

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
July 31, 2018

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2628-065 – Alabama
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Alabama Power Company

Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

To the Parties Addressed:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) staff are currently reviewing the Pre-Application Document (PAD) filed on June 1, 2018, by Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) for relicensing the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project No. 2628 (Harris Project). The project is located on the Tallapoosa River near the City of Lineville in Randolph, Clay, and Cleburne Counties, Alabama. The Harris Project also includes land within the James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area (Skyline WMA) located approximately 110 miles north of Harris Reservoir in Jackson County, Alabama. The project occupies 4.90 acres of federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff intends to prepare an environmental, or NEPA document (*i.e.*, environmental assessment or environmental impact statement), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed and that the NEPA document is thorough and balanced.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the Harris Project. We are soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the NEPA document. We are also requesting that you identify any studies that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the NEPA document for the project.

We will hold two scoping meetings for the Harris Project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. The daytime meeting, focused on resource agencies,

tribes, and non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) concerns, will begin at the time and location listed below. The evening meeting, also listed below, is primarily for the public, but the public, agencies, Indian tribes and NGOs may attend either the daytime or evening scoping meetings. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or both of these meetings. An environmental site review will be held on Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Lineville, Alabama. Further information on the scoping meeting and environmental site review is available in the enclosed SD1.

Scoping Meeting Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, August 28, 2018	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Wedowee Marine South 9681 Highway 48 Lineville, AL 36266
Wednesday, August 29, 2018	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Wedowee Marine South 9681 Highway 48 Lineville, AL 36266

SD1 is being distributed to Alabama Power's distribution list and the Commission's official mailing list for the project (see section 10.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission's official mailing list, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify the following on the first page: **R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project P-2628-065**.

Please review the SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 6.0, *Request for Information and Studies*. If you have any questions about SD1, the scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the NEPA document for this project, please contact Sarah Salazar at (202) 502-6863 or via email at: Sarah.Salazar@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Harris Project may be obtained from our website, www.ferc.gov or Alabama Power's website, <http://www.harrisrelicensing.com>. The deadline for filing comments is **September 29, 2018**. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

**R.L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
(FERC NO. 2628-065)**

ALABAMA



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

July 2018

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HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project No. 2628-065

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue new licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal hydroelectric projects. On June 1, 2018, Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power), licensee for the existing R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project No. 2628 (Harris Project),² filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) to file an application for new license with the Commission. The project is located on the Tallapoosa River near the City of Lineville in Randolph, Clay, and Cleburne Counties, Alabama (figure 1). The Harris Project also includes land within the James D. Martin-Skyline Wildlife Management Area (Skyline WMA) located approximately 110 miles north of Harris Reservoir in Jackson County, Alabama (figure 2). The project occupies 4.90 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

As currently licensed, Alabama Power operates the project for multiple purposes, including hydropower generation, water supply, public recreation, and wildlife enhancement. Flood control and drought management measures are described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Control Manual (WCM) for the Harris Project.

The principle project works consist of a dam with a gated spillway, a 9,870 acre reservoir (Harris Lake), a powerhouse containing two turbine/generator units with a total installed capacity of 135 megawatts (MW), an electrical substation, and two 1.5 mile-long transmission lines. The average annual generation of the project is 151,878 megawatt-hours (MWh). A detailed description of the project is provided in section 3.0, *Proposed Action and Alternatives*.

At this time, Alabama Power proposes no changes to the project's operation or facilities, although during relicensing, Alabama Power proposes to investigate whether any changes to the project's seasonal rule curve, equipment replacements, or modernization activities or general operational or facility efficiency improvements are

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

² The current license for the Harris Project was issued with an effective date of December 1, 1973 and expires on November 30, 2023.

Project No. 2628-065

warranted.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969,³ the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of relicensing the Harris Project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the licensee's proposed action. We intend to prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the licensee's proposed action and alternatives. Preparation of the NEPA document will be supported by this scoping process to ensure identification and analysis of all pertinent issues.

³ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4370(f) (2012).

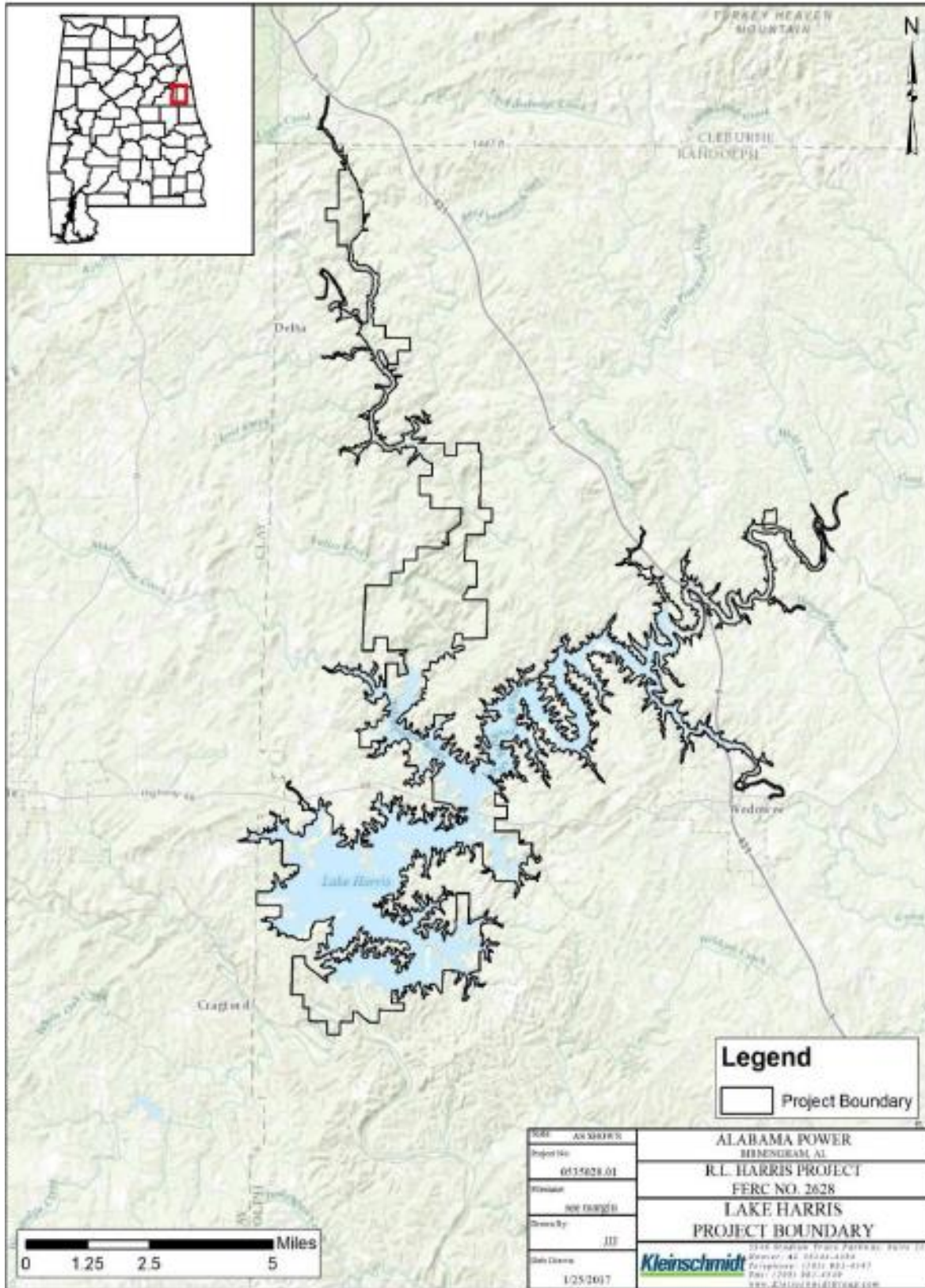


Figure 1. Project Location Map: Harris Lake (Source: PAD).

