



November 5, 2010

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Jim Crew  
Relicensing Manager  
Alabama Power Company  
600 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

RE: Martin Dam Relicensing (P-349) Study 14 – Recreation (MIG #5) - DRAFT

Dear Mr. Crew:

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association appreciate the opportunity afforded all stakeholders by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to comment on the proceedings of the Martin Dam Relicensing Process.

All comments will be identified with the applicable paragraph of the draft document.

**Para 2.1 and 3.2** – These sections were not completed by APCo, therefore we must reserve comment on the draft until submitted in draft form by the applicant.

**Para 3.3 – Boat Densities.** The information contained in this paragraph does not reflect the recreational usage of Lake Martin because the data was collected during the summer of 2007, the worst drought recorded in modern history for the whole State. The Lake Martin HOBOS, and others, requested that Alabama Power not use any data collected during 2007 due to the low water levels and APCo agreed, in the presence of FERC officials, we believe. Kleinschmidt personnel had attempted to collect data, but abandoned the effort when boat ramps became unusable.

Now we see Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 showing 2007 boat density data as representative of typical usage by boaters on the lake. The data, as presented, is not an accurate representation of the boat usage on the lake and could prove detrimental to the future of the lake. For example, such inaccurate information could be used to justify draw downs of the lake by downstream interests. **We recommend deleting all references to data collected during 2007.**

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### **Para 5.0 – Recreation Site Improvements and Development**

APCo (Kleinschmidt) representatives met with the Stillwaters Residential Association Board of Directors and Lake Martin HOB0 representatives to discuss SWRA's request for a new public boat ramp close to Highway 49 in Blue Creek. Stillwaters subdivision is the largest development on the lake (approximately 1,800 homes and building sites), yet no boat ramp is available for several miles.

Alabama Power project lands were identified that were suitable for a boat ramp and parking area, and all participants left the meeting with agreement on the site and the need for a ramp. Why is there no mention of this needed recreation facility in paragraph 5.0, either approved or not approved?

**We request the addition of the boat ramp to Recreation Site Development.**

### **Para 5.3 – Management Issues**

The Lake Martin HOB0s filed comments with FERC concerning this Study recommending that Alabama Power institute a plan to clean up the island camp sites on Project Lands. The Renew Our Rivers advertising campaign developed and funded by APCo is not capable of cleaning a lake as large as Martin, especially the islands, which are popular primitive camp grounds. Since APCo removed the trash containers from the ramps, many campers just leave their garbage and trash on the island to pollute project lands and the lake waters. APCo makes no mention of this recommendation in this draft report.

**We recommend that Alabama Power develop a plan to periodically clean the project land islands with APCo or contract personnel.**

**Para 6.0 – Schedule** – This section was blank. Comments will be provided when information is provided by applicant.

We look forward to discussing these matters further.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham  
President  
Lake Martin HOB0s

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