

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
MIG 3 – Project Operations**

**Betty Carol Graham Technology Center
Alexander City, Alabama
October 06, 2008**

Af 10/7/08

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Jim Crew	APC	Andy Sheppard	APC
Angie Segars	APC	Alan Peeples	APC
Walter Ramey	APC	Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt
Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt	Amanda Fleming	Kleinschmidt
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Jesse Cunningham	LM HOBO
John Glasier	Lake Watch	Steve Forehand	LMRA
Dick Bronson	Lake Watch	Nick Nichols	ADCNR
Jimmy Lanier	Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association	Maurice James	Water Resources Consulting LLC
Chris Greene	ADCNR	Larry Tuggle	LMRA
Chuck Franz	Homeowner	James Hathorn	USACE
Jim Lyons	Property Owner	Debbie Nigh	LM HOBO
Charles Walker	LM HOBO	J. Carey Mullican	LM HOBO
George Uhrin	LM HOBO/Lake Watch	Jim Anckersen	LM HOBO/Lake Watch
Chuck Sumner	USACE	David Winsor	LM HOBO
Will Denton	LMRA	Tom Davis	LM HOBO

ACTION ITEMS:

- Give data sets from modeling in PAD to John Glasier. Also provide him with the monthly flow data (1984-2006) mentioned in 12 (a) Attachment A.
- James xxx from the Corp suggested that the Corp would probably recommend using the HEC-ResSim modeling for flood control data. Maurice needs to investigate updates to the modeling to see how to incorporate.
- Send FIMS study to LMRA, Steve Forehand.
- Identify the “worst case” nuisance aquatic vegetation in the area. Check the website <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/parks/> for help with identification (Study Plan 12 (b)).

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

Jim Crew, Alabama Power Company (APC), offered an introduction to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the revised rule curve plan and six new study plans for MIG 3 (which evaluate the rule curve change) and incorporate comments into the plans or answer questions regarding the new study plans. Jim reminded the group that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) deadline for comments on the Pre- Application Document (PAD) is October 13.

Jim briefly recapped the results of the rule curve change deliberations that APC has participated in so far. In the beginning of the Relicensing process, APC proposed executing a rule curve change and then investigating the various impacts of the change. FERC did not support this adaptive management approach and advised APC to study and model possible changes that occur at various rule curve change intervals.

Kelly Schaeffer, Kleinschmidt Associates, informed the group that the three major area of focus for today's study plan discussion were purpose/objectives, resource management goals, and methodology.

Study Plan 12 (a) Lake Martin Rule Curve Change Modeling Analysis

- Kelly explained that this study plan appears in track changes to show the details added to the original plan. There are two components to the rule curve change- duration and lake level.
- John Glasier, Lake Martin Homeowners and Boat Owners (LMHOBO), asked why the study plan suggests that the lake will begin to refill on January 15. This means the lake would only be at winter pool for two weeks and John didn't understand the purpose of this. Jim explained that this study plan was more an attempt to gather and study all suggestions and potential options on both shoulder seasons rather than outline one cohesive plan. John suggested that this would still not be enough time to accomplish goals of winter drawdown (reduce nuisance aquatic vegetation, etc). Andy Sheppard, APC, indicated this two week period may be necessary to reach downstream flow requirements in dry years.
- Jesse Cunningham, LMHOBO, asked if FERC had ever required a utility to study one foot increments. Kelly responded that yes, other studies have engaged in a similar

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process. Although this was not done on the Coosa (which used the ALP licensing process and not the ILP which is used on Martin), it is important to show FERC that APC has investigated several possible scenarios.

- Question: How will Martin Relicensing be affected by the Corp of Engineer's (Corp) new water control manual for the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers? Answer: Jim responded that APC will consult with the Corp before enacting any new operational changes and James xxx from the Corp confirmed that the Corp must look at existing conditions when updating the water control manual for the Coosa and Tallapoosa. The Corp has three years to complete the updates and will only include any new conditions at Martin should the new license be issued before this time.
- Maurice James, Water Resources Consulting LLC, described HEC-ResSim, the modeling software APC will use. It gives more flexibility in scenarios than spreadsheet models APC has used in the past. The model is FERC and Corp approved.
- Kelly explained that the revised plan also included language to address the request of Harris stakeholders. Jim confirmed that APC would decide the best plan for Martin operations first and then include Harris operations in the modeling. Operations at Harris will not change at this point.
- Kelly described the two new levels of modeling review that will be added to the revised study plan. The review will encompass both the methodology and the results of the model.

Study Plan 12 (a) Attachment A Model Methodology

- John asked what FERC means by "equal consideration" to hydro generation and other project purposes. Henry Mealing, Kleinschmidt, responded that each of the other purposes was assessed primarily on the ability to accept risk and/or monitor and treat. Kelly confirmed that "equal consideration" means the utility cannot put all the emphasis on studying project operation and not give other project uses consideration and that it is really up to FERC to weigh and balance each use (APC just provides the information). Henry also suggested that rare, threatened, and endangered Species and water quality are important issues to FERC.
- John also wanted to know how the effects on these other purposes could be viewed without long term study. Jim explained that ultimately there will be a monitoring and adapting period.
- John also wanted to know why the model methodology in this study plan focuses more on seasonal data instead of monthly. Maurice explained that the Corp requested this and that the model will be looking at the entire data set (1939-2006).

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Study Plan 12 (b) Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Sedimentation Rates and Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation

- Question: Did the drought cause a weed problem on the lake? Henry explained the exposed area during the drought probably reduced nuisance aquatic vegetation. Henry also explained that Hydrilla is a problem throughout the Southeast and a change in the winter pool could bring this problem to Martin. Finally, Henry reminded the group to call 1-800-LAKES11 to inform APC of problems with nuisance aquatic vegetation.
- **Add to study: To detect areas of nuisance aquatic vegetation, APC will look at LIDAR data from the lake in 2007, soil data and land use, information from the Aquatic Vegetation Control Group, and APC will also work with agencies to identify possible plants that could create a nuisance.**
- Question: How is the drawdown effected by hurricanes? Andy explained the intent of the drawdown of Lake Martin is i) to use as storage for possible floods ii) augment downstream flow during dry periods. The weather service is more reliable with hurricane predictions, however, coordination with all dams downstream is required to pre-evacuate water in the case of hurricanes from Martin Dam.

12 (c) Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake Martin Water Quality

- Henry suggested that the main goal of this study plan is to determine the probability of better or worse water quality as a result of the rule curve change. There will be a long term monitoring plan to ensure that the predictions are accurate.

12 (d) Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Erosion

- There are two objectives of this study: i) to identify the effect of lake fluctuation on erosion in the Martin tailrace and Tallapoosa River downstream of Thurlow Dam ii) to evaluate potential for increased or decreased erosion at the erosion hotspots identified in MIG 2 Study Plan 3.
- Henry explained that APC has been monitoring erosion sites downstream of Thurlow Dam since 1993. Andy added that lake levels on both Yates and Thurlow fluctuate daily, about 3 to 3.5 feet and 1 foot respectively. Andy also advised that the duration and amount of flooding affect erosion.
- Question: Does wave action at full pool or winter drawdown cause more significant erosion? Henry explained that APC will be looking at what causes erosion during it's studies, however, APC will be focused mainly on erosion in the project boundary. Jesse pointed out

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that it is difficult to look only at the 490 boundary and not at what happens around the boundary. Henry replied that Pam McDaniel, a soil scientist from APC, will lead the study and be able to better make those determinations.

- Question: What is an erosion hotspot area? Henry explained that these will be identified by MIG 2 Study Plan 3. Jim confirmed that this will be identified by APC and stakeholders, he cited Jimmy Lanier as a stakeholder example.

