

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**Data Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations****ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Small Business Administration's intentions to request approval of a new, and/or currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before July 22, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, S.W., Suite 5000, Washington DC 20416. Phone Number: 202-205-6629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: "Application For Small Business Size Determination".

Type of Request: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

Description of Respondents: Small Businesses Requesting an SBA Size Status Determination.

Annual Responses: 4,125.

Annual Burden: 16,500.

Comments: Send all comments regarding this information collection to Joan Bready, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, S.W., Suite 8300 Washington, D.C. 20416. Phone No.: 202-205-7323.

Send comments regarding whether this information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, accuracy of burden estimate, in addition to ways to minimize this estimate, and ways to enhance the quality.

Jacqueline White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-12791 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-M

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program (SSA/Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD))—Match Number 1038****AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.**ACTION:** Notice of Computer Matching Program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act, as amended, this notice announces a computer matching program that SSA plans to conduct with BPD.

DATES: SSA will file a report of the subject matching program with the Committee on Governmental Affairs of

the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The matching program will be effective as indicated below.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may comment on this notice by either telefax to (410) 966-5138 or writing to the Associate Commissioner for Program and Integrity Reviews, 860 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Associate Commissioner for Program and Integrity Reviews as shown above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. General**

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law (Pub. L.) 100-503) amended the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) by establishing the conditions under which computer matching involving the Federal Government could be performed and adding certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. Section 7201 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-508) further amended the Privacy Act regarding protections for such individuals. The Privacy Act, as amended, regulates the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records in a system of records are matched with other Federal, State, or local government records. Among other things, it requires Federal agencies involved in computer matching programs to:

(1) Negotiate written agreements with the other agency or agencies participating in the matching programs;

(2) Obtain the Data Integrity Boards' approval of the match agreements;

(3) Furnish detailed reports about matching programs to Congress and OMB;

(4) Notify applicants and beneficiaries that their records are subject to matching; and

(5) Verify match findings before reducing, suspending, terminating or denying an individual's benefits or payments.

B. SSA Computer Matches Subject to the Privacy Act

We have taken action to ensure that this computer matching program complies with the requirements of the Privacy Act, as amended.

Dated: May 9, 1996.

Shirley S. Chater,

Commissioner of Social Security.

Notice of Computer Matching Program, Social Security Administration (SSA) with the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Public Debt (BPD)— Match Number 1038

A. Participating Agencies

SSA and BPD.

B. Purpose of the Matching Program

The purpose of this matching program is to establish conditions and procedures for BPD disclosure of certain savings bond information useful to SSA in verifying eligibility and payment amount under the supplemental security income (SSI) program provided under title XVI of the Social Security Act (Act) to individuals with income and resources below levels established by law and regulations.

C. Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

Section 1631(e)(1)(B) and (f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(e)(1)(B) and (f)).

D. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match

SSA will provide BPD with a finder file, extracted from SSA's Supplemental Security Income Record System, containing Social Security numbers of individuals who receive SSI payments. This information will be matched with BPD files in BPD's savings bond registration system of records (United States savings-type securities) and a reply file of matched records will be furnished to SSA. Upon receipt of BPD's reply file, SSA will match identifying information from the BPD file with SSA's records to ensure that the data pertain to the relevant SSI recipients.

E. Inclusive Dates of the Match

The matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after a copy of the agreement, as approved by the Data Integrity Boards of both agencies, is sent to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (or later if OMB objects to some or all of the agreement), or 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

[FR Doc. 96-12832 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Altered System of Records and New Routine Use

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Altered system of records and new routine use.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), we are issuing public notice of our intent to alter an existing system of records entitled "Master Representative Payee File (MRPF)." We are proposing to alter the MRPF by expanding the categories of records maintained to include an additional type of record. The proposed alteration will expand the categories of records maintained to include information about persons convicted of statutory violations where a violation was committed in connection with the individual's service as a Social Security representative payee. We also are proposing to establish a new routine use of the information that is maintained in the system. We invite public comment on this publication.

