

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

May 17, 2023

## CESAM-RD-N PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-00337-AMR

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

### STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

# PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL IN WETLANDS AND STREAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REBUILD OF ALABAMA POWER COMPANY TRANSMISSION LINE IN DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

Applicant: Alabama Power Company Attention: Mr. Mike Godfrey – Manager Environmental Affairs 600 18<sup>th</sup> Street North/9N-0830 Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Agent: Mr. Carl Hubbert, Jr 2645 Buckboard Road Birmingham, Alabama 35244

**LOCATION**: The project is approximately 12 miles of existing transmission lines west of Selma, Alabama and generally along State Highway 22 in a southwest direction towards Orrville, Alabama in Dallas County, Alabama. Center coordinates of the project are located at latitude 32.3684 North, Longitude 87.1489 West.

**PROJECT PURPOSE**: The purpose involves routine maintenance and upgrade activities to provide reliable electrical service to residents of Alabama. This project is associated with 19 Nationwide Permits that are also being processed through the same application.

**PROPOSED WORK**: The proposed work would include maintenance and rebuild of a portion of an existing 46 kV and 115 kV transmission line which would include the unavoidable discharge of fill material into 7.08 acres of wetlands and 0.013 acres (22.5 linear feet) of stream for work pads and access roads. The applicant proposes to remove (retire) the 46kV transmission line, approximately 102 wooden poles, and rebuild an existing 115kV transmission line, including replacing 79 structures (poles), conductor (wire) and shield wire. The new transmission line would be moved approximately 40 feet in an easterly direction of the right-of-way (ROW) centerline. The new structures range in height from 110' to 130'. The new poles would be steel or concrete base

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with steel upper sections. These structures are designed to withhold the additional weight of larger transmission lines and enable longer spans.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION**: The applicant considered another alternative which would have impacted 8.78 acres of wetlands. However, efforts were made to reduce the amount of impacts to 7.08 acres of wetlands through the final design process.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION**: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland and stream credits from an approved mitigation bank.

**WATER QUALITY**: The applicant is in the process of acquiring certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and upon completion of the required advertising a determination relative to certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES**: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. Coordination with the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) and/or federally recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate. The USACE is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicated the following species may be present within the project area: Red Cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (E), Alabama Surgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkusi*) (E), Heavy Pigtoe (*Pleurobema taitiana*) (E), Orangenacre Mucket (*Haniota perovalis*) (T), Southern Clubshell (*Plerobema decisum*) (E), Tulotoma Snail (*Tulotoma magnifica*) (T), and Georgia Rockcress (*Arabis georgiana*) (T). The USACE has not made a determination regarding effects of the project on the above-listed species at this time. Further coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be performed as determined to be appropriate. A copy of this public notice is being sent to the USFWS for review and comment.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit

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which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2023-00337-AMR** and should be directed to the District Engineer, USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: **Ms. Angela M. Rangel**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Richard Hulcher, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at <u>angela.m.rangel@usace.army.mil</u> and to ADEM at fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov.

All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 455-6785 or email at angela.m.rangel@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <u>www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures































