

CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were issued to the public on September 15, 2010 and the notice of their availability was published in the *Federal Register* on September 24, 2010. This initiated a 45-day public comment period. At the request of several people interested in commenting on the drafts, the comment period was extended to 52 days and closed on November 15, 2010.

The Draft IRP and EIS were posted on the project website. Printed copies and/or CDs containing electronic files of the documents were mailed to state and federal agencies and to others upon request. Others on the project contact list were mailed or e-mailed notifications of the availability of the documents and instructions on how to submit comments. At their request, many people receiving these notices were mailed either printed copies or CDs of the draft documents.

TVA accepted comments submitted through an electronic comment form on the project website, and by mail and email. During the comment period, TVA held five public meetings (see table below) to describe the project and to accept comments on the Draft IRP and EIS. TVA staff presented an overview of the planning process and draft results. Attendees then had the opportunity to make oral comments and ask questions about the project. A panel of TVA staff responded to the questions. Stakeholders could also participate in the meetings via webinar and TVA responded to comments and questions submitted by webinar participants in the same manner as those from in-person attendees. About 125 people attended these public meetings in person and 43 attended by webinar.

Public Meetings Held in 2010 Following Release of Draft IRP and EIS.

Date	Location
October 5	Bowling Green, KY
October 6	Nashville, TN
October 7	Olive Branch, MS
October 13	Knoxville, TN
October 14	Huntsville, AL

TVA received 501 comment submissions, which included letters, form letters, emails, oral statements, and submissions through the project website. Almost 300 of these comment submissions were one of five different pre-printed postcards distributed by a stakeholder organization. TVA carefully reviewed all comment submissions and identified the specific comments about the IRP and EIS contained in each of them. Specific comments received in different comment submissions that addressed the same issues and concerns were synthesized into comment statements. The result of this analysis and synthesis process is a list of 372 individual comments to which TVA has provided responses in Chapter 2 of this volume. The comments and responses are categorized into 27 different topics. Many of these topics are further categorized into different issues.

The most frequent comment statement commended TVA for undertaking the integrated resource planning process and urged TVA to repeat it at regular, more frequent intervals. The topical areas with the most comments statements were Energy Efficiency and Demand Response, Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Energy.