviews and closure plans that involve the following fossil fuel plant facilities: Widows Creek (WCF), John Sevier (JSF), Kinston (KIF), Colbert (COF), Bull Run (BRF), and Allen (ALF). The WCF Plant is located in Alabama and the other 5 facilities are located in Tennessee.

Coal combustion residuals (CCR) are byproducts produced from burning coal and include fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas desulfurization materials. In 2009, the TVA outlined a plan to eliminate wet storage of CCR at its plants and convert all wet fly ash, bottom ash, and gypsum operations to dry storage. The EPA rated the Draft PEIS as 'LO' indicating that we lacked objections to TVA's plans for impoundment closures. The EPA has again reviewed both parts of the FPEIS including the site specific closure plans and concluded that the TVA's responses to the EPA's comments made on the draft document are acceptable. Overall, EPA concurs with the TVA's preferred alternative to close identified facilities in place according to the CCR Rule.

The EPA also encourages the TVA to continue to reach out and involve any nearby communities to these facilities throughout planning and implementing closure of these sites. Please provide a copy of the Record of Decision when it becomes available for our administrative records. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr. Larry O. Gissentanna at (404) 562-8248 or by e-mail at gissentanna.larry@epa.gov of the NEPA Program Office.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Militscher
Chief, NEPA Program Office
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division