

2011 Minority Business Advocate Award

Alabama Power

Pictured here is Alabama Power Supplier Relations & Diversity Department. Individuals from left to right: Manager, Alice Gordon; Analyst, Unzell Kelley; Administrative Assistant, Nisha Brown; Analyst, Kevin Sellers; Analyst, Lula Rice; and Analyst, Darren Ackles.



Alabama Power was awarded the Mobile Area Chamber's Minority Business Advocate Award for 2011. The company set a statewide supplier diversity goal of 11.04 percent in 2011, determined by two classifications – female-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses.

In 2007, the Alabama Power supplier diversity program re-established its mentoring program, and to date it has worked with 10 companies.

Although all companies in the mentoring program have to be recommended to be considered, the Supplier Diversity program works with Alabama Power's Mobile

Division and the Mobile Area Chamber to identify minority-owned businesses offering products and/or services used by the power company.

Locally, Alabama Power is actively engaged in growing its supplier base and is partnering with the Mobile Area Chamber and the MBDA Business Center-Mobile to develop new and innovative ways to recruit minority-owned businesses.

These include:

- Holding the small business development seminars in the Mobile area to recruit businesses;

- Identifying additional opportunities for small businesses by working with Alabama Power's buyers and contracts department;
- Participating in supply chain management, power generation and power delivery (transmission and distribution) and regional expos with Alabama Power's Mobile Division; and
- Maintaining a supplier contacts database on minority- and women-owned businesses.

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