



January 14, 2004

Mr. Larry E. Goldman, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

RE: Initiation of ESA Section 7 Consultation for Relicensing of Alabama Power Company's Coosa River Hydroelectric Developments

Dear Mr. Goldman,

As you know, in mid-2005, Alabama Power Company (APC) will be applying to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for new operating licenses for its hydroelectric developments on the Coosa and Warrior Rivers. For the past three years, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has been closely involved in the FERC-approved cooperative relicensing process used by APC to develop those applications. In a letter dated August 14, 2003, FERC designated APC as its non-federal representative for the purpose of consulting with FWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The purpose of this letter is to request the initiation of informal consultation under the ESA between FWS and APC with respect to the relicensing of the Coosa River developments.

APC's relicensing effort in the Coosa River Basin includes seven hydroelectric developments: the Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, and Bouldin Developments, which are licensed collectively as the Coosa River Project (FERC no. 2146-090); the Mitchell Project (FERC no. 82-019); and the Jordan Project (FERC no. 618-104). The map enclosed as Attachment A depicts the locations of these developments. The reach of the Coosa River Basin involved in the current relicensing extends from near the City of Rome, in northwest Georgia, to the confluence of the Coosa River with the Tallapoosa River in south-central Alabama and includes the following counties:

Floyd (GA)
Cherokee (AL)
Etowah (AL)
St. Clair (AL)
Calhoun (AL)

Shelby (AL)
Talladega (AL)
Chilton (AL)
Coosa (AL)
Elmore (AL)

The first step in ESA Section 7 consultation is to determine whether any federally listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitats may be present in the action area. In an effort to begin the process of making this determination, please find enclosed as Attachment B a table which includes all of the federally listed and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitats contained in FWS Region 4's county listings for the above-referenced counties in Alabama and Georgia. To our knowledge, there is presently no federally designated critical habitat in any of these counties, only certain proposed critical habitats for certain of the listed mussel species. In addition, as you know, additional data and studies have been developed through the FERC-approved cooperative relicensing process which may show that some of these species and/or habitats are not actually present in the Coosa River drainage, even though they may be present in one or more of these ten counties. We look forward to working with FWS to determine which of these species and/or critical habitats may be present in the action area and the likely affect of relicensing on those species and/or habitats, if any.

To begin this consultation process, we would like to meet with you and your staff. As you discussed with Mr. Jim Crew of this office, the afternoon of February 18, 2004, following the conclusion of the Alabama Fisheries Association's annual meeting in Gulf Shores, would seem to be an appropriate time. As such, we will plan on meeting at your office in Daphne at 1:30 p.m. on February 18th.

We appreciate FWS's continued participation in the Coosa River relicensing process, and we are confident the track record of cooperation between APC and FWS will continue through the consultation process. If you have any comments or questions regarding the relicensing process or the attached species list, please contact Mr. Crew at (205) 257-4265 or e-mail jfcrew@southernco.com.

