



ISSUE ACTION GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

To: Warrior & Coosa Cooperative Relicensing Teams (WCRT & CCRT)

From: Jim Crew, E12 Wetlands IAG Chairperson

cc: Project Files

Date: January 6, 2003

RE: E12 IAG Report

Warrior & Coosa Cooperative Relicensing Team Members:

The E12 Wetlands Issue Action Group (IAG) respectfully submits to the WCRT & CCRT this report including our IAG's recommendations to address the wetlands issue relative to the tasks outlined in the E12 IAG work plan. Please note that the recommendations put forth were reached by consensus and are designed to address Wetlands concerns as represented in the aforementioned work plan.

The following items are included in this IAG Report:

1. IAG Recommendations August 16, 2002
2. IAG Work Plan February 21, 2002
3. Meeting Notes August 16, 2001
4. Meeting Notes October 23, 2001
5. Meeting Notes February 14, 2002
6. Meeting Notes March 13, 2002
7. Meeting Notes June 18, 2002

If you would like any additional information or have any questions regarding this IAG Report, please feel free to contact me at (205) 257-4265 or by email at jfcrew@southernco.com.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

IAG Recommendations

Draft August 16, 2002

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined

IAG Members

Chairperson: Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com	(205) 257-4265
Facilitator: Kelly Schaeffer Kleinschmidt		Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com	(703) 451-8370
Sara Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us	(334) 241-8139
Carl Couret	USFWS	carl_couret@fws.gov	(334) 441-5181
Elrand Denson	USFS	edenson@fs.fed.us	(334) 241-8158
Mike Eubanks	USACOE	michael.j.eubanks@sam.usace.army.mil	(334) 694-3861
Jon Hornsby	ADCNR	jhornsby@denr.state.al.us	(334) 242-3420
Dan Murchison	LMHO&BO	danmurch@aol.com	(205) 823-2308
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com	(803) 822-3177
Bill Sim	APC	WASIM@southernco.com	(205) 257-4136
Isabella Trussell	LMLPA	ITrussell@aol.com	(205) 884-4169
Diana Woods	USEPA	woods.diana@epa.gov	(404) 562-9404

Summary of Tasks

IAG members in accordance with the E12 Wetlands Work Plan completed in full or in part the following tasks:

- Identified existing wetlands information using data from USFWS – National Wetland Inventory Maps, EPA databases, and APC.
- Consolidated available wetlands information into a GIS database.
- Designated general wetlands areas that may be impacted by project operations (GIS Database).
- Discussed and outlined potential wetlands public education efforts.
- Created recommendations for the CCRT and WCRT.

Summary of Meetings

Meeting Date	Products Produced and/or Resolution
08-16-2001	Finalized Work Plan – Discussed Draft Wetlands Database
09-11-2001	Discussed General Types and Values of Wetlands
10-23-2001	Revised Wetlands Database – Drafted Wetlands Education Plan
01-29-2002	Drafted IAG Recommendations
02-14-2002	Continuation of existing work
03-13-2002	Finalized Wetlands Database
06-18-2002	Shoreline Management Plan, Revised Public Education Outline, Revised IAG Recommendations

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

IAG Recommendations

Draft August 16, 2002

Discussion

The Coosa Ecological Resource Advisory Team and the Warrior Cooperative Relicensing Team both stated in their Ecological Issue Statements that they were concerned with the “effect of project operations on wetlands within the project study area.” In order to assess these effects, the E12 IAG was formed and tasked with gathering information describing the existing wetlands environment in both the Coosa and Warrior basins. The IAG, composed of various interested stakeholders, working together over a year-long period successfully developed the recommendations found below. This IAG has created a wetlands GIS database and drafted a wetlands education plan. This IAG established a group of informed individuals that can assist other IAGs in developing PM&E measures, and evaluating effects of operation alternatives on wetlands as the relicensing process moves forward.

Recommendations

The E12 IAG proposes the following recommendations to the WCRT and the CCRT.

1) The E12 IAG recommends that APC provide protection for wetlands located within the project boundaries of the Warrior and Coosa hydroelectric projects. Specifically, APC should:

- Incorporate the wetlands database into APC’s GIS database as a tool for administering the Shoreline Management Plan.
- Continue to cooperate with the ACOE wetland permitting process for developments that impact jurisdictional wetlands.
- As part of the Shoreline Management Plan, APC will investigate guidelines to protect riparian zones located within the project boundary.

2) The E12 IAG recommends that the R8 IAG identify existing material or programs that can be used to provide public education on wetlands and determine if additional education materials/programs should be developed. This effort should include:

- Providing the E12 IAG Public Education Outline to the R8 IAG to provide direction,
- 1 to 2 members of the E12 IAG working with the R8 IAG.

APC will begin drafting the wetlands existing environment section of the Environmental Assessment in October 2002, which will characterize the wetlands within the project area in context with wetlands within each respective basin.

All E12 Wetlands documents (work plan, meeting notes, and recommendations) can be found on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

E12 IAG Work Plan

Chairperson: Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com	(205) 257-4265
Facilitator: Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com	(703) 451-8370

Members:

Name	Organization	E-mail	Work Phone
Sara Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us	(334) 241-8139
Carl Couret	USFWS	carl_couret@fws.gov *	(334)-441-5181
Elrand Denson	USFS	edenson@fs.fed.us	(334) 241-8158
Mike Eubanks	USACOE	michael.j.eubanks@sam.usace.army.mil	(334) 694-3861
Jon Hornsby	ADCNR	jhornsby@dcnr.state.al.us	(334) 242-3420
Dan Murchison	Lake Mitchell Home Owners & Boat Owners Association	danmurch@aol.com	(205) 823-2308
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com	(803)-822-3177
Bill Sim	APC	WASIM@southernco.com	(205) 257-4136
Isabella Trussell	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association	ITrussell@aol.com	(205) 884-4169
Diana Woods	USEPA	woods.diana@epa.gov	(404) 562-9404

Issue Statement

WE12 & CE12 Wetlands – Have the wetlands within the project study area been identified and how can those areas be protected or enhanced?

* The US Department of Interior including the US Fish and Wildlife Service has suspended electronic communication and it is not known when service will be restored. Communication with USFWS must be conducted via mail, fax and or telephone.

IAG Tasks and Responsibilities

The immediate task and responsibility of the E12-IAG is to characterize the existing wetland environment in the Warrior and Coosa basins. This characterization will be used in subsequent relicensing studies for the Coosa-Warrior Cooperative Relicensing Process.

Work Scope & Product

- **Task 1** Identify major sources of wetland information available (e.g. EPA, ACT study, etc.)
- **Task 2** Consolidate existing wetland information and identify data gaps.
- **Task 3** Characterize the existing basin-wide wetland environment.
- **Task 4** Characterize the existing wetland environment at the projects.
- **Task 5** Identify wetland areas that may be impacted by project operations.
- **Task 6** Long-term task - Identify potential alternatives for protection, mitigation, and/or enhancement measures that can be implemented for wetland areas.

Schedule

The E12 – IAG is anticipated to begin work with a Kick-off meeting during the 3rd week of August 2001 by conference call. The Group will meet periodically between August and October (5 meetings anticipated). The following is a “projected” schedule of work that may change with the Group’s approval. These meetings can be either conference calls or “face to face” meetings based on the Group’s suggestions.

- Meeting 1 Kickoff Meeting – discussion of Task 1 – 3rd week of August 2001
- Meeting 2 Discuss results of Task 2 & make assignments for Task 3&4 – end of August 2001
- Meeting 3 Provide update at September 2001 RAT and WCRT meetings
- Meeting 4 Discuss results of Task 3&4 – end of September 2001
- Meeting 5 Discuss Task 5 & identify data needs – 2nd week of October 2001
- Meeting 6 Provide Report to Eco RAT and WCRT on progress – 3rd week in October 2001
- Meeting 7 Task 6 – due later in 2001 or 2002 as coordinated with other issues.

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes & Summary: Conference Call, August 16, 2001

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees:

Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Sara Chubb	USFS	schubb@fs.fed.us
Mike Eubanks	USACOE	michael.j.eubanks@sam.usace.army.mil
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Bill Sim	APC	WASIM@southernco.com
Isabella Trussell	Homeowner	Itrussell@aol.com
Diana Woods	EPA	woods.diana.@epa.gov

Action Items

The following actions items were agreed upon by the E12 IAG and should be completed by their assigned dates and submitted to Jim Crew via email.

