Harris Project Relicensing
Consolidated Issues from Stakeholders (January 8, 2018)

Operations	
Lake Level Fluctuation	➢ 3-4 feet drawdown was discussed (for recreation use and access primarily) ➢ New license should have a Rule Curve Change (RCC) and Alabama Power should conduct an economic study associated with RCC ➢ Desire to have the reservoir levels change depending on existing conditions (use long range forecasting to set lake levels, real time) – better for recreation and fish habitat ➢ Add shoulder season change – raise pool earlier in spring and lower later in the fall ➢ Periodically go back to 8 ft for maintenance; someone commented that 5 feet drawdown for maintenance may be enough ➢ Stakeholders requested a gage on Crooked Creek ➢ Stakeholders want to understand U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Alabama Power interaction ➢ How does the proposed rule curve change affect Alabama Drought Response Operations Protocol (ADROP)?
Downstream Flooding	➢ Property loss due to peaking/pulsing operations ➢ Request to shift evening peak to after 6 PM (maybe 9 PM) ➢ Downstream flooding is a concern especially since the 2003 flood ➢ Is Georgia going to tap into the Little Tallapoosa to divert water to West Georgia? ➢ Minimum flows - Will this be part of FERC process? ➢ Rule Curve Change effects on navigation, flood control and drought management ➢ Use of HEC-FDA (this is the model the USACE recommends) to assess flood damage analyses ➢ The USACE recommends the geographic scope for navigation effects go to Mobile Bay
Erosion & Sedimentation	
Lake Erosion and Sedimentation	➢ Upstream erosion along shoreline – they want to get permits that allow them to compensate for original property line o Property is different from original property lines due to erosion ➢ Take core samples of sediment to determine original lake bed vs. sedimentation ➢ Bent River subdivision is a concern- sand bar has been growing ➢ Wave action caused by boats- can Alabama Power permit higher sea walls ➢ A lot of lake erosion is caused by construction on the lake (e.g., cove of 431) ➢ Stakeholders noted a lot of erosion at south end of the lake ➢ Upper end of lake is extremely bad (see if this is the same area noted in project ops) ➢ Dredging in front of private docks ➢ Sedimentation issue in subdivision – Big Tallapoosa, west of Rt 82, between fuller crossroads and Center West area ➢ Stormwater run-off & sediment transport ➢ Siltation specifically in upper Little River ➢ Siltation above Foster Bridge ➢ Creation of sandbars on reservoir (i.e., Randolph City intake, Wedowee Creek, Highway 82, Big Tallapoosa River) ➢ Enforcing silt fencing and codes – Alabama Power is not enforcing silt fences ➢ Make sure to enforce Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction ➢ Sedimentation rates with new project operations – how will sediment change?
Downstream Erosion	➢ Erosion has occurred upstream of Price Island (downstream of Harris Dam) ➢ Downstream releases resulted in erosion for 7 miles downstream ➢ Lack of info on tailrace erosion and its impact on fishery – need more data/information ➢ Use historical imagery to evaluate downstream erosion

Recreation	
Lake Facilities & Access	➢ Add additional boat ramp near old Hwy 431 (Randolph County) ➢ Need more opportunities – develop a day use public park near Wedowee that the City could manage ➢ Add mile markers on lake for location identification ➢ Marilyn Lott suggested that she host all groups to develop consensus on lake recreation facilities and commercial development on Lake ➢ Add bathrooms and lighting at boat ramps ➢ Maintenance needed at New Harmony boat ramp ➢ Add mountain bike trail somewhere around lake, several acres, also used for hiking ➢ Another day use area should be developed north of Hwy 48 (all day use areas should be accessible by car and boat) ➢ Improved access to shoreline for primitive camping ➢ Would like to have a sandy beach at a day use area ➢ Extend boat ramps for use during winter under existing conditions ➢ Add camping facilities or access on the lake ➢ Need maps of hunting lands – are there any WMA's on Harris? ➢ Need an increase of public hunting lands around lake – address any conflicts with residential lands ➢ Would like opportunities for small game hunting and archery around the reservoir ➢ Additional kayak/canoe launch on the lake ➢ Hwy 48 boat ramp is too crowded ➢ Need more public fishing access on lake/shoreline fishing ➢ Need a hiking trail – connecting the Appalachian trail to the Bartram Trail (link near Cheaha) ➢ Need trash receptacles at public use areas
Downstream Facilities and Access	➢ Downstream recreation – need better access from Harris to Wadley ➢ Provide weekend releases to support recreation downstream of dam – want to increase more boatable days downstream (canoe/kayak) ➢ No specific season for more boatable days but something similar to Jordan would be good ➢ Need more signage about available facilities like portage and floating opportunities ➢ Need a better downstream canoe portage ➢ No existing access to canoe trail near Horseshoe Bend
Skyline Facilities and Access	➢ Need a hiking trail – connecting the Appalachian trail to the Bartram Trail ➢ At Skyline, revisit timber management and hunting agreements on leased land
Public Education	
Public Safety & Communication	➢ Communication issues o Add audible alarms further downstream o Would like text notifications, timing of downstream releases o Lake property owners – notify when there are reservoir elevation changes ➢ Stakeholders want physical human to monitoring flood control operations at Harris Dam, not remotely manned ➢ Need "no wake zones" because too many boats going to fast on the reservoir ➢ Want to have more buoys to make boats slow down ➢ Wake Board boats are causing safety and erosion issues (some people noted that these are larger boats and others just said they were "wake board" boats). ➢ Boat engine size was also raised as an issue ➢ Restrict boat size on Lake Harris ➢ Zoning for wake boats – note a specific area of lake where these would be allowed