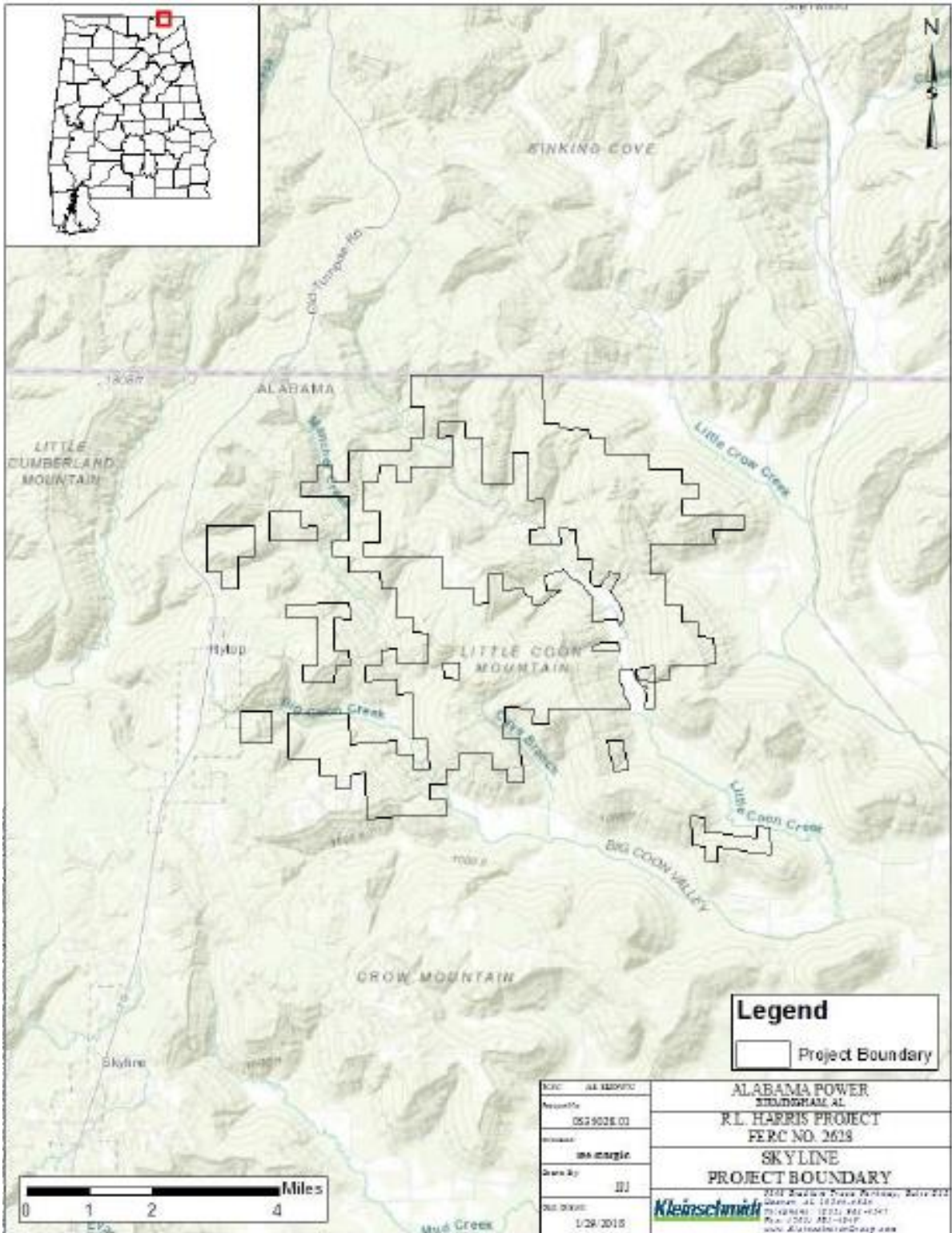


Figure 2. Project Location Map: Skyline (Source: PAD).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the NEPA document and to seek additional information pertinent to this analysis. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and schedule for the development of the NEPA document; (2) a description of the proposed action and alternatives; (3) a preliminary identification of environmental issues and proposed studies; (4) a request for comments and information; (5) a proposed outline for the environmental document; and (6) a preliminary list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. In general, scoping should be conducted during the early planning stages of a project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite the participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the NEPA document;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the NEPA document;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue, including existing information and study needs; and
- determine whether there are resource areas and/or potential issues that do not require a detailed analysis during review of the project.

2.2 COMMENTS, SCOPING MEETINGS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW

During preparation of the NEPA document, there will be several opportunities for the resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to provide input. These opportunities occur:

- during the public scoping process and study plan meetings, when we solicit oral and written comments regarding the scope of issues and analysis for the NEPA document;
- in response to the Commission’s notice that the project is ready for environmental analysis; and
- after issuance of the draft NEPA document.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the project. The daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Indian tribes, and the evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both of the meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the environmental document. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the environmental site review. The times and locations of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

Evening Scoping Meeting – Lineville, Alabama

Date & Time: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Wedowee Marine South
9681 Highway 48
Lineville, AL 36266
(770) 843-3054

For a map and directions to the Wedowee Marine South, please see Appendix C of this SD1 or visit: harrisrelicensing@southernco.com.

Daytime Scoping Meeting – Lineville, Alabama

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 9 a.m.
Location: Wedowee Marine South
9681 Highway 48
Lineville, AL 36266
(770) 843-3054

For a map and directions to Wedowee Marine South, please see Appendix C of this SD1 or visit: harrisrelicensing@southernco.com.

Please RSVP at harrisrelicensing@southernco.com or call Cecile Jones at (205) 257-1701, on or before **August 15, 2018** if you plan to attend the scoping meeting in Lineville.

Environmental Site Review

Alabama Power and Commission staff will conduct an Environmental Site Review (site visit) of the project on Tuesday, August 28, 2018, starting at 9:00 a.m., and ending at or about 4:30 p.m. All participants should meet at the Harris Dam located at 2761 County Road 100, Lineville, AL 36266. For a map and directions to Harris Dam, please see Appendix C of this SD1 or visit: harrisrelicensing@southernco.com. Participants must notify Cecile Jones at (205) 257-1701 or RSVP at harrisrelicensing@southernco.com, on or before August 15, 2018, if they plan to attend the environmental site review.

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter, and all statements (verbal and written) will become part of the Commission's public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments and information to the Commission as described in section 6.0. These meetings are posted on the Commission's calendar located on the internet at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx, along with other related information.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the relicensing of the Harris Project. It is advised that participants review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Copies of the PAD are available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-2628, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy of the PAD can be inspected and reproduced during regular business hours at the following address: Alabama Power Company, 600 18th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the NEPA document.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The NEPA document will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Harris Project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (*i.e.*, there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. This alternative is the baseline environmental condition for comparison with other alternatives.

3.1.1 Project Area

Harris Dam is located at river mile (RM) 139.1 on the Tallapoosa River near the towns of Lineville and Wedowee, Alabama. The Tallapoosa River Basin drainage encompasses approximately 4,675 square miles in east-central Alabama and western Georgia. The major tributaries of the Tallapoosa River include the Little Tallapoosa River and Sougahatchee, Sandy, Uphapee, and Hillabee Creeks. The headwaters of the Tallapoosa and Little Tallapoosa Rivers begin in Paulding and Carroll Counties, Georgia, and enter Alabama in Randolph County to form the main stem of the Tallapoosa River.

The Tallapoosa River flows southwesterly in Alabama, passing through four Alabama Power-owned hydropower developments. From upstream to downstream, they are: (1) the Harris Project, whose dam is at RM 139.1; (2) the Martin Dam Project, whose dam is at RM 60.6; (3) the Yates Development of the Yates and Thurlow Hydroelectric Project No. 2407, whose dam is at RM 52.7; and (4) the Thurlow Development of Project No. 2407, whose dam is at RM 49.7.

The confluence of the Tallapoosa and Coosa Rivers is located approximately 50 miles downstream of Thurlow Dam, at which point they form the Alabama River. The Alabama River flows west/southwest to Mobile Bay, where it enters the Gulf of Mexico.

3.1.2 Existing Project Boundary

The project boundary includes the 9,870-acre Harris Lake and 7,392 acres of land adjacent to the lake that encloses the dam, spillway, and powerhouse and other lands needed for operation of the project, as well as the project's recreation facilities and lands designated for future recreation use. In addition, the project boundary includes 15,063 acres of land within the Skyline WMA, located approximately 110 miles north of

Harris Lake. The lands associated with Skyline WMA are used for wildlife mitigation and enhancement, as required by the existing license.

3.1.3 Existing Project Facilities

The existing Harris Project includes: (1) the 29-mile-long, 9,870-acre Harris Lake at normal full pool elevation 793 feet, (2) a 151.5-foot-high concrete dam, (3) a 310-foot-long gated spillway with five 40.5-foot high by 40-foot-wide radial gates for passing flood flows, and one radial trash gate, (4) a variable level powerhouse intake integral with the dam which can draw water from lake elevations between 746 feet and 764 feet mean sea level (msl), (5) a 186-foot-long, 150-foot-high concrete powerhouse, integral with the dam housing two vertical Francis turbines with a maximum hydraulic capacity of 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and rated a total installed capacity of 135 MW, (6) two 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines which extend 1.5 miles from the dam to the Crooked Creek Transmission sub-station, and (7) appurtenant facilities. The project generates about 151,878 MWh annually.

3.1.4 Existing Project Operation

The Harris Project is a peaking facility and typically generates Monday through Friday to meet peak power demands. As licensed, the project serves multiple purposes, including hydropower generation, water supply, public recreation, and wildlife enhancement. Alabama Power operates the project to target lake surface elevations known as the project’s operating curve. In addition, the Corps Water Control Manual (WCM), last updated in 2014, describes flood management regulations, drought management provisions, and navigation requirements for the Harris Project.

Table 1 presents the target lake elevations during the year per the operating curve.

Table 1. Target Lake Elevations for the Harris Project

Period	Lake Elevation (feet)
January 1 through March 31	Maintain elevation at 785
April 1 through April 31	Raise elevation from 785 to 793
May 1 through September 31	Maintain elevation at 793
October 1 through November 31	Lower elevation from 793 to 785
December 1 through December 31	Maintain elevation at 785

When the lake is near the operating curve, the Harris Project will pass inflow up to approximately 13,000 cfs by releasing water through the powerhouse. The releases are guided by the Harris “Green Plan,” implemented in 2005 to improve downstream

ecological conditions, including fisheries.⁴ The Harris “Green Plan” outlines specific daily and hourly release schedules based on the number of machine hours planned for the day. The daily volume releases are suspended during flood conditions, and project operation is guided by the Corps WCM.

During flood conditions, if the lake rises above the operating curve (or is predicted to in the near future), but below elevation 790 feet, the project will discharge 13,000 cfs, or an amount that will not cause the USGS stream flow gage at Wadley, Alabama (Gage No. 02414500) to exceed 13 feet. When the lake rises above 790 feet, the release rises to the larger of 16,000 cfs or a surcharge amount indicated by induced surcharge curves. The specific gate openings for the spillway during flood conditions are described by a gate opening schedule in the Corps WCM.

During drought conditions the project is operated according to the Alabama Drought Response Plan (ADROP) which describes a range of operation requirements based on the severity and timing of a drought. ADROP is also included in the Corps WQM for the Harris Project.

3.2 LICENSEE’S PROPOSALS

3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities and Operation

Alabama Power currently proposes to continue to operate and maintain the project as required by its existing license. At this time, Alabama Power does not propose to construct any new project facilities, or to modify any existing project facilities. Alabama Power proposes to use pre-filing ILP studies to evaluate the need for modifications to project facilities or operations. In the PAD, Alabama Power proposes to study the feasibility of raising the winter pool level. The current winter pool is at 785 feet msl. The study will evaluate the feasibility of raising the maximum winter pool level from 785 feet to 786, 787, 788, and 789 feet msl, as shown in figure 3.

⁴ The Green Plan is an adaptive management program that began in 2005, and that consists of providing pulsing flow releases (10 to 30 minutes in length) in the Tallapoosa River to enhance aquatic habitat, fish, and other aquatic organism downstream from Harris Dam. The Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Auburn University monitors the Tallapoosa River annually to determine the response of the aquatic community to the Green Plan flow releases.

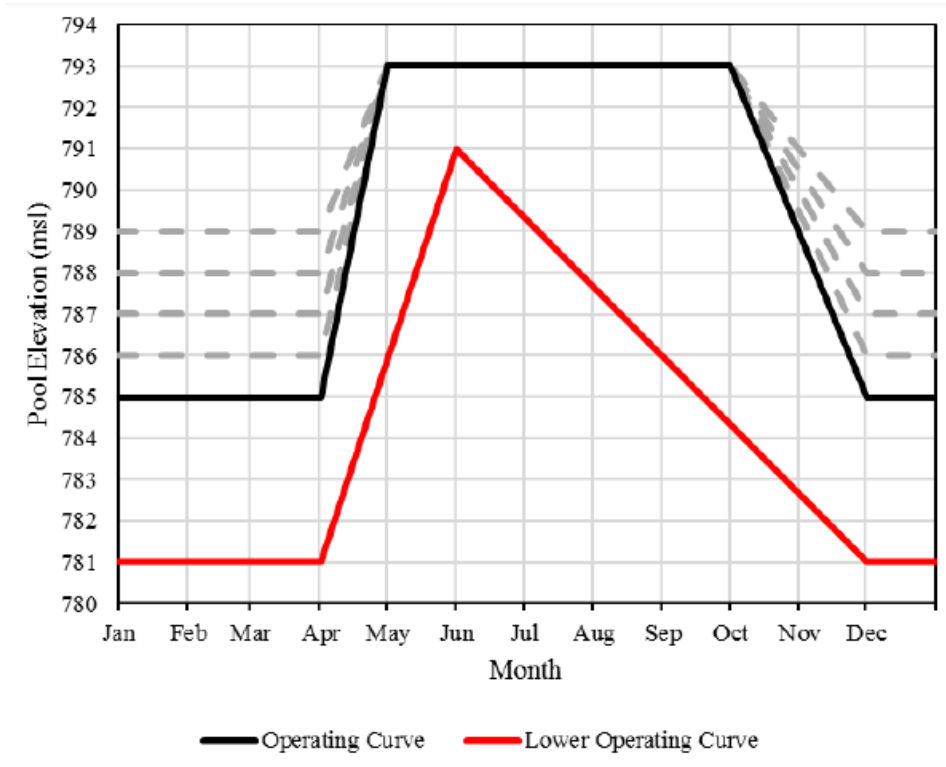


Figure 3. Harris Operating Curve with Proposed 1-foot Incremental Changes (Source: PAD).

3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures

Alabama Power is currently proposing to continue operating the project with the environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures described in the following section. The potential need for additional PM&E measures will be evaluated during the relicensing process.

Geological and Soil Resources

- Continue to implement the shoreline permitting guidelines and public education programs to control erosion and sedimentation within the project boundary.

Water Resources

- Continue to operate the project for (a) maintenance of water supply, (b) flood control, (c) drought management, (d) hydropower, (e) navigation, (f) maintenance of water quality, (g) fish and wildlife habitat, and (h) recreation.

Fish and Aquatic Resources

- Continue to implement the Green Plan.
- Continue to implement the existing, and currently voluntary, Fish Habitat Enhancement Program.⁵

Terrestrial Resources

- Develop a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) to preserve and protect terrestrial resources and manage aquatic nuisance vegetation at Harris Lake.
- Develop a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) to manage wildlife and hunting on project lands.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Alabama Power proposes no PM&E measures related to threatened and endangered species at this time.

Recreation Resources

- Continue to operate and maintain the project's existing project recreation facilities, which includes eight public boat launches, Flat Rock Park, Wedowee Marine South, R.L. Harris Management Area, and the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform.

Land Use

- Develop a SMP to manage land use and protect resources at Harris Lake.

Cultural Resources

- Develop a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the protection of historic properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

3.3 DAM SAFETY

It is important to note that dam safety constraints may exist and should be taken into consideration in the development of proposals and alternatives considered in the

⁵ The Fish Habitat Enhancement Program is implemented in cooperation with the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society and is designed to enhance the fisheries resources in Alabama Power-managed reservoirs, including Harris Lake. The program involves the installation of recycled Christmas trees in the reservoir(s) as fish habitat.

pending proceeding. For example, any potential increase in the winter pool elevation could impact the integrity of the dam structure and affect flooding in the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam. As the proposal and alternatives are developed, the applicant must evaluate the effects and ensure that the project would meet the Commission's dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission's regulations and the Engineering Guidelines (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety/guidelines/eng-guide.asp>).

3.4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and assess alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as PM&E measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

3.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the NEPA document.

3.5.1 Federal Government Takeover

In accordance with section 16.14 of the Commission's regulations, a federal department or agency may file a recommendation that the United States exercise its right to take over a hydroelectric power project with a license that is subject to sections 14 and 15 of the FPA.⁶ We do not consider federal takeover to be a reasonable alternative. Federal takeover of the project would require congressional approval. While that fact alone would not preclude further consideration of this alternative, there is currently no evidence showing that federal takeover should be recommended to Congress. No party has suggested that federal takeover would be appropriate, and no federal agency has expressed interest in operating the project.

3.5.2 Non-power License

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or ability to take over the project. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no

⁶ 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r).

basis for concluding that the project should no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project.

3.5.3 Project Decommissioning

Decommissioning of the project could be accomplished with or without dam removal. Either alternative would require denying the relicense application and surrender or termination of the existing license with appropriate conditions. There would be significant costs involved with decommissioning the project and/or removing any project facilities. The project provides a viable, safe, and clean renewable source of power to the region. With decommissioning, the project would no longer be authorized to generate power.

No party has suggested project decommissioning would be appropriate in this case, and we have no basis for recommending it. Thus, we do not consider project decommissioning a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project with appropriate environmental measures.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected

Based on information in the PAD for the Harris Project, and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified geology and soils (erosion and sedimentation), water quantity, water quality, and fishery resources as resources that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed continued operation and maintenance of the Harris Project, in combination with other hydroelectric projects and other activities in the Tallapoosa River Basin.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

Our geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities within the Tallapoosa River Basin. Because the proposed actions would affect the resources differently, the geographic scope for each resource may vary.

For geology and soils, as well as water quality, we have tentatively identified the geographic scope to include the upper and middle Tallapoosa River Basin, which extends from the headwaters of the Tallapoosa River downstream approximately 44 river miles to Horseshoe Bend, which is located about 8 miles upstream of the headwaters of Lake Martin. We chose this geographic scope because the collective operation and maintenance of the project, in combination with other developmental and non-developmental uses of the upper and middle Tallapoosa River Basin, may cumulatively affect geology and soil resources and water quality in the Tallapoosa River.

For water quantity, we have tentatively identified the geographic scope to include the system of 11 dams owned by Alabama Power⁷ and two Corps-owned dams, all of which the Corps manages for flood control purposes in the Tallapoosa and Coosa River Basins. On the Tallapoosa River, this system extends from the Corps' Altoona Reservoir, located upstream of the Harris Project, downstream to the confluence with the Coosa River where the two rivers meet to form the Alabama River. On the Coosa River, this system includes the Corps' Carters Reservoir and Alabama Power's Coosa River Project. We have chosen this geographic scope of analysis because it includes the entirety of the Tallapoosa and Coosa River Basins that are managed for flood control purposes. The Corps' flood control operations in these two river basins have the potential to both directly and cumulatively affect water quantity at Harris Lake, and operational changes at Harris Lake have the potential to affect the Corps' flood control operations in the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin.

For fishery resources, we have tentatively identified the geographic scope to include the Tallapoosa River from the headwaters of Harris Lake (within the project boundary) downstream to the confluence of the Tallapoosa and Coosa Rivers. We chose this geographic scope because the presence and operation of the Harris Project, along

⁷ These dams include: (1) the Harris, Martin, Yates, and Thurlow Dams on the Tallapoosa River; and (2) the Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, Jordan, and Walter Bouldin Dams on the Coosa River, collectively known as the Coosa River Project No. 2146.

with the downstream Martin and Yates-Thurlow Projects, could affect the movements of fish and fish populations in the Tallapoosa River.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the NEPA document will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a new license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the environmental document. We identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the PAD and the Commission's record for the Harris Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains the issues raised to date. After the scoping process is complete, we will review the list and determine the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the environmental document. Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects. We have not identified issues relating to aesthetic resources or socioeconomics at this time.

4.2.1 Geology and Soil Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on soil and shoreline erosion in Harris Lake, as well as streambank erosion along the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam.*
- Effects of continued project operation on sedimentation in Harris Lake and in the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam.*
- Effects of potential operation guide curve changes on (a) erosion of lake shorelines, (b) any increase in sedimentation in Harris Lake caused by such changes, and (c) erosion of riverbanks and sedimentation along the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam.

4.2.2 Water Resources

- Effects of continued project operation for both power generation and flood control on water quantity, including its relationship to lake level, flooding downstream from Harris Dam, and drought/low-flow periods.*

- Effects of continued project operation on water quality, particularly on dissolved oxygen (DO) and water temperature.
- Effects of any construction activities on water quality within the project boundary.
- Effects of potential operation guide curve changes on water quality and nutrient levels in Harris Lake that are associated with tributaries.*
- Effects of potential operation guide curve changes on water withdrawals, wastewater assimilation, water quantity and timing of releases for downstream navigation, hydropower use (*e.g.*, Green Plan flow releases), and downstream flooding potential.*
- Effects of potential operation guide curve changes on water usage during drought conditions (*i.e.*, during implementation of the Alabama Drought Response Operations Plan).*
- Effects of land management practices, within the project boundary, on water quality in the Skyline Wildlife Management Area.