- All IAG Members: Review the wetlands sections in the Coosa and Warrior Initial Information Packages.
Due - September 11&12, 2001 – WCRT & EcoRAT meetings.
- All IAG Members: Educate EcoRAT and WCRT members on wetlands and wetland types.
Due - September 2001 meetings.
- Bill Sim: Add the “reach file” data layer to wetlands data outputs and distribute information sorted by basin, project, and wetland type to the E12 IAG members .
Due - 09/06/2001
- Bill Sim: Develop presentation of basin wide data as well as data for a few selected projects for the WCRT & EcoRAT.
Due – September 2001 meetings.
- Sara Chubb: Forest Service to provide Forest Service information on acreage of riparian areas to the E12 IAG.
Due – September 9/06/01
- Henry Mealing: Contact Jon Hornsby for any additional state wetlands data.
Due – 8/24/01

Meeting Notes & Summary: Conference Call, August 16, 2001

- Henry Mealing: Get copies of the ACT DEIS from the ACOE (coordinate with Mike Eubanks) for the E12 IAG and for members of the WCRT and EcoRAT.
Due – September 2001 meetings
- Henry Mealing & Mike Eubanks: Identify NWI wetlands descriptions/definitions and pictures for presentation to the WCRT and EcoRAT.
Due - September 2001 meetings.
- Bill Sim & Henry Mealing: Present work plan at the September 2001 meetings.

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Introduction

Jim Crew welcomed all the E12 Issue Action Group participants and introduced Kelly Schaeffer as the meeting's facilitator. Kelly began the meeting by reviewing the agenda, meeting objectives, schedule, and introducing the meeting's ground rules. Kelly asked that all participants please state their name before commenting, speak slowly, and be careful not to speak when others are speaking.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Identify wetlands information to be used as a basis for Issue 12
2. IAG should agree on the use and acceptability of the data
3. Discuss recommendations and work product for WCRT & EcoRAT September 2001 meetings.

E12 IAG Review

Based on discussions at previous WCRT and EcoRAT meetings and in order to increase efficiency for participants in the relicensing process, the E12 wetlands IAG for both the Warrior and Coosa Rivers will be combined into one IAG. This IAG's primary responsibilities will be to identify a source(s) of wetlands information that will be used during the relicensing process:

- To characterize wetlands for the Warrior and Coosa Basins (provide a "context" for NEPA)
- To use in conjunction with other issue areas that may influence wetlands
- To assist the WCDRT, EcoRAT, and CCRT in developing and evaluating various project operation alternatives.

The Group reviewed and discussed the E12 IAG work plan. Several individuals were recognized for their efforts in compiling wetland data for the group to use. The facilitator reminded the group that the Initial Information Packages (IIP's) contained a lot of useful wetland

Meeting Notes & Summary: Conference Call, August 16, 2001

data. The major focus of the E12 IAG work plan discussion revolved around the advantages and disadvantages of using either the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) or the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland data to complete IAG's tasks and the format in which to present this information. Several members of the IAG expressed their opinions regarding the differing data sets, their comments included:

1. The EPA data is more recent, covers a larger geographical range, and is more generic in nature.
2. The NWI data is more dated, has better site specific detail, and has a more localized focus (restricted to Project Boundary).
3. The IAG should make sure that the ADCNR doesn't have additional wetland information that we should incorporate.

After much discussion the Group agreed that the proposed Draft work plan was acceptable. The Group also agreed that the EPA data would be used to resolve Task 3 of the work plan and that the NWI data would be used to address Tasks 4 & 5. The group also discussed providing definitions of wetlands accompanied by photos to assist in educating the IAG and the Eco RAT. Please see the actions items list above for other specific outcomes from this discussion.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

The Group did not see the need to meet prior to the September 2001 WCRT and EcoRAT meetings. All the participants agreed that the conference call format worked well. Jim Crew and Kelly Schaeffer thanked all the participants for a very productive and successful meeting and that any questions should be directed to Jim Crew.

Current and future materials concerning the E12 IAG - Wetlands will be posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro and distributed to work group members via email.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Notes & Summary: APC Corporate Headquarters October 23, 2001

Warrior and Coosa Projects Combined
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees:

IAG Members:

Jim Crew	APC	JFCrew@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Mike Eubanks	USACOE	michael.j.eubanks@sam.usace.army.mil
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt	Henry.Mealing@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Dan Murchison	Homeowner	danmurch@aol.com
Bill Sim	APC	WASIM@southernco.com
Isabella Trussell	Homeowner	Itrussell@aol.com
Diana Woods	EPA	woods.diana.@epa.gov

Other Attendees:

