



R. L. Harris Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2628

Meeting Summary
Harris Relicensing Meeting
March 4, 2021
9am-11:00am
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Participants:

Angie Anderegg – Alabama Power
Dave Anderson – Alabama Power
RaeLynn Butler – Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Keith Chandler – Alabama Power
Amanda Fleming – Alabama Power
Matthew Gage – Office of Archaeological Research (OAR)
Bill Gardner – Alabama Power
Stacye Hathorn – Alabama Historical Commission (AHC)
Turner Hunt – Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Amanda McBride – AHC
Rachel McNamara – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
Ashley McVicar – Alabama Power
Tina Mills – Alabama Power
Gano Perez – Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Sarah Salazar – FERC
Kelly Schaeffer – Kleinschmidt Associates
Eric Sipes – AHC
Robin Soweka, Jr. – Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Jeremiah Stager – OAR
Sandra Wash – Kleinschmidt Associates
LeeAnne Wendt – Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Note: Due to the privileged nature of material, the Skyline Virtual Visit presentation is not included as an attachment.

Action Items:

- Alabama Power to provide a list of bat species viewed incidentally during the cave surveys, either in the Preliminary License Proposal (PLP) or the Final License Application (FLA).

Meeting Summary:

Angie Anderegg (Alabama Power) and Amanda Fleming (Alabama Power) opened the meeting with a safety moment and stated the purpose of the meeting, to present a virtual cultural resources overview of Skyline.

Matthew Gage (Office of Archaeological Research (OAR)) started the presentation, noting that it included videos and photos to provide a sense of Skyline's aesthetics. Matt noted that there are two geographic areas of the R. L. Harris Project, Lake Harris and Skyline. The Harris Project Boundary at Skyline consists of approximately 15,000 acres in Jackson County. Matt reviewed the research design, as agreed upon during previous consultation

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) had previously requested OAR to investigate whether the historic sites in Skyline represented historic districts. Matt presented detailed field and research results and concluded that these historic sites do not represent historic districts but are dispersed homestead sites. Stacye Hathorn (AHC) noted the familial ties between the sites and stated her appreciation of this investigation.

Matt presented information on the 11 caves and shelters that were surveyed, noting that the locations were mapped prior to Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and were hand-plotted on a topographic map.

Matt presented additional information on one of the caves that was used as a whiskey still. Sarah Salazar (FERC) asked for confirmation of the name of the cave, specifically if it was a nickname. Matt replied that it was its official name, adding that caves do not have a formal naming system unlike archaeological sites. Matt explained the trinomial system used in naming archaeological sites, with the number 1 representing the state of Alabama (alphabetically), JA representing Jackson County, and the additional number representing the sequential order the site was found.

Sarah requested a list of all bat species observed incidentally during the cave surveys. Amanda F. replied Alabama Power compiled a list and will present the information to the United States Fish and Wildlife and in the Preliminary License Proposal (PLP). Matt added that White-nose Syndrome (WNS) protocols were followed while performing cave surveys.

Matt presented information on the rock art surveys. Over 2-miles of bluff lines were surveyed and two rock shelters with art were located.

Amanda F. concluded the meeting and noted that she would reach out to the Cherokee Nation to inquire if they were interested in viewing the presentation.