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CERTIFIED MAIL—RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Chris Womack
President
Georgia Power
241 Ralph McGill Blvd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30308

Mr. Mark Berry
Vice President of Environmental and Natural Resources
Georgia Power
241 Ralph McGill Blvd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30308

March 31, 2021

RE: Support for Evaluating the Decommissioning of Tugalo Dam

Dear Messrs. Womack and Berry,

The undersigned organizations and individuals are writing to express our strong support for a robust evaluation of the need for the Tugalo Dam in Georgia Power's energy portfolio, as well as a feasibility evaluation of Tugalo Dam removal. Removal would have multiple ecosystem and economic benefits by restoring natural stream flows to the portion of the Chattooga River that has been inundated by Lake Tugalo for 100 years. The FERC license for the Lake Tugalo Dam and hydropower operation will expire in 2036; we would like to begin discussions now, in anticipation of that license expiration.

As you are likely aware, there is a nationwide trend in recent years that recognizes the environmental, economic, and social values of decommissioning and removing aging hydroelectric dams and water resource infrastructure. Georgia Power's recent actions are consistent with that trend, including decommissioning the Langdale and Riverview Projects on the Chattahoochee River, which further supports the restoration achieved by the removal of the City Mills and Eagle & Phenix dams in downtown Columbus in 2012. For many reasons that we would like to discuss with you and other stakeholders, we believe the Tugalo Dam is a prime candidate for evaluating the potential benefits of removal.

We have recently learned that Georgia Power's hydropower operations group is planning to invest millions of dollars to perform major electrical and mechanical work at the Tugalo Dam. However, we are unsure if those plans have been developed with an evaluation of all potentially feasible alternatives that would be best for Georgia Power and those affected by the dam's existence. Incurring such expenses would not be prudent if there is a reasonable possibility that a decommissioning alternative would provide the most socio-economic benefits and a better return on investment with an alternative source of energy replacing the existing hydroelectric benefits of the dam. We understand implementing expensive repairs would harden demand for a perceived asset that may not be the most cost effective for Georgia Power, nor provide the most social, economic and environmental benefits in comparison to another feasible alternative. Accordingly, we request a meeting with Georgia Power to discuss the possibility of deferring this work. Deferral would give stakeholders sufficient time to coordinate with Georgia Power in identifying dam alternatives to replace the function of the dam and feasibility of removal.

In our view, the case for decommissioning and potential removal of the dam and restoring natural flows to the Chattooga River is quite compelling:

- The Tugalo facility provides a single benefit instead of the multiple benefits that typically justify the operations and maintenance, mitigation and liability costs associated with old and high hazard water infrastructure. Additionally, the facility only generates 45 megawatts when operating at maximum capacity, less than 1% of Georgia Power's total operational capacity. This percentage will decrease substantially as other sources of generation come online in the coming years. Without a robust evaluation of alternatives and comparison of life cycle costs, impacts and benefits, it is reasonable to assume that operation of the facilities for the duration of a new license term could cost Georgia Power much more than it would cost to replace Tugalo Dam's function. Private and public funding commonly offsets the costs of dam removal, removing long-term burden and liability associated with aging and unsafe infrastructure from utilities and their ratepayers. There is typically an added benefit of affirming the public perception of the utility's social and environmental responsibility.
- The lake is less than 600 acres in size and is largely silted in after over 100 years of impoundment. More sediment will continue to accumulate from natural riverine sediment transport, affecting recreation and potentially requiring mitigation.

- The vast majority of the land around the lake is owned by the State of Georgia, the U.S. Forest Service, and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. No residential or other development exists around the lake, so there are no adjacent property owners whose interests could be impacted by restoring natural flows to the river.
- Lake Tugalo is not a water supply source and does not provide flood control.
- The Chattooga River is a National Wild and Scenic River and a World Heritage site.
- The Chattooga is a world class river that attracts tens of thousands of people each year for rafting, kayaking, canoeing, fishing and hiking. The backwaters of the lake inundate the Chattooga River at one of its most stunning and beautiful sections known as the Five Falls, and the rapids following Five Falls would otherwise extend much further downstream but for their impoundment. Restoring this portion of the river through dam removal would be a huge economic boost to Rabun, Habersham and Oconee Counties, and the entire states of Georgia and South Carolina, as both visitors and residents would flock to the area to enjoy and marvel at the new section of river that has been buried for longer than the Chattooga has been a recreational boating destination.
- The decommissioning of Tugalo Dam should not adversely affect hydropower generation or lake levels at the other lakes in Georgia Power's North Georgia system.
- The Lake Tugalo area is biologically rich, providing habitat to many rare and endangered plants, including *Trillium Persistens*, one of the most endangered species in the world. Decommissioning the dam would open up many additional areas for the enhancement of their habitat.

The undersigned are committed to coordinating with Georgia Power and evaluating dam alternatives and dam removal of the Tugalo Dam in a way that is objectively fair to Georgia Power, its ratepayers, and all stakeholders; protects downstream property; effectively addresses impoundment sediment management; improves recreational benefits; and, ensures a smooth transition to a natural river ecosystem. This is why we need time to work with Georgia Power and qualified experts to identify, thoroughly study, and make plans for this transition.

Representatives of our shared interests would like to host a virtual meeting with you and your staff in the near future to discuss our request that Georgia Power put its expensive planned work on hold and begin to evaluate the possibility of decommissioning the dam.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



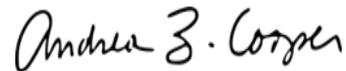
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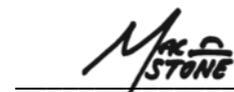
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