



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

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COMMISSIONER

*The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.*

M. N. 'CORKY' PUGH  
DIRECTOR

FRED R. HARDERS  
ASST. DIRECTOR

January 14, 2010

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Comments on modifications to the Initial Study Report for the **Martin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 349-150)**

Dear Ms. Bose,

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Fisheries Section (ADCNR-FS) has been involved in ongoing consultation with Alabama Power Company (APC) with regard to the relicensing of the Martin Hydroelectric Project. As the state agency responsible for the conservation and management of Alabama's freshwater fisheries and aquatic wildlife resources, we have participated in meetings and conversations related to the development of the Martin study plans. Based upon modifications made by APC to the initial study plan, we offer the following comments:

- In relation to Study Plan 6: Striped Bass Telemetry Study, the ADCNR-FS would like to propose an addition. We are in the process of requesting Sport Fish Restoration funds that would allow us to continue a second year of the striped bass telemetry study through Auburn University in 2010. We suggest that any data collected during this additional study year be used to supplement the data collected during year one.
- Many of the Martin studies were delayed in 2009 due the extremely high water levels on the Tallapoosa River. In the event that high water is again a problem in 2010, we ask that these studies still be conducted at some point in the future. We feel these studies are of significant importance and should be accomplished whenever feasible regardless of relicensing time restraints. Studies that were delayed in 2009 due to high water levels include:

1. **Study Plan 3** – Evaluation of Minimum Flows Downstream of Martin Dam
2. **Study Plan 5** – Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Surveys
3. **Study Plan 10** – Erosion and Sedimentation

4. **Study Plan 12(D)** – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Erosion
5. **Study Plan 12(E)** – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Federally Threatened and Endangered Species at the Martin Project and in the Tallapoosa River below Thurlow Dam.

Thank you for providing ADCNR-FS the opportunity to comment on these study plan modifications. ADCNR-FS looks forward to the continuing cooperation with FERC, APC and other stakeholders in the relicensing process. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact Chris Greene, District Fisheries Supervisor at (334) 358-0035 or [chris.greene@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:chris.greene@dcnr.alabama.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Greene", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Chris Greene  
District Fisheries Supervisor