



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 11, 2026

NOTICE OF FLOODPLAIN ACTION

for

Alabama Power Company, Lock 5 Transmission Substation Project

Hale County, Alabama

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF), is issuing this notice of floodplain action for Alabama Power Company's (APC) Lock 5 Transmission Substation Project (Project) in Hale County, Alabama. DOE is considering whether to issue Federal financial assistance to APC for the Project.

DOE has determined that the potential Federal financial assistance for the Project is a floodplain action; therefore, the requirements of 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1022 apply.

Pursuant to 10 CFR Part 1022, a 15-day public comment period for this proposed floodplain action commences with publication of this notice and will conclude on August 27, 2026. At the end of the public comment period, DOE will consider all substantive comments received and prepare a floodplain statement of findings.

The floodplain assessment is attached to this notice.

To submit comments, please email edf_environmental@doe.gov. Please include "**APC: Lock 5 Substation**" in the subject line. Comments must be received by August 27, 2026.

FLOODPLAIN ASSESSMENT

for

Alabama Power Company, Lock 5 Transmission Substation Project

Hale County, Alabama

August 11, 2026

Introduction

The Lock 5 Transmission Substation project area is partially within the mapped Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the Black Warrior River and is located on FIRM Panel Number 01065C0425C (effective January 6, 2010).

The Project, a new substation build, is not considered to be a critical action, as defined at 10 CFR 1022.4. This memo describes the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) assessment of floodplains pursuant to 10 CFR 1022.

Floodplain Assessment

As defined at 10 CFR 1022.4, *Floodplain action* means any DOE action that takes place in a floodplain, including any DOE action in a wetland that is also within the floodplain. DOE has determined that the Project is a floodplain action.

Project Description

The proposed project consists of the following new facilities: (1) a new 1,055-foot by 1,740-foot substation (TS) and (2) a new gravel access road (30-foot-wide, approximately 0.25-mile-long) from Hale County Road 16 to the proposed TS. Additionally, the project site would be developed for space to accommodate six additional 500 kV terminals and two additional 230 kV terminals in the future. The project area does not contain any existing facilities.

The project boundary encompasses approximately 150 acres to allow for project design/siting flexibility; however, ground disturbing activities would occur on approximately 110 acres. Ground disturbing activities would include placement of fill, grading, and constructing the Lock Five TS and access road. Vegetation clearing is required for the Lock Five TS, however this is mostly agricultural vegetation with minimal tree clearing.

The eastern portion of the site may be utilized as a temporary parking area, laydown yard, and material receiving area. A permanent detention pond will be constructed immediately south of the Lock Five TS pad to manage stormwater. The access road will be located south of the intersection of Owl Road and Hale County Road 16 and will intersect the west side, south travel lane of Hale County Road 16.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2026 with an in-service date in May 2030.

Alternatives

The alternatives before DOE include: (1) to provide Federal financial assistance for the Project; or (2) not provide Federal financial assistance for the Project. No siting alternatives were considered by DOE.

Proposed Statement of Findings

Schoel Engineering completed a Flood Zone A Engineering Analysis of the site in August 2026. DOE has reviewed the engineering analysis and concurs with the findings. DOE's proposed statement of findings is based on the engineering report conclusions, summarized here:

The proposed project is partially sited within a Zone A SFHA along the Black Warrior River and has been designed to comply with the Hale County and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. (Schoel 2026)

The base flood elevation for the project site is 100.8. All proposed structures and mechanical equipment located on the project site will be elevated at least one foot above the 100.8 base flood elevation as per the Hale County Flood Damage Prevention ordinance. In addition, a floodway was modeled for the Zone A reach. The proposed project was located outside of the modeled floodway, therefore no floodway related requirements apply to the proposed project site. (Schoel 2026)

The proposed Lock Five transmission station project results in a negligible increase in model elevations at two cross sections but are equal to the revised effective (existing conditions) model elevations at all other locations. APC's site plan sets indicate that the work can be completed in conformance with the requirement for development in the SFHA, per the Hale County Flood Damage Prevention ordinance. (Schoel 2026)

References

Schoel Engineering. August 10, 2026. Lock Five TS, Zone A Engineering Analysis, Black Warrior River.

Figure 1 Proposed Lock Five Substation and Mapped Floodplains

