

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

JAN 29 2001

Project Nos. P-2146, 82, 2165,618 AL/GA
Coosa- Warrior Projects
Alabama Power Compay

To the Party Addressed:

On October 25, 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a notice of Alabama Power Company's, (APC) request to use alternative licensing procedures (ALP) for its Coosa River, Mitchell Project, Jordan Project, and Warrior River Projects (Coosa-Warrior Projects) and requested comments on APC's proposal. In support of using the ALP process, APC demonstrated that it made an effort to contact all resource agencies, citizens groups, and others affected by the project; and that a consensus exists that the use of the ALP process is appropriate in this case. APC filed a communications protocol that is supported by interested entities.

We received two comment letters in response to the notice. A letter from the Department of the Interior dated November 24, 2000 and from the Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers, dated October 20, 2000. The letters generally support APC's request to conduct an ALP.

Both of the above letters, had concerns about the amount of time that is required to participate and how the ALP teams will operate. APC, recognizes these concerns and is trying to make sure that everyone will have a chance to participate. We note that APC has a website for relicensing and plans to use electronic media to communicate, when practical. In addition, APC has proposed to help design an operational protocol with the resource teams. .

In light of the support shown for the ALP process, I believe that its use would be appropriate in this case because it would foster improved communications, participation, and cooperation among the participants, and, ultimately, simplify and expedite the licensing process. Therefore, I am approving APC's request to follow the ALP process in accordance with the Commission's Regulations for Licensing Hydroelectric Projects¹ and the Communications Protocol filed with the Commission on September 22, 2000.

¹81 FERC ¶61,103 (1997).

FERC - DOCKETED

JAN 29 2001

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Please contact Ronald McKitrick at (770) 452-3778 or E-mail at ronald.mckitrick@ferc.fed.us, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward A. Abrams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Edward A. Abrams, Leader
Hydro East Group 2

cc: Public Files
Service List