

**U.S. Forest Service Ecological Issue Action Group Meeting
Meeting Summary: June 18, 2003**

Revision 7-10-03

Meeting Location – APC Corporate Headquarters – Birmingham, AL

Warrior and Coosa Relicensing Projects Combined

Meeting Attendees

Jim Crew - APC	Elrand Denson - USFS	Sara Chubb - USFS
Michael Crump - USFS	Malcolm Pierson - APC	Henry Mealing - KA
Jim Lochamy - APC	Jim Hancock – B&B	Corey Wigginton - USFWS
Patric Harper - USFWS	Ralph Thompson - USFWS	Mike Akridge - APC
Rick Allums - APC	Stephanie White - APC	Jason Moak - KA
Shane Boring - KA		

By telephone: Darryl Harley - USFS, Kelly Schaeffer- KA, Ron McKitrick - FERC

Action Items

- Schedule Aquatic Habitat Fragmentation call for July (Week of July 14th)
Jim Crew: Due – June 30, 2003
- Develop schedule of monthly USFS meetings for remainder of 2003
Jim Crew: Due – July 31, 2003
- Schedule Terrestrial Habitat Fragmentation Study Plan meeting with Sara and Rhonda (Week of July 21st)
Jim Crew, Henry Mealing: Due – June 30, 2003
- Meet to discuss water quality study issues, identify disagreements, proceed on agreements
Jim Lochamy, Tony Crump : Due – July 7, 2003
- Proceed with evaluation of informal access hotspots
Jim Lochamy, Dr. Whetstone: Due – July 11, 2003

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.

Problems with Progress

Jim Crew began the meeting by discussing the USFS June 11, 2003 letter regarding requested water quality studies. Jim pointed out that APC believes the progress made at the May 8, 2003 meeting seemed to have been invalidated by the June 11, 2003 letter. Specifically, APC perceived that the USFS backed out of agreements reached at the May meeting. Also, APC expressed their opinion that the June 11 letter did not accurately reflect their efforts to resolve water quality study request issues. The USFS indicated that there may have been a misunderstanding about what was agreed to at the meeting. Also, Elrand Denson noted that individual USFS technical experts did not have the ability to agree to changes in study requests that are materially different from those laid out in its April study request letter. Such deviations must be approved by the District Ranger.

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Alabama Power expressed their belief that members should first attempt to resolve differences and misunderstandings within working groups and with Alabama Power, rather than resorting to filing letters with FERC. The USFS noted that it needs to create a record of the process. The USFS expressed its frustration with APC's inaction on certain issues and feels that they need to have data in order to make 4(e) conditions. Also, the USFS believes that meeting notes are not accurately reflecting what occurs at meetings. Kelly Schaeffer suggested that meeting summaries could be done differently to address this issue. Some ideas included, but not discussed in detail, were to 1) attach USFS comments to APC's draft if agreement is not reached on comments/edits; or 2) have attending FERC staff take notes.

All members agreed that the following are major hindrances to future progress:

1. APC is unclear as to what specific items in the April study request letter are negotiable,
2. USFS is not aware of which specific items in the April study request letter that Alabama Power agrees or disagrees with, and
3. Neither Alabama Power nor the USFS have a clear understanding of what has already been agreed to.

Kelly Schaeffer suggested that APC prepare a document that compares their proposed study plans to the USFS requested studies to highlight differences between the two. This document could be the basis for additional meetings and discussion.

Status of Study Requests

Water Quality Study – Jim Lochamy and Tony Crump agreed to meet soon to identify areas of disagreement relative to the water quality study requests. Where there are areas of agreement, APC will begin collection of data. APC will prepare a study plan of their proposed water quality studies for 2003 - 2004

Flattened Musk Turtle (FMT) – Second year of FMT studies are in progress. Subsequent studies have not been discussed in detail.

Informal Recreation Access Hotspots – Dr. David Whetstone will begin his evaluation of areas identified by the USFS and report back to the group upon completion. He is expected to complete his surveys by July 11, 2003.

Terrestrial Habitat Fragmentation – APC has developed a draft study plan that will be distributed by July 11, 2003. Jim Crew and/or Henry Mealing will schedule a meeting for the week of July 21st with Sara and Rhonda to discuss the study plan.

Aquatic Habitat Fragmentation – A revised study plan and a list of proposed aquatic species for study were distributed at the meeting. The work group will plan to meet (by conference call) in July to discuss the species list.

Conclusion and Next Meeting

Jim Crew will contact USFS representatives to schedule July meetings and begin developing a schedule of monthly meetings for the remainder of the year. Meeting minutes will be posted on Alabama Power's Hydro Relicensing website (www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro).