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SOUTHERN CO

Form FWP

September 12, 2016

Filed Pursuant to Rule 433 Registration No. 333-202413

September 12, 2016

PRICING TERM SHEET

(To Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated September 12, 2016)

Issuer: The Southern Company

Security: Series 2016A 5.25% Junior Subordinated Notes due October 1, 2076

Format: SEC Registered
Trade Date: September 12, 2016

Expected Settlement

Date: September 15, 2016 (T+3)

Listing: Intend to apply to list on the New York Stock Exchange; if approved for listing, trading

expected to begin within 30 days of issuance

Expected Ratings:* Baa3 (Stable)/BBB (Negative)/BBB (Stable)(Moody's/Standard & Poor's/Fitch)

Principal Amount: \$800,000,000

Over-allotment Option: None

Denominations: \$25.00 and integral multiples of \$25.00 in excess thereof

Initial Public Offering

Price: \$25.00 per security

Purchase Prices: \$24.2125 per security (for sales to non-institutions)

\$24.50 per security (for sales to institutions)

Maturity Date: October 1, 2076

Coupon: 5.25%

Optional Deferral: Up to 40 consecutive quarterly periods per deferral

Redeemable, in whole or in part, on or after October 1, 2021 at 100% of the principal

Optional Redemption: amount, plus any accrued and unpaid interest

Call for Tax Event:

Prior to October 1, 2021, at any time at 100% of the principal amount, plus any accrued and

unpaid interest

Call for Rating Agency Prior to October 1, 2021, at any time at 102% of the principal amount, plus any accrued and

Event: unpaid interest

unpaid interest

Interest Payment Dates: January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 2017 CUSIP/ISIN: 842587 305/US8425873051

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith

Incorporated

Joint Book-Running

Managers:

Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC

UBS Securities LLC

Wells Fargo Securities, LLC Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

Senior Co-Managers: Goldman, Sachs & Co.

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC

Mizuho Securities USA Inc.

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* Note: A securities rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time.

The issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling The Southern Company collect at 1-404-506-0776, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated toll-free at 1-800-294-1322, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC toll-free at 1-800-584-6837, UBS Securities LLC toll-free at 1-888-827-7275 or Wells Fargo Securities, LLC toll-free at 1-800-645-3751.