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June 29, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-065
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Transmittal of the Draft Historic Properties Management Plan

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

Dear Secretary Bose,

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) licensee for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (FERC No. 2628-065). The existing Harris Project license will expire on November 30, 2023, and Alabama Power is utilizing the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) to relicense the Harris Project.

The Harris Project Cultural Resources Programmatic Agreement and Historic Properties Management Plan Study Plan involves collecting and summarizing existing cultural resources baseline information and developing a plan to assess cultural resources identified in the Harris Project Area of Potential Effects (APE). Alabama Power filed the Inadvertent Discovery (IDP) Plan and Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) Identification Plan on April 10, 2020¹. Alabama Power filed the Final Area of Potential Effects Report on June 29, 2020². On August 11, 2020, FERC issued its Determination of Area of Potential Effects for the Project³. Based on stakeholder requests, the timeline for TCP Identification was extended and the discussions regarding completing the TCP Identification process are ongoing.

Pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108 ("Section 106") of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)⁴, Alabama Power is filing the draft Harris Project Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) (Attachment 1). The attached HPMP describes the Harris Project, APE, anticipated effects from Harris Project operations, and Alabama Power's proposed measures to protect historic properties. This filing also includes the stakeholder

¹ Accession No. 20200410-5068

² Accession No. 20200629-5328

³ Accession No. 20200811-3007

⁴ Section 106 is implemented through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council)'s regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

consultation for this study beginning April 23, 2018 through June 1, 2021 (Attachment 2). Due to the sensitive nature of the material and in accordance with Section 304 of the NHPA, Alabama Power is filing the HPMP, associated appendices, and consultation record as "privileged". A copy of the draft HPMP and consultation record will be distributed to limited stakeholders, who may submit comments directly to harrisrelicensing@southernco.com within 60 days of this filing⁵.

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

Sincerely,

Angie Anderegg

Harris Relicensing Project Manager

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Attachment 1 – Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)

Attachment 2 – Consultation Record (April 2018 – June 2021)

cc: Harris Action Team 6 Stakeholder List w/o attachment

⁵ FERC noted in their Staff Comments on the Updated Study Report and Updated Study Report Meeting Summary for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project No. 2628, filed on June 9, 2021 (Accession No. 20210609-3045), that under section 5.16(e) of the Commission's regulations, stakeholders have a 90-daycomment period for filing comments on the Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP), which would include the cultural resource assessment results and draft HPMP. Although, the draft HPMP is being filed in conjunction with the PLP, the draft HPMP is a separate filing and not specified under section 5.16 (e).