

April 22, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-065
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Draft Questionnaires for Recreation Evaluation Study

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensee for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (FERC No. 2628). On March 13, 2019, Alabama Power filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) for relicensing the Harris Project. On April 12, 2019, FERC issued a letter in which it approved the RSP, with staff-recommended modifications. The purpose of this filing is to address two of the staff recommendations on the Recreation Evaluation Study Plan (Study Plan).

First, FERC staff indicated that Alabama Power did not provide a draft questionnaire in the RSP for the downstream recreation use portion of the Study Plan. Further, based on stakeholder comments on the RSP, FERC staff recommended that Alabama Power include a goal for the downstream recreation use portion of the Study Plan to “evaluate visitor satisfaction with, and preferences for, recreation amenities” and that the questionnaire be modified to address this recommendation.

While FERC staff is correct that the questionnaire was not included in the RSP, Alabama Power did distribute a draft questionnaire to Harris Action Team (HAT) 5 members on February 15, 2019 and has incorporated substantive comments from the one response it received. In addition, Alabama Power has modified the questionnaire based on initial reconnaissance of the Tallapoosa River access sites and activities observed during these trips. Nevertheless, based on FERC staff’s recommendations, Alabama Power has added additional questions to gather information on visitor satisfaction and amenity preferences. The questionnaire is contained in Attachment 1.

Second, FERC staff recommended that the Study Plan be modified to include visitor interviews at Project recreation sites on Lake Harris and that a questionnaire be developed in consultation with HAT 5 and other relicensing stakeholders. This recommendation further specified the surveys be conducted only at Flat Rock

Park and that data collection occur during the 2019 recreation season and include weekends and at least one holiday, targeting 300 survey responses.

As noted in the Study Plan, Alabama Power has already developed a sampling frame to determine use at Project recreation sites to be consistent with data collected in 2014. This sampling frame is more useful than trying to mimic the downstream portion of the Study Plan as it will allow comparisons to the previously collected data. It should be noted that the Recreation Evaluation Study Plan did not provide the length of time (4 hours) that each site will be observed each sampled day. Therefore, adding visitor interviews to the scope of the site counts at the Project recreation sites will not interfere with the survey clerk's ability to count use at each site and should allow for the collection of a representative number of interviews. The Study Plan will be modified to reflect that these interviews will take place during the counts and that survey clerks will conduct interviews with a randomized sample of recreation users that visit the site on the day the count is conducted. To address FERC staff's recommendation, Alabama Power has developed a questionnaire to be used at Project recreation sites to gather information on visitor impressions of existing facilities and the need for new recreation sites or upgrades. The questionnaire is provided in Attachment 2.

Alabama Power is concurrently sending this filing to HAT 5 members (membership list provided in Attachment 3). Any comments and or questions regarding the draft questionnaires should be sent to harrisrelicensing@southernco.com by May 7, 2019.

If there are any questions concerning this filing, please contact me at arsegars@southernco.com or 205-257-2251.

Sincerely,



Angie Anderegg
Harris Relicensing Project Manager

Attachments (3)

cc: HAT 5

Attachment A
Questionnaire for Recreation Use of the Tallapoosa River

2019 TALLAPOOSA RIVER USER SURVEY

RAMP CODES				
1. Harris Dam	2. Malone	3. Wadley	4. Bibby's Ferry	5. Germany's Ferry
6. HBMP	7. Jay Bird Landing	8. Private property	9. Remote	River Access

CLERK ID: _____; RAMP CODE: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____

1. Number in Party _____
2. Gender: Male _____ Female _____ Age: _____ HOME ZIP CODE: _____
3. What was your primary activity today?

