

Case Study: Thurlow Dam

Customer Name:

ALABAMA POWER AT
THURLOW DAM

Location:

TALLASSEE, ALABAMA

Environment:

HYDROELECTRIC
DAM BUILT IN 1930

Products:

GA1360

"Thurlow Dam is much more secure with the GroundAware system being able to cover a large area and also identify people and be able to distinguish people from wildlife and other movements that would trigger false alarms. It provides a lot of unique advantages that I think can really help the hydro industry secure their assets and their sites."

— Chris Goodman,
Tallapoosa River Manager,
Alabama Power Company

About:

Thurlow Dam, owned and operated by Alabama Power Company, is one of the first hydroelectric dams built in the state of Alabama with construction completed in 1930. Thurlow Reservoir is 574 acres on the Tallapoosa River in east central Alabama about 30 miles northeast of Montgomery in the City of Tallassee, Alabama.

The Problem:

In addition to common hydroelectric industry challenges such as protecting large areas with a small staff and minimal budget, Alabama Power at Thurlow Dam has a history of trespassers getting into its dam site. Most of these trespassers are only interested in climbing on the spillway and rocks directly below the spillway for innocent means such as fishing, but some of the trespassers have ill intent, such as vandalism or stealing high value assets.

The Solution:

Thurlow Dam implemented OWL's GroundAware radar system to better protect the dam and its surrounding areas from trespassers. GroundAware is a long-range surveillance system that remotely monitors and responds to physical security threats in real time at critical sites – all on an automated, all-weather, and 24/7 basis. Thurlow Dam installed two of OWL's GA1360 radars to bring a new level of 360° situational awareness to Thurlow's perimeter to provide real-time detection, tracking, and response to intruders

Using GroundAware, Thurlow Dam has been able to prevent trespassing issues before it becomes a public safety concern or any damage to the site happens. For example, in 2018, there was an incident at Thurlow Dam where four or five individuals were trying to access the rocks below the spillway and the spillway itself, causing a public safety concern, as well as a vandalism concern. Because of GroundAware's ability to detect the trespassers and slew a camera to the location to confirm trespassers were on the property, Thurlow Dam was able to contact local law enforcement and apprehend the trespassers before any damage, theft, or injury occurred to the dam site or to the individuals involved.

Next Steps:

GroundAware has not only proven its accuracy and worth, but has allowed Thurlow Dam to be proactive about security and trespassers. Alabama Power will be implementing GroundAware at several of its other hydroelectric dam sites to ensure each of its dams are thoroughly protected by long-range surveillance capabilities.



OBSERVATION
WITHOUT
LIMITS

888.297.9559
OWLKNOWS.COM