

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
November 16, 2018

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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

Subject: Scoping Document 2 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 have conducted a public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed and that the NEPA document is thorough and balanced.

Our preliminary review of the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in our EA was contained in Scoping Document 1 (SD1), which was issued on July 31, 2018. We requested comments on SD1 to hear the views of all interested entities on the scope of issues that should be addressed in the EA. Based on written comments we received during the scoping process, we have updated SD1 to reflect our current view of issues and alternatives to be considered in the EA. ***Key changes from SD1 to SD2 are identified in bold, italicized type.***

The enclosed SD2 supersedes SD1. SD2 is issued for informational use by all interested entities; no response is required. If you have any questions about SD2, the

scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact 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 our website at <http://www.ferc.gov>.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 2

SCOPING DOCUMENT 2
R.L. HARRIS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
(FERC NO. 2628-065)

ALABAMA



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

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 2

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

¹ 16 U.S.C. §§ 791a-825r (2012).

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

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modernization activities or general operational or facility efficiency improvements are 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 *et seq.* (2012).

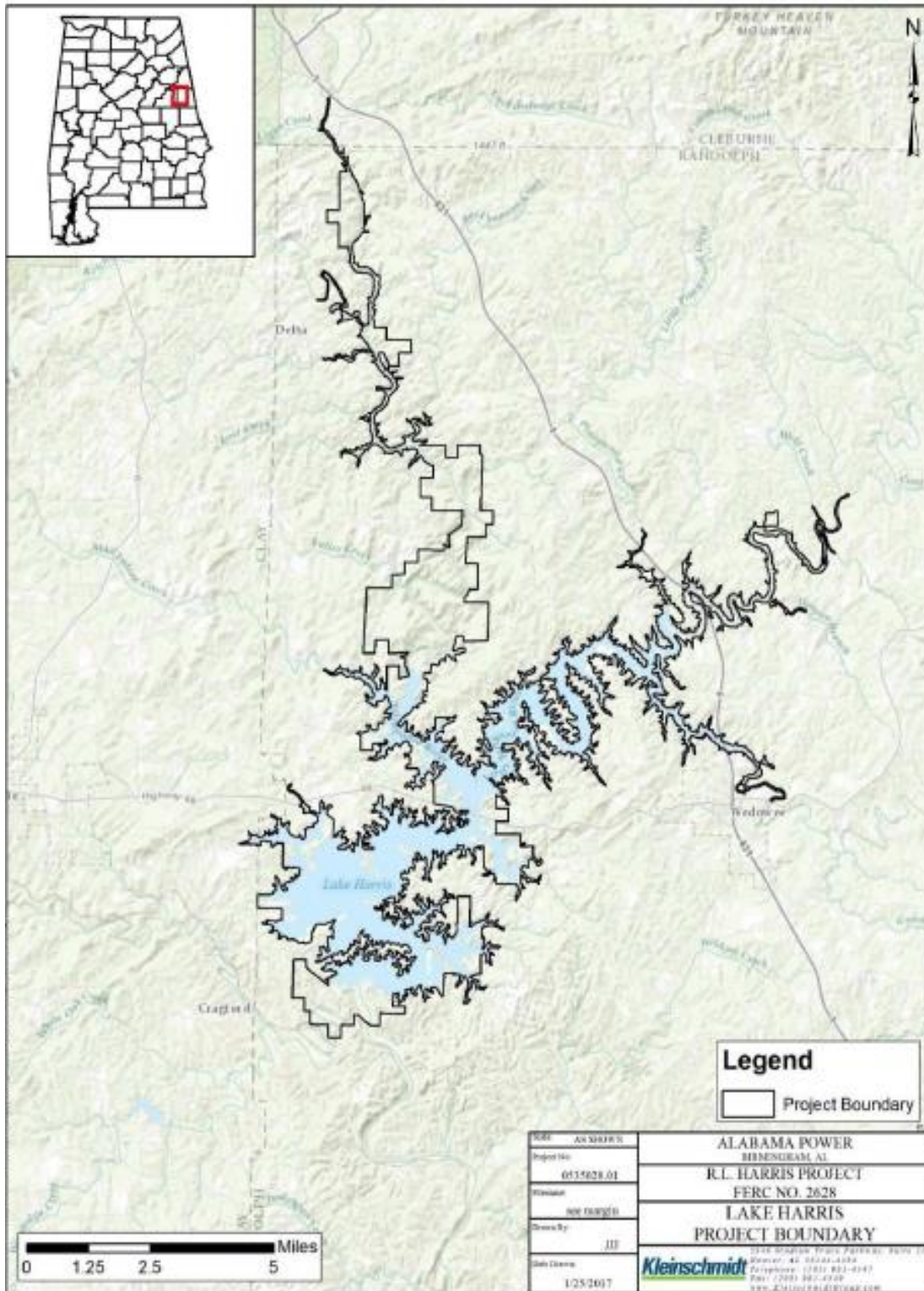


Figure 1. Project Location Map: Harris Lake (Source: PAD).

