



January 18, 2010

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Comments on Initial Study Report for Martin Project 349-150

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association, Inc, appreciates the opportunity afforded by your commission to participate as a stakeholder in the relicensing process for the Martin Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 349-150). Comments, at this time, will be identified by study plan number following the same sequence as the filing by Alabama Power on December 18, 2009.

Study Plan 12(a) – Rule Curve Change Modeling Analysis

Alabama Power is to be commended on its management of the current excessive rain event that began in September 2009, and continues today. APCo's management of both the Coosa and Tallapoosa River systems provided adequate protection for downstream interests while causing no flooding upstream. At no time did the level of Lake Martin rise close to full pool even though several inches of rain per week had fallen in the watershed area. This adaptive management of the ACT basin proves that winter water levels can be safely raised.

The HOBOS request that a more open analysis of flood modeling be conducted as promised by Alabama Power (APCo) in earlier meetings. Meetings thus far have consisted of slide presentations of one Corps of Engineers suggested model. The HEC-ResSim modeling used to date does not account for seasonal fluctuations in rainfall and will not give an accurate prediction of flood potentials. APCo has prepared a monthly flood analysis that should be used by FERC when evaluating the potential flood handling capabilities of the lake.

Dadeville, Alabama 36853-1030

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Study Plan 12(g) and 12(h) – Economic Impact of Raising Water Levels in Fall, Winter, and Spring.

The Lake Martin HOBOS submitted comments to Mr. Jim Crew, APCo, on December 9, 2009, (see FERC filing on December 10) about concerns that this study was being conducted without proper input from local stakeholders. Concerns addressed in that letter were met with interesting denials from Mr. Crew in his letter of December 18, 2009 (filed with FERC on December 21, 2009). The Lake Martin HOBOS stand by comments made in the letter of December 9, and invite a review by FERC into the matter.

One of the positive aspects of the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) is that it should provide stakeholder input throughout the licensing process, not just at the beginning or at the end of the filing. Specifically, the HOBOS feel that all stakeholders should be allowed input on the relicensing process, and that includes input into the conduct of the studies, just as APCo enjoys. It appears that the potential exists for undue influence by APCo and/or its consultants, if the studies are permitted to continue without oversight and input by all stakeholders.

Study Plan 13 – Shoreline Management Program

The Martin Proposed Shoreline Classification Map of June 10, 2009, is acceptable. Any changes need to be reviewed by all stakeholders. HOBOS comments on the draft SMP were made to APCo and filed with FERC on January 18, 2010.

APCo stated early in the process that causeways and bridges would not be permitted within the project boundaries; however, bridges have been left out of the statement. It is recommended that only bridges built by governmental agencies be allowed within project boundaries.

Study Plan 14 – Recreation Plan

Primitive camping and visiting project lands is permitted by APCo, as it should be. There are currently no provisions to educate the public to remove their trash from any site visited, nor are there trash collection containers, educational signs, or removal of trash from the islands and other visited sites. APCo currently uses an advertising campaign, *Renew Our Rivers*, which relies on volunteers to clean up areas, but this program is inadequate for a lake as large as Lake Martin.

APCo is responsible for the cleanliness of its project lands; therefore, a program should be developed by the company to insure the collection of trash and other pollutants from APCo lands within Lake Martin boundaries.

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The relicensing process is an exhaustive series of meetings and events, involving many volunteer hours, including the many volunteers who have helped collect water samples around the lake for a good part of the past year. Please remember these tasks are undertaken only for the love of the lake.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham
President
Lake Martin HOBOS

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