Dow Johnston	ADEM	dowj@adeca.state.al.us
Jason Moak	Kleinschmidt	Jason.Moak@KleinschmidtUSA.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Danny Tignor	APC	DGTIGNOR@southernco.com

Action Items

- Continue to develop the wetlands database.
All IAG Members: Due - January 22, 2002
- Send wetlands public education recommendations to the R8 IAG.
All IAG Members: Due - January 22, 2002
- Prepare formal recommendations for the EcoRAT and WCRT.
All IAG Members: Due - January 22, 2002

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Jim Crew welcomed and thanked those in attendance for their continued participation in the E12 IAG process. The group reviewed its progress in completing the work tasks and responsibilities originally given to them by the EcoRat and WCRT.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Notes & Summary: APC Corporate Headquarters October 23, 2001

Wetlands Database - After resolving some technical issues with opening specific files in the database; the group reviewed the database and recommended that it should be used by stakeholders during the relicensing process as a reference and analysis tool for determining the effects of proposed project operations.

Public Education - The group had a lot of good discussion on what methods and tools should be used to best inform the public on the value and importance of wetlands associated with the Projects. After much debate, the group decided to forward ideas and recommendations concerning wetlands education to the R8 Public Education IAG.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

The group agreed to prepare final recommendations to the EcoRAT and WCRT and discontinue E12 IAG activity until project operation changes are recommended.

E12 IAG - Wetlands documents and materials are posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Notes & Summary: APC Conference Call Center February 14, 2002

Finalized 03-13-02

Warrior and Coosa Relicensing Projects Combined

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members:

Carl Couret	USFWS
Jim Crew	APC
Elrand Denson	USFS
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt
Dan Murchison	Lake Mitchell Home Owners & Boat Owners Association
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt
Isabella Trussell	Logan-Martin Lake Protection Association
Diana Woods	USEPA

Unable to Attend:

Mike Eubanks	USACOE
Jon Hornsby	ADCNR

Other Attendees:

Jason Moak	John Peconom
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Action Items

- Prepare and distribute meeting notes and summary to team members.
Jim Crew: Due - February 26, 2002
- Revise public education outline per IAG recommendations and redistribute to the IAG.
Jim Crew & John Peconom Due - February 26, 2002
- Review and comment on meeting notes and summary.
IAG Team Members Due - March 1, 2002
- Wetlands database ARC Explore presentation.
Jason Moak Due - March 13, 2002

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Introductions - Jim Crew and Kelly opened the meeting by reviewing the WCRT Coosa EcoRAT meeting on January 29, 2002. At that meeting, the E12 IAG had presented a "closure" form since they believed they had completed their tasks, as outlined in the work plan. However, after reviewing and discussing the IAG's progress, the EcoRAT decided that the groups' tasks were not completed and that the IAG should continue work on the tasks to meet the original responsibilities and goals.

The meeting agenda was outlined as follows:

- Wetlands Database
- Draft Public Education Outline
- Next Meeting

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Notes & Summary: APC Conference Call Center February 14, 2002

Finalized 03-13-02

Wetlands Database - Jason Moak and Bill Sim have been working together to organize APC's wetlands data into a format that will be both easily accessible and usable by IAG team members and other stakeholders in the relicensing process. Previously, IAG members had been provided a CD containing picture files of the wetland data. IAG members determined that the picture files didn't really provide the needed information. In order to provide team members with a more usable database, APC plans to distribute a revised CD that uses ARC Explore to view actual GIS data. APC will also try to include a GIS road overlay and / or other data layers that will provide geographic landmarks and relative location information. During the March IAG meeting, Jason and Bill will present the new information to the IAG and conduct a brief workshop on how to access and use the revised GIS data.

Draft Public Education Outline - IAG members spent a significant amount of time discussing the draft public education outline prepared by APC and Kleinschmidt. Several issues were raised and several suggestions were made to improve the outline.

Issues of Concern:

- Importance of using existing available information
- Both federal and state agencies can provide a wealth of wetlands information
- No need to "recreate the wheel"
- Focus information directly to project wetlands
- Abundance of existing information may be overwhelming
- Wetlands are a complicated issue and there may be some crossover with other IAG's
- Need to discuss the audience we want to reach

Improvement Suggestions:

- Outline reorganization, "scope of work"
- Add a "What can you do" section to the outline that will target how individuals can positively effect wetlands
- Include a Restoration section that contains general information
- Include a information on types of grants available
- Increase detail in the entire outline
- More information on federal and state regulations, requirements and responsibilities (404 Permit)
- Improve degradation section (USACOE can assist)

Several IAG members participated in the public education outline discussion and formed a consensus that there is a lot of wetland information currently available. One of this IAG's challenges will be to collect and review appropriate information (based on the audience), and put together recommendations on what information, to whom and how it will be presented. The IAG decided to create fairly specific public education recommendations for the R8 Public Education and Awareness IAG. Attached to these notes is a revised public education outline that will be discussed in greater detail at the next E12 IAG meeting.