DATES: We filed a report of the proposed altered system and new routine use with the Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, the Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget on May 3, 1996. The proposed alteration will become effective on July 1, 1996, unless we receive comments on or before that date which would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to the SSA Privacy Officer, Social Security Administration, Room 3-A-6 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Comments may be faxed to (410) 966-0869. All comments received will be available for public inspection at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ron Martorana, Social Insurance Specialist, Confidentiality and Disclosure Branch, Office of Disclosure Policy, Social Security Administration, 3-D-1 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, telephone 410-965-1745.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Discussion of the Proposed Alteration—Expansion of Categories of Records Maintained in the MRPF**

The MRPF maintains information that Social Security field offices use when screening applicants to determine suitability as representative payees for Social Security claimants and beneficiaries who are incapable of handling their Social Security benefits and those who are required by law to have payees. The MRPF currently contains records about persons who have been convicted under sections 208 or 1632 of the Social Security Act (the Act), and others whose certification as representative payees SSA has revoked due to misuse of funds paid under Title II or Title XVI of the Act. The past performance of individuals as representative payees is therefore considered material to decisions that are made regarding future appointments. In order to afford better protection for our beneficiaries, we are now proposing that information about convictions of individuals for violations of statutes other than sections 208 and 1632 of the Act be made available to Social Security personnel, when such violations were committed in connection with the individual's service as a Social Security representative payee. We will obtain this information from the SSA, Office of Inspector General (OIG). The OIG will obtain this information as a result of its investigation of alleged payee misuse cases. Accordingly, we are proposing to revise the MRPF to include the following information as a new category of records:

Names and Social Security Numbers (SSNs) or Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) of persons convicted of violations of statutes other than sections 208 and 1632 of the Social Security Act, when such violations were committed in connection with an individual's service as a Social Security representative payee.

II. Proposed Routine Use Disclosure of Data in the System

We are proposing to establish the following new routine use of information maintained in the MRPF system; the new routine use will be #16.

16. Information may be disclosed to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for the administration of that Office's representative payee programs.

We contemplate disclosing information to OPM under this routine use only in situations in which an applicant has filed to serve on behalf of a Social Security beneficiary and also filed to serve for an OPM annuitant. Information maintained in this system

of records about the applicant's qualifications or past performance as a representative payee on behalf of SSA will be disclosed for consideration by OPM in evaluating the suitability of an applicant to serve as representative payee for OPM clients.

III. Compatibility of the Proposed Routine Use

The Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(7) and 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3)) and our disclosure regulation (20 CFR part 401) permit us to disclose data for a routine use, i.e., a use serving a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which we collected the information. Section 401.310 of the regulation permits us to disclose information under a routine use for administering our programs or, under certain circumstances, for use in similar income-maintenance or health-maintenance programs of other agencies.

The proposed routine use will permit SSA to disclose information to OPM when an individual who has applied to serve as a representative payee on behalf of a Social Security beneficiary applies to serve as a representative payee for an OPM annuitant. The relevant OPM program has the same income maintenance purpose as SSA programs and the information to be disclosed is relevant to identical matters in both programs. Thus, the proposed routine use is appropriate and meets the criteria in the Privacy Act and SSA's regulations.

IV. Effect of the Proposed Alteration and Routine Use Disclosure on Individual Privacy Rights

The system will maintain additional information about current and past representative payees and representative payee applicants to ensure that the best applicants are selected as representative payees on behalf of incapable beneficiaries. The MRPF system will identify an individual convicted under a statute other than sections 208 or 1632 of the Act only if the violation was committed in connection with the individual's service as a Social Security representative payee. Disclosing information to OPM about violations related to payee service will result in a more effectively administered pension program. The information that will be disclosed to OPM will assist that agency in enhancing public service and in protecting the property rights of incapable pensioners. Since information will be shared only in tightly controlled situations, we do not believe that the proposed changes to the MRPF will

have any unwarranted effect on individual privacy rights.

V. Minor Revisions

We have made the following minor revisions to the notice of the MRPF system:

- Changed "ORSI" in the system name to "OPBP."
- Changed "Office of Retirement and Survivors Insurance" in the system manager section to "Office of Program Benefits Policy."
- Because SSA is now independent of the Department of Health and Human Services we have assigned a new SSA identification number (OPPEC-005) to the MRPF and added language to the "notification procedure" section of the MRPF notice indicating that HHS regulations governing notification procedures for the system are still in effect at this time.

Dated: May 3, 1996.

Shirley S. Chater,

Commissioner of Social Security.

09-60-0222

SYSTEM NAME:

Master Representative Payee File, SSA/OPBP.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

None.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

The system database will be available by direct electronic access by Social Security field offices (FOs). Addresses of FOs can be found by calling the number listed in local telephone directories under "United States Department of Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration" or under "Social Security Administration." The data base is housed at the: National Computer Center, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

This system maintains information about persons whose certifications as representative payees have been revoked or terminated on or after January 1, 1991; persons who have been convicted of a violation of section 208 or section 1632 of the Social Security Act (the Act); persons who are acting or have acted as representative payees, representative payee applicants who were not selected to serve as representative payees, and beneficiaries/applicants who are being served by representative payees.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Data in this system consist of:

- Names and Social Security Numbers (SSNs) (or employer identification numbers (EINs)) of representative payees whose certifications for payment of benefits as representative payees have been revoked or terminated on or after January 1, 1991, because of misuse of benefits under title II or title XVI of the Act;
- Names and SSNs (or EINs) of all persons convicted of violations of sections 208 or 1632 of the Act;
- Names, addresses, and SSNs (or EINs) of persons convicted of violations of statutes other than sections 208 and 1632 of the Act, when such violations were committed in connection with the individual's service as a Social Security representative payee;
- Names, addresses, and SSNs (or EINs) of representative payees who are receiving benefit payments pursuant to section 205(j) or section 1631(a)(2) of the Act;
- Names, addresses, and SSNs of individuals for whom representative payees are reported to be providing representative payee services under section 205(j) or section 1631(a)(2) of the Act;
- Names, addresses, and SSNs of representative payee applicants who were not selected as representative payees;
- Names, addresses, and SSNs of persons who were terminated as representative payees for reasons other than misuse of benefits paid to them on behalf of beneficiaries/recipients;
- Information on the representative payees' relationship to the beneficiaries/recipients they serve;
- Names, addresses, and EINs of organizations authorized to charge a fee for providing representative payee services;
- Codes which indicate the relationship (other than familial) between the beneficiaries/recipients and the individuals who have custody of the beneficiaries/recipients;
- Dates and reasons for payee terminations (e.g., performance not acceptable, death of payee, beneficiary in direct payment, etc.) and revocations;
- Codes indicating whether representative payee applicants were selected or not selected;
- Dates and reasons representative payee applicants were not selected to serve as payees and dates and reasons for changes of payees (e.g., beneficiary in direct payment, etc.);
- Amount of benefits misused;
- Identification number assigned to the claim on which the misuse occurred;

- Date of the determination of misuse; and
- Information about a felony conviction reported by the representative payee.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Sections 205(a), 205(j) and 1631(a) of the Act.

PURPOSE(S):

Information maintained in this system will assist SSA in the representative payee selection process by enabling Social Security field offices to more carefully screen applicants and to determine their suitability to become representative payees. SSA also will use the data for management information and workload projection purposes and to prepare annual reports to Congress on representative payee activities.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Information may be disclosed for routine uses as indicated below.

1. Information may be disclosed to the Department of Justice (DOJ), to a court or other tribunal, or to another party before such tribunal, when

- (a) SSA, or any component thereof; or
- (b) Any SSA employee in his/her official capacity; or
- (c) Any SSA employee in his/her individual capacity where DOJ (or SSA, where it is authorized to do so) has agreed to represent the employee; or
- (d) The United States or any agency thereof where SSA determines that the litigation is likely to affect SSA or any of its components,

is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation. Disclosure will occur only if SSA determines that the use of such records before the tribunal is relevant and necessary to the litigation, would help in the effective representation of the governmental party, and, in each case, such disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected.

2. Information pertaining to an individual may be disclosed to a Congressional office in response to an inquiry from that office made at the request of the subject of the records.

3. Information may be disclosed to the General Services Administration and the National Archives and Records Administration for the purpose of conducting records management studies under 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906, when such disclosure is not prohibited by Federal law.

4. Information may be disclosed to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Regional Office in the Philippines for

the administration of the Social Security Act in the Philippines through services and facilities of that agency.

5. Information may be disclosed to the Department of State for administration of the Social Security Act in foreign countries through services and facilities of that agency.

6. Information may be disclosed to the Department of Interior for administration of the Social Security Act in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands through services and facilities of that agency.

7. Information may be disclosed to the American Institute in Taiwan for administration of the Social Security Act in Taiwan through services and facilities of that agency.

8. Information may be disclosed to DOJ for:

(a) Investigating and prosecuting violations of the Act to which criminal penalties attach,

(b) Representing the Secretary, and

(c) Investigating issues of fraud or violations of civil rights by officers or employees of SSA.

9. Information about an individual may be disclosed to the Office of the President for responding to an inquiry received from that individual or from a third party acting on that individual's behalf.

10. Information may be disclosed to DVA for the shared administration of that Department's and SSA's representative payee programs.

