

Life on the Lakes

Information on Lake Hamilton & Lake Catherine

Get Your Applications in *Early!*

All facilities, structures and activities placed on or over Entergy's shoreline lands or the water require a permit from Entergy prior to installation or placement. Examples include: boat docks, seawalls, riprap, boardwalks, PWC docks, piping for irrigation systems or HVAC geothermal loops, etc.

A simple permit submitted with all required information and understandable drawings may only take a week or two to process during the summer months, where it may take two months or more if you wait until the drawdown. This is due to the backlog of permit requests, holidays and other higher-priority work that emerges during the drawdown.

Many of these permit requests, such as bank stabilization, dredging or multi-slip docks for condominium developments, require us to seek state and/or federal agency comments and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission prior approval. **Depending on the request, these additional reviews/approvals can add from one to six months to a permit review time.**

If you know that you are planning some modifications, apply as soon as possible. To request a permit application packet, call us at 501-844-2148.

Applications received after Dec. 31 will not be worked until after the end of that winter's drawdown.



2006/07 Winter Drawdown - 3 Feet

This winter both lakes Hamilton and Catherine will be drawn down three feet. Both lakes will drop approximately nine inches per day beginning **Saturday, November 4 through Tuesday, November 7**. The lakes will be returned to their normal summertime levels in mid-March 2007.

In addition to facilitating shoreline maintenance and inspection, the annual drawdown is part of a plan to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation. In recent summers, Eurasian Milfoil was the culprit that had clogged much of the upper portion of Lake Hamilton. Thankfully, for the third year in a row, only minimal amounts of this vegetation were observed.

Last year, the 2005/6 drawdown was five feet for both lakes. Due to the recent success with vegetation conditions and to allow for long-range planning, Entergy will tentatively plan future drawdown seasons to continue on an alternating pattern of three- and five-foot drawdowns.

In other words, this year's drawdown is three feet, so next year's will be five feet, and the next will be three feet, and so on. Alternating the drawdown depths will help prevent any one vegetation species from adapting to a particular depth. Annual inspections will continue to verify that this plan is working, and adjustments to the long-range plan will be made as needed to do what is best for overall lake management.

Each year Entergy coordinates the upcoming winter's drawdown with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC). Fisheries, vegetation, and facility management, as well as downstream water needs, are a few of the factors considered in deciding the drawdown's depth and timing.

Entergy's Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan calls for drawdowns to be the primary tool to reduce the spreading growth of nuisance underwater vegetation, which has in the past significantly interfered with recreational use of portions of Lake Hamilton. The plan also called for Entergy and the AGFC to perform annual inspections to determine the appropriate drawdown depths and timing.

We at Entergy are excited that the plan has been successful and appreciate the patience of all the users of our lakes, especially the lakefront property owners. We must be cautious because it is unlikely that we have totally eradicated these nuisance species of vegetation from the lake, and we are susceptible to being reinfested, which may require the need for future nine-foot drawdowns.

Lake Hamilton & Lake Catherine 2006/2007 Drawdown

Depth:	Three (3) feet
Begin:	Nov. 4
Completion:	Nov. 7
Return Date:	Mid-March

ATTENTION LAKE USES:

Beware of:

- shallow areas -
- floating debris -
- fluctuating water levels -



Boaters should be extra cautious while on the lakes during the drawdown period because there will be additional shallow areas, and winter rains can increase the amount of debris washed into the lakes. Also, boat and dock owners should take the necessary precautions to ensure that their boats and docks are able to adjust to the drawdown.

If the shoreline is steep or rocky in your area, you may wish to temporarily move your dock to deeper water. If you relocate your dock, be sure that it does not restrict navigation or become a boating hazard. Entergy will not require a permit for the temporary relocation of docks due to the drawdown, but the dock must be returned to its permitted location once the lake returns to its summertime level.

Entergy also recommends that you use a licensed electrician to make any alterations to your wiring in conjunction with the drawdown or any time you need electrical work done on your facility.

Do you know of lakefront property owners who are not receiving this publication?

Send their names and addresses to:

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