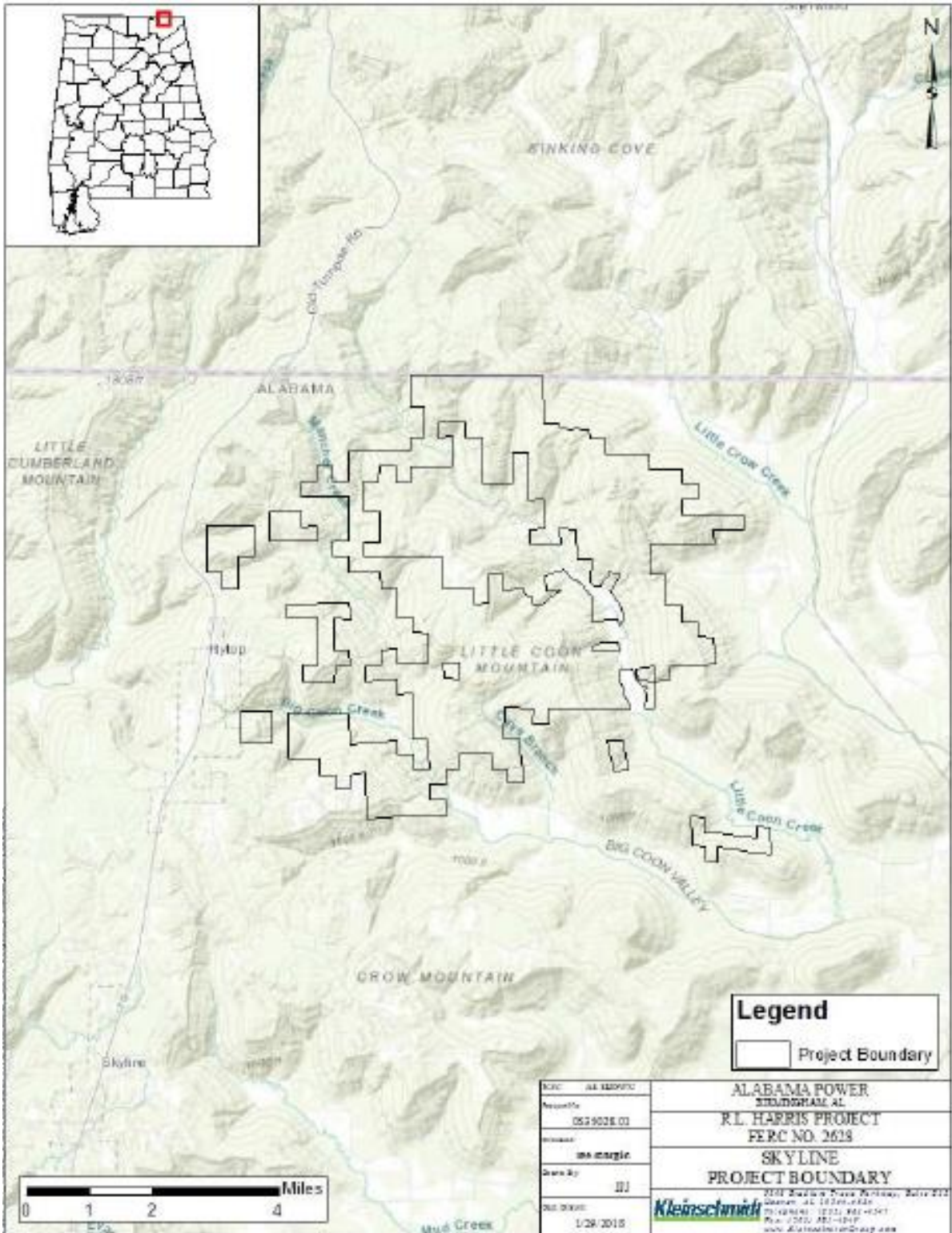


Figure 2. Project Location Map: Skyline (Source: PAD).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 2 (SD2) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the NEPA document. 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 proposed outline for the environmental document; and (5) 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

Commission staff issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) on July 31, 2018, to enable resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to more effectively participate in, and contribute to, the scoping process. In SD1, we requested clarification of the preliminary issues concerning the Harris Project and identification of any new issues that

need to be addressed in the project NEPA document. On August 28 and 29, 2018, we conducted scoping meetings in Lineville, Alabama. A court reporter transcribed the scoping meetings.

We revised SD1 following our review of written comments filed during the scoping comment period, which ended October 1, 2018.⁴ SD2 presents our current view of issues and alternatives to be considered in the NEPA document. To facilitate review, ***key changes to resource issues from SD1 are identified in bold and italicized type.***

In addition to oral comments received at the scoping meetings, written comments were received from the following agencies and entities:

<u>Commenting Entity</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Alabama Glade Conservation Coalition	September 3, 2018
Terry M. Hardig	September 18, 2018
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	September 18, 2018
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	September 25, 2018
Brad McLane	September 28, 2018
Alabama Power	September 28, 2018
Linda Sherk	September 28, 2018
Alabama Department of Environmental Management (Alabama DEM)	October 1, 2018
Alabama Rivers Alliance, Inc. and American Rivers, Inc. (Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers)	October 1, 2018
National Park Service (NPS)	October 1, 2018
Russell Lands, Inc. (Russel Lands)	October 1, 2018
Lake Martin Resource Association, Inc. (Lake Martin Resource Association)	October 1, 2018
Lake Martin Covey Rise Chapter of Quail Forever (Quail Forever)	October 2, 2018
The Alabama Department of Natural Resources (Alabama DCNR)	October 2, 2018
Kenneth M. Wills	October 2, 2018

⁴ The ILP due date for filing scoping comments was a Saturday (September 29, 2018). Therefore, the actual due date was the next business day, or October 1, 2018.

All comments received are part of the Commission's official record for the project. Information in the official file is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. Information also may be accessed through the Commission's eLibrary system using the "Documents & Filings" link on the Commission's webpage at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Call (202) 502-6652 for assistance.

2.2.1 Issues Raised During Scoping

The issues raised by participants in the scoping process are summarized and addressed below. Note that the primary purpose of SD2 is to identify issues to be analyzed in the NEPA document. The summaries do not include every comment received during the scoping process. We revised SD1 to address only those comments related directly to the scope of environmental issues. We do not address comments that are recommendations for license conditions, such as protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures, as these will be addressed in the NEPA document or any license order that is issued for the project. We will request final terms, conditions, recommendations, and comments when we issue our Ready for Environmental Analysis notice. Similarly, we do not address comments on the need for environmental studies. Study-related needs will be addressed in the Director's Study Determination letter. Finally, we do not address comments or recommendations that are administrative in nature, such as requests for changes to the mailing lists. Those items will be addressed separately.

NEPA Document

Comment: Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers recommend that the Commission staff prepare an EIS given the size, scope, and significant impacts of the Harris Project. If, however, the Commission deems that an EA is sufficient, Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers request that the Commission publish a draft EA and allow adequate time for public review and comment, consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1501.4(e).

