

MARTIN RELICENSING MEETING NOTES
PME and WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

Draft 02-07-11

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization		
Jim Crew	Alabama Power	Gary Moody	ADCNR (Wildlife)
John Grogan	Alabama Power	Ericha Nix	ADCNR (Wildlife)
Angie Anderegg	Alabama Power	Chris Greene	ADCNR (Fisheries)
Jim Lochamy	Alabama Power	Shane Boring	Kleinschmidt
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt		

MEETING NOTES:

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

Henry Mealing opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to follow-up on the development of wildlife related Protection Mitigation and Enhancement (PME) measures for the Martin Project. Two areas of discussion include shoreline modifications (Study Report 2 as a basis) and the Wildlife Management Program (Study Report 7 as basis).

Shoreline Modification – Study Plan 2

Henry noted that Alabama Power has proposed to include measures in the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to require rip-rap as part of shoreline modifications and to educate homeowners on the value of leaving shoreline areas in a natural state. ADNCR staff noted that this was not completely consistent with their recommendation. Chief Moody noted that, while rip rap is certainly an improvement over just a seawall in terms of wildlife habitat, they would prefer that no shoreline modification be permitted besides simple access to the water's edge or to a pier (i.e., no permitting of seawalls nor rip rap). He also reiterated the agency's desire that the water/upland interface be left in a natural state and that vegetated buffers be maintained around the reservoir.

Alabama Power staff noted that Lake Martin differs from other reservoir in that, on privately owned lands, the project boundary is limited to areas below the high water mark (491 msl); thus they have no control over the "back property" where buffers would be located. It was noted that the majority of Alabama Power-owned lands are designated as Natural Undeveloped, and thus would have adequate buffers under the proposed SMP. Alabama Power staff reiterated their intent of attempting to educate homeowner regarding the value of leaving shorelines in a natural state (including the establishment of buffers) through the SMP. ADCNR staff agreed that educating back property owners regarding this issue would be valuable but not enough to meet their goals.

In regards to ADCNR's request that neither seawalls nor rip-rap be permitted in shoreline areas below 491 msl, Alabama Power staff noted that they were not certain whether they would be able to fully meet the agency's request; however, they would take it under consideration and discuss the issue with Alabama Power - Corporate Real Estate to see if some level of PME could be developed for this issue.

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Wildlife Management Program

Shane noted that Alabama Power had attempted to integrate all of the recommendations from the October 8, 2010 meeting with ADCNR staff into the WMP document, and that the updated WMP had been sent out in early January 2011 as part of the Preliminary License Proposal package. Shane asked if ADCNR had any comments on the latest version of the WMP.

ADCNR staff noted that the increase in roation age for longleaf pines on the core management area to 80 yrs would be an improvement to the longleaf ecosystem, but recommended a further increase to 100 to 120 years. It was noted that, at 80 years, longleaf are just starting to get to the age where they can be used by red-cockaded woodpeckers as potential cavity trees. Alabama Power staff noted they would discuss the request with their forestry and Corporate Real Estate staff.

ADCNR staff asked if there were specific wildlife management goals for the Secondary Management Area (e.g., managing for a specific species, habitat, etc). Shane noted that relicensing discussions to date have focused simply on the Secondary Area being maintained as a natural undeveloped area for general wildlife habitat and would not be actively managed towards any specific management goals. The small-game/bow-hunting area is located in the Secondary Area, but did not have specific wildlife management goals for it. After some discussion, the group did not identify any specific potential management objectives for the area. It was agreed that Jim Lochamy would coordinate a field visit of the area with Ericha and Jeff Beason (Corporate Real Estate) to determine if specific goals should be established by the ADCNR.

Action Items from the Meeting:

- Alabama Power will have internal discussions regarding ADCNR's request that neither seawalls nor rip-rap be permitted in shoreline areas below 491 msl and develop a final PME for the Final License Application.
- Jim Lochamy will arrange a site visit to the Secondary Management area with Ericha Nix to examine potential for developing specific wildlife management goals for the area.
- Jim Lochamy and Shane Boring will discuss the request for increase in longleaf pine roation age from 80 to 100 - 120 yrs with Jeff Wyatt and Jeff Beason (Alabama Power - Forestry).
- Kleinschmidt will make needed revisions to the Wildlife Management Plan and distribute to ADCNR for final review.