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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Martin Relicensing - Distribution of Draft MIG 4 (Shoreline Management) Study Plan  
**Attachments:** Shoreline Management Plan Study Plan (DRAFT 11-16-07).doc; ILP study\_criteria.pdf

MIG 4 Members,

At the September 2007 Martin Issue Group (MIG) meetings in Alexander City, we discussed the MIG sheets and provided a summary of the study plans that Alabama Power has developed in consultation with the state and federal resource agencies to address the effects of the Martin Project on the environmental resources. The notes from those meetings and the PowerPoint presentations are available on the Martin Relicensing website at <http://www.alabamapower.com/hydro/martin.asp>. We indicated that the draft study plans were undergoing further revisions and would soon be available for review and discussion by the applicable MIGs.

Accordingly, attached herewith for your review and comment is the Shoreline Management draft study plan associated with MIG 4, Shoreline Management. This is the plan Alabama Power is proposing to implement upon FERC approval. As discussed during the September meetings, the study plans will be submitted to FERC in June 2008, and should be approved by FERC and ready for implementation in early 2009. Please review this draft plan and provide any comments/edits you may have to me on or before **December 14, 2007**. (The document is in Microsoft Word and can be edited easily using track changes.) To facilitate your review, also attached is a copy of FERC's Study Criteria that must be followed in the Integrated Licensing Process.

You may also be aware that on October 23, 2007, Alabama Power filed a request with FERC for approval of a drought-based temporary variance of the Martin rule curve. FERC is currently reviewing our request, and we sincerely appreciate the letters and emails of support that were filed by homeowners and the state and federal resource agencies. We anticipate receiving a favorable ruling from FERC by the end of next week.

Our next meeting of the MIGs will occur in early February 2008 at the Betty Carol Graham Center in Alexander City. We will focus primarily on the comments received on the draft study plans for each MIG. Once an exact date in February is selected, we will notify you by email and also post the date on our website. As always, if you cannot attend meetings, notes and meeting materials will be posted to the Martin Relicensing website within two weeks following the meeting.

If you have any questions, please send me an email or give me a call at 205-257-4265. We look forward

to your continued participation in the Martin relicensing effort. Have a safe and joyous holiday season!



Shoreline



ILP

Management Plan Study\_criteria.pdf (83 KiB)

***Jim***

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**Study Plan - Shoreline Management**

**1.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

Alabama Power Company (APC) intends to develop and implement a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the Martin Project that would identify land uses and land use categories, determine Lake Martin shoreline management policies, reiterate the permitting program regulations, and establish and promote best management practices around Lake Martin.

**2.0 RELEVANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS**

The FERC is responsible for issuing licenses for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydropower projects. APC, as Licensee, is responsible for operating and maintaining its FERC-licensed projects in accordance with the license requirements and project purposes (*i.e.*, power generation, public recreation, environmental protection, aesthetic values, etc.). Consistent with these license responsibilities, a Licensee may authorize specific uses and occupancies of the project reservoir shoreline that are not related to hydroelectric power production or other project purposes. These land and water uses are typically referred to as "non-project uses."

The goals of the SMP for the Martin Project are to:

- 1) Provide for reasonable public access;
- 2) Protect fish and wildlife habitat;
- 3) Protect cultural resources;
- 4) Protect operational needs;
- 5) Facilitate compliance with appropriate license articles;
- 6) Protect water quality;
- 7) Reduce erosion;
- 8) Minimize scenic impacts;
- 9) Involve stakeholders in the development of the SMP.

**3.0 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING INFORMATION**

- APC has developed two SMPs (Coosa and Warrior Rivers) that are pending FERC approval.
- APC also has an existing Recreation and Land Management Plan for the Martin Project.
- APC has new LIDAR data for use to assist with verifying the project boundary.
- Existing land use maps are also available.
- APC has an existing permitting program for all its hydroelectric projects.
- FERC's "Guidance for Shoreline Management Planning at Hydropower Projects"

#### **4.0 PROJECT NEXUS**

The nexus to the Project is the FERC project boundary. FERC also requires most hydroelectric projects under its jurisdiction to develop and implement a Shoreline Management Plan.

#### **5.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES**

The study area for this issue would include APC-owned lands within the FERC project boundary for the Martin Project.

#### **6.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

The proposed method for implementing this study would be as follows:

- 1) Develop land use classifications for Lake Martin.
- 2) Revise land use maps with APC's proposed changes in land use classifications.
- 3) Meet with stakeholders to discuss the proposed changes and review the steps in developing a SMP.
- 4) Develop BMPs
- 5) Review APC permitting regulations.
- 6) Develop APC policies for Martin (*i.e.*, dredging, etc.)
- 7) Develop a Draft plan for stakeholder review and comment.
- 8) Develop a Final plan for FERC approval.

#### **7.0 CONSISTENCY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE**

Development of the SMP will follow general consultation guidelines in the Integrated Licensing Process and past practices associated with developing the SMP for the Coosa and Warrior Projects.

#### **8.0 PRODUCTS**

A draft and final SMP will be developed in consultation with and assistance from the MIG 4. The SMP will include the following:

- Glossary and Commonly Used Acronyms;
- Purpose and goals of the SMP;
- Shoreline Management Policies;
- Shoreline Management;
  - Shoreline Classification;
  - Shoreline Management Policies;
  - APC's Permitting Program;
  - Implementation and Review.

A final SMP will be provided to the MIG 4 for review and comment and a Final SMP will be filed as part of the draft license application that will include a PDF copy of the literature used for the report.

**9.0 SCHEDULE**

Consultation with MIG 4  
Draft SMP  
Final SMP

April 2009- July 2010  
September 2010  
January 2011

**10.0 LEVEL OF EFFORT AND COST**

APC estimates the cost of consulting with the MIG 4 and developing a Draft and Final SMP, will be approximately \$200,000.

