

Meeting Notes & Summary: Conference Call, October 4, 2001

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

Meeting Attendees:

Barry Lovett	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Jim Crew	JFCrew@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Jeff Duncan	jeff_duncan@nps.gov
Mike Eubanks	michael.j.eubanks@sam.usace.army.mil
Dave Sligh	dsligh@amrivers.org
Elrand Denson	edenson@fs.fed.us
Tom Littlepage	toml@adeca.al.us

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the NEPA IAG and should be completed by their assigned dates and submitted to Jim Crew or Barry Lovett via email.

- All IAG Members: Review the Scoping Document 1 annotated outline and be prepared to discuss at the October 24, 2001 meeting
- All IAG Members: Visit the Corp's Water Allocation website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/pd/actacfeis.com to view Corp's efforts in developing a public scoping process.
- Elrand Denson: Review existing FS mailing list for NEPA documents to gather a more focused mailing list for the Smith Project Due – October 24, 2001 meeting.

Meeting Notes

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

Introduction

Ron McKittrick welcomed all the NEPA Issue Action Group (IAG) participants and introduced Kelly Schaeffer as the meeting's facilitator. Kelly began the meeting by reviewing the agenda, meeting objectives, and schedule.

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1. Meet with team members interested in the NEPA process and review the work plan
2. Discuss work scope and work products
3. Get consensus on the work plan and get IAG members focused on developing the first product, the scoping document.

Work Plan Discussion

As an overview, Kelly Schaeffer discussed the rationale for post-poning the NEPA public scoping meetings until March 2002 to allow the IAGs to build momentum and make progress on some of the recreation and ecological issues.

Since this was our first meeting, there was a general question, answer and discussion session on NEPA, FERC's responsibilities under NEPA and the role of cooperating agencies. Ron McKittrick explained FERC's NEPA process, their role as the lead agency and the schedule of events related to NEPA—from the pre-filing period (before APC submits the license application to FERC) to the time when FERC has received the license application and is developing their environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Ron also explained that in an alternative licensing process, such as APC is using, there is no "official" proceeding before FERC. Usually a cooperating agency, such as the Forest Service or Corp, would enter into a memorandum of understanding with FERC after the license application is filed (this would occur post-June 2005). The Corp noted that there is no requirement that it be officially involved as a cooperating agency at this time.

Other discussions included the use of other agency mailing lists to potentially cover a wider range of persons potentially affected by—or interested in—the project. The Corp noted that a mailing list had been developed for the ACT water compact EIS and that APC and/or FERC could have access to that database. Similarly, the FS also provided their mailing list to APC on September 28, 2001. That mailing list is used for public meetings and NEPA issues related to the FS. Elrand Denson noted that he would need to go through the list to make it applicable to Smith Lake.

The group also discussed adding some language to task 3 to include looking at other opportunities or media (venues) to discuss the scoping process and inform as many people as possible. Mike Eubanks recommended that the group look at the Corp's water allocation EIS website for an example of how the Corp expanded the public process by using the website and questionnaires.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

The Group did not see the need to meet prior to the October 24, 2001 meeting. APC and Kleinschmidt will send out an annotated NEPA scoping document for the group's review and comment. This will be the focus of the meeting on October 24, 2001. Current and future

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