Response: Based on our initial review of the project and the definition of "significantly" in 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27, we believe an EA is appropriate in this case. If during the pre-filing study period or EA preparation we identify more complex issues, or if our analysis indicates that relicensing the project would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, then an EIS would be prepared. Regardless of whether an EA

or an EIS is prepared, we indicated in SD1⁵ that we intend to provide a public comment period on our draft NEPA document. Finally, this scoping process would satisfy NEPA requirements irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

NEPA Alternatives

Comment: Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers comment that Alabama Power's license application must contain substantial evidence about the baseline condition and action alternatives in order to: (1) address any potentially significant adverse impacts on the beneficial uses of public resources; and (2) facilitate agencies' development of terms, conditions, and recommendations, as well as the Commission's NEPA review. Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers state that fulfilling these information needs under NEPA requires that Alabama Power evaluate a range of PM&E measures and operational alternatives to current operations, including removal of parts, or all, of the project, as well as run-of-river or modified run-of-river operation.

Response: We intend to consider all reasonable operational alternatives in our NEPA document, which may include run-of-river operation, or some derivation thereof. However, as the Commission has previously held, decommissioning is not a reasonable alternative to relicensing a project in most cases.⁶ Prior to conducting a decommissioning analysis with or without dam removal, the Commission waits until an applicant actually proposes to decommission a project, or a participant in a licensing proceeding demonstrates, with supporting evidence, that there are serious resource concerns that cannot be mitigated if the project is relicensed.⁷

⁵ Scoping Document 1 at 24.

⁶ See, e.g., *Eagle Crest Energy Co.*, 153 FERC ¶ 61,058, at P 67 (2015); *Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,055, at P 82 (2005); *Midwest Hydro, Inc.*, 111 FERC ¶ 61,327, at PP 35-38 (2005).

⁷ See generally *Project Decommissioning at Relicensing; Policy Statement*, FERC Stats. & Regs., Regulations Preambles (1991-1996), ¶ 31,011 (1994); see also *City of Tacoma, Washington*, 110 FERC ¶ 61,140 (2005) (finding that unless and until the Commission has a specific decommissioning proposal, any further environmental analysis of the effects of project decommissioning would be both premature and speculative).

Here, the applicant has not proposed decommissioning, and there is no evidence of an unavoidable, serious resource concern that cannot be mitigated through relicensing the project. For these reasons, further analysis of removal of part, or all, of the project is not required at this time. This approach is consistent with NEPA⁸ and the Commission's obligations under sections 4(e) and 10(a) of the FPA to equally consider all developmental and environmental interests, and to issue licenses that strike the appropriate balance among the competing interests. *We have revised section 3.5.3, Project Decommissioning, accordingly.*

Cumulative Effects

Comment: Alabama Power requests that the Commission consider developmental resources as a cumulatively affected resource because Alabama Power's hydroelectric projects are operated to provide system-wide stability and reliability, as well as to provide power during peak demand. Alabama Power also states that developmental resources should be included in any cumulative effects analysis to accurately present beneficial and adverse effects.

Response: The Harris Project is part of an 11-project system on the Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin which generates power to meet the regional need for power. Commission staff's NEPA document will have a separate Developmental Analysis section designed to evaluate the project costs and benefits and potential changes in project generation if operation changes are proposed. In addition, the need for power in the region would be addressed in any license order issued for the project.

Further, 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 defines a cumulative impact as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact 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. In our NEPA analysis, project generation and other developmental aspects of the project are part of the proposed "action" potentially having an impact on the "environment." Therefore, project generation and other developmental aspects of the project cannot, at the same time, be both the "action" and "environment" for which we conduct our cumulative impacts analysis. For this reason, we are not designating developmental resources as cumulatively affected resource.

⁸ See 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(b) (2018).

Geographic and Temporal Scope

Comment: Alabama Power comments that SD1 incorrectly identifies the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Allatoona Reservoir as being located upstream of the Harris Project. Alabama Power states that the Harris Project is the first hydroelectric project on the Tallapoosa River (there are no upstream facilities on the Tallapoosa River), and the Allatoona Reservoir is located on the Coosa River, not the Tallapoosa River.

Response: We have modified section 4.1.2, *Geographic Scope*, to correct the location of the Allatoona Reservoir.

Comment: Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers comment that NEPA requires all environmental documents to consider the cumulative environmental effects relating to the proposed action, and that agencies cannot overlook large-scale effects by considering a project in piecemeal fashion where effects may be relatively small. With regard to the geographic scope for cumulative effects, Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers state that Martin, Yates, and Thurlow Dams, all located downstream from Harris Dam on the Tallapoosa River, must be evaluated during the scoping process and environmental review. With regard to the temporal scope for cumulative effects, Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers state that the cumulative effects analysis must include past effects. They argue that comparing current aquatic health in regulated stretches with: (1) unregulated areas upstream; and (2) historic trends of the same stretches before project construction should yield valuable information regarding cumulative effects.

