

# GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SHORELINE PERMITTING

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY  
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To apply for a lakeshore use permit for  
R. L. Harris Reservoir, please call  
(256)396-5093

Permit fee \$250.00

Web site [www.alapower.com](http://www.alapower.com)

This is a set of general guidelines for any and all construction activities within the boundaries of R.L.Harris Reservoir. These guidelines do not attempt to address every specific situation that may exist on this reservoir, but are provided as general guidelines to assist you in your decision to build.

All activity within the boundaries of the R.L. Harris hydroelectric reservoir must be pre-approved and permitted by Alabama Power Company. Alabama Power Company owns the pool property of this reservoir and has additional property rights along the shoreline.

**FULL POOL (SUMMER) LEVEL  
WATER STORAGE LEVEL  
SCENIC EASEMENT**

**793' ABOVE MSL (MEAN SEA LEVEL)  
795' ABOVE MSL  
800' ABOVE MSL**

A permit is also required when the owner plans to do work within the scenic easement (800 foot MSL contour). Any construction within this 800 foot contour must be approved before work can begin. Some typical activities requiring permits are: gazebos, decks, any tractor work, and walkways (four feet wide maximum). The following items will not be allowed within the scenic easement: removal of trees over three inches in diameter, clearing of shrubs over four feet tall, sod and grass, habitable structures, fences, wells, gardens, garbage or foreign materials.

Please contact the office prior to the beginning of any construction within the project boundaries of the reservoir. A representative of Alabama Power Company will be available to meet with you at the site to discuss and review your proposed work. When you contact Alabama Power Company to set up an appointment for a site visit, please provide general directions to your property and a phone number where you may be contacted.

**NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED AND NO CONSTRUCTION WILL BE ALLOWED WITHOUT A FULLY EXECUTED PERMIT APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.** (Signed permit, deed copy, signed sketch, signed guidelines, etc.)

Sketches must show all existing facilities with their dimensions and location as well as the proposed location (with dimensions) of all new facilities. All sketches must be submitted on 8.5 x 11 standard paper. They must show the location of all proposed construction and the proximity to the shoreline and property lines. For seawall construction, sketches must show distance from full pool shoreline. Sketches of piers, boathouses, ramps, boat slips, etc. are to show size, length, width and if with a roof height and dimension of roof. Specify type of materials to be used. Your sketch must be signed.

**Lots with less than 100 linear feet of shoreline may be restricted or may not be eligible for structures within the power pool area of the reservoir.**

Any and all lakefront property construction (piers, ramps, boathouses, boatslips, etc.) should be set a minimum of 15 feet from your property line. This separation should be maintained for a reasonable distance within the lake area. This distance will be determined by Alabama Power Company on a case by case basis. Pavilions, gazebos or any other appurtenant structures cannot be enclosed or walled except that screening may be used for the exterior walls of said structures.

OVER

No satellite dishes or similar structures may be placed below the normal high water level of any

reservoir. In a narrow slough, no structure can extend over 1/3 way across the slough. No habitable structures may be constructed on ground lying within the pool or water storage area and scenic easement on this reservoir.

**PIERS:** Should not exceed 50 feet in length. The useable platform structure should not exceed 420 sq. feet. Piers 4 feet and less in width are considered walkways and will be included in length but will not necessarily be included in the square footage guideline.

**BOATHOUSES/WETSLIPS/BOATSLIPS:** Should not exceed 800 square feet. Must be open and cannot be walled or enclosed; however a portion of one exterior side may be walled for the placement/construction of an approved storage area. Sketch should show if covered (roofed), and dimensions. Non reflective materials must be used. No habitable fixtures are allowed in boathouses. Wet slips are uncovered boat mooring attached to a pier or a walkway. Boat slips are constructed by excavating into the shoreline and covering the excavated area with a boathouse structure. There are specific requirements you must discuss with Alabama Power Company concerning this type of construction prior to commencing any work. The boat mooring area (open water) can not exceed 12 feet in width and 28 feet in length.

**\*\*With regard to the construction of and remodeling of floating structures, flotation shall be encased or closed cell (extruded) expanded polystyrene of good quality and manufactured for marine use which will not become waterlogged or sink when punctured. All beaded foam material being replaced shall be removed from the reservoir and properly disposed of.**

**BOAT RAMPS:** Boat ramps should not exceed twenty (20) feet in width and may only extend into the lake a reasonable distance from the shoreline. Length and width will be determined by Alabama Power Company depending on location.

**SEAWALLS:** Seawalls are to be constructed as close to existing shoreline as possible. The source and kind of backfill must be approved by Alabama Power Company. Backfill must not exceed an average of 1 cubic yard per running foot. Backfill only to the contour of the natural slope of the property. No debris or foreign materials to be used as backfill. No new creosote products may be used. Rip rap (4 to 8 inch diameter rocks) must be placed at the base of the seawall.

**DREDGING:** Dredging material from the lakebed must be approved by Alabama Power Company prior to the removal of any material. Applications for this activity will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Alabama Power Company cooperates with developers on this reservoir and encourages compliance with covenants and/or other regulatory/design schemes put in place by developers in order to encourage best practices for shoreline management within the developments. It is your responsibility to obtain the necessary architectural board approval, if such approval is a requirement prior to construction.

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THESE GUIDELINES AT ANY TIME AND AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.**

These general guidelines are implemented by Alabama Power Company to allow it to provide for orderly and reasonable shoreline management of this reservoir, recognizing that peculiarities in shorelines and property lines exist on this reservoir and may require flexibility on the part of Alabama Power and/or landowners.

**Permittee Statement: I have received, read, understand and agree to abide by these General Guidelines for Shoreline Permitting.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee

Revised December 2009