11. Information may be disclosed to contractors and other Federal Agencies, as necessary, for the purpose of assisting SSA in the efficient administration of its programs. We contemplate disclosing information under this routine use only in situations in which SSA may enter into a contractual or similar agreement to obtain assistance in accomplishing an SSA function relating to this system of records.

12. Information may be disclosed to a third party such as a physician, social worker, or community service worker, who has, or is expected to have, information which is needed to evaluate one or both of the following:

(a) The claimant's capability to manage or direct the management of his/her affairs.

(b) Any case in which disclosure aids investigation of suspected misuse of benefits, abuse or fraud, or is necessary for program integrity, or quality appraisal activities.

13. Information pertaining to the identity of a payee or payee applicant, the fact of the person's application for or service as a payee, and, as necessary, the identity of the beneficiary, may be disclosed to a third party where

necessary to obtain information on employment, sources of income, criminal justice records, stability of residence and other information relating to the qualifications and suitability of representative payees or representative payee applicants to serve as representative payees or their use of the benefits paid to them under section 205(j) or section 1631(a) of the Act.

14. Information pertaining to the address of a representative payee applicant or a selected representative payee may be disclosed to a claimant or other individual authorized to act on his/her behalf when this information is needed to pursue a claim for recovery of misapplied or misused benefits.

15. Information may be disclosed to the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) for the administration of RRB's representative payment program.

16. Information may be disclosed to the Office of Personnel Management for the administration of that Office's representative payee programs.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Records will be stored in magnetic media (e.g., magnetic tape and disc).

RETRIEVABILITY:

Data are retrieved from the system by the name, SSN or EIN, and the ZIP code (in a situation where the representative payee is an institution) of the representative payee, or the name or SSN of the beneficiary/recipient.

SAFEGUARDS:

For computerized records electronically transmitted between Central Office and Field Office locations (including organizations administering SSA programs under contractual agreements), safeguards include a lock/unlock password system, exclusive use of leased telephone lines, a terminal-oriented transaction matrix, and an audit trail. All microfilm and paper files are accessible only by authorized personnel who have a need for the information in performing their official duties. Magnetic tapes are in secured storage areas accessible only to authorized personnel.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

The magnetic media are updated periodically. Out-of-date tapes are erased.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND

ADDRESSES:

Associate Commissioner, Office of Program Benefits Policy, Room 760

Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

An individual can determine if this system contains data about him/her by writing to the system manager at the address shown above and providing his/her name, address and SSN or EIN. An individual requesting notification via mail must submit sufficient evidence (i.e., the individual's notarized signature or a signed statement that he/she is the individual to whom the record pertains and that he/she understands that there are criminal penalties for making a knowing and willful request for access to records concerning another individual under false pretenses) to establish identity. An individual requesting notification of data in person need not furnish any special documents of identity. Documents he/she would normally carry on his/her person would be sufficient (e.g., credit cards, driver's license, or voter registration card). An individual requesting notification via telephone must furnish a minimum of his/her name, SSN or EIN, date of birth and address in order to establish identity.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Same as notification procedures above. Also, a requester should reasonably identify and specify the information he/she is attempting to obtain. These procedures are in accordance with HHS Regulations 45 CFR part 5b.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as notification procedures above. Also, an individual contesting records in the system should identify the record, specify the information he/she is contesting, state the corrective action sought, and the reasons for the correction with supporting justification showing how the record is incomplete, untimely, inaccurate, or irrelevant.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Data in this system are obtained from representative payee applicants and representative payees, the SSA Office of Inspector General, and other SSA systems of records (e.g., Claims Folder System (09-60-0089), Master Beneficiary Record (09-60-0090), Supplemental Security Income Record (09-60-0103), Master Files of SSN Holders (09-60-0058), Recovery, Accounting for Overpayments (09-60-0094)).

SYSTEMS EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

[FR Doc. 96-12712 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**Office of the Secretary****[Public Notice 2393; Delegation of Authority No. 145-13]****Delegation of Authority**

Pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act as amended (22 U.S.C. 2778 *et seq.*); section 504 and 508 of the FREEDOM Support Act (Public Law 102-511); Executive Order 11958, January 18, 1977, 42 FR 4311, as amended; the President's Memorandum Delegation of Authority dated April 21, 1994; and Section 1(a)(4) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act, as amended, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 145 of February 4, 1990, 45 FR 11655, as amended, is further amended as follows:

(a) Section 1(a)(3) is amended:

(1) by striking the word "and" at the end of subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting in lieu thereof: "; and"; and

(3) by adding the following new subparagraph:

(D) Section 1324(a) of Title XIII of the Defense Authorization Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-106).