The IAG agreed to identify and assess specific project wetlands before discussing PM&E measures. A more detailed discussion of PM&E's will occur after the group has identified specific wetlands that may be affected by current and proposed project operations.

Conclusion

The next meeting of the E12 IAG will be held on either March 12th or 13th, 2002. APC will send meeting materials (an agenda and work products as well as meeting logistics) to IAG members in advance of the next meeting.

IAG documents and materials are posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Summary: Sheraton Perimeter Park South Hotel March 13, 2002

Draft 03-27-02

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Introductions – Jim Crew and Henry Mealing welcomed the group and thanked them for their ongoing participation in this process. After distributing the agenda, Henry informed the group that a computer with internet access was available for tutorials on using the APC relicensing web site.

Review Meeting Minutes – The February 14th Conference Call meeting notes were approved and will be posted to APC's hydro relicensing web site.

Wetlands Database Presentation – Jason Moak provided the IAG with a detailed overview of the reformatted wetlands database. This database is an improved version of the one that was previously provided to IAG members on compact disc. New features in the database include:

- Arc Explorer software for viewing GIS data
- Wetlands code classifications and descriptions

The database depicts wetlands within the project boundaries. IAG members spent a good deal of time familiarizing themselves with the database by searching several different project areas and asking numerous questions about the database's many features. The IAG recommended adding road and threatened, endangered and sensitive species GIS overlays to the database. APC will make each of these layers available to the Shoreline Management IAG.

Value of Wetlands

After discussing the technical features of the database, the group discussed the value of wetlands. The IAG identified several valuable wetlands functions including pollution filtering, wildlife habitat, water recharge and sedimentation control. Jason Moak stated that based on his review of EPA wetlands information and the wetlands database, there are very few (if any) wetlands in the project boundary that serve pollution filtering or water recharge functions. The wetlands in the project boundaries provide some wildlife habitat and possibly some limited erosion and sedimentation control.

Revised Public Education Outline – At the last meeting, the IAG made several suggestions on how to improve the wetlands public education outline. These changes were incorporated into the outline and presented to the IAG for review. At the meeting, the IAG was asked to focus on "audience" and "subject matter" because a clear definition of these two subjects will increase the outline's effectiveness. After reviewing the changes, the IAG made some additional comments including adding school children to the "Target Audience" section and adding ADCNR and USFS to the "Wetlands Management and Development" section. Development of the public education outline will continue and IAG members will begin to look for existing wetlands public education materials. Sara Chubb mentioned that this IAG might be able to coordinate its public education efforts with those of other groups concerned with Alabama's environment.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Summary: Sheraton Perimeter Park South Hotel March 13, 2002

Draft 03-27-02

Conclusion

The next meeting of the E12 IAG will be held on either May 20th or 21st, 2002. APC will send meeting materials (agenda, work products and meeting logistics) to IAG members in advance of the next meeting.

IAG documents and materials are posted on the Internet at
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Summary: Conference Call June 18, 2002

Draft 06-18-02

Warrior and Coosa Relicensing Projects Combined

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members:

Sara Chubb	USFS
Jim Crew	APC
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt
Isabella Trussell	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

Other Attendees:

Jason Moak	John Peconom
Danny Tignor	

Action Items

- Post March 13, 2002 meeting notes on APC's hydro relicensing web page.
Jason Moak Due - June 29, 2002
- Prepare and distribute meeting summary including draft recommendations to IAG members.
John Peconom & Jim Crew Due - June 19, 2002
- Redistribute Public Education Outline to IAG members.
Jason Moak Due - June 19, 2002
- Contact Dan Murchison regarding his participation in the R8 IAG (Public Education).
Kelly Schaeffer & Jim Crew Due - June 29, 2002

Agreements & Resolutions

- 1) IAG members agreed to review and provide comments on the draft recommendations to forward to the CCRT & WCRT.
- 2) The Public Education Outline will be forwarded to the R8 IAG for development and two E12 IAG members were identified to help with that effort.
- 3) Members agreed that the E12 IAG should go on inactive status until further notice.