4.2.3 Fish and Aquatic Resources

- Effects of (low) DO and/or (low) water temperatures on aquatic resources in Harris Lake and in the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam.
- Effects of continued project operation (including lake level management and downstream flow releases (Green Plan)), on: (a) near-shore aquatic plants and other aquatic habitat in Harris Lake and along the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam; and (b) the fish populations and other aquatic organisms that inhabit such areas in the lake and river.
- Effects of continued project operation on fish movement in the Tallapoosa River.*
- Effects of continued project operation on fish entrainment and impingement, and the effect of entrainment and turbine-induced mortality on lake fisheries.
- Effects of providing woody debris and other physical structure as fish habitat in Lake Harris on the lake's aquatic community, including gamefish populations.
- Effects of potential operation guide curve changes on: (a) near-shore aquatic habitat in Harris Lake and along the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam; and (b) the fish and other

aquatic organisms inhabiting Harris Lake and the project-affected reaches of the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam.

4.2.4 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of the frequency, timing, amplitude, and duration of lake fluctuations and flow releases from the project on riparian, wetland, and littoral vegetation community types.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance activities (*e.g.*, road and facility maintenance) and project-related recreation on vegetation and wildlife habitat.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on avian species, including avian electrocution and collision with project transmission facilities.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance activities and project-related recreation on non-native invasive botanical and wildlife species.

4.2.5 Threatened and Endangered Species⁸

- Effects of current project operation (*i.e.*, water level management and Green Plan flow releases), and any potential operation guide curve changes, on the federally listed threatened finelined pocketbook mussel (*Hamiota (=Lampsilis) altilis*) and southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*).
- Effects of land management activities within the project boundary of the Skyline WMA on federally listed threatened and endangered (T&E) aquatic species, including: palezone shiner (*Notropis albizonatus*), spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*), Alabama lampmussel (*Lampsilis virescens*); Cumberland bean (pearlymussel) (*Villosa trabalis*); fine-rayed pigtoe (*Fusconaia cuneolus*); pale liliput (pearlymussel) (*Toxolasma cylindrellus*); rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica*); shiny pigtoe (*Fusconaia cor*); snuffbox

⁸ With the exception of the southern pigtoe, palezone shiner, spotfin chub, and Price's potato-bean, all of the species listed in this section were identified in Alabama Power's PAD. Southern pigtoe was included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) official species list for the Harris Project in the vicinity of Harris Lake. In addition, palezone shiner, spotfin chub, and Price's potato-bean were included in the official species list for the project area in the vicinity of the Skyline WMA. Both lists were generated on FWS's ECOS-IPaC website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) on July 27, 2018, and filed on July 30, 2018. Slabside pearlymussel appeared in Alabama Power's PAD, but not on the official species lists for the project.

mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*); and slabside pearlymussel (*Pleuonaia dolabelloides*).

- Effects of continued project operation, including potential operation guide changes, and maintenance at Harris Lake and management activities at Skyline WMA on federally listed T&E wildlife and plant species, including: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*); gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*); Indiana bat (*Myotis sodali*); northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); Price's potato-bean (*Apios priceana*), little amphianthus (*Amphianthus pusillus*); and white fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*).

4.2.6 Recreation

- Adequacy of existing recreation facilities and public access to meet current and future recreation demand.
- Effects of project operation, including lake fluctuation and potential operation guide curve changes, on access to existing recreation facilities.

4.2.7 Land Use

- Adequacy of existing shoreline management policies and shoreline compliance program to control non-project use of project lands (*e.g.*, permitting piers, boat docks, and other facilities).
- Adequacy of the existing shoreline management policies and shoreline compliance program to protect environmental and cultural resources at the project.

4.2.8 Cultural Resources

- Effects of the project operation and maintenance on historic and archeological resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Indian tribes.

4.2.9 Developmental Resources

- Effects of potential operational changes on the energy and capacity benefits of the projects, and effects of protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures on the cost of project power.

5.0 PROPOSED STUDIES

Initial study proposals from Alabama Power are identified by resource area, below in Table 2, and in the PAD. Further studies may need to be added to this list based on comments provided to the Commission and the licensees from agencies, Indian tribes, and interested parties during the study planning process.

Table 2. Initial Study Proposals by Project Applicant (Source: PAD, Appendix T)

Resource Area and Issue	Alabama Power’s Proposed Study
Geologic and Soil Resources	Identify and inventory problematic erosion and sedimentation areas along Harris Lake, the Tallapoosa River downstream to Horseshoe Bend, and within the project boundary at the Skyline Wildlife Management Area, and determine likely causes.
Water Quantity	Conduct a feasibility analysis of raising the lake’s winter pool elevation and making corresponding changes in the spring and fall elevations.
Water Quality	Summarize existing baseline water quality information, as well as conduct additional water quality sampling to collect data needed for the section 401 Water Quality Certification application. ⁹
Fishery Resources	Use existing information, supplemented by field and laboratory data, where necessary, to address five questions identified in section 2 of the proposed study plan (<i>see</i> PAD, Appendix T at 721). ¹⁰
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species	Compile a list of T&E species and critical habitats that are known to occur in the counties surrounding

⁹ Alabama Power has already carried out a portion of this proposed study that involves collecting DO and water temperature during generation from June 1 through October 31 of 2017 through 2019. Nonetheless, please note that we may, upon review of the existing record, receipt of scoping comments and study requests (due September 29, 2018), and the proposed study plan (due November 13, 2018), require additional water quality studies, study methods, or information.

¹⁰ The five questions are: (1) What is the status of the gamefish population in the Tallapoosa River downstream from Harris Dam to Horseshoe Bend; (2) What are the

Resource Area and Issue	Alabama Power’s Proposed Study
	<p>the Harris Project, and the downstream reach of the Tallapoosa River from Harris Dam to Horseshoe Bend.</p> <p>Review literature to gather habitat requirement data.</p> <p>Use a geographic information system (GIS) to map habitat information (<i>e.g.</i>, land use, tree stand data, aquatic habitat data) to identify potentially suitable habitat for T&E species.</p> <p>Identify any project-related effects on T&E species, and consult with stakeholders regarding the need for additional studies and protective measures.</p>
Recreation	<p>For Harris Lake and areas downstream of Harris Dam to Horseshoe Bend, evaluate existing recreation use and potential future recreation use including access and facilities. Conduct a recreation facilities inventory and use survey.</p>
Land Use	<p><u>Phase One:</u> Evaluate the existing project lands and their project purposes to evaluate the need for adding and/or removing lands from the project boundary and modifying land classifications.</p> <p><u>Phase Two:</u> Use results of Phase One to develop a SMP for Lake Harris and WMP for Lake Harris and Skyline.</p> <p>Study goals include also include evaluating existing and future timber management practices.</p>

temperature requirements of fish species of importance to Alabama DCNR’s management goals; (3) How similar or different are water temperatures from regulated and unregulated sites; (4) What existing information is available from previous research to characterize the condition of the fishery and potential effects of water temperatures or other factors; and (5) Will a Bioenergetics Model for select species help determine if, and to what extent, temperature fluctuations affect reproduction, growth, and recruitment.

Resource Area and Issue	Alabama Power's Proposed Study
Cultural Resources	Define an area of potential effects and identify the need for archaeological survey Harris Project to support development of an HPMP. Conduct a Phase 1 cultural resources background study to determine locations within the project boundary that may experience project-related effects and to identify specific targeted areas for additional investigation.
Developmental Resources	Develop an operations model to describe and assess the extent of any water storage and generation changes considered during the relicensing process.

