



# R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

## FERC No. 2628

### Meeting Summary

#### HAT 6 Meeting

May 22, 2019

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Montgomery Crew Headquarters (2740 Gunter Park Drive East Montgomery, AL 36109)

#### Participants:

Amanda McBride- Alabama Historical Commission (AHC)

William Lowe- Alabama Historical Commission

Angie Anderegg- Alabama Power

Keith Chandler - Alabama Power

Bill Gardner - Alabama Power

Tina Mills - Alabama Power

Amanda Fleming - Kleinschmidt Associates

#### Via Skype and Phone:

RaeLynn Butler - Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Turner Hunt - Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Robin Soweka- Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Emman Spain - Muscogee (Creek) Nation

LeeAnne Wendt- Muscogee (Creek) Nation

#### Action Items:

- Alabama Power will provide meeting notes from today's meeting and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, including supporting maps.
- Angie Anderegg to investigate possible methods to share data that is too large in file size for email.
- Angie Anderegg will email any information from the USB that is small enough in file size to RaeLynn Butler.
- Alabama Power will schedule a conference call to review materials provided via email and file sharing once a method for sharing large files has been established and the files have been shared.
- RaeLynn Butler will send information to Angie Anderegg regarding her notes and potential sites to be reviewed
- Amanda McBride will forward to Angie Anderegg the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) evaluation form.
- Angie Anderegg will forward the form to the group.

#### Meeting Materials:

- PowerPoint Presentation, Harris Action Team 6 May 22, 2019 Meeting including maps used to support the presentation
- Handout – Agenda
- Sign-in Sheet for in-person attendees

#### Notes:

Amanda Fleming (Kleinschmidt) welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. Amanda provided a review of the overall licensing process and the additional study

plans. Amanda noted that Alabama Power will be providing progress reports to all of the Harris Action Teams (HATs), and the first progress report will be provided in October 2019. Amanda explained that the progress reports were added to each study plan schedule based upon Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) comments in its Study Plan Determination. Amanda then reviewed the revisions specific to the Cultural Resources Study Plan and explained that a final version of the study plan, which incorporated FERC's recommendations, was filed with FERC in May for informational purposes. Amanda added that, as requested, Rachel McNamara (FERC) was added to the stakeholder list for HAT 6 but was unable to join today's meeting. Alabama Power will ensure that Rachel receives copies of the information regarding today's meeting.

Next, Bill Gardner (Alabama Power) discussed the method for the sites selected for further evaluation and reminded the group of the information that was presented by Matt Gage (University of Alabama, Office of Archeological Research) during the previous HAT 6 meeting. Then, as included in the presentation, Bill reviewed the specific information pertaining to the sites selected for further evaluation, and Bill illustrated the location of each of these selected sites on the supporting maps. Bill stated that Alabama Power will propose methods for further evaluating the selected sites during the study and added that evaluation could include determining accurate site location/boundaries by using GPS. Amanda Fleming noted that the priority assigned to each of the selected sites may vary slightly when compared to the previous spreadsheet version, but this was the result of reevaluating the priority assigned and revising where needed.

Bill Gardner asked the group whether it had an opportunity to review the information provided via USB drive, which included the reports for each site, the Appendix R (as included in the Pre-Application Document), GIS shapefiles of the Harris Project Boundary, and the background information for previous surveys. RaeLynn Butler (Muscogee (Creek) Nation) stated that they had not yet received the information. Amanda Fleming confirmed that the items were distributed via FedEx and asked whether the Muscogee Creek Nation had a more direct address for receiving information. RaeLynn stated that email was the preferred method, and Amanda stated that the files on the USB were too large to email. The group discussed the possibility of using a website or drop box to deliver electronic files that are too large in file size for email, and Angie Anderegg stated that she would look into possible solutions. Amanda Fleming stated that, while a permanent solution was being investigated, Alabama Power would send as much information as possible from the USB via email.

Bill Gardner asked whether anyone had any questions regarding the sites selected for further evaluation, and RaeLynn Butler stated that she would reserve comments until she had an opportunity to review the supporting information. Bill and Amanda discussed that, in the future, the priorities assigned to the sites selected for further evaluation would not be used, and, once RaeLynn has an opportunity to review the sites, each of the selected sites discussed in the meeting will be evaluated.

Tina Mills (Alabama Power) provided a review of the current land use classifications for the Harris Project and discussed the allowable uses within each classification. Bill Gardner stated that any newly proposed recreation areas involving ground disturbance would be evaluated for

cultural resources. RaeLynn Butler asked whether Alabama Power planned to evaluate all selected sites as part of the Cultural Resources study or whether the evaluation would be conducted under the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). Bill explained that the selected sites will be evaluated during the relicensing process, and, then following evaluation, the HPMP will include the scope of any additional evaluations, the degree of protection needed, and any mitigation measures, if needed. Amanda Fleming added that, unlike previous Alabama Power relicensing processes, the goal for the Harris Cultural Resources Study Plan is to conduct as much evaluation/investigation as possible as part of the study rather than following the issuance of the license. RaeLynn Butler commented that this approach was good in that it allowed the process to proceed efficiently.

RaeLynn Butler asked how comments on the study plan activities should be communicated. Angie Anderegg explained that comments regarding study plan activities could be submitted to her via email and would become a part of the relicensing consultation record.

Next, Bill Gardner reviewed the historical fish weir information, including supporting maps. Bill explained that approximately one-fourth of the documented fish weirs were not inundated full time and that any fish weir which was not permanently inundated will be evaluated.

Then, Bill Gardner discussed the cultural resources at Skyline. Bill reminded the group that Stacey Hathorn (Alabama Historical Commission, AHC), during the previous HAT6 meeting, inquired whether any of the previously recorded sites that included historic structures should be part of a district. Bill explained that some of the previously recorded sites were associated with houses and reviewed a map illustrating these sites.

Bill Gardner then discussed the next steps for the study plan.

Then, Amanda Fleming presented information regarding developing a Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) Identification Plan in conjunction with the HPMP. The group discussed that a big component of identifying TCPs would be using the existing known cultural resource sites. Next, the group discussed previous involvement with TCPs. Amanda McBride (AHC) added that they had some previous experience with TCPs and that she would provide the TCP Identification form to the group. RaeLynn stated that she would review her notes from the January 2019 site visit and send any relevant information to Angie Anderegg.

Next, Amanda Fleming discussed developing the area of potential effects (APE). Alabama Power proposes that the APE include the lands in the R.L. Harris FERC Project Boundary (Lake Harris and Skyline). Additionally, Alabama Power is evaluating the area below Harris Dam through Horseshoe Bend to determine any effects of Project operations on cultural resources. In addition, Amanda presented a proposed outline of the Harris HPMP, which will include the following sections: Overview and Executive Summary; Background Information; Project Management and Preservation Goals and Priorities; and Project Effects and Mitigation/Management Measures; and Implementation Procedures.

Finally, Amanda Fleming discussed upcoming meetings and milestones and concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their time.