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ALABAMA POWER CO
Form U-1
November 28, 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

GULF POWER COMPANY
One Energy Place
Pensacola, Florida 32520

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY
2992 West Beach
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

SAVANNAH ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
600 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

(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

Warren E. Tate, Secretary
and Treasurer
Gulf Power Company
One Energy Place
Pensacola, Florida 32520

Janice G. Wolfe
Corporate Secretary
Georgia Power Company
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Vicki L. Pierce
Corporate Secretary
Mississippi Power Company
2992 West Beach
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Nancy E. Frankenhauser
Corporate Secretary
Savannah Electric and Power Company
600 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

(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
Executive 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

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1901 Sixth Avenue North, Suite 2600
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

ITEM 1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS.

Alabama Power Company ("Alabama"), Georgia Power Company ("Georgia"), Gulf Power Company ("Gulf"), Mississippi Power Company ("Mississippi") and Savannah Electric and Power Company ("Savannah") (collectively, the "Operating Affiliates") are wholly-owned electric utility subsidiaries of The Southern Company, a registered holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended.

The Operating Affiliates previously have acquired, by purchase or lease, coal hopper railroad cars for use in transporting coal in dedicated unit train service to the respective company's coal-fired generating plants. Alabama currently has approximately 4,300 such railcars operating to transport coal to two of its plants. Georgia currently has approximately 4,400 such railcars operating to transport coal to nine of its plants. Gulf does not currently have any such railcars, but Mississippi has entered into a lease agreement on behalf of itself and Gulf with respect to 800 cars for the transportation of coal to Plant Daniel, which is owned by Mississippi and Gulf as tenants in common. Mississippi currently has approximately 1,000 such railcars operating to transport coal to two of its plants. Savannah currently has approximately 94 such railcars operating to transport coal to one of its plants.

These railcars have been or will be acquired for the Operating Affiliates' use based upon anticipated needs as indicated from coal burn forecasts. Such forecasts are subject to periodic revision as a result of changes in fuel prices, adjustments to the Southern electric system's economic dispatch procedures and other causes. Thus, from time to time an Operating Affiliate may, because of changes in such forecasts and other factors, have a need for a lesser or greater number of railcars than then currently available to it. During any surplus period it may be desirable and economically advantageous to lease or sublease the excess railcars to non-affiliates. Accordingly, each

Operating Affiliate hereby requests authority, from time to time on or prior to December 31, 2009, to lease or sublease to non-affiliates railcars not then needed for its operations.

It is proposed that any such non-affiliate lease or sublease will not exceed one year in duration and will give the respective Operating Affiliate the right of termination, upon reasonable notice, to permit the return of the cars to customer service if needed earlier. It is further proposed that no more than 2,500 railcars will be leased or subleased at any one time pursuant to authority granted hereunder.

Revenues realized from any transaction pursuant to authority granted hereunder will be credited against the respective Operating Affiliate's costs as owner or lessee (as the case may be) of the railcars and reflected

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accordingly in its ratemaking provisions, except to the extent the regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the matter authorizes a different treatment. In the case of Georgia, Gulf, Mississippi and Savannah, such revenues will be recorded in Fuel Stock account number 151. In the case of Alabama such revenues will be recorded in Rent from Electric Property account number 709-00017.

Leases or subleases of railcars by an Operating Affiliate to another Operating Affiliate will be reported in accordance with Item 8 of the Annual Report on Form U5S.

2

ITEM 2. FEES, COMMISSIONS AND EXPENSES.

The estimated fees and expenses to be paid or incurred in connection with the proposed transactions are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Legal Fees..... | \$ 5,000 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 5,000 |
| | ----- |
| Total..... | \$10,000 |
| | ===== |

ITEM 3. APPLICABLE STATUTORY PROVISIONS.

The Operating Affiliates consider that the proposed transactions with non-affiliates, as described herein, may be subject to Sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act.

The proposed transactions will be carried out in accordance with the procedure specified in Rule 23 and pursuant to an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") with respect thereto. It is expected that the proposed transactions will be consummated from time to time as described in Item 1 hereof in such a manner and to such extent as may be permitted in order to obtain the maximum benefit therefrom.

Rule 54 Analysis: The proposed transactions are 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.

3

Southern currently meets all of the conditions of Rule 53(a). At September 30, 2001, Southern's "aggregate investment," as defined in Rule 53(a)(1), in EWGs and FUCOs was approximately \$22.3 million, or 0.5% of Southern's "consolidated retained earnings," also as defined in Rule 53(a)(1), as of September 30, 2001 (\$4.6 billion).1

In addition, Southern has complied and will continue to comply

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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.

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 Commission.

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 \$394.4 million as of September 30, 2001.

4

ITEM 5. PROCEDURE.

The Operating Affiliates request 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. The Operating Affiliates hereby waive a recommended decision by a hearing officer or other responsible officer of the Commission and hereby consent that the Division of Investment Management may assist in the preparation of the 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.

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- (a) Exhibits.
- A - None.
 - B - None.
 - C - None.
 - D - None.
 - E - None.
 - F-1 - Opinion of Balch & Bingham LLP, counsel to Alabama and Mississippi.
 - F-2 - Opinion of Troutman Sanders LLP, counsel to Georgia and Savannah.
 - F-3 - Opinion of Beggs & Lane, counsel to Gulf.
 - G - None
 - H - Form of Notice

(b) Financial Statements.

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

5

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.

6

SIGNATURES

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

Date: November 28, 2001 ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

By: /s/Wayne Boston
Wayne Boston, Assistant Secretary

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

By: /s/Wayne Boston
Wayne Boston, Assistant Secretary

GULF POWER COMPANY

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By: /s/Wayne Boston
Wayne Boston, Assistant Secretary

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By: /s/Wayne Boston
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By: /s/Wayne Boston
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