

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
Agency Meeting**

**Water Course
Clanton, AL
February 26, 2009**

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization
Willard Bowers	Alabama Power
Jim Crew	Alabama Power
Gary Moody	ADCNR
Rick Claybrook	ADCNR
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Charles Stover	Alabama Power
Angie Anderegg	Alabama Power
Jim Lochamy	Alabama Power
Henry Mealing	Kleinschmidt

GENERAL ACTION ITEMS:

- Deliver timber stand data to Ericha and review the contents.
- Develop methods for collection of percent ground cover to include in Study Plan 7.
- APC to work with ADCNR to craft a shoreline development recommendation for wildlife. This will be addressed in the Shoreline Management MIG and the Wildlife Management Plan.
- Identify hunting opportunities in the project boundary or adjacent to project – handicapped hunting & bow-hunting.

MEETING NOTES:

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

Jim Crew opened the meeting by reviewing the Martin relicense timeline for the next several months. Stakeholders sent in their latest comments to the proposed Study Plans and Alabama Power Company (APC) is addressing comments. The revised Study Plans will be filed with FERC on March 18, 2009. This filing will include how APC addressed stakeholders comments. The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Wildlife Division (ADCNR) comments on the current Study Plans. We will take the ADCNR comments and the discussions at this meeting to determine an appropriate response for the March 18th filing.

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Study Plan 7 – Wildlife Management Program

Jim Lochamy began a detailed discussion of the ADCNR requests for Study Plan 7 – Wildlife Management Program. APC can provide GIS layers of timber tracts within the project boundary. This information will include all of the available history for each timber stand. Jim explained that APC currently has a Timber Management Plan not a Wildlife Management Plan for these properties.

The information on percent ground cover is not currently available, but APC plans to perform some limited surveys of representative timber stands so that various stand types can be characterized for management purposes. Methods for this survey will be included in Study Plan 7.

APC proposes to provide wildlife openings related to timber sales and the creation of loading decks. APC will clear the loading decks and mow or treat them with chemicals every couple of years to maintain openings. Gary Moody stated that this was a good start, but wildlife openings should be located in area that are best for wildlife not necessarily timbering. Gary also stated that the Plan should contain a goal for the amount of wildlife openings available. Jim Lochamy stated that there is a potential to create opening “strips” in some of the old growth hardwood timber stands. This seemed agreeable to the ADCNR attendees.

APC will work with the ADCNR and USFWS for management of potential red cockaded woodpecker (RCW) habitat in the Smith Mountain (Devil’s Backbone) area. Burning is currently part of the management of that area and APC has performed burns in that area during 2009. Gary stated that there needs to be a RCW component to the Plan. There was a general discussion of how to do this through conservation easements or Safe Harbor Agreements. The final decision was to enlist USFWS and other experts in the discussion of any RCW enhancements associated with the Lake Martin relicense.

APC’s current timber management is to treat invasive species in problematic areas. Some of the species treated are privet, mimosa, and kudzu. Gary mentioned that cogongrass is an invasive moving into the area and that APC should be on the look out for it.

APC currently follows the best management practices (BMP) of the Alabama Forestry Guidelines. Ericha noted that that was good, but that we might need to include a few other BMPs for unique areas such as granite outcrops, wet weather ponds, wetlands, etc. The group agreed to develop these as needed for specific areas within the project boundary.

APC does not plan to include any of their lands adjacent to the Martin project lands in the Wildlife Management Plan. ADCNR was hoping for the ability to manage adjacent lands consistently even if they were not added to the project. This would include management of old growth long leaf pine

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stands and potential habitat for RCW. There was general agreement that we would focus on management of lands in the project boundary and have additional discussions on management of adjacent lands to meet very specific agency goals.

APC suggested a formal report every 6 years, which would be in line with reporting for the Shoreline Management and Recreation updates. ADCNR would like to at least have an annual progress update.

Study Plan 13 – Shoreline Management Plan

Jim Crew began these discussions by clarifying what APC has in place now for shoreline restrictions. APC currently has a “30-ft Control Strip” in place for approximately 126 miles of shoreline. In the past, APC removed developed home-site areas from the project boundary but retained a control strip as part of that process. The control strip provides for a 30-ft area (measured horizontally from the 491 m.s.l. elevation inward) on which no habitable structures can be built. Any non-habitable structures inside the control strip must be permitted by APC. There are no vegetative restrictions on the control strip, therefore it is not considered a buffer strip. Jim reminded the group that these were put in place after development had already occurred. As part of the proposed land classification changes, APC will continue to include the 30-ft Control Strip on APC properties proposed for future development. APC can only apply this control strip restriction on APC-owned lands – not on privately owned lands. APC does not see the need to specify a control strip on Natural Undeveloped Lands, because there will be no development on those lands.

Gary Moody asked how APC can prevent complete development of the entire lake. How can we provide for wildlife habitat around the lake as it develops in the future. This is especially true in regards to conversion of natural shorelines to concrete seawalls.

APC has some guidelines to address this. Part of developing the Shoreline Management Plan will be to recommend BMPs for enhancement of wildlife around the lake. APC is also performing a study to determine how the aquatic community responds to conversion of natural shorelines to seawalls or rip-rapped areas. The results of this study will be included in future recommendations for development around the lake. APC also noted that Russell Lands also has some guidelines for development in place, but APC does not have control of those guidelines.

ADCNR asked if APC could deny permits for docks or other structures if the homeowner did not provide for wildlife enhancements; or could they identify areas of the lake that can be developed, but would have very restrictive development requirements regarding shoreline buffers. Jim indicated that APC would most likely have problems with this approach, both from a FERC perspective and a legal perspective. There was not total agreement between the two groups, but

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APC agreed to work with the ADCNR in shaping their recommendation for future shoreline developments.

In lieu of a separate study, APC proposed to perform a literature review of shoreline management BMPs for wildlife that can be included as a basis for this recommendation. APC will include this literature review in either Study Plan 7 or Study Plan 13, whichever is more appropriate.

Study Plan 14 – Recreation Plan

Jim Crew asked the ADCNR to expand upon their comments in regards to the Recreation Plan. ADCNR explained that their goal is to make as many acres as possible available for public hunting. They would like to make sure that no project lands are leased exclusively to hunting clubs or individuals for hunting.

Jim explained that all of the hunting leases on project properties have either been cancelled, expired, or will expire prior to receiving the new license. Jim also explained the difficulty in designating Natural Undeveloped project lands as hunting areas. Combining hikers and hunters in the same areas would create a dangerous scenario that APC cannot allow.

Jim Lochamy identified the possibility of working with Camp ASCCA to offer more handicapped hunting opportunities around the project. APC would help with the lease of adjacent lands, access roads, development of food plots, etc. and Camp ASCCA would manage the hunts. All agreed that working with Camp ASCCA to develop an agreement for handicapped hunting would be a great addition to the Recreation Plan.

Jim Lochamy also noted that they would continue discussions with the ADCNR to identify a “bowhunting only” area. This would likely be located in the upper part of the lake in the Natural Undeveloped lands. The group agreed to work on the details of this as part of the Wildlife Management Plan and the Recreation Plan.

End of meeting notes.