6.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND STUDIES

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies; Indian tribes; NGOs; and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with relicensing the Harris Project. The types of information requested include, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed relicensing of the Harris Project;
- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (*e.g.*, proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs), along with any implementation schedules);

- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public;
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration; and
- study requests by federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public that would help provide a framework for collecting pertinent information on the resource areas under consideration necessary for the Commission to prepare the NEPA document for the project.

All requests for studies filed with the Commission must meet the criteria found in Appendix A, *Study Plan Criteria*.

The requested information, comments, and study requests should be submitted to the Commission no later than **September 29, 2018**. All filings must clearly identify the following on the first page: **R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (P-2628-065)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, please send a paper copy to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Any questions concerning the scoping meetings, site visit, or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Sarah Salazar at (202) 502-6863, or Sarah.Salazar@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Harris Project may be obtained from the Commission's website, www.ferc.gov.

7.0 PREPARATION SCHEDULE

At this time, we anticipate the need to prepare a draft and final NEPA document. The draft NEPA document will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission's service and mailing lists for the project. The NEPA document will include our recommendations for operating procedures, as well as PM&E measures that should be part of any license issued by the Commission. All recipients will then have 30 days to review the EA, or 60 days to review the EIS, and file written comments with the Commission. All comments on the draft NEPA document filed with the Commission will be considered in preparation of the final NEPA document.

The major milestones, including those for preparing the NEPA document, are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Meetings	August 2018
License Application Filed	November 2021
Ready for Environmental Analysis Notice Issued	January 2022
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations, and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	March 2022
Draft NEPA Document Issued	November 2022
Comments on Draft NEPA Document Due	December 2022
Deadline for Filing Modified Agency Recommendations	February 2023
Final NEPA Document Issued	May 2023

If Commission staff determines that there is a need for additional information or additional studies, the issuance of the Ready for Environmental Analysis notice could be delayed. If this occurs, all subsequent milestones would be delayed by the time allowed for the licensee to respond to the Commission's request. A copy of the process plan, which has a complete list of the relicensing milestones for the Harris Project, including those for developing the license application, is attached as Appendix B to this SD1.

8.0 PROPOSED NEPA DOCUMENT OUTLINE

The preliminary outline for the Harris Project's NEPA document is as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS
LIST OF APPENDICES
LIST OF FIGURES
LIST OF TABLES
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Application

1.2 Purpose of Action and Need for Power

1.3 Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

1.3.1 Federal Power Act

1.3.1.1 Section 18 Fishway Prescriptions

1.3.1.2 Section 4(e) Conditions

1.3.1.3 Section 10(j) Recommendations

1.3.2 Clean Water Act

1.3.3 Endangered Species Act

1.3.4 National Historic Preservation Act

1.4 Public Review and Comment

1.4.1 Scoping

1.4.2 Interventions

1.4.3 Comments on the Application

1.4.4 Comments on the Draft Environmental Document

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No-action Alternative

2.1.1 Existing Project Facilities

2.1.2 Project Safety

2.1.3 Existing Project Operation

2.1.4 Existing Environmental Measures

2.2 Applicant's Proposal

2.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities

2.2.2 Proposed Project Operation

2.2.3 Proposed Environmental Measures

2.2.4 Proposed Project Boundary

2.3 Staff Alternative

2.4 Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions

2.5 Other Alternatives (as appropriate)

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- 2.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study
 - 2.6.1 Federal Government Takeover of the Project
 - 2.6.2 Issuing a Nonpower License
 - 2.6.3 Retiring the Project
- 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
 - 3.1 General Description of the River Basin
 - 3.2 Scope of Cumulative Effects Analysis
 - 3.2.1 Geographic Scope
 - 3.2.2 Temporal Scope
 - 3.3 Proposed Action and Action Alternatives
 - 3.3.1 Geology and Soil Resources
 - 3.3.2 Water Resources
 - 3.3.3 Fish and Aquatic Resources
 - 3.3.4 Terrestrial Resources
 - 3.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species
 - 3.3.6 Recreation Resources
 - 3.3.7 Land Use
 - 3.3.8 Cultural Resources
 - 3.4 No-action Alternative
- 4.0 DEVELOPMENTAL ANALYSIS
 - 4.1 Power and Economic Benefits of the Project
 - 4.2 Comparison of Alternatives
 - 4.3 Cost of Environmental Measures
- 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 - 5.1 Comprehensive Development and Recommended Alternative
 - 5.2 Unavoidable Adverse Effects
 - 5.3 Recommendations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - 5.4 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans
- 6.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT [OR SIGNIFICANT IMPACT]
- 7.0 LITERATURE CITED
- 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

APPENDICES

A—Draft License Conditions Recommended by Staff

9.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. The staff has initially identified the plans listed below that may be relevant to the projects. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform the Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 CFR 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing/complan.pdf>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Harris Project.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. 1990. Wildlife Lands Needed for Alabama. Montgomery, Alabama. October 1990.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. 2005. Alabama's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Montgomery, Alabama.

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. 2008. Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2008-2012. Montgomery, Alabama.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2006. The Striped Bass Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, United States: A Regional Management Plan. Ocean Springs, Mississippi. March 2006.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1995. Gulf Sturgeon Recovery/Management Plan. Atlanta, Georgia. September 15, 1995.

National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2000. Recovery Plan for the Mobile River Basin Aquatic Ecosystem. Department of the Interior, Daphne, Alabama. November 17, 2000.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Aquatic Resource Management Plan for the Alabama River Basin. Department of the Interior, Daphne, Alabama.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Gulf Coast Joint Venture Plan: A Component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. June 1990.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

10.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission's official mailing list for the Harris Project. If you want to receive future mailings for the Harris Project and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to efiling@ferc.gov, or by mail to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All written and emailed requests to be added to the mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: **R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project No. 2628-065**. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1 866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Official Mailing List for the Harris Project

John T. Eddins Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 401 F Street NW, Suite 308 Washington, DC 20001-2637	Bryant J. Celestine Historic Preservation Officer Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas 571 State Park Road 56 Livingston, TX 77351
Director, Division of Public Lands Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 64 North Union St Montgomery, AL 36130-0001	Jackson, County of Board of Commissioners 102 E Laurel Street, Suite 47 Scottsboro, AL 35768 ¹¹
Water Quality Branch Alabama Department of Environmental Management PO Box 301463 Montgomery, AL 36130-1463	Northeast Randolph County Utility Board PO Box 270 Wedowee, AL 36278-0270

¹¹ The address for Jackson County Board of Commissioners is incomplete on the Commission's official mailing list for the Harris Project. For this SD1, staff searched online and included a street address for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. However, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners will need to update its address per the instructions above in order to continue to receive documents sent to this mailing list.

