



R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2628

Meeting Summary HAT 6 Meeting January 25, 2019 8 am to 3 pm Harris Reservoir

Participants:

Taconya Goar - Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
RaeLynn Butler - Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Emman Spain - Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Turner Hunt - Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Stacye Hawthorn – Alabama State Historical Commission (representing the SHPO)
Keith Chandler - Alabama Power
Bill Gardner - Alabama Power
Tina Mills - Alabama Power
Barry Popham - Alabama Power
Stacey Thompson - Alabama Power
Matt Gage - Office of Archaeological Research
Joel Watkins - Office of Archaeological Research
Amanda Fleming - Kleinschmidt Associates
Carey Oakley – Affinity Archaeological Consultants, LLC.
Nancy Burns - Stakeholder

Action Items:

- Amanda will send RaeLynn the Cultural Resources Study Plan
- RaeLynn will email a request for future communications to Angie Anderegg and harrisrelicensing@southernco.com.
- RaeLynn will provide available dates for future meetings and comments on the Cultural Resources Study Plan.

Notes:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the details of Lake Harris, including Project operations, lands owned by Alabama Power, and the nature of cultural resources sites in the Project area. The group observed the Harris Reservoir Shoreline and noted that the upland/terrestrial sites will be addressed another day. The group discussed the depth of the original river channel and the potential for site exposure. The sensitive nature of Native American sites was acknowledged, but specific locations were not discussed. Finally, Alabama Power wants to ensure that the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) know that Alabama Power is willing to receive input and have open discussion on standards and methods, with an appreciation of past surveys. Bill Gardner explained that Alabama Power will be developing a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) and gaining a better understanding of the cultural resources in the area through the Harris Project relicensing process.

The group discussed the use of historical data in the Study Plan and noted that Alabama Power conducted several cultural resources studies in the past, both pre and post reservoir inundation.

Alabama Power will utilize the historical and cultural resources data, along with previous cultural resources survey results throughout the Harris Project relicensing process. Alabama Power recognizes the Alabama Historical Commission's Policy for Archaeological Survey and Testing in Alabama standards have been revised after the initial Harris cultural resources surveys were performed. These revisions will be considered when reviewing previous cultural resources survey results. Additionally, Bill described how analytical tools such as LiDAR and GIS modeling can now be used to determine cultural resources site access and eligibility.

Alabama Power provided stakeholders an explanation of how the reservoir operates and Alabama Power's capabilities of performing additional surveys and managing existing sites. The dynamics of the reservoir and the nature of the sites were discussed. Tina Mills discussed federal lands, flood storage, and the scenic easement. Carey Oakley gave an overview of past surveys and how the information provided from those surveys would enhance the current studies. In addition, the group discussed the relationship between the FERC process, the THPO, and the AHC. The Harris cultural resources study will mirror what Alabama Power has done for the Coosa, Warrior, and Martin Projects but also look at what makes Harris unique, such as fish weirs and pre-inundation surveys.