

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
September 10, 2010

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 349-150 - Alabama
Martin Dam Hydroelectric Project
Alabama Power Company

Earl Reeves, Chairman
Elmore County Commission
100 East Commerce Street
Suite 207
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Central Elmore Water Sewer Authority
Attn: Robert J. Morris, Attorney
10365 Holtville Road
P.O. Box 220406
Deatsville, AL 36022

**Reference: Request for Coordination and Meeting with Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission Staff**

Dear Mr. Reeves and Mr. Morris:

On August 10, 2010, you filed letters asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to meet with the Central Elmore Water and Sewer Authority and the Elmore County Commission to discuss the status of and issues related to the relicensing review process for the Martin Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 349 (Martin Dam Project) pursuant to coordination procedures found in the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

Your letters make reference to coordination under FLPMA. FLPMA applies to the Department of Interior's management of federal lands. The Commission's relicensing of the Martin Dam Project is being conducted pursuant to Part I of the Federal Power Act, which is the statute that provides the Commission's authority to regulate non-federal hydroelectric projects. The provisions of FLPMA have no bearing on the Commission's hydroelectric licensing process for the Martin Dam Project, nor is the Commission bound by any specific coordination requirements set forth in FLPMA.

We are unable to attend the meeting requested in your letters. However, we will hold an information session to discuss the relicensing process for the Martin Dam Project, including upcoming opportunities for participating in the pre-filing and post-filing

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application process, at the conclusion of the September 14, 2010 updated study report meeting. We informed all Martin Dam stakeholders of this additional agenda item in our September 9, 2010 letter.

The Commission's licensing process¹ is an open and public process designed to identify and obtain information on the developmental and non-developmental effects of a proposed project. This information helps to inform a comprehensive Commission review of project effects, benefits, and recommendations provided by the Martin Dam Project stakeholders.²

Your letters listed several question regarding the status of resource issues, and alternatives, related to relicensing the Martin Dam Project. At this time, we are unable to answer these questions, because we are still in the pre-filing information gathering phase of our Integrated Licensing Process. No specific environmental measures or alternatives have been identified yet.

There are multiple opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the licensing process. We encourage you to attend Alabama Power's updated study report meeting on September 14, 2010, and avail yourself of the opportunities to provide input and feedback as the process proceeds, as well as any recommendations and alternatives you may have.

We look forward to meeting you at the updated study report meeting. We also look forward to your participation in the licensing process for the Martin Dam Project. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Adams at (202) 502-8087, or via email at: Jennifer.adams@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Ann F. Miles, Director
Division of Hydropower
Licensing

cc: Public Files
Mailing List

¹ You can get a more detailed description of the Commission's licensing process by visiting the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower.asp.

² A stakeholder is any federal, state, and local agency; Indian tribe; nongovernmental organization; and member of the public that is interested in the licensing process.

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