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<p>Alabama Forestry Commission 513 Madison Ave. Montgomery, AL 36130-0001</p>	<p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District PO Box 2288 Mobile, AL 36628-0001</p>
<p>Elizabeth Ann Brown, Deputy SHPO Alabama Historical Commission 468 S Perry St State Historic Preservation Office Montgomery, AL 36130-0001</p>	<p>Office of the Solicitor U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs 1849 C Street, NW, MS 6557 Washington, DC 20240</p>
<p>Governor of Alabama Alabama Office of the Governor State Capitol 600 Dexter Ave Montgomery, AL 36130-2751</p>	<p>Section Chief, Region IV (SE) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303</p>
<p>R. M. Akridge, Manager - Hydro Services Alabama Power Company PO Box 2641 Birmingham, AL 35291-0001</p>	<p>U.S. National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior 100 Alabama St SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8701</p>
<p>Commanding Officer U.S. Coast Guard 1500 S Broad St # 102 Mobile, AL 36605-1804</p>	<p>Dir., Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1875 Century Blvd NE Ste 200 Atlanta, GA 30345-3319</p>
<p>Jim Crew Alabama Power Company 600 North 18th St. Birmingham, AL 35291-8180</p>	<p>Mike Rogers Honorable U.S. House of Representatives Cannon House office Building Washington, DC 20515-0103</p>
<p>Angela Anderegg Alabama Power Company 600 North 18th Street Birmingham, AL 35291</p>	<p>Richard Shelby Honorable U.S. Senate 304 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510</p>
<p>Alabama Public Service Commission Secretary PO Box 304260 Montgomery, AL 36130-4260</p>	<p>Doug Jones Honorable U.S. Senate 326 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510</p>

Project No. 2628-065

Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Commission PO Box 304800 Montgomery, AL 36130-4800	
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APPENDIX A

**STUDY PLAN CRITERIA
18 C.F.R. Section 5.9(b)**

Any information or study request must contain the following:

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 not a 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 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; and
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

APPENDIX B

**PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE FOR THE ILP RELICENSING OF THE
R.L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

(shaded milestones are unnecessary if there are no study disputes; if due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the following business day)

18 C.F.R.	Lead	Activity	Timeframe	Deadline
§ 5.5(a)	Alabama Power	Filing of NOI and PAD	Actual filing date	6/1/2018
§ 5.7	FERC	Initial Tribal Consultation Meeting	No later than 30 days from NOI and PAD	7/1/2018
§5.8	FERC	FERC Issues Notice of Commencement of Proceeding and Scoping Document (SD1)	Within 60 days of NOI and PAD	7/31/2018
§5.8 (b)(3)(viii)	FERC/ Stakeholders	Public Scoping Meetings and Environmental Site Review	Within 30 days of NOI and PAD notice and issuance of SD1	8/28/2018 - 8/29/2018
§ 5.9	Stakeholders/ FERC	File Comments on PAD, SD1, and Study Requests	Within 60 days of NOI and PAD notice and issuance of SD1	9/29/2018
§5.10	FERC	FERC Issues Scoping Document 2 (SD2), if necessary	Within 45 days of deadline for filing comments on SD1	11/13/2018
§5.11(a)	Alabama Power	File Proposed Study Plans	Within 45 days of deadline for filing comments on SD1	11/13/2018
§5.11(e)	Alabama Power/ Stakeholders	Study Plan Meetings	Within 30 days of deadline for filing proposed Study Plans	12/13/2018
§5.12	Stakeholders	File Comments on Proposed Study Plan	Within 90 days after proposed study plan is filed	2/11/2019
§5.13(a)	Alabama Power	File Revised Study Plan	Within 30 days following the deadline for filing comments on proposed Study Plan	3/13/2019
§5.13(b)	Stakeholders	File Comments on Revised Study Plan (if necessary)	Within 15 days following Revised Study Plan	3/28/2019
§5.13(c)	FERC	FERC Issues Study Plan Determination	Within 30 days following Revised Study Plan	4/12/2019
§5.14(a)	Mandatory Conditioning Agencies	Notice of Formal Study Dispute (if necessary)	Within 20 days of Study Plan determination	5/2/2019
§5.14(l)	FERC	Study Dispute Determination	Within 70 days of notice of formal study dispute	7/11/2019

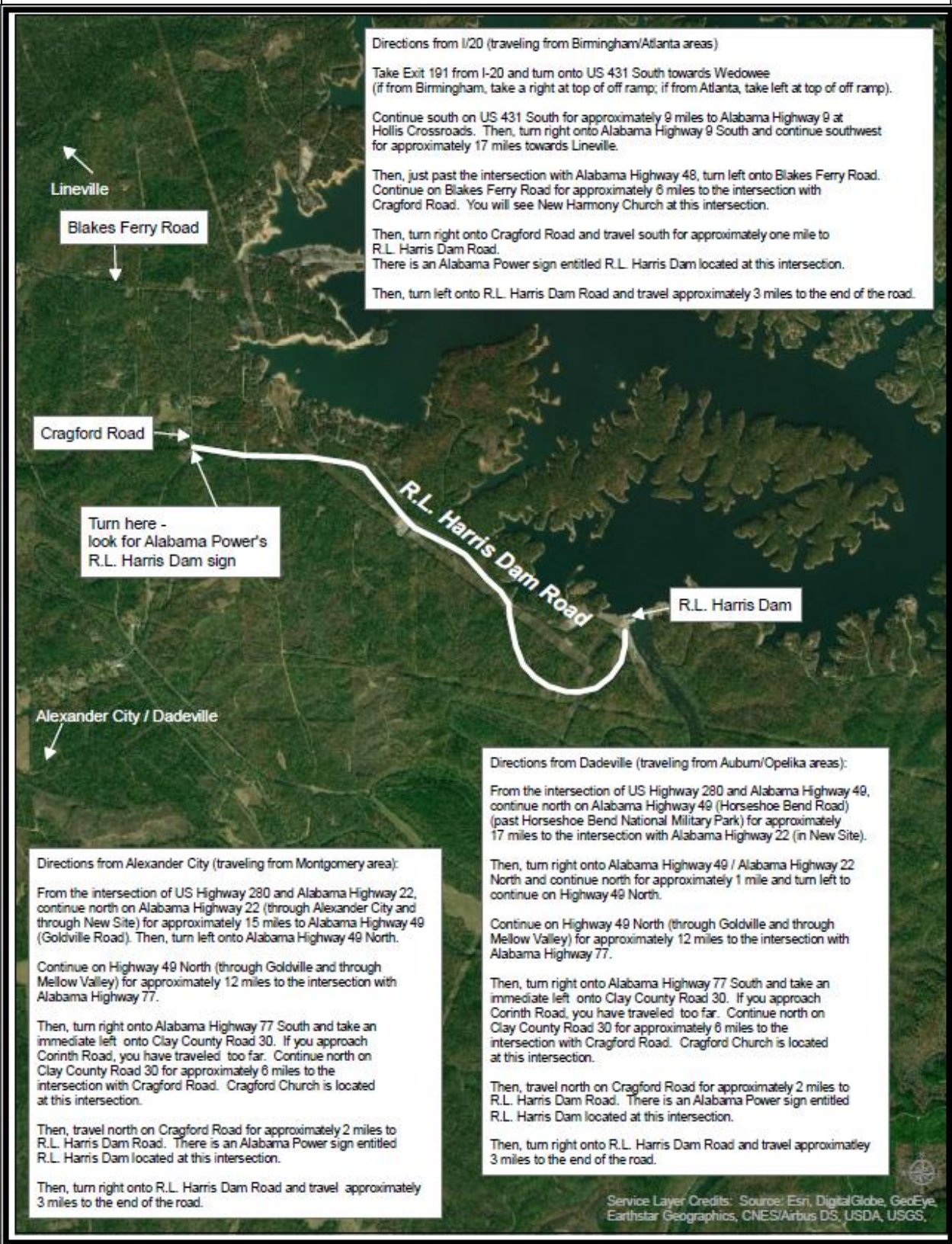
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18 C.F.R.	Lead	Activity	Timeframe	Deadline
§5.15(a)	Alabama Power	Conduct First Season Field Studies	Spring/Summer 2019	
§5.15(c)(1)	Alabama Power	File Initial Study Reports	No later than one year from Study Plan approval	4/12/2020
§5.15(c)(2)	Alabama Power	Initial Study Results Meeting	Within 15 days of Initial Study Report	4/27/2020
§5.15(c)(3)	Alabama Power	File Study Results Meeting Summary	Within 15 days of Study Results Meeting	5/12/2020
§5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders/ FERC	File Meeting Summary Disagreements/Modifications to Study/Requests for New Studies	Within 30 days of filing Meeting Summary	6/11/2020
§5.15(c)(5)	Alabama Power	File Responses to Disagreements/Modifications/ New Study Requests	Within 30 days of disputes	7/11/2020
§5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Resolution of Disagreements/ Study Plan Determination (if necessary)	Within 30 days of filing responses to disputes	8/10/2020
§5.15	Alabama Power	Conduct Second Season Field Studies	Spring/Summer 2020	
§5.15 (f)	Alabama Power	File Updated Study Reports	No later than two years from Study Plan approval	4/12/2021
§5.15(c)(2)	Alabama Power	Second Study Results Meeting	Within 15 days of Updated Study Report	4/27/2021
§5.15(c)(3)	Alabama Power	File Study Results Meeting Summary	With 15 days of Study Results Meeting	5/12/2021
§5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders/ FERC	File Meeting Summary Disagreements/ Modifications to Study Requests/Requests for New Studies	Within 30 days of filing Meeting Summary	6/11/2021
§5.15(c)(5)	Alabama Power/ Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Modifications/ New Study Requests	Within 30 days of disputes	7/11/2021
§5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Resolution of Disagreements/ Study Plan Determination (if necessary)	Within 30 days of filing responses to disagreements	8/10/2021
§5.16(a)	Alabama Power	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application) with the FERC and distribute to Stakeholders	Not later than 150 days before final application is filed	7/3/2021
§5.16 (e)	FERC/ Stakeholders	Comments on Alabama Power's Preliminary Licensing Proposal, Additional Information Request (if necessary)	Within 90 days of filing Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	10/1/2021
§5.17 (a)	Alabama Power	License Application Filed		11/30/2021