Response: The geographic and temporal scope of effects for our cumulative effects analysis on geology and soils (i.e., erosion and sedimentation), water quantity and quality, and fishery resources is tentatively identified in section 4.1.2 of SD1, as well as this SD2. The geographic scope we identify for resources that could be cumulatively affected by the project includes:

- (1) the upper and middle Tallapoosa River Basin (headwaters down to Horseshoe Bend) for geology and soils, as well as water quality 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 erosion and sedimentation, as well as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other water quality characteristics in the Tallapoosa River;

- (2) the Tallapoosa and Coosa River Basins for water quantity, because the Corps' flood control operations in these two river basins, as well as the Corps' navigation flow requirements for the Alabama River, have the potential to affect water quantity at Harris Lake, and operational changes at Harris Lake, including minimum flow releases, have the potential to affect the Corps' flood control operations and navigation flows, as well as Alabama Power's minimum flow requirements, in the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin; and
- (3) the Tallapoosa River, from the headwaters of Harris Lake downstream to the confluence with the Coosa River, for fishery resources, because the presence and operation of the Harris Project, along with the downstream Martin and Yates-Thurlow Projects, could affect the movements of fish and fish populations in the Tallapoosa River.

With regard to the temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the NEPA document, it will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Any historical discussion, however, will be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The geographic and temporal scopes analyzed in the NEPA document, for each of these resources, may change based upon the results of relicensing studies and other relevant information filed to the Commission's record.

Proposed Studies

Comment: Alabama Power states that table 2 of SD1 indicates that Alabama Power is proposing to conduct the "feasibility analysis of raising the lake's winter pool elevation and making corresponding changes in the spring and fall elevations." However, Alabama Power states that it is not planning to analyze changes to the fall drawdown, or spring fill dates. Rather, the study is limited to evaluating the feasibility of raising the winter pool 1 to 4 feet, within the existing fall drawdown and spring refill dates. Alabama Power requests that the reference to the spring and fall analysis be deleted.

Response: We have clarified Alabama Power's proposed study in table 2 of this SD2.

Aquatic Resources

Comment: Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers, EPA, and Alabama DEM cite previous studies that have been conducted on aquatic resources in the Harris Project area, including studies conducted downstream from Harris Dam. Alabama Rivers

Alliance and American Rivers states that the accuracy of baseline resource information is important,⁹ and expresses concern that “an improper baseline for determining project impacts” would be set because SD1 does not document the history of these studies and Alabama Power’s PAD does not incorporate all of the previous study findings.

Response: To clarify, the Commission’s scoping document is not intended to summarize all the existing information about resources at a hydropower project undergoing relicensing. Rather, as stated in section 2.0 of SD1, and this SD2, the scoping document is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the NEPA document, and to seek additional information pertinent to staff’s analysis.

In addition, the environmental baseline for determining project impacts is not determined by the amount, or accuracy of, information contained in an applicant’s PAD. The pre-filing steps of the licensing process are designed to allow all stakeholders to assist the Commission staff in gathering relevant information about the existing conditions at the project, including information compiled in previous studies and through the applicant’s relicensing studies at the project. We appreciate stakeholders’ filings that included copies of previous studies and request that stakeholders continue to file other relevant existing information to the Commission’s record for the Harris Project. All relevant information in the Commission’s record will be considered in our analysis, and the Commission’s licensing decision.

Terrestrial Resources

Comment: During the environmental site review and scoping meeting on August 28, 2018, and in comments filed on September 3, 2018, Mr. Kenneth Wills, a representative of the Alabama Glade Conservation Coalition, described the rare plant communities that occur on the granite outcrops at Alabama Power’s Flat Rock Park, and an undeveloped 20-acre area adjacent to the park. Mr. Wills also identified ongoing concerns for conservation of these rare plant communities, including a lack of protection

⁹ Alabama Rivers Alliance and American Rivers’ letter also states that the accuracy of baseline resource information is required under federal law. It is unclear what law is being referenced in this statement.

of granite outcrop communities in Alabama, damage from recreation activities such as use of ATVs, and encroachment of non-native invasive plants.

