

**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 will 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."

"Non-project uses" typically require a permit from APC before development and construction take place. Examples of "non-project uses" include boat docks, seawalls, rip-rap, excavation, etc. Depending on the extent of development and/or construction, there may be the possibility of affecting fish and/or wildlife habitat and water quality. 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.

It is expected that each of these goals will include measurable objectives to determine if the long-term goals are being met.

**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**

APC files Final Study Plan	November 2008
Anticipated FERC Approval	April 2009
Consultation with MIG 4	May 2009- July 2010
Draft SMP	September 2010
Final SMP	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.