APPENDIX C

**MAPS AND DIRECTIONS
TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW AND SCOPING MEETINGS
FOR THE R.L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

Directions: Environmental Site Review for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project



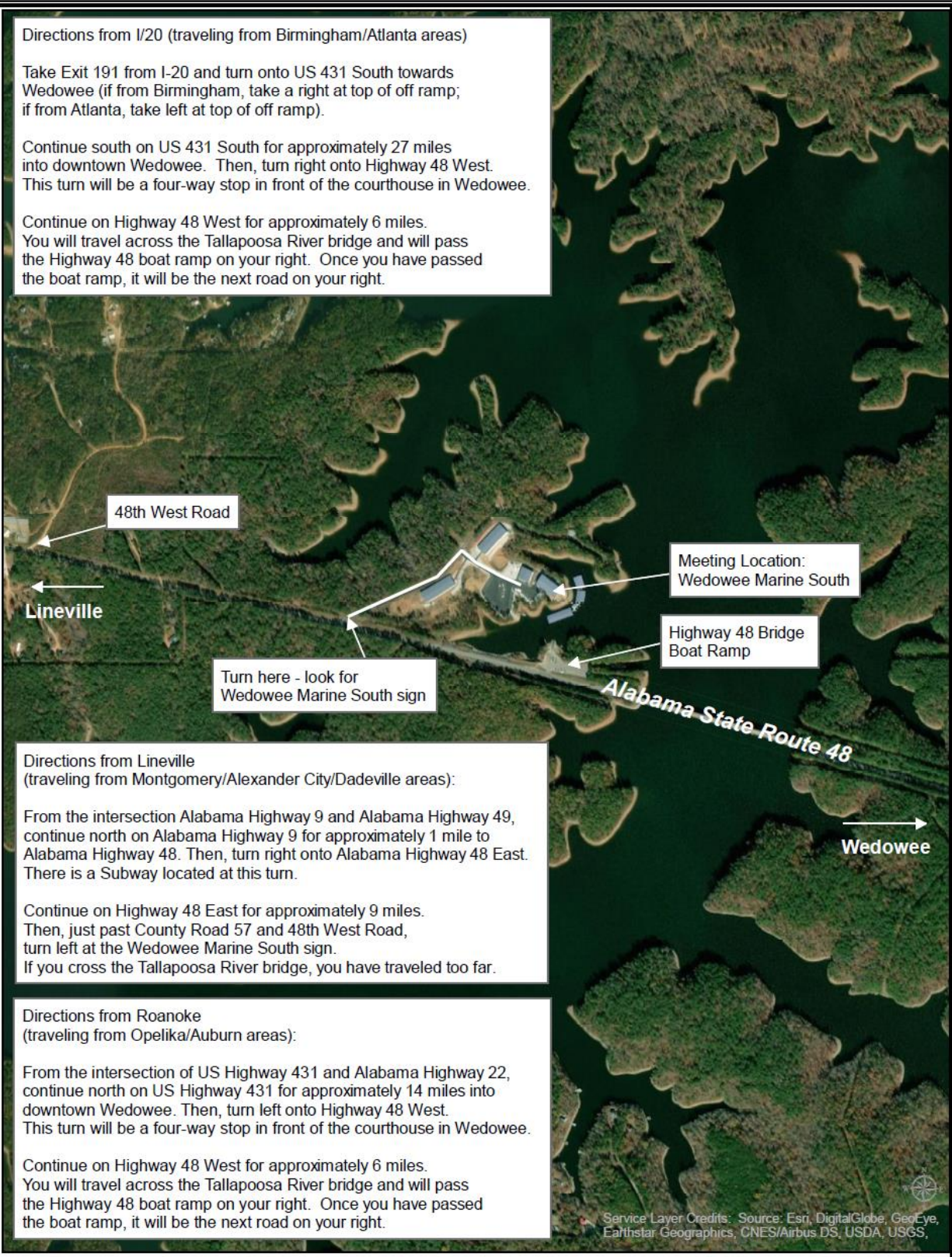
Directions: Scoping Meetings for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

Directions from I/20 (traveling from Birmingham/Atlanta areas)

Take Exit 191 from I-20 and turn onto US 431 South towards Wedowee (if from Birmingham, take a right at top of off ramp; if from Atlanta, take left at top of off ramp).

Continue south on US 431 South for approximately 27 miles into downtown Wedowee. Then, turn right onto Highway 48 West. This turn will be a four-way stop in front of the courthouse in Wedowee.

Continue on Highway 48 West for approximately 6 miles. You will travel across the Tallapoosa River bridge and will pass the Highway 48 boat ramp on your right. Once you have passed the boat ramp, it will be the next road on your right.



Directions from Lineville (traveling from Montgomery/Alexander City/Dadeville areas):

From the intersection Alabama Highway 9 and Alabama Highway 49, continue north on Alabama Highway 9 for approximately 1 mile to Alabama Highway 48. Then, turn right onto Alabama Highway 48 East. There is a Subway located at this turn.

Continue on Highway 48 East for approximately 9 miles. Then, just past County Road 57 and 48th West Road, turn left at the Wedowee Marine South sign.

If you cross the Tallapoosa River bridge, you have traveled too far.

Directions from Roanoke (traveling from Opelika/Auburn areas):

From the intersection of US Highway 431 and Alabama Highway 22, continue north on US Highway 431 for approximately 14 miles into downtown Wedowee. Then, turn left onto Highway 48 West. This turn will be a four-way stop in front of the courthouse in Wedowee.

Continue on Highway 48 West for approximately 6 miles. You will travel across the Tallapoosa River bridge and will pass the Highway 48 boat ramp on your right. Once you have passed the boat ramp, it will be the next road on your right.

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