



Southeast Regional Meeting January 23 and 24, 2024

*The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center
241 S. College Street, Auburn, Alabama 36830*

Hosts: Alabama Power Company and Georgia Power Company

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Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Time	Session	Speakers
8:45 AM-1:00 PM <i>Gather at 8:45 AM; buses depart at 9:00 AM</i>	<p>Tour: Two Groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Martin Dam 2) Reservoir via Pontoon Boats <p><i>Includes transportation from the hotel to the Dam and Reservoir and back, as well as boxed lunch on the buses.</i></p> <p>Details of tours are found HERE.</p>	<p>Organizer: Thomas St. John, Alabama Power</p>
1 PM-5 PM	<p>Dam Safety Workshop: Performing Comprehensive Assessments – Lessons Learned, Best Practices and What Comes Next?</p> <p>This workshop will focus on undertaking Comprehensive Assessments under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s new guidelines. Valuable insights will be shared covering the planning process, execution, level of effort, and next steps following a comprehensive assessment, including how to leverage outputs to inform decisions and prioritize work.</p> <p>Several perspectives will be shared, including those from independent consultants and state and federal regulators, as well as hydroelectric project owners.</p>	<p>Click HERE to access the detailed agenda and speakers</p>
5 PM-7 PM	<p>Welcome Reception in the Legacy Ballroom <i>Featuring live music by the Goat Hill String Band</i></p>	

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

7 AM-8 AM	Registration and Networking Coffee	
8 AM	Opening Welcome	<u>Speaker:</u> Thomas St. John , Project Manager Hydro - Regulatory & Legislative Policy, Alabama Power Company and NHA Board of Directors Member
8:15 AM	<p>Session 1: Water Power Market Trends in the Southeast</p> <p>This insightful, forward-looking session has two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1: Presentation providing the top takeaways relevant to the southeastern U.S. from the newly released <i>U.S. Hydropower Market Report</i>, published by the U.S. Department of Energy and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Part 2: Hear viewpoints from executives representing major hydropower asset owners. What are the trends in the southeastern region of the U.S. in terms of new development, workforce challenges, investment in existing fleets, and addressing environmental-related challenges? 	<p><u>Session Leader:</u> Marla Barnes, Vice President, Member and Industry Engagements, National Hydropower Association (NHA)</p> <p><u>Part 1: Presentation:</u> Scott DeNeale, Water Resources Manager, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)</p> <p><u>Part 2: Panelists for ‘From the Boardroom’ Facilitated Discussion:</u> Randy Herrin, Vice President Carolinas Regulated Renewables, Fossil Hydro Operations, Duke Energy Corporation</p> <p>Jacinda Woodward, Senior Vice President, Power Operations, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</p>
9:15 AM	<p>Session 2: Flexibility Is Hydro’s Superpower but at What Cost? Insights on Opportunities and Costs of Providing This Service to the Grid</p> <p>Given hydropower’s role in balancing intermittent and non-dispatchable energy resources on the grid, this session will explore what this means at the equipment and asset level.</p> <p>This includes how to quantify impacts and associated costs, as well as how to use these details to properly budget within a maintenance and capital improvement plan.</p> <p>Innovation also plays a key role in supporting the effort as suppliers continue to develop equipment to support this paradigm.</p>	<p><u>Session Leader:</u> Megan Nesbitt, Business Development Manager - East, ANDRITZ Hydro Corp.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Eddie Duncan, General Manager, Regulated Renewables Regional Services, Duke Energy Corporation</p> <p>Virgil Hobbs, Administrator and Chief Executive, Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA)</p> <p>Francisco Kuljevan, Principal Project Manager, Hydropower Generation, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)</p>
10:15 AM	Networking Break	
10:30 AM	Special Presentation: Building the Workforce Pipeline for the Future – Unveiling the New WC2 Program	<u>Speaker:</u> Linda Church-Ciocci , Executive Director, Hydropower Foundation

	<p>The Hydropower Foundation has launched a new exciting program called the Waterpower Clubs / Waterpower Community (WC2) to help connect university students with industry, with the objective of building a workforce pipeline.</p> <p>Learn how your organization can benefit from and get involved in WC2!</p>	
10:45 AM	<p>Session 3: Modernization of the Federal Fleet in the Southeast</p> <p>The Federal Hydropower Fleet in the Southeast consists of hydro projects owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority. These assets are aging and will benefit from investments in rehabilitation/modernization to improve reliability and to ensure safety and environmental sustainability, while decreasing maintenance costs.</p> <p>This session will be an opportunity to hear from these federal power producers and gain insights into which assets and projects will be upgraded, total expected investment, timeline, ROI, and how suppliers can engage in the effort. New techniques and technologies, such as advanced manufacturing, available to support the effort will also be discussed.</p>	<p>Speakers: Virgil Hobbs, Administrator and Chief Executive, Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA)</p> <p>Robby Floyd, Senior Manager, Central Hydro Region, Hydro Generation, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</p>
11:45 PM	<p>Networking Lunch</p>	
12:00 PM	<p><i>Option: Watch the live webinar: Women in Hydropower Mentorship Program as you eat lunch</i></p> <p>Learn about the World Bank study on women’s employment in the hydropower sector around the world.</p> <p>The initiative from the World Bank’s Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is being delivered by IHA together with the Global Women’s Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET).</p> <p>Debbie and Barbara will present and then we will have about 20 minutes for discussion and Q&A.</p>	<p>Webinar Participants: Debbie Gray, International Hydropower Association and member of the Women in Hydropower Mentorship Program Steering Committee</p> <p>Barbara Fischer-Aupperle, Global Women’s Network for the Energy Transition - GWNET</p>
1:15 PM	<p>Special Guest Lecture: A History of Alabama Power Company’s Hydropower Development</p> <p>From its earliest days of existence, Alabama Power Company has developed and operated hydropower projects for the benefit of the people of Alabama.</p> <p>This presentation will review some of the history of Alabama Power’s hydro projects on the Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Warrior rivers, and the importance of these projects not only to Alabama Power Company but also to the state of Alabama.</p>	<p>Speaker: Jim H. Hancock, Jr., Partner, Balch & Bingham LLP</p>
1:45 PM	<p>Session 4:</p>	<p>Moderator: Rick Miller, Senior Vice President, HDR</p>

	<p>Pumped Storage: Updates on Project Development/Expansion in the Southeast</p> <p>Due to the important role that Pumped Storage Hydropower plays in supporting grid balancing, stability, and reliability, many countries have recently turned to this solution and have built or commenced development on new facilities.</p> <p>While the U.S. has considerably fallen behind the curve on this front, signs point to the beginning of development efforts throughout the nation, including in the Southeast.</p> <p>This session describes what is being Explored, including compensation models as well as roadblocks that must be overcome.</p>	<p><u>Panelists:</u> Scottie Barrentine, Project Manager, Pump Storage Initiative, Tennessee Valey Authority (TVA)</p> <p>Preston Pierce, General Manager Hydro West, Bad Creek Pumped Storage Project, Duke Energy</p> <p>Elizabeth McCormick, Associate, Troutman Pepper</p> <p>Michael Purdie, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Markets, National Hydropower Association (NHA)</p>
2:45 PM	Networking Break	
3:15 PM	<p>Session 5: Funding for Hydro: Dollars Are Flowing! Putting Financial Incentives from Federal Legislation to Work</p> <p>Dollars allocated through federal laws, such as the BIL - Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (also known as the IJIA-Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act) and through appropriations, are beginning to flow.</p> <p>How are recipients of federal financial incentives putting that money to work?</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Michael Purdie, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Markets, National Hydropower Association (NHA)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> David Brown Kinloch, President, Appalachian Hydro Associates</p> <p>Gia Schneider, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Natel Energy, Inc.</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Session 6: Spillway Gates – Trends and Lessons Learned</p> <p>The need to reliably pass water through or around hydropower projects continues to be a top priority. Increased unit cycling and start-stops to support the grid has placed renewed emphasis on the reliability of both head and spillway gates due to frequency of use.</p> <p>Monitoring, maintenance and inspection techniques, approaches to refurbishment, as well as risk management all play a crucial role and will be explored.</p>	<p><u>Session Leader:</u> Billy Brundage, Principal Dam Safety Engineer, Georgia Power</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Will Brown, Regional Engineer, Division of Dam Safety and Inspections, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC D2SI)</p> <p>Amy Bresnahan, Senior Engineer, Dominion Energy</p> <p>Andrew Holt, Mechanical Engineer, Kleinschmidt Associates</p>
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	<p><u>Speaker:</u> Thomas St. John, Project Manager Hydro - Regulatory & Legislative Policy, Alabama Power Company and NHA Board of Directors Member</p>
5:15 PM-6 PM	Event Wrap-Up Happy Hour	