

ORIGINAL



October 27, 2010

Mr. James F. Crew
Re-licensing Project Manager
Alabama Power Company
600 N. 18th Street
Birmingham, AL 35291

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION
2010 NOV -5 P 1:14
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: Project 349-150/Shoreline Management Program (SMP)/Prohibition of Bridges

Dear Jim:

This follows our discussion yesterday at the re-licensing meeting at Children's Harbor.

Lake Watch is on record as having requested that the new license application to FERC include a prohibition of bridges to connect islands to the mainland or to other islands. The issue was raised several times during early stakeholder meetings and was formally requested in our letter dated January 18, 2010. The Lake Martin Home Owners/Boat Owners Association made a similar request.

This is an important issue that must be considered in the same way that causeways are considered. The first goal in the SMP states, "Provide for reasonable public access", and this is one reason for the current prohibition of causeways to islands. So it makes no sense to prohibit causeways to islands while failing to prohibit bridges to islands. Both create access and navigability problems for the public, witness the relatively new bridge to Ridge Island that virtually forces sailboats to risk the Acapulco-Chimney Rock route rather than try to fit their masts under the bridge. In effect, many sailors are denied reasonable access to north-south travel on the lake because of that bridge.

It is the position of Lake Watch that the Shoreline Management Program in the new license application include a specific prohibition of bridges to islands. Further, it is requested that this topic be an agenda item during the MIG 4 & 5 meeting scheduled for November 16, 2010.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Bronson
Richard M. Bronson
President, Lake Watch of Lake Martin

cc: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