1. Shore fishing	2. Tubing	3. Swimming	4. Boating	5. Boat Fishing
6. Canoeing	7. Canoe Fishing	8. Kayaking	9. Kayak Fishing	10. Other
4. What time and where did you start your activity ? START TIME _____ RAMP CODE _____ *(1-7 Ask Q#5)*
5. Did you leave a vehicle at starting ramp? YES NO -- *If NO, who dropped you off:* OUTFITTER OTHER
6. Is this the destination for your trip today? YES -- *(Go to Question #8)* NO -- *(Go to Question #7)*
7. What time and where will you be finishing your trip today? _____ END TIME _____ RAMP CODE _____
8. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY UNACCEPTABLE**" and 10 being "**VERY ACCEPTABLE**", how would you rate the water level right now? *If floater (boater/canoer/kayaker) also ask: at start of trip & entire trip and put response in appropriate lines below, then get ratings of others in party for "right now"*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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START _____; ENTIRE _____ **RATINGS OF OTHERS IN PARTY "RIGHT NOW"** _____; _____; _____; _____;
9. Did you check the USGS water gauges or call Alabama Power to see what the water level would be before your trip today?

YES – *(Go to Question #11)* 2 NO – *(Go to Question #10)*
10. If you knew the water level in the river was going to be exactly what you experienced today BEFORE you made your trip, would you have still made your trip today? YES NO
11. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "**VERY DISSATISFIED**" and 10 being "**VERY SATISFIED**", how satisfied were you with your entire trip on the river today?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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12. Would you like to see more access points for recreation on the Tallapoosa River? YES NO
13. *(For floaters only)* Would you like to see any additional amenities for use on float trips? YES NO

If YES, what amenities would you most prefer to see on the river?

Attachment B
Questionnaire for Visitor Satisfaction with R.L. Harris
Project Recreation Sites and Access

2B. What do you recommend? *(Do not read this list. Allow respondent to answer and check **all that apply** and specify other(s) as appropriate.)*

<input type="checkbox"/> better access road	<input type="checkbox"/> fish cleaning station	<input type="checkbox"/> signs & information
<input type="checkbox"/> boat launch/ramp	<input type="checkbox"/> fishing pier/dock	<input type="checkbox"/> lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> better parking lot	<input type="checkbox"/> picnic tables/shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> trash cans
<input type="checkbox"/> camping area	<input type="checkbox"/> rest rooms	<input type="checkbox"/> trails
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify: _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify: _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify: _____)		

I HAVE JUST A FEW MORE QUESTIONS

3. Do you own a permanent or seasonal home **on Lake Wedowee**? What is your zip code? *(Check one box and fill in the blank for zip code. If the individual owns a seasonal home, please also indicate the zip code of the individual's permanent residence.)*

- YES, Permanent Home → ZIP CODE: _____
- YES, Seasonal Home → ZIP CODE: _____
- Permanent Residence → ZIP CODE: _____
- NO → ZIP CODE: _____

4. Do you have any additional comments about this or other recreation sites **at Lake Wedowee**? *(Fill in blank and be as specific as possible.)*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP! WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME TODAY!

Attachment 3
Harris Action Team 5 Members

Name	Company
Damon Abernethy	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Matt Brooks	Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
Coty Brown	Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
Matt and Ann Campbell	Stakeholder
Curt Chaffin	Alabama Rivers Alliance
Kristie Coffman	Auburn University
Jeff Duncan	U.S. National Park service
Steve Forehand	Lake Martin Resource Association
Sylvia French	Stakeholder
Tom Garland	Stakeholder
Keith Gauldin	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Taconya Goar	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Chris Greene	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Keith Henderson	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Mike Holley	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Sonja Hollomon	Stakeholder
Elise Irwin	Auburn University
Butch Jackson	Property Owner
Gerrit Jobsis	American Rivers
Gerry Knight	Stakeholder
Evan Lawrence	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Cindy Lowry	Alabama Rivers Alliance
Donna Matthews	Stakeholder
Harry Merrill	Stakeholder
Brad Mitchell	Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association
Nick Nichols	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Chris Oberholster	Birmingham Audubon
Ginny Oxford	Stakeholder
Mellie Parrish	Stakeholder
Ira Parsons	Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association
Jerry and Mary Poss	Stakeholder
Mitch Reid	Nature Conservancy
Chris Smith	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Paul Smith	Stakeholder
Jim Sparrow	Alabama Bass Federation
Tricia Stearns	Stakeholder
Bryant Whaley	Randolph County Economic / Industrial Development