

August 16, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-065
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Transmittal of Corrected Tallapoosa River Temperature Data (2000-2018)

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). Pursuant to the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) and 18 CFR § 5.15(f), Alabama Power filed the Harris Project Updated Study Report (USR) on April 12, 2021¹ and held an Updated Study Report Meeting (Meeting) with stakeholders on April 27, 2021. Alabama Power filed the Updated Study Report Meeting Summary (USR Meeting Summary) on May 12, 2021². Stakeholders had until June 11, 2021 to file written comments with FERC on the USR Meeting Summary; comments were submitted by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)³, Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA)⁴, and FERC⁵.

Alabama Power filed its response to comments on the USR Meeting Summary and Study Dispute on July 12, 2021⁶ which included Tallapoosa River Temperature Data from years 2000 through 2018. ADCNR filed comments on July 23, 2021⁷ noting errors in the temperature data spreadsheet. Inadvertent errors that occurred during the process of combining 19 years of data from the three sites have been corrected, and Alabama Power is refiling the Corrected Tallapoosa River Temperature Data (2000-2018) (Attached).

¹ Accession No. 20210412-5737

² Accession No. 20210512-5067

³ Accession No. 20210527-5024

⁴ Accession No. 20210611-5070

⁵ Accession No. 20210609-5051

⁶ Accession No. 20210712-5085

⁷ Accession No. 20210723-5200

After performing Quality Assurance and Quality Correction (QA/QC) on the temperature data, Alabama Power notes that the transposed historical temperature data was provided to Auburn University for their temperature data analysis portion of the Aquatic Resources Study. Due to the limited nature of the errors, we do not anticipate any appreciable changes to the study results or conclusions. Auburn University is reviewing the temperature data and their analysis and will revise, if necessary, any affected portions of the report including tables and figures. Auburn's report will be filed as part of the final Aquatic Resources Study Report in November 2021.

Also, data gaps in the 2000-2018 data set were the result of malfunctioning or lost data loggers or due to conditions that precluded their safe deployment. As noted in the Aquatic Resources Study Plan, Alabama Power attempted to monitor temperature from March through October of each year. In regards to 15-minute data, with the exception of short periods in 2003 where data were recorded at 15-minute intervals, all other data in the 2000-2018 data set were recorded at hourly intervals.

Alabama Power notes that the Downstream Aquatic Habitat Report included 15-minute interval water temperature data collected at twenty locations in the Tallapoosa River below Harris Dam from 2019 to 2020. Auburn aggregated the 2019-2020 data into hourly averages to produce the multi-panel figure in the Aquatic Resources Study Report (Figure 2.9) depicting water temperature regimes along the length of the river. All 15-minute water temperature data has been made available to stakeholders and can be accessed through either FERC's eLibrary or the Harris Relicensing Website (harrisrelicensing.com).

Alabama Power will refile all Final Study Reports in November 2021. Additional stakeholder comments that were received during the USR comment period (that were not on the Summary) will be addressed, as applicable, in the Final Study Reports and/or in the Final License Application (FLA).

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

Attachment – Corrected Tallapoosa River Temperature Data (2000-2018)

cc: Harris Stakeholder List

Attachment
Corrected Tallapoosa River Temperature Data (2000-2018)
(Attached in Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet Format)