



**E2 IAG – Erosion & Siltation**  
**Meeting Summary: July 1, 2003**

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part of the problem. After a short discussion, Pam and John agreed that the report should be modified to state that erosion in the Smith Tailrace is a result of land use and project releases combined.

Ralph Thompson and Patrick Harper (USFWS) reviewed their written comments provided to Jim Crew via e-mail in May 2003. Pam asked for clarification on a few items and agreed to amend the report to address their comments.

The group had a general discussion regarding erosion hotspots in the tailrace areas and what will be done. Henry and Jim reminded the group that in previous discussions during meetings and field visits APC has recognized that some areas will require some immediate fixes (certain spots in Smith Tailrace) and some spots may only need to be monitored to determine if erosion is a continuing problem (Weiss & Bouldin Tailrace). Jim noted that Bill Sim (APC) is still working on a generic monitoring plan that could be implemented as part of the new license.

Dan Murchison had questions about the control of erosion by using plants, and utilizing research to creatively address remedial actions through environmentally friendly methods. The group discussed this and agreed that Dan's question may be better answered in the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). Jim encouraged Dan to stay involved with SMP IAG to make sure that this is addressed.

### **Erosion on Storage Reservoirs**

Since APC operates Weiss, Logan Martin, and Smith reservoirs as storage projects for flood control, they have to manipulate water levels with a winter drawdown which creates some level of erosion in the reservoir. APC wants to identify areas around the lake that are hotspots and exhibit abnormal levels of erosion. Jim stated that APC has asked their lake contractors to give some input on erosion hotspot areas, but is looking for input from stakeholders as a major source to identify erosion hotspots on the three storage reservoirs.

Dan Catchings suggested that APC contact the Weiss Lake Improvement Association for input on lake erosion hot spots. Dan pointed out that most erosion on Weiss is related to wind and boat wave action – not really project operations

Members will provide input on storage reservoir hotspots for Weiss, Logan Martin, and Smith.

### **Siltation in Tributary**

Henry asked the group to clarify what APC is supposed to be looking for on the "Tributary Erosion" portion of the issue. Henry and Pam did some preliminary surveys in Kelly Creek (Lay Lake) and Clear Creek (Smith Lake) and didn't note any hotspots or

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unusual areas of erosion that appeared to be related to project operation (lake level fluctuation).

Dan Murchison agreed that tributaries seem to be more of a problem for siltation than erosion. He stated that siltation in tributaries reduces access and stream habitats on the Lower Coosa projects. This siltation is a result of dirt roads, home construction, timber industry, and other land disturbing practices.

Dan Catchings suggested that erosion problems in tributaries aren't necessarily related to project operation but possibly more to land use activities.

John Eisenbarth said that he thought the erosion problem near Clear Creek was at the USFS Park (washing away beach sand) not erosion in the Clear Creek tributary.

Jim stated that the Recreation IAGs have been looking at siltation and tributary access on the Weiss lake. We will see what they find and bring that back to the E2 IAG.

Dan Murchison stated that there should be an education process for citizen groups, builder associations, and joint efforts with agencies, to address some of the siltation problems. Dan also suggested that APC could have demo projects on the latest environmental sensitive seawalls on APC property and encourage these in the SMP.

Jim reminded the attendees that the R6 (shoreline management plan) and R8 (public education) IAGs should address this need. He encouraged stakeholders to stay involved with these groups to address this issue adequately.

**Conclusion**

The next meeting of the E2 IAG will be determined at a later date. APC will send meeting materials including an agenda and work products as well as meeting logistics to members in advance of the next meeting.

E2 IAG documents and materials are posted on the Internet at [www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro).

**Comments to the Draft Meeting Notes:**

The following are comments from IAG members on the Draft Meeting Notes. These comments are appreciated and will be addressed at the appropriate level by the IAG during the next several months.

From: April Hall – Alabama River Alliance

When the erosion reconnaissance was performed for tributaries, did the field crew specifically look for signs of head cutting in the tribs? If not, we would like this form of

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erosion to be investigated in the tributaries. I understand that generally siltation and sedimentation has caused (and can cause) head cutting problems. Can I get feedback on this?

From: Dan Murchison – Mitchell HOBO

Also, one issue that has been brought to my attention (concerning erosion caused by the dam operations) is the erosion that is taking place at Airplane Island on Mitchell. As you are aware this island is just below the dam and over a period of years has (according to Dr. Meyers who owns 75% of the island) lost about 12 feet of its banks due (mainly) to the dam operation. I haven't a clue as to what could be done about saving the island but wanted this to be included and noted the relicensing process. Dr. Meyers may have some ideas. He can be reached at 205-249-4167. His full name is Dr. Richard Meyers. This island is the first island downstream from lay dam and has the air strip. (sounds logical since it is named Airplane Island - Ware Island).

From: Dan Catchings - ADCNR

After sending my no comment email earlier today I had a thought concerning the erosion that is occurring in the Weiss tailrace area. Is it possible to find blueprints, aerial photos, or whatever from the time when Weiss was constructed and compare the width of the powerhouse tailrace discharge canal to the current width of the canal to determine if a widening of the canal has occurred? Perhaps there may be other measurements from the original blueprints that could be compared to current landform configurations in the tailrace canal to see if changes have occurred in the physical structure of the canal to include bank degradation due to erosion. This is just a suggestion that may have already been investigated.