



November 2, 2007

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

RE: COMMENTS - Martin Project, FERC No. 349 - 134

Dear Ms. Bose:

As the Commission is fully aware, the Southeast has been experiencing a drought of historic proportions over the course of the past 6 months with the vast majority of the State of Alabama being categorized by the National Weather Service (NWS) as under an exceptional drought. Furthermore, the most recent reports issued by the NWS have stated the La Nina has strengthened and the projected winter weather patterns for portions of the Southeast are for unseasonably warmer and dryer months ahead.

The local communities of Alexander City, Dadeville, Eclectic and Tallassee, Alabama economies are highly dependent on the economic influx provided by tourism, fishing tournaments and part-time homeowners visiting the lake. These entities, along with local businesses, have born the brunt of the economic downturn associated with this past year's lake levels. Another year as such could be catastrophic, not only to the local economy, but Lake Martin's eco system. Currently, our organization is in the process of preparing an informal Economic Impact Study of the effect the lower lake levels have had on the local communities' businesses, and based on our results to date, the data we have received is disheartening.

As such, the Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association, Inc., which represents over 1,300 Lake Martin stakeholders in and around the Lake Martin community, would like to thank Alabama Power Company (APCo), and state to the Commission we fully support their letter of October 23, 2007 requesting a drought-based temporary variance to Lake Martin's rule curve. If such relief is not granted, in our opinion there is a very high probability if the weather patterns continue as predicted, the Lake Martin reservoir could be confronted next year with conditions as severe, if not worse, than this year.

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Per review of APCo's letter to the Commission, we noted all parties of interest with the exception of The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), have concurred with APCo on the Martin drought-based rule curve variance. Per APCo's letter, the USACE has indicated that it would likely file comments directly with the Commission. We are extremely concerned the USACE, as was the case this past May in another matter, might hold up this matter pending further analysis and studies. Time is of the essence, as the Martin drought-based rule curve plan must be initiated by mid-November, at the latest, in order to maximize the effect on APCo's proposed drought mitigation efforts.

Furthermore, we are of the opinion, many of the drought issues we are confronted with today would have possibly been mitigated if Lake Martin's winter lake levels were permanently raised four to five feet above the current established level. As such, our organization supports permanently raising the winter levels from its current plan level of 480 feet. Today, the current rules curve does not take into consideration the historical change in weather patterns, improvements in long-term meteorologist forecasting, and the addition of the Harris Dam. We would appreciate the Commissions support of our efforts to have the 40+ year-old water level rules curve updated to current standards.

In closing, we respectfully request the Commission expedite APCo's request and give consideration to supporting a permanent change in Lake Martin's current winter rule curve, as both are not only in the overall best interest of the State of Alabama, but also the local communities surrounding Lake Martin and their citizens, whose economy has suffered greatly during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Jesse Cunningham
President

Cc: Governor Bob Riley
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Congressman Spencer Bachus
Congressman Mike Rogers
Congressman Terry Everett
Colonel Bryon Jorns, USACE
Willard Bowers, APCo
Jim Crews, APCo
Charles Stover, APCo