ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

MARTIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC NO. 349

STUDY PLAN 14 – RECREATION PLAN

MARCH 2009

Prepared by:

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1.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) intends to develop and implement a Recreation Plan for the Martin Project that will describe the Project and existing facilities, discuss current and future use estimates and facility inventories, and propose plans for recreational facilities in the future. In addition, the plan will discuss the process of marking hazards in Lake Martin with buoys and the role of the Alabama Marine Police.

2.0 RELEVANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS

FERC requires that each licensee prepare and implement a recreation plan. Alabama Power's Recreation Plan will include an assessment of the physical condition of existing recreation facilities/sites, current and projected future use, the proposed physical improvements for each facility/site, a compilation of ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities, and a tentative schedule for the implementation of the improvements. Because development of the Recreation Plan involves extensive consultation with the agencies and other stakeholders, Alabama Power will review and include in their analysis of recreational use and demand the appropriate state and Federal resource plans.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING INFORMATION

Alabama Power has identified a number of sources of existing information that will be valuable in completing this study plan. These include:

- 2003 & 2009 Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report (FERC Form 80) for the Martin Project.
- Alabama Power Company. 1999. Martin Dam Project (FERC No. 349): Comprehensive Recreation Plan Exhibit R (Revised). Alabama Power Company, Birmingham, AL.
- Allen, D. S., R. S. Jackson, and A. R. Perr. 1996. Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Comprehensive Study: Recreation Demand Element Draft Report. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.
- Bowker, J. M., D. B. K. English, and H. K. Cordell. 1999. Projections of Outdoor Recreation: Projections to 2050. In Outdoor Recreation in American Life: A National Assessment of Demand and Supply Trends, edited by Cordell, H. K., C. J. Betz, J. M. Bowker, D. B. K. English, S. H. Mou, J. C. Bergstrom, R. J. Teasley, M. A. Tarrant and J. Loomis. Sagamore Publishing: Champaign, IL. Pp. 323-350.
- Boyd, T., J. McPherson, J. Murphey, T. Bazley, B. Edwards, M. Hough, and K. Skaar. 2006. Design Handbook for Recreational Boating and Fishing Facilities. Second Edition. States Organization for Boating Access: Warren, RI. 205 pp.

- Fishery Information Management Systems. 1997. Potential Impacts of Water Diversion on Recreational Use and Economic Values Associated with Six Alabama Reservoir Systems, Volume 6: The Martin Reservoir System. ADECA-OWR-97-07. Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Montgomery, AL.
- Kleinschmidt. 2008. Martin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 349): Recreation Use Report. Kleinschmidt Associates, Pittsfield, ME.
- Strickland, Jon. Undated. 2002 - 2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Montgomery, AL.
- Market Facts, Inc. 1996. ACT/ACF 1995 Recreational Boating Survey. Draft Report. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS. 133 pp.
- Murphey, J., D. J. Tobaben, T. B. Bazley, L. E. Nichols, Jr., L. M. Killien, and T. Donek. 1999. Operations and Maintenance Guidelines for Recreational Boating Facilities. States Organization for Boating Access, Washington, D.C. 97 pp.

4.0 PROJECT NEXUS

The nexus to the Project is the FERC project boundary and general project vicinity. While the Recreation Plan will focus on facilities and activities within the project boundary, a general description of the facilities and activities in the Project vicinity will also be included.

5.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

The study area will include Lake Martin, its tributaries, and lands and water within the FERC project boundary for the Martin Project. As noted above, the study area will be expanded to include a general description of the sites and facilities in the project vicinity.

6.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed method for implementing this study would be as follows:

1) Meet with MIG 5 to discuss desired conditions on Lake Martin.
2) Determine existing and potential future use (based on data to be collected in 2009).
3) Determine what enhancement measures are needed and when and who is responsible.
4) Determine the opportunity to provide hunting lands at Martin.
5) Discuss future of the hazard marking program.
6) Develop Draft Recreation Plan.
7) Develop Final Recreation Plan.

The following information was requested by FERC in order to provide additional details about the recreation plan process.

The MIG 5 will use a Proposed Recreation Plan Development Process in order to stay on task during the implementation of this study plan. The Process (See Figure 6-1) is designed to keep the MIG 5 on track for development of the Recreation Plan. It has four distinct steps to accomplish this and uses a Process Form (Appendix A) that will be used to track information generated by the MIG 5. The steps in the Process are: 1) Determine Desired Future Condition, 2) Establish Baseline Conditions, 3) Determine What Is Needed and When, and 4) Decide How Needs Will Be Met and Who is Responsible. Each of these steps are further described below.

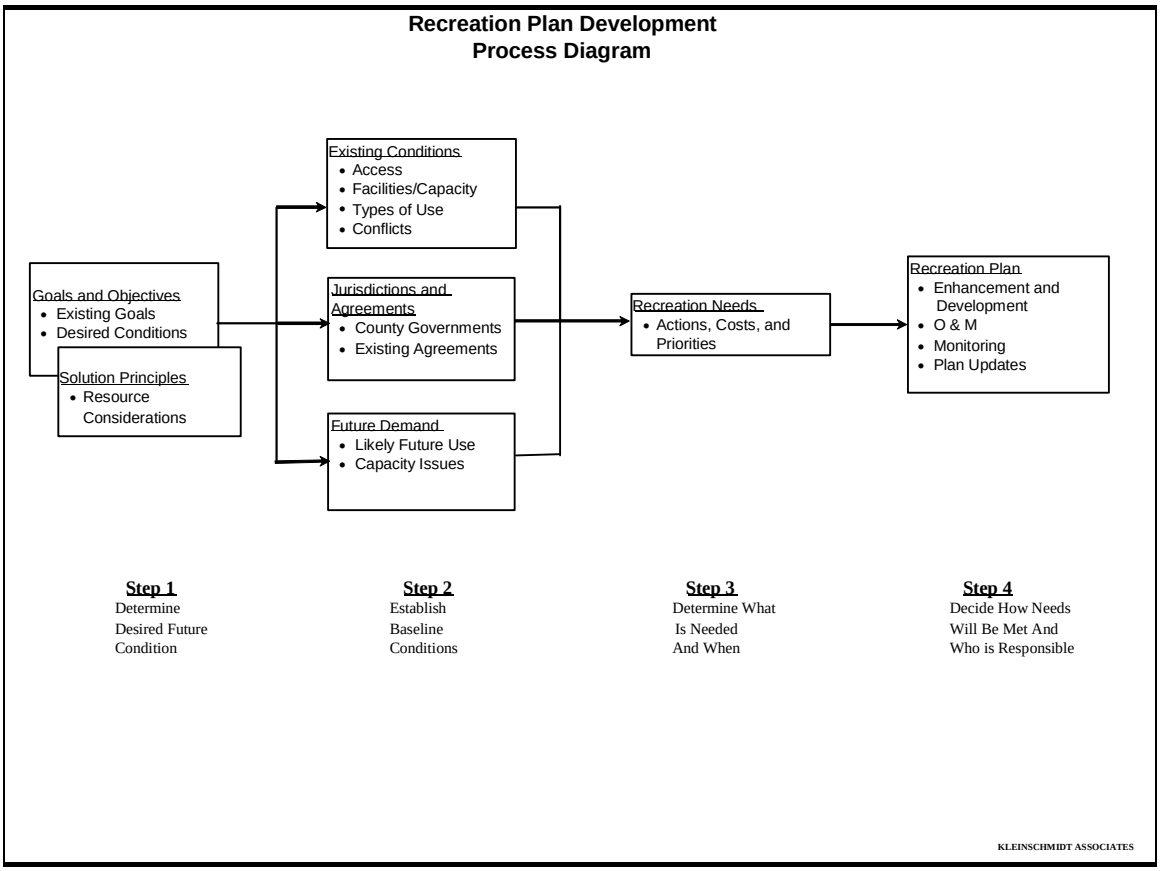

Figure 6-1: Proposed Process for the Development of a Recreation Plan for the Martin Project

Step 1 (Determine Desired Future Condition) consists of the development of a Vision Statement for the Martin Project. This Vision Statement will be concerned with stakeholder values related to public recreation at the Martin Project, taking into consideration other resources (e.g., fish and wildlife) as necessary. This step also involves consultation on a set of Solution Principles. These Solution Principles will guide the types of recreation improvements that will be considered and provide a set of guidelines for consideration of future recreation sites. Alabama Power envisions holding MIG 5 meetings as necessary to accomplish this step.

Step 2 (Establish Baseline Conditions) provides the opportunity for all stakeholders to review existing recreation sites and amenities at the Martin Project. An inventory of recreation sites has already been completed (Kleinschmidt, 2008) and will be made available for stakeholders to examine. The inventory will be augmented with information concerning minimum lake levels at which boat ramps are usable and the site's relation to the project boundary. This same study also provides an estimate of use of recreation sites and identifies those sites that are at capacity or over capacity. Alabama Power envisions holding MIG 5 meetings as necessary to accomplish this task.

Step 3 (Determine What Is Needed and When) will build on the results of the first two steps to identify development of additional recreation sites and upgrades to existing sites at the Martin Project. MIG 5 members will submit formal requests for Alabama Power's consideration during this step. Decisions on development of new sites or improvements to existing sites will be considered and checked for agreement with the Solution Principles. Alabama Power envisions holding MIG 5 meetings as necessary to accomplish this task.

Step 4 (Decide How Needs Will Be Met and Who is Responsible) involves consultation with the MIG 5 regarding the actual development of the Recreation Plan. At this point, most effort will be concentrated on a schedule of improvements and negotiations concerning operations and maintenance agreements. Alabama Power envisions holding MIG 5 meetings as necessary to accomplish this task.

7.0 CONSISTENCY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE

Development of the Recreation Plan will follow the consultation guidelines in the Integrated Licensing Process.

8.0 PRODUCTS

A draft and final Recreation Plan will be developed in consultation with the MIG 5. The Recreation Plan will tentatively include the following:

- Glossary and Commonly Used Acronyms;
- Purpose and Goals of the Recreation Plan;
- Project Description;
- Data Collection Methods;
- Estimate of Use – Existing and Future;
- Inventory of Facilities (including compliance with ADA guidelines);
- Concept Plans for Recreation Enhancements; and
- Recreation Maps.

A draft Recreation Plan will be distributed to the MIG 5 for review and comment. A final Recreation Plan will be provided as part of the license application that will include a PDF copy of the literature/citations used in the report.

9.0 SCHEDULE

This schedule corresponds to Alabama Power's Process Plan and Schedule filed with FERC on February 16, 2009. Actual consultation meeting dates will be determined with MIG 1 members upon FERC approval of the study plan.

Alabama Power files Final Study Plan .....March 2009
FERC Approval .....April 2009
MIG 5 Consultation .....May 2009 – December 2010
Initial Study Report.....November 2009
Initial Study Report Meeting .....December 2009
Draft Recreation Plan..... September 2010
Final Recreation Plan .....December 2010
FERC Updated Study Report..... September 2010
Updated Study Report Meeting ..... September 2010

10.0 LEVEL OF EFFORT AND COST

Alabama Power estimates the cost of conducting a Draft and Final Recreation Plan, including consultation with the MIG 5, will be approximately $125,000.

11.0 REFERENCES

Kleinschmidt. 2008. Martin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 349): Recreation Use Report. Kleinschmidt Associates, Pittsfield, ME.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED RECREATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FORM

The following is a list of questions designed to help characterize existing recreation resources and aid in development of an appropriate recreation plan for the Martin Project. Questions pertaining to recreation management are categorized according to a four-step recreation planning process developed for the project. Questions pertaining to reservoir levels and downstream flows are listed following the facility management material.

STEP 1 – DETERMINE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

1. Identify impoundment and/or downstream tailrace qualities important to keep and any qualities that need changes.
2. Are there unique characteristics of the reservoir and/or tailrace relative to other reservoirs/tailraces in the area?
3. What is the overall vision for the reservoir and/or tailrace, in terms of recreation experiences and opportunities?
4. Are there sensitive biological or cultural resources associated with the Project that need to be considered? Where are these resources located and are there seasonal sensitivities (e.g., nesting or spawning times, etc.)?
5. Identify specific goals and objectives for managing recreation at the reservoir and/or in the tailrace.

STEP 2 – ESTABLISH BASELINE CONDITIONS

6. What is the nature of existing recreational access to the reservoir?
    a. How many public accessible, developed recreation sites are there?
    b. Where are they located/how are they distributed around reservoir?
    c. Of these publicly accessible access sites how many are owned and operated by public versus private entities and how are they supervised?
    d. How many sites, open to the public, provide boat access to the reservoir?
    e. How many provide shoreline fishing?
    f. Identify the most heavily used facilities.
    g. Are there informal, undeveloped use areas? Where are they?
7. What types of existing developed facilities are there?
    a. Enumerate boat ramps, restrooms, docks, and other facilities.
    b. What is the existing capacity at each site?
    c. What is the general condition of each site and its facilities?
8. Describe notable recreation activities on the reservoir.
    a. List recreation activities currently occurring and identify most prominent activities.

b. Where are these uses occurring, and are they concentrated in certain areas?

c. Identify existing impediments to these activities, if any.

9. Are there known management issues associated with use?

   a. Are there areas of congestion, and if so where?

   b. Are there known conflicts between users, and if so where and when?

   c. Are there other known management issues, such as littering, trespassing, etc.?

10. What is the expected future demand for recreation activities at the reservoir?

   a. Will existing facility capacity likely be exceeded, and if so where and when?

   b. Would accommodating this demand be consistent with the long-term vision for the reservoir?

   c. Will demand introduce new or additional congestion, conflicts, or other management issues?

11. Identify current local benefits from recreation and any local detriments.

STEP 3 – DETERMINE WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHEN

12. Ideas for better or different access, consistent with Step 2 above.

13. Potential facility enhancements or upgrades, consistent with Step 2 above.

14. Potential new facilities, or other management actions, consistent with Step 2 above.

15. What are the priorities regarding identified needs both in terms of resources and time? How do priorities compare across the entire Project?

STEP 4 – DECIDE HOW NEEDS WILL BE MET AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE