

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
Study Plan Meeting**

**Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009**

ATTENDEES:

*See attached list

ACTION ITEMS:

- Stakeholder comments should be submitted to FERC by February 16, 2009.
- Alabama Power must then file revised study plans with FERC by March 18, 2009.
- Final study plans will be approved by the FERC by May 3, 2009.

MEETING NOTES:

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

Jim Crew (Alabama Power) began the meeting with introduction of special guests and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff, and provided a review of the agenda for the day. He gave a brief review of the Relicensing Process Schedule:

- Stakeholder comments should be submitted to FERC by February 16, 2009.
- Comments should focus on Alabama Power's November 17, 2008 draft study plans.
- Alabama Power will file revised study plans with FERC by March 18, 2009.
- Stakeholders will have 15 days to submit comments on these revised study plans, and
- Final study plans will be approved by FERC on or before May 3, 2009.

Jim then turned over the meeting to Henry Mealing, Kleinschmidt Associates (Kleinschmidt), to facilitate the review of the study plans.

Study Plan 1 – Migratory Fish Tallapoosa Basin Literature Review

- Henry explained that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has provided a list of additional species to include in Table 2.2 of the study plan.
- The FERC questioned the status of fish passage at Claiborne and Millers Ferry, what the product of the study will be, and the availability of data on species of concern (especially American eel). Alabama Power responded that the document produced will be the basis for the fish passage decision - not a fish passage design and they would be gathering information on the species of concern as part of the study plan.

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
Study Plan Meeting**

**Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009**

Study Plan 2 – Assessment of Fish Density and Species Composition Associated with Various Shoreline Types

- This study is already in progress, some sites have already been selected in coordination with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and Auburn University.
- The FERC asked questions about the inclusion of wildlife species in this study plan. Rick Claybrook (ADCNR) pointed out that Study Plan 7 deals with wildlife and Alabama Power responded that wildlife would be addressed in Study Plan 7.
- There were additional questions on how the sampling will be conducted and what the water level will be at the time of sampling. Nick Nichols (ADCNR) stated that some electrofishing and seining would be done and the study would be conducted in April and May, at or near full pool. John Grogan (Alabama Power) commented that changes in other aquatic organisms would be reflected in the study of fish.

Study Plan 3 – Evaluation of Minimum Flows Downstream of Martin Dam

- Henry noted that the geographic scope for this study extends only to the Martin Tailrace. Existing data from Yates and Thurlow Projects are available for description of the baseline conditions downstream of those projects. Jim Crew also noted that the information gathered as part of this study will assist the MIG in developing proposed solutions/recommendations.

Study Plan 4 – Fish Entrainment and Turbine Mortality

- Henry explained that the DIDSON hydroacoustic system is proposed as a method for field verification because the DIDSON system can distinguish between many species of larger fish; therefore, the results of sampling will be more conclusive. The DIDSON study and the desktop analysis will occur simultaneously.

Study Plan 5 – Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Surveys

- Nick Nichols (ADCNR) explained that no Alabama state agency has management authority over rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) plant species.
- FERC staff requested that Alabama Power consult with the agencies to develop and include a table with all the RTE species in/or near the project boundary that are not being examined and include a column that explains why.
- FERC staff also requested copies of the summary reports of the annual bald eagle surveys for the project. The ADCNR (Keith Hudson) compiles these data and Ericha Nix will check on the availability of the data for the project.
- Alabama Power confirmed that there were no Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs) seen on project lands; however, there may be some on private lands around the Martin Project. Jim Lochamy (Alabama Power) agreed to send a summary of the RCW surveys to FERC.

MEETING NOTES

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY MARTIN RELICENSING Study Plan Meeting

***Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009***

- The geographic scope of this study was also questioned. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) asked if Alabama Power would look far enough below Thurlow for mussels and snails. Alabama Power stated that there have been discussions with the agencies regarding additional mussel collections downstream of Yates and Thurlow on the Tallapoosa River.

Study Plan 6 – Striped Bass Telemetry Study

- Nick Nichols confirmed that trophy striped bass fishing at Martin is the best in the state and a valuable angler resource. Nick stated that the ADCNR wants data to explain periodic striped bass mortality events that occur on Lake Martin.
- Henry explained that water quality samples will also be collected where fish are tracked.
- The study plan also includes a “hooking mortality” study to be performed in the late summer.

Study Plan 7 – Wildlife Management Program

- Henry explained that this study plan outlines a process for developing a Wildlife Management Program for lands within the Martin project boundary. He asked if the ADCNR had specific information that they would need to develop this program.
- ADCNR requested information on basal area (hard and soft mass); species composition and structure; ground cover data; stand history (burning, herbicide use, etc.); and maps to show spatial arrangement of the forest types. This information will help the ADCNR make recommendations for the Wildlife Management Program. Alabama Power has most of this information and will provide it as part of the study.
- ADCNR and FWS also requested information on general soil types and ground cover data for these areas. Some of this requested data may need to be collected as part of the study.
- Ericha Nix (ADCNR) will provide a full list of all the information needed as soon as possible.
- FERC staff asked if any entity had performed wildlife surveys in the project boundary; Alabama Power said the existing species list in the PAD was based on a literature review by wildlife experts.
- FERC staff was also concerned about wetland and riparian area data. Pam McDaniel (Alabama Power) agreed to check and see if the National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) are available for the area.
- The ADCNR was questioned about what they wanted to accomplish by looking at the shoreline as part of Wildlife Management. ADCNR wants to know what buffer size is most appropriate when project lands are sold in the future.
- FERC staff requested Alabama Power be more specific than the term “General Wildlife Enhancement”, provide more information on Wildlife Openings, and provide more specific

MEETING NOTES

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY MARTIN RELICENSING Study Plan Meeting

***Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009***

Best Management Practices (BMPs). Alabama Power stated that they would make as many changes as possible, but the study and discussions with the ADCNR would identify most of these items.

Study Plan 8 – Baseline Water Quality

- Alabama Power should check with Alexander City Water Department and Central Elmore Water Authority for additional data.
- The Montgomery Water Works and Sanitary Sewer Board (MWWSSB) monitors below Thurlow to Montgomery. Buddy Morgan (MWWSSB) is willing to share these data with Alabama Power.
- John Glasier (Lake Watch of Lake Martin) will provide a paragraph regarding nutrient collections to include in Section 6.2 of the study.

Study Plan 9 – Location of Regulated Discharges on Lake Martin

- Buddy Morgan (MWWSSB) and John Grogan (Alabama Power) suggested changing the name of the study from Location of NPDES Permits on Lake Martin to “Location of Regulated Discharges on Lake Martin”.
- Buddy Morgan will help Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power) contact counties to get information on stormwater discharges, phase 1 and 2, and on-site sewer systems.

Study Plan 10 – Erosion and Sedimentation

- WWF requested that Alabama Power expand the scope of the study to include “project-affected waters” and wanted to know what causes the fluctuation at the Milstead gage downstream on the Tallapoosa River.
- Alabama Power confirmed that this will be examined in study plan 12 (a) and that erosion studies are being conducted below Thurlow as part of the Thurlow license monitoring plan. Alabama Power explained that the new LIDAR data (collected at 481 msl in December 2008) would be used in the study and agreed to add a sentence to the study regarding examining any changes in erosion sites that have occurred since the previous LIDAR data were collected.

Study Plan 11 – Water Quantity, Water Use, and Water Withdrawals

- Tom Littlepage, Office of Water Resources (OWR), requested that Alabama Power consult the OWR in projecting future water demand.
- FERC staff requested that information on the water intakes into Lake Martin be included in this study as appropriate.

