

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 349-190-Alabama
Martin Dam Hydroelectric Project

Project No. 2146-201--Alabama
and Georgia
Coosa River Hydroelectric Project
Alabama Power Company

November 21, 2016

Mr. James Crew
Hydro Services Manager
Alabama Power Company
600 North 18th Street, 16N-8180
Birmingham, AL 35203

Subject: Drought Management Notification - Article 403/405

Dear Mr. Crew:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter filed October 6, 2016, updating the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) of your implementation of drought management measures at the Martin Dam Hydroelectric Project No. 349¹, and at the Coosa River Hydroelectric Project No. 2149.² As discussed in more detail below, your filing satisfies the notification requirement of Article 403 (Coosa River) or 405 (Martin Dam) of your licenses.

Article 405 of your Martin Dam license requires you to implement the Tallapoosa River portion of Alabama Drought Response Operating Proposal (ADROP), version 3.3.3, dated July 12, 2013, as described in Attachment B to Alabama Power's August 13, 2013 comments to Commission staff's June 6, 2013 draft Environmental Impact Statement. You must notify the Commission in writing, as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days after modifying operations in response to drought conditions.

¹ Order Issuing New License (153 FERC ¶ 61,298), issued December 17, 2015.

² Order Issuing New License (143 FERC ¶ 61,249), issued June 20, 2013.

Article 403 of your Coosa River license requires you to implement the Coosa River portion of ADROP, version 3.3.1, dated December 13, 2010, as described in Attachment 3 to Alabama Power's Addendum to the Coosa River Biological Assessment, filed by Alabama Power on January 24, 2011. You are required to notify the Commission as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours after modifying operations in response to drought conditions.

The ADROP provides a plan for managing project operations during drought conditions of varying intensity. When drought indicators (rainfall and stream flow indicators) reach specified intensity levels, the projects shall be operated to provide the specified monthly minimum flow releases. Under ADROP, you are required to initiate a drought response upon the occurrence of any indicator or combination of indicators depending on the time of year.

As you reported in your June 28, 2016 filing with the Commission, on June 21, 2016, conditions in the Coosa and Tallapoosa River basins triggered a Drought Intensity Level 2 based on low basin inflow and low state line flow. On June 27, 2016, the combined releases from the Jordan and Bouldin developments on the Coosa River and the Thurlow development (FERC No. 2407) on the Tallapoosa River were reduced from 4,640 cfs to 4,200 cfs. Furthermore, in accordance with your implementation of ADROP for the Coosa Project, you suspended recreation releases.

In your October 6th filing, you notified the Commission that the basin has remained in a Drought Intensity Level 2. As such, beginning on October 4, 2016 you reduced flows to 3,700 cfs, as allowed by ADROP Drought Intensity Level 2.

Your filing satisfies the notification requirement under Article 403 of the Coosa River Project, and under Article 405 of the Martin Dam Project. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (202) 502-8171 or andrea.claros@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrea Claros
Ecologist, Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance