



ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

MARTIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC NO. 349

STUDY PLAN 15 – CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA) AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (HPMP)

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Prepared by:



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**STUDY PLAN 15 – CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)
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1.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The goals and objectives of the study include development of a Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Licensee (The Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power)) and federally-recognized tribes for managing Historic Properties that may be affected by a new license issuing to Alabama Power for the continued operation of the Martin Project.

The goals and objectives of this study include development of the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Martin Project to be made part of the Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) which will provide a description of the Project, historic properties identified as of the date of the Draft PA, anticipated effects, and Alabama Power’s proposed measures to protect historic properties.

2.0 RELEVANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS

The Commission has responsibility to consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Advisory Council) and the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) pursuant to 36 CFR section 800.14(b), and the Advisory Council’s regulations (36 CFR part 800) implementing section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f; hereinafter, “section 106”). The Commission will require Alabama Power to implement the provisions of the PA as a condition of issuing a new license for the Project in order to satisfy the Commission’s section 106 responsibilities during the term of the license.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING INFORMATION

- In order to determine if historic properties were present on Alabama Power’s Martin Project lands and if any surveys had been conducted, Alabama Power contracted with the University of Alabama’s Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) to perform this inventory. The data queries and literature search by the OAR for the Martin Project lands yielded 18 cultural resources recorded sites. These sites may be either entirely or partially contained within the Martin Project lands. In addition, the OAR determined that 15 archaeological surveys have been conducted within the Project boundary. None of the recorded sites are listed nor determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) according to Alabama State Site File (ASSF) information. Additional background information on the basin setting, general prehistory of Alabama, prehistory within the Tallapoosa Basin and historic overview are contained in the Preliminary Application Document for the Martin Hydroelectric Project (PAD).

4.0 PROJECT NEXUS

The study would determine if there are or are likely to be cultural resources within the area of potential effect where the authorized Project uses may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if historic properties exist.

5.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

The study area for this issue would include all of the lands and waters located within the Martin Project boundary and lands or properties which may be outside the Project boundary, where the authorized Project uses may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if historic properties exist.

6.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The overall purpose of this study would be to gather additional information for preparation of the Draft PA and HPMP. The additional information would include, but not be limited to:

- 1) determination of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the project;
- 2) determination of the presence and location of known historic properties in the APE;
- 3) development of detailed topographical information for the Project area;
- 4) high resolution aerial imagery, current soils maps, etc., required to develop a model of Project lands which exhibit a high probability of containing historic properties for future survey;
- 5) consult with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized tribes that have an active interest in the project;
- 6) develop a method for determining the project's National Register eligibility; and
- 7) incorporate this information into the HPMP.

To accomplish this, the study will involve the following components:

- 1) Consult with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized tribes that have an interest in the project to develop the APE for the Martin Project.
- 2) Complete an analysis of the Martin Dam and Powerhouse to determine eligibility for the National Register.
- 3) An update of the literature search of the ASSF and the National Archaeological Data Base Bibliography (NADB) to identify any additional known historic sites, and consultation with federally-recognized tribes and the Alabama SHPO to identify any known additional cultural resources which are not recorded in the ASSF OR NADB.

- 4) Collection of LIDAR data and processing into contour maps of Project lands. The contour maps will be constructed using 2 foot contour intervals.
- 5) Collection of high resolution ground controlled aerial imagery of Project lands. This data will be processed to determine Project lands that have not been developed and to provide a visual assessment of existing project lands which may contain cultural resources.
- 6) Collection of current soils classification of all Project lands.
- 7) Development of a model using the data collected in items 1-4 and other relevant information which may be provided by the consulted parties of Project lands with a high probability of containing cultural resources which may need to be surveyed.
- 8) Development of a HPMP for the Project. This document would be developed by the consulting parties and typically includes sections on the relicensing background and overview of the HPMP, Project background information, Project management, preservation goals and priorities, project effects and mitigation/management procedures, implementation procedures, and references.
- 9) Development of a PA by the consulting parties the provisions of which Alabama Power will be required as a condition of the license issued by the Commission for the Project.

6.1 Data Collection Techniques

Alabama Power will ensure appropriate data collection techniques are used in the collection of the data required for this study.

6.2 Data Analysis

Alabama Power will ensure appropriate data analysis techniques are used in the collection of the data required for this study.

7.0 *CONSISTENCY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE*

This study employs generally accepted practices for developing PAs and HPMPs for licensing of hydroelectric projects. The study methodology is consistent with generally accepted sampling principles and practices.

8.0 *PRODUCTS*

This study will have two products:

- A draft PA
- A draft HPMP which will be appended to the PA

Data and analyses from this study (including maps) will be included in periodic reports to consulting parties during the study phase¹. Draft reports will be distributed for review and comment upon completion of the product. Final reports will be provided for each product as part of the draft license application.

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 6 members upon FERC approval of the study plan.

Alabama Power meets with AHC and Tribes.....	June – October 2008
Alabama Power files Final Study Plan	March 2009
FERC Approval	April 2009
Develop Database	Fall 2008 – Winter 2009
Field Studies, if needed.....	June – September 2009
Develop draft PA	October 2009
Initial Study Report.....	November 2009
Initial Study Report Meeting	December 2009
Develop draft HPMP.....	December 2009
FERC Updated Study Report.....	September 2010
Updated Study Report Meeting	September 2010
Execute Final PA/HPMP	December 2010

10.0 LEVEL OF EFFORT AND COST

Alabama Power estimates the cost of developing the cultural resources database, performing field surveys, and developing PA and HPMP is approximately \$400,000.

11.0 REFERENCES

Alabama Power Company. 2008. Preliminary Application Document for the Martin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 349). Alabama Power Company, Birmingham, AL.

¹Cultural resource location information is viewed as sensitive information and will not be distributed beyond state and federal agencies.