

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY  
SMITH MOUNTAIN PROJECT NO. 2210

ROANOKE LOGPERCH PLAN

JULY 2008 - Final

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Roanoke Logperch Plan (Plan) is to outline how Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) intends to cooperate in the enhancement of logperch habitat that may have been lost or affected by the construction of the Smith Mountain Project (Project). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) states in its letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) dated March 3, 2008 that the Project is not currently adversely affecting any federally listed species or adversely modifying critical habitat and no further Section 7 consultation is required. However, USFWS believes that the construction of the project has contributed to the species degradation. As such, Appalachian has prepared this plan to describe Appalachian's proposed actions under the new license to help recover this species and its habitat.

BACKGROUND

Appalachian conducted a study of the Roanoke logperch as part of the relicensing efforts for the Project. Agency comments on the Roanoke Logperch Study were provided by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF letter dated January 30, 2008) and from USFWS (letter dated March 3, 2008). Comments were also provided by Franklin County by letter dated April 17, 2007. The USFWS states that the Project is not currently adversely affecting federally listed species or adversely modifying critical habitat. However, both agencies believe there is a clear nexus between the construction of the dams and reservoirs and the listing of the Roanoke logperch. According to the VDGIF, the Smith Mountain and Leesville dams and reservoirs have displaced over 85 miles of what they believe was former habitat in the center of the Roanoke logperch range including portions of the Roanoke, Pigg and Blackwater Rivers, and Gills Creek. The agencies also believe that the Project serves to physically and genetically isolate logperch populations in the upper Roanoke, Pigg and middle Roanoke Rivers. Because of this, the agencies are recommending that Appalachian assist in measures to help recover this species and its habitat.

MEASURES TO RECOVER SPECIES AND HABITAT

To assist with recovery of the Roanoke logperch, Appalachian is proposing the following under its new license:

1. Appalachian will become an active partner with the USFWS and VDGIF in the development, funding and completion of projects related to the recovery of the Roanoke logperch in the upper Roanoke River watershed. These projects will

include habitat restoration and reintroduction of the species. In 2007, the FWS completed a Roanoke logperch 5-year status review ([http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five\\_year\\_review/doc113.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc113.pdf)). This document identifies several measures to restore logperch habitat and recover this species. In addition, the letter from the USFWS dated June 10, 2008 to the Commission and the VDGIF's letter dated July 9, 2008 to Appalachian details potential projects to be considered. Copies of these letters are included in Appendix A of this plan and will be used when consulting with VDGIF and USFWS regarding proposed projects. A map of the Upper Roanoke River Watershed is also located in Appendix A.

2. Appalachian will meet annually by February 28th with USFWS and VDGIF to identify projects to be completed for the following year. Consultation will begin in 2010 for implementation starting in 2011. Once identified, the proposed projects will be forwarded to the Commission for review and approval. Included in the proposal will be details regarding the project, criteria for evaluating its success and a map detailing the location of the projects.
3. A report detailing the recovery efforts will be filed with the FERC every five years. The report will include a list of projects completed during the previous five year period and consultation with USFWS and VDGIF regarding the effectiveness of these efforts. This report will: (a) include a list of projects completed and a description of the effectiveness of those efforts including the criteria used for determining the success of the habitat enhancement efforts; (b) identify what, if any, projects may be planned for the next reporting period; and (c) any recommendations for changes to the plan that require Commission review and approval.
4. Appalachian will provide matching funds each year to be used for stream restoration and stocking projects that would benefit Roanoke logperch in the upper Roanoke River watershed. Funds may be used to provide the 25% landowner cost-share money in stream restoration projects (LIP,BMP, CREP, etc.) within the upper Roanoke River watershed or funds may be appropriated towards supporting the reintroduction of logperch or other watershed restoration projects in the upper Roanoke River watershed as may be identified by a committee of VDGIF , USFWS and Appalachian.

#### COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN

Appalachian is anticipating that the costs associated with the development, funding and completion of projects related to the recovery of the Roanoke logperch will be \$50,000 per year. Appalachian will provide these funds each year. Funds may be accumulated over several years in order to complete larger projects as identified by the committee of VDGIF, USFWS and Appalachian.

## Appendix A

June 10, 2008 letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service containing potential Roanoke Logperch Restoration Measures

July 9, 2008 letter from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries containing potential Roanoke Logperch Restoration Measures

Map of Upper Roanoke River Watershed

Addendum  
Order Issuing New License (December 15, 2009)  
Article 408

Article 408. Roanoke Logperch Enhancement Measures. The licensee shall, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Virginia DGIF), develop projects related to the recovery of the Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) in the upper Roanoke Watershed. These projects shall include activities related to habitat restoration and/or reintroduction of the species.

The licensee will meet annually (by February 28<sup>th</sup>) with FWS and the Virginia DGIF to identify projects to be completed for the following calendar year. Once identified, the proposed projects will be filed for Commission approval. The projects identified in the annual report to the Commission will be consistent with the types of measures and other activities described by the Commission in its Settlement Policy (*Settlements in Hydropower Licensing Proceedings under Part I of the Federal Power Act*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,270 (2006)). The licensee shall include, with its proposal, details regarding the projects, a schedule for implementing the projects, criteria for evaluating their success, and a map identifying their locations. The proposal also shall include the record of correspondence with the resource agencies, including: (a) copies of letters, emails, and phone logs; and (b) a summary of the annual meeting.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the annual proposal. Implementation of the proposed measure(s) shall not begin until the licensee is notified by the Commission that the measure(s) are approved. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the measures in its proposal, including any changes required by the Commission.

Beginning May 1, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the licensee shall file for Commission approval, a report describing the projects completed during the previous five calendar years. The report shall: (a) identify the projects completed; (b) describe the effectiveness of the efforts, including the criteria used for determining their success; (c) identify what projects might be planned for the next reporting period; and (d) include any recommendations for changes to the measures required by this article.

The licensee shall prepare the 5-year report in consultation with FWS and the Virginia DGIF. The report shall include documentation of consultation, copies of comments and recommendations on the completed plan after it has been prepared and provided to the agencies, and specific descriptions of how their comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the agencies to comment before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on project-specific information.

The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the measures required by this article based on the results of the report. Implementation of the measures shall not begin until the licensee is notified by the Commission that the measures are approved. Upon Commission approval, the licensee shall implement the measures, including any changes required by the Commission.