(b) Section 1(a)(8) is amended by striking "The functions specified in section 504 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801)" and inserting in lieu thereof: "The functions specified in sections 504 and 508 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801 *et seq.*)".

This delegation of authority shall be published in the Federal Register.

Dated: May 16, 1996.

Warren Christopher,
Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 96-12875 Filed 5-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-M

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**Chickamauga Dam—Navigation Lock Project****AGENCY:** Tennessee Valley Authority.**ACTION:** Issuance of record of decision.

SUMMARY: This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations and with TVA's procedures implementing

the National Environmental Policy Act. TVA has decided to adopt the preferred alternative identified in TVA's final environmental impact statement (EIS) made available to the public on March 26, 1996. A Notice of Availability of the final EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 5, 1996 (61 FR 15252). The preferred alternative is to construct a new 110 x 600 foot lock to replace the existing lock at Chickamauga Dam. Because of structural problems and safety concerns caused by concrete growth, the existing lock at Chickamauga Dam has a limited life expectancy, at most 10 years. TVA will continue to monitor the existing lock and make the necessary repairs to keep the lock in operation until the new lock is available for service. Design and construction of the new lock, subject to available funding, are expected to begin five years prior to closure of the existing lock. This will allow the new lock to be operational before the existing lock is closed, thereby maintaining navigation on the upper Tennessee River.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

W. Gary Brock, Manager, Water Resources Projects and Planning, Tennessee Valley Authority, West Tower 10C-432, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, or by calling (423) 632-8877.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tennessee River is formed at the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers near Knoxville in eastern Tennessee. From this confluence, the river flows 652 miles through Tennessee, northern Alabama, northeastern Mississippi, and western Kentucky to enter the Ohio River near Paducah, Kentucky. Along most of its course, the river falls gradually for a total of 515 feet except in the Muscle Shoals, Alabama, area where a drop of 100 feet occurs in less than 20 miles.

The existing navigation system on the Tennessee River consists of nine multipurpose dams and lock projects with a total of 13 navigation locks. The system creates a series of navigation pools that provide a nine foot navigable channel along the entire length of the river except for a three mile stretch at Knoxville where, in periods of low water, the depth diminishes to seven feet and the channel width diminishes to about 200 feet. Navigation locks on the Tennessee River range in size from 110 x 1000 foot lock at Pickwick Dam to 60 x 300 foot double lift auxiliary lock at Wilson Dam.

The upper Tennessee River navigation system begins at Chickamauga Dam, river mile 471, and extends 181 upstream to the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers. The

system consists of four navigation locks located at Chickamauga, Watts Bar, Fort Loudoun, and Melton Hill dams. The four locks were constructed in 1937, 1941, 1942 and 1963 respectively. The predominant commodities trafficked on the upper Tennessee River system are asphalt, grains, ores and minerals, and forest products.

TVA's Chickamauga Dam and Navigation Lock Project is located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, approximately 13 miles northeast of downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Chickamauga Lock currently has a traffic level of about 2.1 million tons per year.

TVA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began studying navigation problems on the upper Tennessee River in 1987. The study results were published in 1988 by the Nashville District of the USACE in a report entitled, Commodity Traffic and Benefit Study for Navigation Improvements on the Upper Tennessee River. Both agencies agreed that the small and aging locks on the upper Tennessee River—Chickamauga, Watts Bar, Fort Loudoun—were constraints to navigation and that concrete growth at Chickamauga lock threatened its continued operation. Concrete growth was not a problem at Watts Bar and Fort Loudoun because of the type of cement and aggregate used to construct the projects.

The 1988 study examined the feasibility of increasing the existing locks to 110 x 600 foot size in order to bring the upper Tennessee navigation locks into conformance with locks below Chickamauga on the lower Tennessee River. The study concluded, however, that the benefits would not justify the cost of three new locks on the upper Tennessee River, and that TVA transportation planners should concentrate on improvements at Chickamauga and Watts Bar Locks.

The results of the study of lock improvement benefits at Chickamauga and Watts Bar Dams were presented in a USACE report entitled Upper Tennessee River Navigation Improvement Study Navigation System Analysis (1993) which was produced under contract for TVA. The focus of this study was to estimate benefits that would accrue from a new 110 x 600 foot lock at Chickamauga which would be constructed before the existing lock was closed for an 18 month rehabilitation. At that time, engineering data indicated that the lock could be rehabilitated to function as an auxiliary lock. The study concluded that if any capacity constraints occurred at Watts Bar Lock, nonstructural measures could be used to