**11.0 REFERENCES**

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. April 2001. Guidance for Shoreline Management Planning at Hydropower Projects.



# **Understanding the Study Criteria**

## *Integrated Licensing Process*

*Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Office of Energy Projects*

*April 6, 2005*

## Understanding the Study Criteria

Reaching agreement on study needs can be difficult and contentious. Historically, deferring resolution of fundamental issues about what information gathering and studies are necessary until after the license has been filed with the Commission has in some cases resulted in lengthy licensing proceedings. The Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) is designed to eliminate that problem. Working collaboratively with the hydro industry, state and federal resource agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations, the Commission developed seven criteria that must be addressed by parties requesting studies in the ILP. Following these criteria will help formulate a well structured and thought out request that can help focus discussions about the merits and applicability of a study to evaluate the effects of a project on environmental resources.

This document is intended to explain the study criteria and help stakeholders craft study requests (18 CFR § 5.9(b)) that will clearly identify their information needs and expectations and explain why they need the information. A clear understanding of the study criteria and adherence to these criteria in formulating study requests should facilitate the development of study plans (18 CFR § 5.11 (b)-(e)).

While the reader may wish to use the suggested structure as a template for a request, there are a number of variables that will determine whether a study or a totally different approach would be best suited to a particular project and approved by the Commission.

## **Study Request Criteria**

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As specified by CFR 18, § 5.9(b) of FERC's regulations on the ILP, any study request must:

- (1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
- (2) If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
- (3) If the requester is a not resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
- (4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;
- (5) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
- (6) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate filed season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge; and
- (7) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

## Study Plan Criteria

CFR 18 § 5.11 (b)-(e) specifies the following requirements for the applicant's proposed study plan. Note that these requirements closely parallel those described in § 5.9(b).

(b) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must include with respect to each proposed study:

- (1) A detailed description of the study and the methodology to be used;
- (2) A schedule for conducting the study;
- (3) Provisions for periodic progress reports, including the manner and extent to which information will be shared; and sufficient time for technical review of the analysis and results; and

- (4) If the potential applicant does not adopt a requested study, an explanation of why the request was not adopted, with reference to the criteria set forth in [§ 5.9\(b\)](#).

(c) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must also include provisions for the initial and updated study reports and meetings provided for in [§ 5.15](#).

(d) The applicant's proposed study plan must:

- (1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;

- (2) Address any known resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;

- (3) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;

- (4) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied;

- (5) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers any known tribal interests;

- (6) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable.

(e) The potential applicant's proposed study plan must be accompanied by a proposal for conducting a study plan meeting or meetings during the 90-day period provided for in [§ 5.12](#) for the purpose of clarifying the potential applicant's proposed study plan and any initial information gathering or study requests, and to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the proposed study plan. The initial study plan meeting must be held no later than 30 days after the deadline date for filing of the potential applicant's proposed study plan.

## **Goals and Objectives**

§5.9(b)(1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;

This paragraph describes what the study is intended to accomplish, the goals and objectives of the study, and specific information to be obtained. The goals of the study should clearly relate to the need to evaluate the effects of the project on a particular resource. The objectives are the specific information needs to be gathered to allow achievement of the study goal. This section provides the context for why the study is being requested.

## **Relevant Resource Management Goals**

§5.9(b)(2) If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;

§5.9(b)(3) If the requester is a not resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;

This discussion should clearly establish the connection between the study request and the management goals of the requesting agency or tribe, or in the case of non-governmental agencies or others without a jurisdictional mandate or obligation, between the study and resource of interest. A statement by an agency connecting its study request to a legal, regulatory, or policy mandate is entitled to appropriate consideration. However, it is much easier to understand the relationship of an information need to a specific management goal than to broadly stated mandates established in law or regulation. Where such mandates are integral to the need for the information, the requester needs to thoroughly explain how the mandate relates to the study request and, in turn, project impacts.

## **Background and Existing Information**

§5.9(b)(4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;

The purpose of this discussion is to highlight the gap in existing data, giving full consideration to what has been provided in the PAD or is known from other information sources relevant to the project. This discussion should clearly explain why the existing information is inadequate and the need for additional information.

## **Project Nexus**

§5.9(b)(5) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;

This discussion should clearly draw the connection between project operations and the effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the applicable resource. Just as important, this discussion should explain how the requester will use the information to develop protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, including those related to an agency's mandatory conditioning authority under 401 of the Clean Water Act or sections 4(e) and 18 of the Federal Power Act.

## **Proposed Methodology**

§5.9(b)(6) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge;

Study requests should be as detailed as possible. It is important to relay to the applicant your expectations on the scope and methods so that an adequate study plan can be developed. The requester may describe the proposed methodology by outlining specific methods to be implemented (e.g. study area, study sites, data collection methods, etc.) or simply by referencing an approved and established study protocol or methodology (e.g. Henderson 1999, or Missouri State Water Quality Sampling Protocols for Lead, 1999). If providing a detailed methodology, the requester should demonstrate how the requested methodology is consistent with generally accepted practice within the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge. The requested study must be generally accepted in the context of how it is being used. For example, just because an IFIM is a generally accepted methodology for determining the relationship of flow to available habitat, it doesn't mean you would use IFIM for answering questions about fish populations.

## **LEVEL OF EFFORT AND COST**

§5.9(b)(7) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

This section should describe your expectations of the level of effort and costs associated with the development and implementation of the requested study. This would be used to provide the applicant with a better understanding of your expectations for the completion of the study. Within this section, you should also provide a justification as to why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs. Proposed alternative studies could be studies being proposed by the applicant in the PAD or those being requested by other parties.