

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
LAKE MARTIN RESOURCE ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**RUSSELL LANDS OFFICES
AUGUST 28, 2008**

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt	Ben Russell	LMRA
Charles Borden	LMRA	Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt
Jerry Bynum	LMRA	Angie Segars	APC
Jim Crew	APC	Wayne Shell	LMRA
Billy Edge	APC	John Thompson	LMRA
Steve Forehand	LMRA	Larry Tuggle	LMRA
Tom Lamberth	LMRA		

ACTION ITEMS:

- send Steve F. a copy of the Coosa/Warrior Water Withdrawal white paper (APC)
- send Steve F. and Tom L. a copy of the FIMS study on Lake Martin (APC)

MEETING NOTES:

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

Charles Borden opened the meeting and introduced Jim Crew. Jim reviewed the agenda and pointed out the purpose of the meeting was to review the Martin relicensing study plans and to provide the Lake Martin Resource Association (LMRA) with an update on the status of the rule curve change analysis. Handouts were provided (attached) to facilitate discussions on the study plans and to provide LMRA with brief updates on changes to the study plans as a result of a meeting with the agencies and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Jim reviewed some information provided by FERC regarding the scoping meetings and the study plans. Of particular importance was that FERC wants to see more specificity in the study plans and that the second year of studies provided for in the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) should be used as a “backup” only and should not be incorporated into any studies.

The group then turned to LMRA comments on the study plans submitted with the Pre-Application Document (PAD). These specific comments are provided in the order the study plans were discussed. General comments from the meeting are provided after the specific comments.

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Study Plan 9 - Erosion and Sedimentation

LMRA is particularly concerned about shoreline erosion that has occurred since the last license issuance in 1970 and a study method for restoring the shoreline to the 1970 contours. LMRA also pointed out some shoals are becoming unsafe due to continued erosion and deposition. LMRA would like to include in the study plan an analysis of the effects of this shoaling on hazard buoy placement in the reservoir. LMRA also questioned whether removing these types of hazards (excavation of shoal areas) would be allowed. The discussion on this study plan then turned to what LMRA should do with their comments and if they should still provide these same comments to FERC at the scoping meetings. Kelly S. and Jim C. encouraged them to do so, as FERC will ultimately be responsible for final study plan decisions.

It was agreed that APC needs to consider hazard marking in one of the study plans, either this one (Erosion and Sedimentation) or the Recreation Plan (Study Plan 14). This should include a discussion of the relationship between APC and the Alabama Marine Police and their associated responsibilities.

There was also some discussion on how aquatic vegetation would be addressed in this study plan, specifically related to the effects of a possible rule curve change.

Study Plan 10 - Water Use and Water Withdrawals

LMRA wanted to know if the intent of the study was to examine existing water withdrawals. Jim informed them this study plan was for educational purposes so stakeholders could understand the process for water withdrawals from the Project. Steve requested a copy of the document prepared for the Coosa/Warrior relicensing process.

Study Plan 8 - NPDES Permits

LMRA wanted to know if stormwater permits would be included in the database. Angie Segars noted that stormwater permits are included in the data provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and would be included in the report.

Study Plan 3 - Minimum Flows

LMRA was interested in the purpose of this study but did not have any specific comments. Jim explained this study was to resolve an issue with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). One of the purposes of the study is to determine the effects of the “peaks and valley” of current outflows from the Project and the timing of flows.

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Study Plan 5 - RTE Species

LMRA wanted to know if the rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) species surveys would take place on private lands. Jim indicated that surveys would only include APC project lands.

Study Plan 12(i) - Socioeconomics

The discussion on this study plan centered on tourism impacts of Lake Martin to the surrounding 3 county region, including taxes associated with businesses related to the lake. There was some discussion as to whether this study would be used to “offset” downstream impacts of a proposed rule curve change. Jim informed the group that this is not the intent of the study.

Steve requested a copy of the FIMS study that APC is proposing to update and wanted to know what APC thinks of the shoulder season proposal that LMRA made previously. There was some discussion on this proposal and the possible growth in tourism associated with a longer full pool season.

General Comments

There were some questions regarding how study plans will be conducted as studies. Jim explained they are looking for as much help/cooperation from stakeholders as possible on many of the studies (e.g., shoreline management, erosion and sedimentation). LMRA specifically wanted to know if they could bring in outside experts, especially regarding the models APC is using to evaluate the rule curve change. Jim encouraged them to bring in their own people if it helps them understand the results.

LMRA mentioned they did not see any reference in the scoping document to their proposal to have the lake filled by April 1 instead of May 1. Jim encouraged them to bring this up with FERC during the scoping meeting.

There was some discussion in the group about the outstanding water classification for Lake Martin. Jim informed the group that APC is tracking this but has not really been involved with the application. The group further discussed how this may apply and/or affect the water quality study.

The group also discussed the Alabama Drought Management Plan and the legislative committee developing a statewide water policy. LMRA feels this latter effort is not considering federal laws regarding water and they are missing social and economic considerations in their policy.

There was also some discussion on what “full pool” means at Lake Martin. Specifically, LMRA would like to see 489 ft Martin Datum referred to as “full pool” instead of the 490 ft MD usually referred to in the media. APC does not target 490 ft MD in their normal operations and LMRA

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reported that many people experience problems with flooding at 490 ft MD. APC will consider this during relicensing.

The group then turned back to the issue of erosion and whether there could be a process for reclaiming land that has been lost due to erosion. The group discussed how one would be able to prove where the “historic” shoreline was located. It was agreed the USACE would have to be involved in any decisions regarding this topic.

Other issues addressed at the meeting included appropriate activities on different land classifications (specifically natural/undeveloped land) and what can be done to encourage people to use the land appropriately in these areas (instead of using them as dumps). Jim noted that these discussions should be a part of the shoreline management program.

Meeting Adjourned

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Agenda

Martin Relicensing
Meeting with LMRA
August 28, 2008
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting Purpose: Provide update on revisions to the Martin relicensing Study Plans, provide an update on the analysis of the shoulder seasons, and discuss the upcoming FERC scoping meeting.

9:30 AM Introductions, Review Meeting Purpose and Agenda

9:15 – 10:15 AM Review Study Plans
MIG 1 Plans

- Migratory Fish – Tallapoosa Basin Literature Review
- Lake Martin Assessment of Fish Density and Species
- Composition Associated with Various Shoreline Type
- Evaluation of Minimum Flows Downstream of Martin Dam
- Fish Entrainment and Turbine Mortality
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
- Striped Bass Tagging – Hydroacoustic Collections
- Lake Martin – Wildlife Management Plan

MIG 2

- Location of NPDES Permits on Lake Martin
- Erosion and Sedimentation
- Water Quantity, Water Use, and Water Withdrawals
- Lake Martin – Water Quality
- Lake Martin Rule Curve Change Analysis

MIG 3

- Lake Martin Rule Curve Change Analysis – Modeling
- NEW Study Plans on Addressing Effects on Environmental, Recreational and cultural Effects from Rule Curve Change

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MIG 4

- Shoreline Management Plan

MIG 5

- Recreation Plan

10:15 AM Update on Analysis of Rule Curve – Shoulder Seasons

10:30 AM Overview of FERC Scoping Meeting

10:45 AM Next Steps in Relicensing Process

11:00 AM Adjourn

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August 28, 2008
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Current Status of Study Plans

Study Plan 1 - Migratory Fish

- Minor changes from USFWS concerning species below Thurlow Dam.
- APC considers this Study Plan FINAL.

Study Plan 2 - Fish Density and Species Composition Associated with Shoreline Types

- Ready to begin picking sample sites.
- APC considers this plan FINAL.

Study Plan 3 - Minimum Flows Evaluation Downstream of Martin Dam

- Concentrating on aquatic habitat enhancement for invertebrates downstream of Martin Dam.
- APC continuing to work on this study plan.

Study Plan 4 - Fish Entrainment and Turbine Mortality

- APC considers Part 1 – Methodology for a “Paper” Entrainment Study FINAL.
- Part 2 – Field Verification – Concentrating on a mark/recapture technique and hydroacoustics.

Study Plan 5 - RTE Species

- APC and USFWS are identifying additional areas of the lake to survey.
- Results will be presented as a Biological Assessment (BA).

Study Plan 6 - Striped Bass Tagging

- Working with Auburn University to develop a telemetry study and angling mortality study.

Study Plan 7 - Wildlife Management

- APC and ADCNR are working on sharing relevant data and making specific changes to this study plan.

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Study Plan 8 – NPDES Permits of Lake Martin

- APC considers this Study Plan FINAL.

Study Plan 9 - Erosion and Sedimentation

- APC is working on adding more specific methodology to this plan per FERC recommendations.

Study Plan 10 - Water Quantity, Water Use, and Water Withdrawals

- APC considers this Study Plan FINAL.

Study Plan 11 - Water Quality

- APC and ADEM are working together on determining if sufficient data exists for the 401 application.
- APC is working with John Glassier (LMHOB0) to develop baseline physical parameters of nutrients and how this may be affected by a rule curve change (e.g., retention time, surface area, etc.).

Study Plan 12 - Rule Curve Change

- APC is working on identifying potential environmental studies related to the potential rule curve change. The following list describes APC's recommended studies:
 - Study Plan 12 (a) – Modeling (already developed as Study Plan 12)
 - Study Plan 12(b) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Potential Increase in Sedimentation/Nuisance Aquatic vegetation (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12(c) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Downstream Flows Below Thurlow (potential changes in timing and volume of flows – flood, normal, and drought conditions) (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (d) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake Martin Water Quality (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (e) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Erosion (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (f) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on RTE species downstream of Thurlow (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (g) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Recreation (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (h) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Shoreline Management (to be developed)
 - Study Plan 12 (i) – Effects of Rule Curve Change on Recreation Use, Property Values, and Recreation-Related Business Sales (already developed as Study Plan 15)

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Study Plan 13 - SMP

- APC is expanding the detail for the Shoreline Management Plan process.

Study Plan 14 - Recreation Plan

- APC is expanding the detail for the Recreation Plan process.