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March 1, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-066
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Request for Extension of Time to File Additional Information

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. 2628-066). Alabama Power filed the Final License Application (FLA) for the Harris Project on November 23, 2021. On December 23, 2021, FERC issued a License Application Deficiencies and Additional Information Request (AIR #1) letter to Alabama Power requesting that Alabama Power correct the deficiencies in the application and provide responses to the additional information request within 90 days (i.e., March 23, 2022)¹. FERC also noted that if the correction of any deficiency or requested information caused another part of the application to be inaccurate, that part of the application must be revised and refiled by the due date.

A portion of FERC's AIR #1 focused on the hydrologic models. Alabama Power requested a teleconference to facilitate a discussion between FERC and Alabama Power's modeling staff on the technical aspects of the AIR#1 modeling questions. On January 5, 2022², FERC issued a Notice of a Technical Meeting regarding the hydrologic modeling for the Harris Project and subsequently hosted the meeting on January 20, 2022. FERC issued a summary of the technical meeting on February 4, 2022.³

On February 15, 2022⁴, FERC issued a second AIR (AIR #2) with a response due within 60 days. Alabama Power respectfully requests an extension of time to June 15, 2022, to respond to AIR #1 and AIR #2 concurrently. Alabama Power will file the response to the deficiencies identified in the December 23, 2021 letter, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. section 16.9(b)(2), by the original due date of March 23, 2022.

¹ Accession# 20211223-3032

² Accession # 20220105-3053

³ Accession #: 20220204-3048

⁴ Accession # 20220215-3039

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Alabama Power understands that FERC can issue an AIR at any time in the relicensing process. Clarifying the record and providing FERC the information it needs to make a licensing decision is both reasonable and prudent. FERC's AIR #1 and AIR #2 contain multiple questions that are similar, and both AIRs result in the need to update final study reports and license exhibits. Several of these documents will need to be revised for AIR #1 and then revised again for AIR #2. Filing multiple versions of final reports and license exhibits within a short period of time makes it difficult for stakeholders, which include state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the public, to follow and participate in the FERC post-filing relicensing process.

Also, in order to answer AIR #2 Question 2, Alabama Power must conduct modeling and data analyses on three additional continuous minimum flows and update the Final Downstream Release Alternative Phase 2 Report. This effort, in addition to responding adequately to the other AIR questions, will require more than 60 days to complete. Therefore, in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the additional continuous minimum flows as well as minimize the filing of multiple versions of updated study reports and license exhibits, Alabama Power requests an extension of time to June 15, 2022 (120 days from February 15, 2022) to respond to both AIR #1 and AIR #2 concurrently. As noted above, Alabama Power will file the response to the deficiencies identified in the December 23, 2021 AIR on or before March 23, 2022.

If there are any questions concerning this request for an extension of time, please contact me at arsegars@southernco.com or 205-257-2251.

Sincerely,



Angie Anderegg
Harris Relicensing Project Manager

cc: Harris Action Teams Stakeholder List