Response: Flat Rock Park is a project recreation site and the adjacent undeveloped 20-acre area with granite outcrops is within the project boundary and is currently designated for future recreation use. The 20-acre area with granite outcrops is also partially located within a ROW¹⁰ and is currently accessed via an ungated gravel road for informal recreation activities and via the lake by boaters. Therefore, there is potential for rare plant communities on granite outcrops in these areas to be affected by ROW maintenance and project-related recreation. Section 4.2.4, *Terrestrial Resources*, of SD1 identified the need to analyze the effects of project operation and maintenance activities (e.g., road and facility maintenance) and project-related recreation on vegetation and wildlife habitat. In response to Mr. Wills' comments we have added the phrase *including rare plant communities on granite outcrops*.

Cultural Resources

Comment: NPS states that the Miller Covered Bridge at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is a resource of historical significance and great concern to NPS. NPS notes that the masonry piers within the main channel of the Tallapoosa River are all that remain of the bridge, and NPS states that during the period of the original license for the Harris Project, the footings of the piers have undergone significant erosion and deterioration and some of the piers are near collapse.

Response: Miller Covered Bridge is located on non-project lands about 44 miles downstream from Harris Dam. During the study plan development process, as the Commission's non-federal representative, Alabama Power must define the project's area of potential effects (APE) for the purpose of conducting a review under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in consultation with the Alabama SHPO. In general, the APE should include: (1) lands enclosed by the project boundary; and (2) lands outside the project boundary, where the authorized project uses may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if historic properties exist. At this time, Alabama Power has not proposed an APE, or sought concurrence on the APE from the Alabama SHPO. During its consultation with stakeholders on the APE, Alabama Power

¹⁰ During the August 28, 2018 environmental site review, Alabama Power stated that the overhead powerline ROW overlapping with a portion of the 20-acre granite outcrop adjacent to Flat Rock Park is a non-project powerline.

should consider the comments of NPS in determining the downstream extent of the project's APE, and whether or not there is a need to include a study of project-related effects on the Miller Covered Bridge as part of its proposed cultural resources study plan. Ultimately, the Commission will determine the appropriateness of the APE proposed by Alabama Power. We have modified the resource issues in section 4.2.8, *Cultural Resources*, to specify that our analysis of project effects on cultural resources will include all historic properties *within the project's APE*.

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.¹¹ 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.

¹¹ 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.

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.

