



# R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

## FERC No. 2628

### Meeting Summary Harris Action Team 5 – Recreation October 19, 2020 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm Conference Call

#### **Participants:**

Angie Anderegg – Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power)  
Dave Anderson – Alabama Power  
Jason Carlee – Alabama Power  
Keith Chandler – Alabama Power  
Jim Crew – Alabama Power  
Colin Dinken – Kleinschmidt Associates  
Amanda Fleming – Kleinschmidt Associates  
Todd Fobian – Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)  
Chris Goodman – Alabama Power  
Keith Henderson – ADCNR  
Mike Hross – Kleinschmidt Associates  
Martha Hunter – Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA)  
Carol Knight – Downstream Property Owner  
Matthew Marshall – ADCNR  
Rachel McNamara – Federal Energy Regulatory (FERC)  
Ashley McVicar – Alabama Power  
Tina Mills – Alabama Power  
Angie Noel – Alabama Power  
Kelly Schaeffer – Kleinschmidt Associates  
Sheila Smith – Alabama Power  
Thomas St. John – Alabama Power  
Sandra Wash – Kleinschmidt Associates  
Jack West – ARA

#### **Meeting Summary:**

Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power) opened the meeting and introduced everyone. Following a safety briefing, Amanda Fleming (Kleinschmidt) summarized the Harris Action Team (HAT) 5 (Recreation) activities to date and noted that the focus of this meeting would be the Phase 2 analyses for the recreation component of the Downstream Release Alternatives study as well as potential recreation Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement (PME) measures. Attachment A contains the HAT 5 presentation. The Phase 2 analyses consist of evaluating boatable flows based on a variety of sources, including the Tallapoosa River User Surveys and previous research available from monitoring the Green Plan flows.

Dave Anderson (Alabama Power) reviewed the definition of boatable flows (days [both weekday and weekend] that flows at the Wadley gage are between 450 cfs and 2,000 cfs between sunrise and sunset). A Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model will be used to show changes to boatable days at Wadley for all the downstream release alternatives being assessed. In addition, Dave noted that Alabama Power will use the HEC-RAS model to

compare changes in depth from Harris Dam (RM 135.7) to Malone (RM 129.7) under each downstream flow alternative.

Rachel McNamara (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC) asked if boatable flows could be presented by month and season. Mike Hross (Kleinschmidt) indicated that is possible. Rachel asked if the depth criteria will be assessed at all the transects downstream. Mike noted that 10 representative cross sections from the Harris Dam to Malone will be assessed. Depth at individual cross sections can be assessed for boatability. Rachel asked if those 10 cross sections represent the shallowest areas. Mike said the model will be used to look at the most shallow transects.

Amanda reviewed the completed updates to existing recreation sites. Alabama Power has improved several recreation areas, and several other improvements are planned for 2021. Alabama Power installed restrooms at the Highway 48 Bridge Boat Ramp and the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform. Lights have been added to all recreation sites except Lee's Bridge, since it is not accessible during the drawdown months (November - March). In addition, Alabama Power will re-stripe the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform parking lot, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has started repairs at the Lonnie White Boat Ramp. Alabama Power added a walkthrough gate at Flat Rock Park to provide year-round access, and some of the Harris Project recreation facilities are going to be updated to be compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Amanda then reviewed the potential recreation PME measures on Lake Harris. Alabama Power proposes to remove Wedowee Marine South as a Project recreation site and continue to operate 11 Project recreation sites on Lake Harris. Finally, Alabama Power plans to add a day-use site and/or additional boat ramp on Lake Harris.

Amanda reviewed the potential downstream PME measures, which include a canoe put-in at the Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform and additional access site(s) downstream of Harris Dam. Potential downstream access sites below the existing Harris Project Boundary will be part of an off-license agreement.

Carol Knight (Wadley resident) stated her support for additional access to the Tallapoosa River. Jack West (Alabama Rivers Alliance) asked for clarification on possible additional access sites being considered off-license. Dave said for a recreation site to be considered a FERC Project recreation site, Alabama Power would have to own the property and maintain the site. Dave noted that Alabama Power has several off-license agreements with other cities and ADCNR. Carol indicated that the town of Wadley would like to work with Alabama Power on an access site at Wadley.

Amanda discussed the next activities for HAT 5. Alabama Power will file the Final *Recreation Evaluation Report* in November 2020. Alabama Power will include proposed PME measures in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP). Rachel asked if there will be time after the Final *Recreation Evaluation Report* is distributed to make recommendations on PME measures. Amanda recommended participants submit comments as soon as possible. Keith Henderson (ADCNR) asked if Alabama Power assists the City of Wadley with an additional access site on the Tallapoosa River, would there be a Memorandum of Understanding requiring that Wadley keep the site public. Sheila Smith (Alabama Power) noted that Alabama Power has several agreement options for off-license recreation sites.

The meeting adjourned.

Attachment A – Presentation from October 19, 2020 HAT 5 Meeting

# **R.L. Harris Dam Relicensing FERC No. 2628**

**HAT 5 Meeting  
October 19, 2020**





# Phone Etiquette

- ☐ Be patient with any technology issues
- ☐ Follow the facilitator's instructions
- ☐ Phones will be muted during presentations
- ☐ Follow along with PDF of presentations
- ☐ Write down any questions you have for the designated question section
- ☐ Clearly state name and organization when asking questions
- ☐ Facilitator will ask for participant questions following the presentation



# Safety



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# HAT 5 Activities to Date



**March to December 2019-**

**Lake Harris Recreation Counts (Surveys May- December 2019)**

**May 2019-**

**Alabama Power filed the Final Harris Project Recreation  
Evaluation Study Plan with FERC**

**May to October 2019-**

**Downstream Recreation User Counts and Surveys**

**October 2019-**

**Lake Harris Recreation Inventory**

**December 2019-**

**Filed Tallapoosa River Landowner Research Plan with FERC**



# HAT 5 Activities to Date



**February 2020 to May 2020-**

**Tallapoosa River Downstream Landowner Survey and  
Tallapoosa River Recreation User Survey**

**August 2020-**

**Alabama Power filed the Draft Recreation Evaluation  
Report**

**September 2020-**

**Stakeholders submitted comments on Draft Recreation  
Evaluation Report**





- **Phase 2 analysis-  
HAT 1 (Downstream  
Release Alternatives)**
- **Potential Recreation  
Protection,  
Mitigation and  
Enhancement (PME)  
Measures**



# Phase 2 Downstream Release Alternatives- Boatable Flow



- Correlated data from the Recreation Evaluation study collected from Tallapoosa River users with flow information available for the day and time the user was on the water.
- **Boatable flows will be evaluated in consultation with HAT 5 members based on a variety of sources, including the Tallapoosa River user surveys and previous research available from the monitoring of Green Plan flows.**



# Phase 2 Downstream Release Alternatives- Boatable Flow



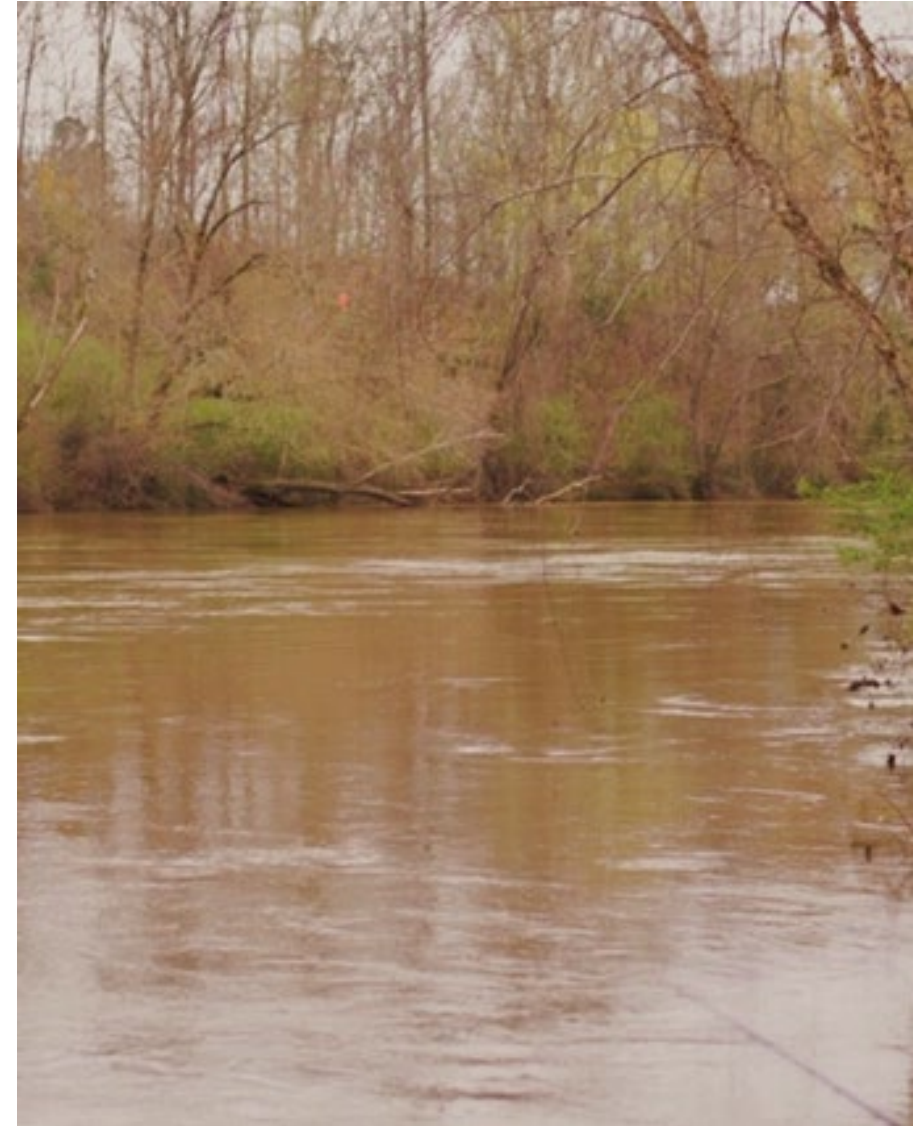
- ✦ Determine days (both weekday and weekend) that flows are between 450 cfs and 2,000 cfs between sunrise and sunset
- ✦ Use HEC-RAS model to show changes to boatable days at Wadley (RM 122.8) for all downstream flow alternatives



# Phase 2 Downstream Release Alternatives- Water Depth



- ✂ Use HEC-RAS model to compare changes in depth from Harris Dam (RM 135.7) to Malone (RM 129.7) under each downstream flow alternative





# Potential Recreation Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures (PME)



## Lake Harris

- Several areas of improvement have been addressed
- Several more improvements planned for 2020-2021
- Continue to operate 11 Project Recreation Sites
- Remove Wedowee Marine South as a Project Recreation Site
- Potential new recreation site (may include day use area and/or boat ramp)

## Tallapoosa River Downstream of Harris Dam

- Improvements at Harris Tailrace Fishing Platform
- Additional access site/s (off license)



# What's Next for HAT 5?



- File Final Recreation Evaluation in November 2020
- Complete final goal of the Harris Project Recreation Evaluation Study Plan
- Include Recreation PME measures with Preliminary Licensing Proposal



Questions?



# HARRIS DAM

## RELICENSING



Alabama Power