12 (e) Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Federally Threatened and Endangered (R,T and E) Species at the Martin Project and in the Tallapoosa River below Thurlow Dam

- Henry stated that APC, with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), will conduct R,T and E species surveys on the lake and within the project boundaries.
- Jesse asked if APC will be reporting both positive and negative effects of the rule curve change to FERC. Henry replied that yes both would reported.
- Question: Has APC found any R,T and E on project lands so far? Henry stated that the species found so far are Red Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW), however, Steve Krotzer at APC and Jeff Powell at United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) are looking into the possibility of some R, T and E species below Thurlow Dam.
- Question: Is the Cahaba Lily a R, T and E species? Henry explained that the Cahaba Lily was turned down for federal listing but it may be of concern if it is located in project boundaries. Henry added that the Swamp Lily looks very similar to the Cahaba Lily and is more likely to be found within the project boundaries.

12 (f) Effects of Rule Curve Change on Downstream Recreation

- Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt, informed the group that this study's main goal is to determine potential effects of a rule curve change on recreational facilities that are downstream of Martin Dam. He added that a look at the maps show only five or six sites may be effected. Additionally, whitewater opportunities below Thurlow will be investigated. The methodology will be a review of LIDAR data and possibly some site visits. A white paper will be produced from the study.
- Jesse asked if the white paper would be available for the MIG to review it is submitted to FERC. Dave replied that yes it would.

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Study Plan (g) Effects of Raising Winter Pool Level and Increasing the Duration of Summer Pool on Lake Martin Recreation Use and Economic Indicators

- Dave explained that rather than update the Fishery Information Management Study (FIMS), APC has agreed to redo the study. The FIMS study was commissioned, by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) in the 1990s, on six reservoirs in Alabama. Copies of the FIMS report are available through APC.
- The FIMS study estimated recreation use through surveys and questionnaires. The details of methodology has been left vague intentionally as APC has created a Request for Proposals (RFP) in an effort to find a company to conduct the new study and APC will allow the company to determine the best way to conduct the study. There will be four components to the new study, the study will last a year, and sampling should start next May.
- Additionally, the new study will review property and sales tax revenue of the three lake counties in order to assess economic impacts of the lake to the local community.
- There have been several revisions to this study since September 19 and stakeholders should be sure to comment on this most recent version.
- Question: Are the baseline studies still the same? Henry replied that yes, with the exception of removing the rule curve change language.

Jim concluded the meeting by reminding the group that if anyone needed help with FERC eFiling to contact APC and also to let FERC know of items that they approve of as well as those they dislike.

There were a few follow up questions:

- Will APC get another variance from FERC since Alabama is officially still in a drought? Jim explained that FERC approved a variance last year because the lake levels were so low, however, it is unlikely that FERC would approve another variance (without studying downstream consequences) unless lake levels were as low as last year (not simply at winter pool level). The drought committee at APC has discussed applying for a variance if needed.
- Will the updates to the Corp's Water Control Manuals effect the 4640 cfs minimum flow requirements? James xxx said that this has not yet been determined.

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AGENDA

**Martin Project Relicensing
MIG 3 Meeting
October 6, 2008
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- Meeting Purpose: Review the new rule curve change study plans and take comments and address questions.
- 1:00 PM – 1:10 PM Introductions and Meeting Purpose
- 1:10 PM – 1:45 PM Lake Martin Rule Curve Change Modeling Analysis
- 1:45 PM – 2:15 PM Effects of Rule Curve Change on Sedimentation and Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation
- 2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Erosion
- BREAK
- 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM Effects of Rule Curve Change on Water Quality
- 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Effects of Rule Curve Change on T&E Species
- 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Recreation
- 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM Effects of Raising Winter Pool Level and Increasing the Duration of Summer Pool on Lake Martin Recreation Use and Economic Indicators