Sincerely,

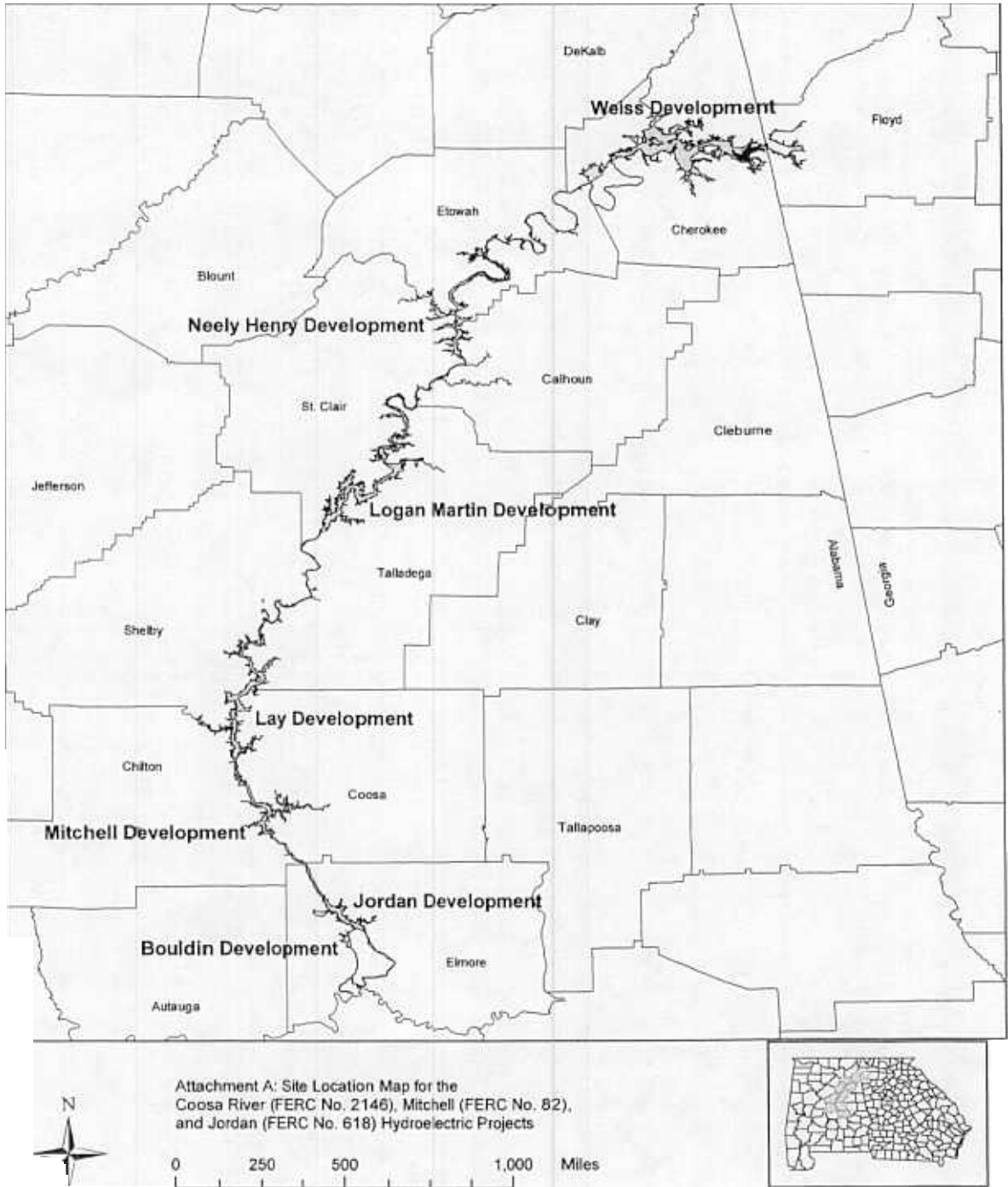


R.M. Akridge
General Manager, Hydro
Southern Company Generation and
Energy Marketing

Attachment

cc: Ron McKitrick, FERC

Attachment



Attachment B. Federally Listed Species for Counties Surrounding the Coosa River, Mitchell, and Jordan Hydroelectric Projects

Common Name	Scientific Name	Counties	Federal Status ¹
Alabama canebrake pitcher-plant	<i>Sarracenia rubra ssp alabamensis</i>	Chilton, Elmore	E
Alabama leather-flower	<i>Clematis socialis</i>	Floyd, Cherokee, Etowah, St. Clair	E
Alabama moccasinshell	<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	Shelby	TPCH
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Floyd, Cherokee, Chilton, Coosa	T
blue shiner	<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	Cherokee, Coosa, Calhoun	T
Cahaba shiner	<i>Notropis cahabae</i>	Shelby	E
Coosa moccasinshell mussel	<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	Cherokee, Talladega	EPCH
cylindrical lioplax	<i>Lioplax cyclostomaformis</i>	Floyd, Shelby	E
fine-lined pocketbook	<i>Lampsilis altilis</i>	Calhoun, Cherokee, Coosa, Elmore, Etowah, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega	TPCH
flat pebblesnail	<i>Lepyrium showalteri</i>	Shelby	E
flattened musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus depressus</i>	Etowah	T
goldline darter	<i>Percina aurolineata</i>	Shelby	T
gray bat	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Floyd, Calhoun, Shelby	E
green pitcher plant	<i>Sarracenia oreophila</i>	Cherokee, Etowah	E
harperella	<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>	Cherokee	E
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Shelby	E
Kral's waterplantain	<i>Sagittaria secundifolia</i>	Cherokee, Coosa	T
lacey elimia	<i>Elimia crenatella</i>	Talladega	T
Large-flowered skullcap	<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	Floyd	T
Mohr's Barbara's buttons	<i>Marshallia mohrii</i>	Floyd, Calhoun, Cherokee, Etowah	T
orange-nacre mucket	<i>Lampsilis perovalis</i>	Shelby	TPCH
ovate clubshell	<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	Cherokee, Etowah	EPCH
painted rocksnail	<i>Leptoxis taeniata</i>	Calhoun, Chilton, Shelby, Talladega	T
pygmy sculpin	<i>Cottus paulus</i>	Calhoun	T
red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Calhoun, Chilton, Coosa, Talladega	E
round rocksnail	<i>Leptoxis ampla</i>	Shelby	T

Attachment B, continued. Federally Listed Species for Counties Surrounding the Coosa River, Mitchell, and Jordan Hydroelectric Projects

Common Name	Scientific Name	Counties	Federal Status¹
southern acornshell	<i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	Shelby, St. Clair	EPCH
southern clubshell	<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	Calhoun, Cherokee, Etowah, Shelby, St. Clair	EPCH
southern pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	Calhoun, Etowah, St. Clair, Talladega	EPCH
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass	<i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	Floyd, Calhoun	E
triangular kidneyshell	<i>Ptychobranhus greenii</i>	Calhoun, Cherokee, Etowah, Shelby, St. Clair	EPCH
Tulotoma snail	<i>Tulotoma magnifica</i>	Calhoun, Coosa, Elmore, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega	E
upland combshell	<i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>	St. Clair	EPCH
wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Chilton	E

E – Federally Listed as Endangered

T - Federally Listed as Threatened

EPCH - Federally Listed as Endangered and has Proposed Critical Habitat in the counties surrounding the projects.

TPCH - Federally Listed as Threatened and has Proposed Critical Habitat in the counties surrounding the projects.