	➢ Increase marine police presence ➢ Mark or remove stumps in the lake o Woody debris as a public safety issue ➢ Restrict houseboats ➢ Safety concerns over unscheduled releases
Public Education	➢ Need an education program for water safety on lake Harris/downstream ➢ Education on fishing license requirements
Horseshoe Bend	➢ Primary issues are erosion and bridge piers – piers are on the National Register; concern that downstream flows are damaging these piers and other cultural resources downstream ➢ Improve access associated with existing boat ramp – develop a canoe trail for day paddling ➢ No access to the current water trail ➢ Concern over the erosion that occurs around the bend and at the Miller Bridge crossing
Woody Debris	➢ Woody Debris and trash– especially bad after heavy rains o Specifically, at the Highway 82 bridge ➢ Can anything be done about this?
Cultural Resources	➢ Possible native American graves in Danley Cove ➢ Harris will be National Register eligible in 2033
Shoreline Management	➢ Replanting sod vs. erosion – why can't Alabama Power allow people to replant or restore sod? ➢ Dredging in front of personal/private docks should be allowed ➢ Reclassify lands that surround private land (specifically Brad Mitchell – south end of lake) ➢ Extend the distance allowed in a permit to build a dock (50 ft plus-this is due to erosion and original property lines) ➢ Develop a brochure of types of vegetation that can be planted in the scenic easement ➢ Maintain natural/undeveloped lands around the reservoir ➢ Brochure for BMPs to reduce erosion ➢ Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) wants to limit seawall construction on Lake Harris
Water Quality	
Lake	➢ Sedimentation, temperature, erosion, and downstream pulsing scheme – how do all these affect water quality? ➢ Septic Tanks – there are new regulations for septic tanks – must be 50 ft from water (just informational - not noted as an "issue" just FYI) ➢ Levels of nitrogen due to agriculture affecting fish and habitat (specifically from highway 431 bridge to Foster's Bridge downstream on Tallapoosa River arm of Lake) ➢ Right of Way (ROW) management spraying chemicals that get into the lake (Hunter's Bend area of the Lake) ➢ Data from Lake Watch for Lake Harris is available through Auburn, Alabama Water Watch ➢ Fuel spills from boats negatively affects water quality ➢ Effects of siltation on water quality and habitat ➢ Lake Harris is cleanest lake around ➢ Pollution Sources o Chicken processing plant in Heflin o Wastewater plant in Heflin Non-point source is general agriculture in the basin ➢ USACE noted that geographic scope for water quality should extend into Lake Martin ➢ Climate change effects on water quality/use
Downstream	➢ Water quality effects on mussel presence/absence downstream ➢ Sedimentation, temperature, erosion, and downstream pulsing scheme – how do all these affect water quality?

	➢ Effects on temperature and Dissolved Oxygen in tailrace ➢ Provide data on any long term, continuous monitoring of DO and temperature at the tailrace during both generating and non-generating periods ➢ Include information on temperature, turbidity, biological monitoring, any identified impairments, and any TMDLs in the PAD
Skyline	➢ Are there any water quality studies for Skyline, specifically Little Coon Creek? ➢ Need to assess water quality at Skyline
Water Quantity	➢ Need a study on how water quantity effects the water quality ➢ Water withdrawals – where are these currently happening (Lake)? ➢ Concern about water quantity because of siltation – lake can't hold as much water because of increased sedimentation
Wildlife & Vegetation	
Lake	➢ How is development affecting land use around the reservoir especially in the riparian and scenic easement? ➢ Need for public education about invasive species ➢ Need to maintain or repair existing wood duck boxes around the lake ➢ Raising the winter pool can have negative impacts on aquatic vegetation and encourage invasive species ➢ Provide education on wood duck boxes and osprey nests
Downstream	➢ Erosion and sedimentation effects on freshwater turtles and herps
Skyline	➢ Effect of timber harvest on bats and other threatened and endangered species at Skyline ➢ Leave shagbark oaks and white oaks for bats ➢ Keep Skyline in the Project Boundary
Fisheries	
Lake	➢ Crappie population has dropped significantly the last five years ➢ Could improve crappie population with an increase in habitat ➢ Don't remove trees/habitat from Little Tallapoosa ➢ Hydrilla upstream of Harris – is it in the lake and how will Alabama Power keep it out of the lake; also concerns about zebra mussels ➢ Entrainment and impingement of fish ➢ Bryozoan colonies on the lake-do they exist? ➢ Negative impacts of electro-fishing on fish population (in lake and downstream) ➢ Do fluctuating reservoir levels affect reservoir fish habitat? ➢ Increase public education encouraging people to come fish on Lake Harris ➢ Add woody debris for habitat
Downstream	➢ Operation impacts on yellow catfish (flatheads) downstream of Harris ➢ Impacted in the first 12 miles by flow releases ➢ What is the status of Green Plan/Harris Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) ➢ Negative impacts of electro-fishing on fish population (in lake and downstream) ➢ Downstream water temperatures – how does the withdrawal zone effect temperatures downstream (yellow catfish populations are affected by water temperatures ➢ Better fishery was noted by stakeholder since pulsing (Green Plan/Harris AMP) began ➢ Include a review of downstream impacts and an update of the Green Plan as a specific working group topic