

## Aquatic Plant Control Guidelines

### **Goal**

Alabama Power Company recognizes the ecological importance of aquatic vegetation in the reservoirs operated by the Company and manages this vegetation accordingly. Aquatic vegetation will be managed for the optimization of all the many uses of these reservoirs in compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations.

### **Control**

Aquatic plant control will be considered if the vegetation:

- (1) Creates a potential public health hazard by providing mosquito breeding habitat.  
**Ex.** Many exotic plants grow in densely packed mats that are ideal for mosquitos.
- (2) Poses a threat to power generation facilities or water withdrawal structures.  
**Ex.** Thick mats can break loose and clog water intakes.
- (3) Restricts recreational utilization of the reservoir.  
**Ex.** Vegetation, native or non-native, can limit your access or recreational use of the water.
- (4) Poses a threat to the ecological balance of the reservoir such as may be the case of an exotic aquatic plant which is known to create problems in the above categories.  
**Ex.** Non-native plants typically outcompete native plants and have the ability to disrupt the natural ecology of a reservoir.

### **Enhancement**

Aquatic vegetation will be enhanced or left in its natural state in areas which do not meet the above criteria as deemed appropriate by the Company to enhance fishery habitat and the natural beauty of the reservoir. If native plants are creating access issues, they will only be controlled within approximately 20 feet of existing structures (Ex. Piers, boat house, swim area, etc.).

### **Assistance**

Alabama Power personnel charged with managing this resource will answer questions and respond to requests for assistance regarding mosquitoes and aquatic vegetation. The extent of assistance or corrective action will be determined by actual need and whether the control falls within the above categories.