

**LAKE MARTIN RESOURCE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(LMRA)  
ALEXANDER CITY, ALABAMA**

**MARTIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
FERC PROJECT NO. 349-150**

**COMMENTS ON STUDY PLANS SUBMITTED BY  
ALABAMA POWER COMPANY IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
MARTIN DAM PROJECT PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENT**

**OCTOBER 13, 2008**

**DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY  
LAKE MARTIN RESOURCE ASSOCIATION (LMRA)  
IN CONNECTION WITH  
SCOPING DOCUMENT  
FERC PROJECT NO. 349-150**

**Resource Area – Water Resources  
Study Plan No. 12 – Lake Martin Rule Curve Change**

Alabama Power Company (APCO) in Study Plan 12 indicates that its model would examine raising the winter pool level of Lake Martin by up to 5 feet and extending the summer pool into the months of October and November. While LMRA supports the proposal of raising the winter pool above its present level of 481' msl, LMRA believes extension of the "shoulder" periods would be of greater benefit for the majority of lake users. LMRA proposes including in the study plan the following:

- LMRA supports the change of the winter pool level to 484' msl. FERC has advised that a detailed study of upstream and downstream impact of such a change must be completed prior to its approval of any change. LMRA proposes that the winter pool level remain at 481' msl during the time while such studies are pending and until such time as the studies indicate that the change is supported by appropriate data.
- LMRA proposes that APCO raise the water level to 491' msl by April 1 each year, effective immediately. If this proposal requires changing the date that APCO begins the re-filling process, LMRA proposes that APCO petition FERC to adjust the beginning date of the re-fill to meet this target.
- LMRA proposes changing the current flood control guideline to allow the water level to remain at 491' msl until October 15, effective immediately.
- In conjunction with these recommendations, LMRA proposes that APCO consider whether changes to the Operating Guidelines are necessary to implement these recommendations.

On October 6, 2008, Alabama Power Company presented revisions to Study Plan 12 that incorporate many of LMRA's recommendations, including studying the effects of raising the water level to 491' msl by April 1 each year and maintaining the summer pool level into October each year. LMRA supports the inclusion of these additional studies of recommendations it has proposed for several years.

Monday, October 13, 2008

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**Resource Area – Recreation and Land Use  
Study Plan No. 14 – Recreation Plan**

(a) Working in conjunction with the Marine Police, LMRA installs and maintains buoys and markers in Lake Martin. These buoys include both hazard and no wake buoys. LMRA currently maintains 369 buoys and markers, in Lake Martin, many of which indicate navigation hazards. LMRA requests that Alabama Power Company (“APCO”) study methods of removing some of the worst navigation hazards to reduce danger to navigation, especially during periods of highest use of the lake.

(b) The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently proposed a boating proximity regulation that would require boats traveling within one hundred (100) feet of a dock or a dead-in-the-water boat to proceed at idle speed. LMRA proposes adding to this study the effects of such a proximity regulation on the boating safety and erosion in Lake Martin.

(c) APCO currently administers certain dredging limits in Lake Martin. These dredging limits have been in place for many years. Certain areas of Lake Martin have experienced large amounts of sedimentation over the years since the dredging limits were established. This sedimentation has affected water depths, thereby creating problems for safe navigation and boat docking. LMRA proposes adding to this study plan an increase in the amounts of sediment that can be dredged and removed from the lake.