



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

August 12, 2013

RE: P-349-173 Formal written comment

The Lake Martin Home Owners & Boat Owners Association (HOBOS) fully support Alabama Power Company's (APCo) request for a three foot increase in winter water levels and conditional six week shoulder added to the full pool season.

APCo is certain to provide to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) all of the additional supporting information recently requested by FERC staff members. I and many members of our organization have been fully engaged with APCo during the initial five years in the relicensing process. We have seen and discussed with APCo relicensing officials and their consultants the science, technology, and related research that preceded the filing of the formal application for relicensing. Although we believe that that application contained all of the necessary content to get a completely favorable Draft EIS we understand and accept the fact that FERC has the duty to require all pertinent information before making its final decision.

Thunderstorms during the Fall and Winter don't threaten Lake Martin's capacity to protect downstream interests. Recall, also, that another large upstream reservoir was added thirty years ago. Weather forecasting technology has improved exponentially since the issuance, forty years ago, of the license that remains in effect. Strong consideration should be given to the fact that APCo has had eighty years of experience in operating Martin Dam. Combine greatly improved weather forecasting science with APCo's experience in managing Lake Martin and Lake Harris/Wedowee (Harris Dam). These are very formidable and very favorable pluses.

There is no doubt that you already know that the loudest nay-saying voices downstream are from those who, with knowledge aforethought, decided to construct structures and/or plant crops inside the FEMA floodplain. You are also likely to be aware of the ruling from Alabama's Supreme Court that went against the downstream farming interests several years ago when they brought suit against APCo.

It may not be FERC's habit or policy to consider the economic benefits of higher low pool and a six week shoulder. But the economic benefits are very real to the people who reside, recreate, and those who operate businesses in the tri-county area bordering Lake Martin. It is way past time that federal agencies recognize their potential for lifting the lives of so many Americans by including greater consideration of how to protect or create jobs everywhere.

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association request that FERC staffers and commissioners approve Alabama Power Company's application, as submitted, for a new license.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Heinzen
President, Lake Martin Home Owners & Boat Owners Association

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