Meeting Notes

These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Summary: Conference Call June 18, 2002

Draft 06-18-02

Review of Meeting Minutes – The March 13, 2002 meeting notes were approved and will be posted to APC's hydro relicensing web site.

Wetlands Database Questions, Concerns & Comments – Jason Moak confirmed that everyone who requested a CD of the database had received a copy and that it was working satisfactorily. Isabella Trussell informed the IAG that she was very happy with the wetlands database. Isabella asked APC if she could forward it to the ADEM's Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program for use in that process. Jim Crew wholeheartedly supported this action since APC is involved with and supports the CWP process. The IAG also agreed to forward the database to the R6 IAG (Shoreline Management Plan) for use in its efforts to develop the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

APC's ability to restrict disturbance of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands within the project's boundaries – Originally raised at the January 29, 2002 meeting and discussed at the March 13, 2002 meeting, Jim Crew investigated what APC can do to protect wetlands located within the project boundary. Jim's report to the IAG is summarized below. Jim and Henry began with a discussion of jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional wetlands.

Jurisdictional wetlands meet specific hydrology, soil types, and vegetation types requirements and are protected/regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). APC is obligated by law to comply with ACOE wetland regulations and will continue to do so. These wetlands may exist within or outside of the FERC jurisdictional boundary for these projects.

Non-jurisdictional wetlands are riparian areas designated as "wetlands-type" habitats by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. These areas do not fully meet the ACOE's stringent wetland classifications and are located between the APC flood easement and normal pool elevation (within the project boundary).

In the past, APC has instituted several programs to protect project lands including buffer strips and scenic easements. Jim informed the group that APC is currently investigating the use of similar easements on the Coosa and Warrior projects. There are legal complications associated with this type of approach where private property rights are concerned. Since there are still some legal questions concerning restrictions of property rights, it will take some time for APC to develop this program. Jim will continue to follow-up on this topic and report any new information to the IAG.

Tentatively set to begin work in September, the R6 IAG will specifically investigate options for protecting project lands which will include protection of non-jurisdictional wetlands within the project boundary as part of the SMP.

Issue Action Group: E12 Wetlands

Meeting Summary: Conference Call June 18, 2002

Draft 06-18-02

R8 IAG Public Education – As discussed and agreed upon at the May 20, 2002 meetings, the E12 will be the first group to work with the R8 IAG to develop public education materials for inclusion in a public education plan.

The public education outline developed by the E12 IAG will be forwarded to the R8 IAG and used to direct this process. In addition to forwarding the public education outline, the IAG agreed that one or two IAG members will work with the R8 IAG on wetland education issues. The group members suggested that Dan Murchison serve as a primary contact in this effort. Jim and Kelly agreed to contact Dan to see if he would be willing to serve in this function. Isabella Trussell agreed to help as a secondary resource. Sara Chubb also offered her assistance as needed. Henry and Jason also volunteered their technical services should Isabella or Dan need some assistance. The structure of the R8 interface allows for some interaction between the R8 and E12 IAGs, especially if Dan or Isabella believe that there is need for additional input from the E12 IAG.

E12 IAG Draft Recommendations – The IAG summarized its efforts into the following recommendations:

The E12 IAG recommends that APC provide protections for wetlands located within the project boundaries of the Warrior and Coosa hydroelectric projects. Specifically, APC should:

- Incorporate the wetland database into APC's GIS database as a tool for administering the Shoreline Management Plan.
- Continue to cooperate with the ACOE wetland permitting process for developments that impact jurisdictional wetlands.
- As part of the Shoreline Management Plan, APC will investigate guidelines to protect riparian zones located within the project boundary.

The E12 IAG recommends that the R8 IAG develop material and identify existing material or programs that can be used to provide public education on wetlands. This effort should include:

- The E12 IAG Public Education Outline to provide direction
- 1 to 2 members of the E12 to work with the R8 IAG

Inactive Status – Jim Crew noted that the E12 IAG had made significant progress on workplan items. Although group members will probably need to interface with the R8 IAG as they develop public education items and the R6 IAG as it develops a SMP, it may be some time before the entire IAG needs to meet on a regular basis. As such, the group members agreed to go on inactive status until further notice, and there are no plans for future meetings at this time.

IAG documents and materials are posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro