

MARTIN RELICENSING MEETING NOTES

PME CONFERENCE CALL

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Draft 02-07-11

ATTENDEES:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>		
Jim Crew	Alabama Power	Nick Nichols	ADCNR (Fisheries)
John Grogan	Alabama Power	Chris Greene	ADCNR (Fisheries)
Angie Anderegg	Alabama Power	Dan Catchings	ADCNR (Fisheries)
Charles Stover	Alabama Power	Ericha Nix	ADCNR (Wildlife)
Jim Lochamy	Alabama Power	Jeff Powell	USFWS
Steve Krotzer	Alabama Power	Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Amanda Fleming	Kleinschmidt

MEETING NOTES:

These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Angie Anderegg welcomed everyone, explained the purpose of the meeting was to follow-up on the discussions of potential protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures for the Martin relicensing from the October 2010 meetings.

Henry Mealing explained that a final list of Martin PM&Es should be complete by the beginning of March 2011 and then he led the discussion through several PM&Es.

Shoreline Modifications

- Alabama Power will include measures in the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to require rip-rap in shoreline modifications and to educate homeowners on the value of leaving shoreline areas in a natural state.
- Nick Nichols asked about the mitigation fund measure discussed in the October 2010 meeting. Alabama Power agreed to discuss this item with Corporate Real Estate (CRE) to determine feasibility. .
- As part of a mitigation fund, Nick suggested considering fines for permit violations, fees for variance on a permit, extra fees for seawalls and shoreline impacts, and compensating property owners for onsite mitigation.
- Nick also requested that the SMP also provide specifications for the installation of rip rap and asked if there was a way to require adding rip rap to existing permits.
- Jim Lochamy stated that CRE was working to develop seawall and rip rap standards for permitting on all Alabama Power owned lakes. These standards will be incorporated into the Martin SMP if they are developed in time.
- Jim Crew explained that permits are currently transferred when the ownership of a property changes. . Only when a new permit is issued or a current permit is significantly changed (significant upgrades, not just maintenance) could new requirements be enforced.
- Ericha Nix also reminded the group about the request to leave a percentage of the shoreline natural to provide for wildlife access to the shoreline areas.

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- Jeff Powell asked for clarification on what restrictions are associated with the “30-ft Control Strip”.

Aquatic Vegetation

- EA currently monitors and will continue to monitor aquatic vegetation on Lake Martin. They plan to expand that monitoring to include aerial surveys every 3 to 5 years (as needed) in the fall. Alabama Power will increase the effort if aquatic vegetation becomes more established as a result of the potential flood control guide curve change.
- Chris Greene asked about monitoring sedimentation on the lake, as sedimentation areas may increase with the potential flood control guide curve change.
- Henry offered that Alabama Power may be able to monitor the current sedimentation areas identified in Study 10 to see if they increase in size with a operation change. This could also include a few areas suggested by the ADCNR.
- Nick mentioned that sedimentation monitoring could also be used to identify the need for periodic lake drawdowns to msl 481.
- Public education on aquatic vegetation could include periodic articles in the Shoreline newsletter and/or Lake Martin Magazine. Alabama Power will continue to use the 1-800-Lakes11 system as a way to report problems on the lake.

Periodic Drawdowns

- Nick pointed out that drawdowns may not be needed on a regularly scheduled basis but rather be triggered by sedimentation or aquatic vegetation problems.
- Jim Crew agreed that there should be some flexibility in the periodic drawdown as long as advance notice is given to property owners.

Recreation Enhancement

- Nick and Chris would like to discuss recreation issues with Damon Abernathy (ADCNR) and talk with Alabama Power about recreation at a later date.

Entrainment

- Stan Cook (ADCNR) and Jim Crew have discussed the potential for Alabama Power to help the ADCNR establish a fishing license plate program.

Striped Bass

- Nick said they received the white paper from Alabama Power regarding Striped Bass Habitat and need more time to review the information. Also, the ADCNR should have the 2010 sampling information from Steve Sammons by the end of February, and would like to consider that information also.
- The group discussed the various environmental factors that play into the amount and changes in striped bass habitat available each year.
- Although the ADCNR recognizes there are several factors affecting striped bass habitat (not only operations), they would like Alabama Power to provide machine hours of turbine operation from 1990 to present.
- John Grogan suggested the ADCNR look at inflows in addition to generation.

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Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RT&E) Species/Section 7

- Although no RT&E species were found in surveys of the Martin Project, Alabama Power has agreed to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) at the request of the USFWS.
- Henry stated that the action area defined in the BA complies with the FERC approved study plans.
- There are currently no active red-cockaded woodpecker cavities (RCWs) within the Project Boundary.
- Alabama Power may include a placeholder for a safe harbor agreement in the BA.

Section 18 Fishway Prescription

- Jeff Powell would like additional information regarding the presence of American eel below Martin Dam which would require sampling.
- USFWS may also want to look into reintroducing species in the Project Area.
- Jeff, Angie, John, Charles, Jim L., and Henry met again on Feb 3rd to discuss Jeff's request for more data in further detail.
- Jeff described the additional field sampling as a PME measure that would gather information on the Tallapoosa River. These surveys would be for several target species – such as American eel.
- Jeff agreed to develop an “Outline” of the PME sampling that would include target species, sampling areas, periods of sampling, etc.
- Alabama Power will review the “Outline” and work with USFWS to develop specifics of the PME measure so that the PME measure can be evaluated in the final license application.

Action Items from the Meeting:

- Alabama Power will have internal discussions (Hydro Generation, EA, and CRE) on the potential for a Shoreline Management Plan “mitigation fund” and permitting requirements.
- Ericha Nix will discuss shoreline wildlife habitat requirements with Gary Moody and schedule a time to discuss PM&E measures with Alabama Power.
- Alabama Power will better describe the 30-ft. Control Strip PM&E in the SMP.
- Alabama Power will include information in the “Lake Drawdown” PME describing how a drawdown year will be determined, based on data & consultation.
- ADCNR will contact Alabama Power at a later date to discuss the Recreation PME measures.
- Jim Crew and Stan Cook will continue to develop the Fishing Tag Program as an “off-license” agreement.

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- Henry will send Chris and Nick the 2007 Striped Bass Mortality Report from Alabama Power.
- Angie will provide information to the ADCNR on the machine hours of turbine operation from 1990 to present.
- Alabama Power and the ADCNR will develop opportunities to inform anglers of the hooking mortality study results.
- Alabama Power and ADCNR will continue discussions on Striped Bass Habitat during the first part of March 2011.
- Alabama Power will distribute a draft BA for the Martin Project to USFWS by April 1, 2011.
- Jeff will provide an “Outline” for the Fish Passage PME to Alabama Power. The group will reconvene to add specifics to the PME measure