

Edgar Filing: ALABAMA POWER CO - Form U-1

ALABAMA POWER CO
Form U-1
August 21, 2001

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM U-1

APPLICATION OR DECLARATION
under
The Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY
600 North 18th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

(Name of company or companies filing this statement and
addresses of principal executive offices)

THE SOUTHERN COMPANY

(Name of top registered holding company parent of each applicant or declarant)

William E. Zales, Jr., Vice President
and Corporate Secretary
Alabama Power Company
600 North 18th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

(Names and addresses of agents for service)

The Commission is requested to mail signed copies of all orders,
notices and communications to:

Gale E. Klappa
Financial Vice President
The Southern Company
270 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

John D. McLanahan, Esq.
Troutman Sanders LLP
600 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216

Walter M. Beale Jr.
Balch & Bingham LLP
1901 Sixth Avenue North
Suite 2600
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Item 1. Description of Proposed Transaction.

Alabama Power Company ("Alabama") is a wholly-owned subsidiary
of The Southern Company, a registered holding company under the Public Utility
Holding Company Act of 1935 (the "Act").

Alabama proposes to sell, from time to time prior to December
31, 2006, distribution line poles located in Alabama to telephone and other

Edgar Filing: ALABAMA POWER CO - Form U-1

utility companies (individually, the "Purchaser"). It is proposed that such poles would be conveyed by Alabama to the Purchaser by a bill of sale, substantially in the form of Exhibit B hereto, for a negotiated cash sale price which would exceed Alabama's embedded cost for the number of distribution poles being sold, and the aggregate sales price of such poles would not exceed \$30 million. Alabama will obtain from its first mortgage bond Trustee a release of such poles from the lien of Alabama's first mortgage indenture. The \$30 million authority requested herein is in addition to any exceptions otherwise provided by rules under the Act relating to the sales of utility securities or assets.

Alabama and each Purchaser have or will have entered into a joint use agreement pursuant to which each party may attach facilities to poles belonging to the other party, with each party obligated to the other for rental of space on poles owned by the other party. The proposed sale of poles by Alabama is for the purpose of equalizing the rental payments under the joint use agreements. It is anticipated that there will be no substantial change in the use of the poles, and since the sale will result in an equalization of rent under the joint use agreements, Alabama considers it appropriate and in the interest of the public and Alabama's investors for the Purchasers to purchase and own the distribution line poles.

The proposed transactions are substantially identical to that authorized by the Commission in Alabama Power Company, HCAR 35-24600, March 16, 1988.

Item 2. Fees, Commissions and Expenses.

No commissions have been or will be paid in connection with the proposed transactions. Fees and expenses paid or incurred, or to be paid or incurred, directly or indirectly in connection with the proposed transactions, are as follows:

Legal fees	\$ 5,000
Miscellaneous.....	5,000

Total.....	\$10,000

Item 3. Applicable Statutory Provisions.

Alabama considers that the proposed transactions are subject to Section 12(d) of the Act and Rule 44 thereunder.

The proposed transactions will be carried out in accordance with the procedure specified in Rule 23 and pursuant to an order of the Commission with respect thereto. It is expected that the proposed transactions will be consummated as soon as practicable after receipt of the order of the Commission herein; however, Alabama requests authority to consummate the transactions from time to time prior to December 31, 2006.

Rule 54 Analysis: The proposed transaction is also subject to Rule 54, which provides that, in determining whether to approve an application which does not relate to any "exempt wholesale generator" ("EWG") or "foreign utility company" ("FUCO"), the Commission shall not consider the effect of the capitalization or earnings of any such EWG or FUCO which is a subsidiary of a registered holding company if the requirements of Rule 53(a), (b) and (c) are satisfied.

Edgar Filing: ALABAMA POWER CO - Form U-1

Southern currently meets all of the conditions of Rule 53(a). At June 30, 2001, Southern's "aggregate investment," as defined in Rule 53(a)(1), in EWGs and FUCOs was approximately \$1,000, or 0% of Southern's "consolidated retained earnings," also as defined in Rule 53(a)(1), as of June 30, 2001 (\$4.642 billion).¹

In addition, Southern has complied and will continue to comply with the record-keeping requirements of Rule 53(a)(2), the limitation under Rule 53(a)(3) on the use of operating company personnel to render services to EWGs and FUCOs, and the requirements of Rule 53(a)(4) concerning the submission of copies of certain filings under the Act to retail rate regulatory commissions. Further, none of the circumstances described in Rule 53(b) has occurred.

¹ As discussed in Southern's Application on Form U-1 (File No. 70-9727) relating to the spin-off of Mirant Corporation ("Mirant"), Southern and Mirant reorganized certain energy-related and FUCO activities and Mirant completed a tax-free distribution to Southern of these activities on March 5, 2001 (the "Mini-Spin"). On April 2, 2001, Southern completed the spin-off of its remaining ownership interest in Mirant to Southern's shareholders. Therefore, the four indirect subsidiaries (EPZ Lease, Inc., Dutch Gas Lease, Inc., GAMOG Lease, Inc. and NUON Lease, Inc.) obtained through the Mini-Spin are the only remaining FUCO investments held by Southern. Although Southern now owns all of the equity in these companies as a result of the Mini-Spin, Southern has no direct or indirect investment or any aggregate investment within the meaning of Rule 53 in these FUCOs, including any direct or indirect guarantees or credit positions related to any capital or financing leases. Furthermore, the only remaining EWG investment held by Southern after the spin-off is Southern Company-Florida LLC, which was organized during the first quarter of 2001. Southern has executed limited keep-well commitments whereby Southern would be required to make capital contributions to Southern Energy Finance Capital Corp. or to Southern Energy Finance Company, Inc. in the event of a shortfall in the scheduled debt service resulting from certain changes in the payments due from Southern under the Southern Company Income Tax Allocation Agreement. The maximum potential capital contribution required under these commitments is the unamortized balance of the related loans, which totaled approximately \$402 million as of June 30, 2001.

Item 4. Regulatory Approval.

The proposed transaction is not subject to the jurisdiction of any state commission. The proposed transaction is not subject to the jurisdiction of any Federal commission other than the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 5. Procedure.

Alabama Power requests that the Commission's order herein be issued as soon as the rules will allow and that there be no thirty-day period between the issuance of the Commission's order and the date on which it is to become effective. Alabama Power waives a recommended decision by a hearing officer or other responsible officer of the Commission and hereby consents that the Division of Investment Management may assist in the preparation of the

Edgar Filing: ALABAMA POWER CO - Form U-1

Commission's decision and/or order herein, unless such division opposes the matter covered by this application or declaration.

Item 6. Exhibits and Financial Statements.

(a) Exhibits.

- A - None.
- B - Form of Bill of Sale.
- C - None.
- D - None.
- E - None.
- F - Opinion of Balch & Bingham LLP
- G - None
- H - Form of Notice

(b) Financial Statements.

No financial statements are filed herewith since the financial condition of Alabama is not material to the proposed transactions.

Item 7. Information as to Environmental Effects.

(a) In view of the nature of the proposed transactions described herein, the Commission's action in this matter will not constitute any major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

(b) No other federal agency has prepared or is preparing an environmental impact statement with regard to the proposed transactions.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the undersigned company has duly caused this statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: August 21, 2001

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

By: /s/ Wayne Boston

Wayne Boston, Assistant Secretary