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December 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Project No. 2628-066
R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project
Request for Extension of Time to Submit Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Ms. Debbie-Anne Reese
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N. Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Reese,

Alabama Power Company (Alabama Power) is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensee for the R.L. Harris Hydroelectric Project (Harris Project) (Project No. 2628). On November 21, 2024, FERC issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Alabama Power's Harris relicensing application. The public notice regarding the availability of the DEIS for the Harris Project states that FERC is providing a 60-day notice period for review and comment on the DEIS, ending January 20, 2025. Alabama Power respectfully requests an extension of the comment period for an additional 30 days, ending on February 19, 2025.

The DEIS for the Harris Project recommends a number of staff recommendations beyond the scope of Alabama Power's licensing proposal. The complexity of the staff recommendations will require substantial review and evaluation during the 60-day comment period. During this comment period, FERC scheduled two public meetings for December 16-17, 2024, in which Alabama Power participated. Moreover, Alabama Power notes that the current comment period provided by FERC includes a number of intervening holidays, which will reduce the available time to review the DEIS, including Thanksgiving (November 28), Christmas (December 25), New Year's Day (January 1), and Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 20).

Under the circumstances, an additional 30 days will help ensure that both Alabama Power and all stakeholders in the Harris Project relicensing proceeding have sufficient time to review and comment on the DEIS, ensuring that the record in this proceeding is sufficient to enable a relicensing decision by FERC.

For these reasons, Alabama Power requests a 30-day extension to the January 20, 2025 deadline for filing comments on the Harris DEIS.

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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

cc: Sarah Salazar (FERC)