



POWERSOUTH[®]
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Keith Stephens, Ph.D.

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

November 1, 2012

Via FedEx and E-mail to

J. Brian Atkins, P.E.
Division Director
Alabama Office of Water Resources
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 434
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Re: PowerSouth Energy Cooperative's Comments on the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group Report *Water Management Issues in Alabama* (August 1, 2012)

Dear Mr. Atkins,

PowerSouth Energy Cooperative appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Water Management Issues in Alabama* Report. PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, headquartered in Andalusia, Alabama, is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative providing the wholesale power needs of 20 distribution members — sixteen electric cooperatives and four municipal electric systems — to more than one-million end users in 39 Alabama and 10 northwest Florida counties. With a combined generating capacity of more than 1,900 megawatts, PowerSouth owns and operates six generation facilities, utilizing a diverse generating mix that includes natural gas, coal, water (hydro), and compressed air energy storage technology. A reliable and adequate water supply is essential to the operation of PowerSouth's electric generating facilities.

PowerSouth recognizes the need for the State of Alabama to ensure availability of water resources for use by its citizens, industries, and wildlife in the future, even though water resources have traditionally been abundant in the State. The development of new state water resource policies will require significant stakeholder collaboration and rigorous technical analysis of state water resources data. The Report states, and PowerSouth agrees, that the cornerstone for development of state water management policies and planning, water resources data, is presently insufficient to provide a scientific basis for the development of a statewide water policy. PowerSouth supports the Report's proposal for further collection of water use, water availability, and minimum stream flow data, and strongly encourages the use of this data for the identification of specific future water resource problems to determine the need for new water management policy.

Mr. Brian Atkins, P.E.

November 1, 2012

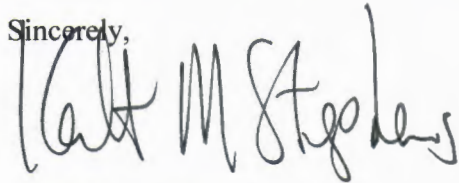
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Several water resource "Issues", and accompanying water resource policies, were discussed and defined, in general terms, in the Report. Without detailed, data-driven problem statements, it is difficult, and likely premature, to comment on the effectiveness of new policies for the complex matter of water resources management. PowerSouth supports the State's efforts to better understand our water resources and the collection of information in order to strengthen this understanding. PowerSouth looks forward to participating in the identification of and collaboration on scientifically supported water resource issues, which will serve as the foundation of Alabama's state water management policies. We are confident the State will ensure full stakeholder collaboration and the development of quality data, which will be critical to effective and accepted water resource policies.

PowerSouth has reviewed and generally agrees with the comments of our industry partners the Business Council of Alabama, Manufacture Alabama, and the Alabama Power Company.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the report. Please contact us if you have any questions on our comments or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Keith M. Stephens, Ph.D.

Manager

Environmental Services Department

KMS/mjd

cc: Alabama Department of Environmental Management – Director@adem.state.al.us
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry – glen.zorn@agi.alabama.gov
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – stan.cook@dcnr.alabama.gov
Geological Survey of Alabama – bbearden@gsa.state.al.us