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Shoreline Construction

Want to build a dock for your lake house? Want to build a marina? Whether your proposed project is as simple as a little boat slip or something as large as a barge terminal, you'll need to apply for permission per Section 26a of the TVA Act.

Section 26a requires that approval be obtained before any construction activities are carried out that may affect in any way TVA's management of the Tennessee River watershed—including its reservoirs and tributaries.



TVA reviews more approximately 2,000 construction proposals each year to ensure that shoreline construction activities are compatible with all aspects of TVA's integrated management of the river system, including flood control, land use, recreation, power generation and water quality management.

Most docks, piers, boat slips or boathouses, decks and shoreline and stream bank stabilization efforts are considered [minor construction projects](#). Commercial marinas, community docks, barge terminals, utility crossings, bridges, culverts, roads, wastewater discharges, municipal or industrial water intakes, sewage outfalls and dredging are examples of [major construction projects](#).

You may also need additional permits from your state's office of water quality (see links at right) and/or the [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#) (USACE). TVA and the USACE have a joint application form for your convenience. You can access that form on the [How to Apply](#) page.

If you need a permit from your state's water quality office, TVA may not be able to issue your 26a permit until you receive your water quality permit or a waiver. Please contact your state's water quality office early in the process to minimize delays in receiving your 26a permit. You may also call your [regional TVA watershed office](#) for more information.

No matter how large or small your project, applying for a 26a permit online is easy. [Here's how to get started now](#). For further information, see [Shoreline Construction Frequently Asked Questions](#). Not interested in applying online? [You can apply by mail, too](#).

NOTE: Permit approvals for construction under Section 26a are considered federal actions and are therefore subject to the requirements of the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) and other federal laws.

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[How to Apply for a 26a Permit](#)

[Shoreline Construction Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Minor Construction Projects](#)

[Major Construction Projects](#)

[Downloadable Drawings](#)

[Section 26a Jurisdiction](#)

[Section 26a Regulations](#)

[Apply Online: Get Started Now](#)

Contact Us

For more information or clarification, email us at plic@tva.gov, call us at (800) 882-5263 or contact your [local regional watershed office](#).

Floating Houses Initiative

TVA has initiated an environmental review of floating houses and non-navigable houseboats mooring on TVA reservoirs out of concern for safety, sanitation, water quality and fair use of public lands and waters.

[Learn more.](#)

State Water Quality Offices

[Alabama Department of Environmental Management](#)

[Georgia Environmental Protection Division](#)

[Kentucky Division of Water](#)


[Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality](#)

[North Carolina Division of Water Quality](#)


[Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation](#)

[Virginia Department of Environmental Quality](#)

[US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

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