MEETING NOTES

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY MARTIN RELICENSING Study Plan Meeting

*Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009*

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

- Paul Taylor, a property owner downstream of Lake Martin, expressed concern about flooding on his property if the rule curve is modified.
- The group discussed the peer review process for the rule curve model, how results will be interpreted, and if the model will be available for stakeholders to review and manipulate.
- Alabama Power agreed to provide information during the process on what data were used and why specific models were selected. They also agreed to hold a technical workshop to review the model.
- FERC staff advised against various stakeholders developing dueling models and encouraged all stakeholders to agree on the model and the assumptions before submitting the results.

Study Plan 12 (b) – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Sedimentation Rates and Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation

- The ADCNR's newly developed draft Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan will be incorporated into Alabama Power's study plan. A copy of the ADCNR's plan is available at: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/education/generalinfo/ans/plan/AIANSPlan200812.pdf>
- When the final ADCNR plan is approved there will be some federal money available for public education, signs at boat ramps, etc.

Study Plan 12 (c) – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Water Quality

- WWF suggested bringing in an expert or expert panel to review the data and help develop alternatives. Alabama Power may decide to use this approach when analyzing the data.
- Buddy Morgan (MWWSSB) offered to provide water quality data that the MWWSSB collected on the Tallapoosa during the drought.
- Stakeholders discussed maintaining a periodic drawdown of 10 ft as an option for management of the lake.

Study Plan 12 (d) – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Lake and Downstream Erosion

- The new LIDAR data will be used to examine some erosion issues.

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

- FERC staff recommended the following: include a table to describe why some RTE terrestrial species in the Tallapoosa Basin were not included in the study due to proximity to the Project Boundary, include bald eagles in the discussion, and describe how bald eagles may be affected by potential increase in recreation.

MEETING NOTES

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
Study Plan Meeting**

*Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009*

Study Plan 12 (f) – Effects of a Rule Curve Change on Downstream Recreation

- Dave Anderson (Kleinschmidt) told the group that the results of the model (that showed the extent of downstream flooding) would determine the project nexus for this study.

Study Plan 12 (g) – Effects of Raising Winter Pool Level and Increasing the Duration of Summer Pool on Lake Martin Recreation Use and Economic Indicators

- Dave explained that this study was originally a supplement to the Fishery Information Management Study (FIMS) conducted in the 1990's; now the study involves completely redoing the FIMS study. During negotiations over study revisions, stakeholders proposed and Alabama Power agreed to add a tax revenue portion to the study. The tax revenue portion, however, needed to be conducted in a time frame outside of the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) process and now this study will be conducted separately, funded by the Lake Martin Resource Association (LMRA). Alabama Power will use this information if applicable.
- This study plan will include the methodology and scope of work agreed on with the Southwick (the consultant performing the study). Jim agreed to show the stakeholders the scope of work sent to the Southwick before it is finalized.
- The FERC asked about the data collected in 2007 (during the drought) and Dave informed them that Alabama Power did not discard the drought data and will compare the data collected in this study with the drought data. The FERC requested a list of boat ramps and elevations where the ramps become unusable.
- John Grogan (Alabama Power) asked the FERC how property values were considered in the FERC decision process. Mark Pawlowski (FERC) informed the group that FERC works neither to increase or decrease property values and on water level decisions places more value on recreation issues.
- Charles Bordon (LMRA) stated that results of their socioeconomic study would be available by the end of the month and presented to interested stakeholders.

Study Plan 13 – Shoreline Management Program

- Rick Claybrook requested improved access to two primitive bank fishing sites.
- Henry and Jim explained that much more work would be done in MIG groups from this point forward, many meetings will take place via conference call.

Study Plan 14 – Recreation Plan

- FERC staff requested that Alabama Power provide a list, map, and description of recreation sites and describe the sites that are within the project boundary and those that are not in the project boundary.

MEETING NOTES

***ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
MARTIN RELICENSING
Study Plan Meeting***

***Central Alabama Community College
Betty Carol Graham Center
Alexander City, AL
January 07, 2009***

- FERC staff also requested that Alabama Power provide an explanation of what the license requires and compare that to what actually exists in the project.