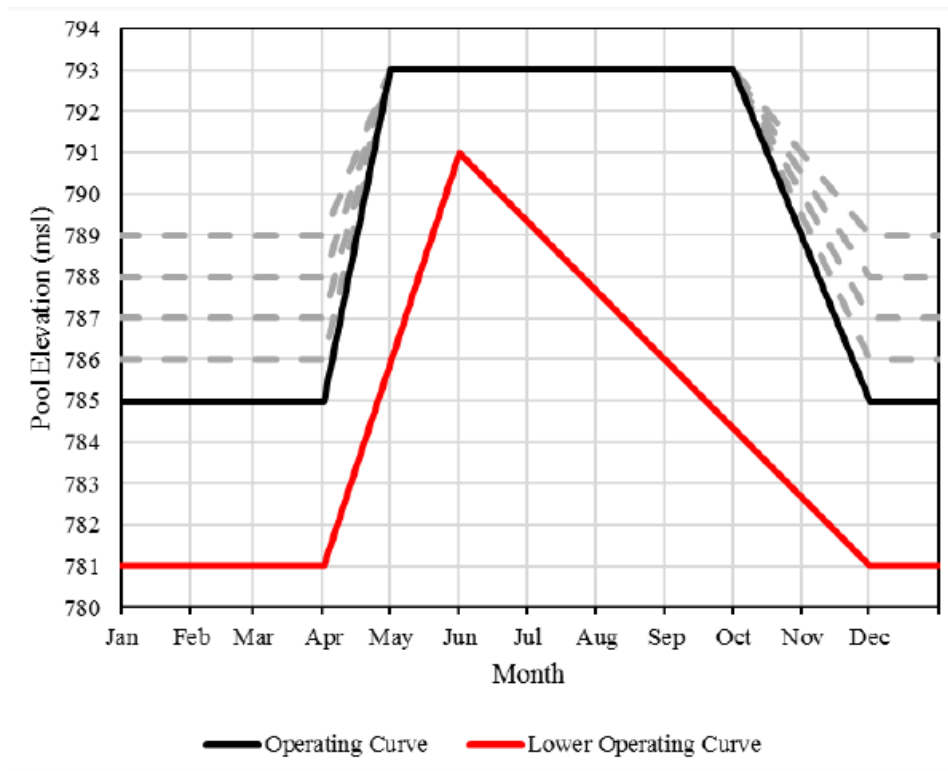


Figure 3. Harris Operating Curve with Proposed 1-foot Incremental Changes (Source: PAD).

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.¹²

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.

¹² 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.

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 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.¹³ 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 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

Project retirement (or decommissioning of the project) could be accomplished with or without dam removal. Either alternative would require denying the relicensing application and surrender or termination of the existing license with appropriate conditions.

Denial of a new license or decommissioning is not a reasonable alternative to relicensing a project in most cases. Prior to conducting a decommissioning analysis with or without dam removal, the Commission waits until an applicant actually proposes to decommission a project, or a participant in a licensing proceeding demonstrates, with supporting evidence, that there are serious resource concerns that

¹³ 16 U.S.C. §§ 791a-825r (2012).

cannot be mitigated if the project is relicensed. Here, the applicant has not proposed decommissioning and there is no evidence of an unavoidable, serious resource concern that can't be mitigated through relicensing the project. In addition, 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, this source of power would be lost and replacement power would need to be found.

*For the above reasons, we do not consider **project decommissioning** a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project with appropriate environmental measures, **at this time.***

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 ***through*** Horseshoe Bend, ***and including the area known as the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park***, 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 ***erosion and sedimentation, as well as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and other*** water quality ***characteristics*** in the Tallapoosa River.

For water quantity, we have tentatively identified the geographic scope to include the system of 11 dams owned by Alabama Power¹⁴ 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 ***Alabama Power's 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' ***Allatoona and*** 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, ***as well as the Corps' navigation flow requirements for the Alabama River***, have the potential to affect water quantity at Harris Lake, and operational changes at Harris Lake, ***including minimum flow releases***, have the potential to affect the Corps' flood control operations ***and navigation flows, as well as Alabama Power's minimum flow requirements***, 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 with the downstream Martin and Yates-Thurlow Projects, could affect the movements of fish and fish populations in the Tallapoosa River.

¹⁴ 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.

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, *including rare plant communities on granite outcrops*.
- 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 Species¹⁵

- 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

¹⁵ 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.

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 mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*); and slabside pearlymussel (*Pleuronaia 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 *within the project's APE* 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 <i>1 to 4 feet within the existing fall drawdown and spring refill time frames.</i>
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. ¹⁶

¹⁶ 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.

Resource Area and Issue	Alabama Power's Proposed Study
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). ¹⁷
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species	<p>Compile a list of T&E species and critical habitats that are known to occur in the counties surrounding 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	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.

¹⁷ 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 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
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>
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 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.

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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 A to this SD2.

7.0 PROPOSED NEPA DOCUMENT OUTLINE

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

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APPENDICES

A—Draft License Conditions Recommended by Staff

8.0 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 C.F.R. § 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.

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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.

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.

9.0 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.,

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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 ¹⁸
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
Alabama Forestry Commission 513 Madison Ave. Montgomery, AL 36130-0001	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District PO Box 2288 Mobile, AL 36628-0001

¹⁸ The address for Jackson County Board of Commissioners is incomplete on the Commission’s official mailing list for the Harris Project. For this SD2, 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>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>
<p>Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Commission PO Box 304800 Montgomery, AL 36130-4800</p>	

APPENDIX A**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
§5.15(a)	Alabama Power	Conduct First Season Field Studies	Spring/Summer 2019	

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18 C.F.R.	Lead	Activity	Timeframe	Deadline
§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