

Carpenter Dam

Life on the Lakes

Information About Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

Glad to be Here!

For those of you I haven't met or spoken with, I am Blake Hogue, the Lakes and Property coordinator of Entergy Hydro Operations. As the Lakes and Property coordinator, I am responsible for the overall management of Project 271 lands and shoreline to meet our Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requirements.



I moved into this job just over a year ago after spending seven years working at Arkansas Nuclear One in Russellville. I replaced Bobby Pharr, who is now the process superintendent of Hydro Operations. I am the envy of all of my former coworkers I left in Russellville, and am extremely happy to have my new job. I look forward to working here for many years to come.

The rest of the Hydro Operations staff consists of Patsy McKnight-office manager, Ted Smethers-technical support, Bobby Pharr-process superintendent, and Henry Jones-manager of Hydro Operations. These wonderful people have taught me a great deal in my first year from their combined 60-plus years of experience in shoreline management. Patsy usually answers the phone to help answer most general questions concerning the lakes or the shoreline permitting process. To contact me or Patsy, you can call our office at 501-844-2148 or email me at bhogue@entergy.com.

Summertime is the Best Time to Request Permits

If you're a lakefront property owner, summertime is when you are likely to ponder the improvements you would like to make to Entergy's shoreline land in front of your lake home. Summertime is also the best time to request a permit to make these improvements, even though you may need to wait for the winter drawdown to be able to do the work. April through September is the best time to get a quick response to your permit request. If you wait until winter to apply, you will wait longer for a response.

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 but are not limited to: boat docks, seawalls, riprap, boardwalks, PWC docks, piping for irrigation systems or HVAC geothermal loops, etc. A simple permit 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.

Last year several requests could not be approved in time to install the facilities before the lakes were refilled to the normal summertime levels in March. Applications received after Dec. 31 will not be worked until after the end of that winter's 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 in the summer. To request a permit application packet, call us at 501-844-2148.



Entergy

Summer, 2006

Do you prefer emails?

In the future we will be sending more newsletter information via e-mail. Please send your e-mail address to Blake Hogue at bhogue@entergy.com to ensure you continue receiving all the latest lake-related information.

Shoreline Management

You may have heard that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued Entergy a new license in December 2002 to operate Carpenter and Rempel dams and manage the shorelines of the lakes those dams create, lakes Catherine and Hamilton (also known as FERC Project 271). The terms of the new license went into effect in March 2003, and they require Entergy to maintain and, in some cases, increase the amount of oversight it exercises over how the shorelines of the lakes are managed.

Specifically, Entergy was required to develop a detailed Shoreline Management Plan. A SMP is a comprehensive plan to manage the multiple resources and uses of a project's shorelines in a manner that protects and enhances the scenic, recreational and other environmental values of the project as required by the license.

To determine the appropriate levels of oversight for different areas of the lakes, the FERC-approved SMP for lakes Hamilton and Catherine identifies three shoreline management classification designations: general use, limited use and resource management. Designations recognize varying current uses and environmental sensitivities. Each shoreline management classification specifies what types of facilities or activities may or may not be allowed along a particular shoreline segment.

If you are interested in additional information on lakes Hamilton & Catherine's Shoreline Management Plan, please contact us by telephone at 501-844-2148 or by email at bhogue@entergy.com.

Is Your Dock Properly Permitted?

Through aerial photography, geographic information system technology, routine inspections and concerned neighbors, Entergy personnel have discovered that many older facilities on lakes Hamilton and Catherine are not properly permitted. **All shoreline facilities along the shoreline are required to have a written permit agreement signed by Entergy and the current lakefront property owner.** The easiest way to determine if your facility is permitted in your name is to contact Entergy Hydro Operations at 501-844-2148.

Contrary to popular belief, permits are not transferred automatically to the new owner when a lakefront property is sold. The reason is that the current property owner must sign to agree to certain conditions that allow them to keep their facilities on Entergy's shoreline lands. It is an easy process to transfer a previously issued permit. Simply contact our office and we'll tell you what to do.

If an unpermitted facility is identified, the owner must either remove the facility or request what is called an "after-the-fact" permit if the facility meets Entergy's guidelines. If Entergy identifies an unpermitted facility that qualifies for an "after-the-fact" permit, the permit fee will be twice the amount of a regular fee. Property owners can avoid the penalty fee by self-identifying their unpermitted facility. In other words, it is the new owner's advantage to come to us rather than waiting for Entergy to identify the unpermitted facility.

Don't be afraid to ask if your old facility was ever permitted. In most cases, Entergy will consider many older facilities "grandfathered" in their existing location. Remember, however, grandfathered docks must also have a written permit in the current owner's name to be properly permitted.

If you are not sure you have a written permit in your name for your dock, seawall or other facility, avoid the penalty charge by contacting Hydro Operations at 501-844-2148 or e-mail Blake Hogue at bhogue@entergy.com.

Kite Tubes Banned

Garland County Quorum Court passed Ordinance 0-06-28 July 24 which bans the extreme water sport known as kite tubing as well as the use of all inflatable towables specifically designed to go airborne while carrying a rider on Lake Hamilton and the Garland County portion of Lake Catherine. This ban also outlaws parasailing on these lakes.

Entergy and the Garland County Sheriff's Marine Patrol support this ban because of safety concerns. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has classified kite tubing as "extremely dangerous". Kite tubes have previously been banned on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes that include nearby Degray and Ouachita lakes.

This ban does not include recreational devices that can temporary go airborne by jumping over waves, wakes or ramps such as wake boards, water skis, tubes or other types of towable inflatable not designed to go airborne.



Beware of Electrical Hazards

This summer an Arkansas teen was electrocuted while swimming near a houseboat dock on a nearby lake. It was reported that a boat owner was using an ungrounded electrical cord and the electricity apparently found its way to a ladder leading into the water. Another teen and a rescuer were shocked and injured at the same time.

This story should hit close to home for lakefront property owners on lakes Hamilton and Catherine. Many boat docks are electrically wired to power lighting and boat lifts, among other things. It is also common to use extension cords to charge marine batteries while the boat is in the water.

Make sure your facilities are safe for folks swimming around your boats and facilities. Entergy's guidelines contain electrical code requirements for lake facilities in section VIII. **It is exclusively and specifically the responsibility of the dock owner to ensure all electrical work complies with the code.** If you are unsure of the condition of your dock's electrical wiring, you should call a licensed electrician to perform a certified inspection in accordance with the codes listed above.

We understand that strictly following electrical code requires some effort and possible expense, but getting it right is well worth it. Copies of Entergy's guidelines can be obtained on our Website at www.entergy.com/hydro.



Protecting our Natural Resources



The shoreline and lake bed of lakes Hamilton and Catherine are valuable natural resources. They provide a unique and beautiful environment not only for lakefront property owners to swim and enjoy, but also for fish and wildlife to thrive.

Entergy uses its Shoreline Management Plan to help protect the lakes' natural resources. The city of Hot Springs and Garland County are also doing their part to protect the lake environment with new stormwater runoff requirements for construction sites.

Basically, any ground disturbing construction site of any size near the lake shall have a Stormwater Prevention Plan and use Best Management Practices such as silt fencing or vegetative buffers to reduce runoff pollutants. For more information about stormwater runoff requirements contact the city of Hot Springs stormwater coordinator at 501-321-6778 or the Garland County Department of Environmental Services inspector at 501-760-5918.

Protect the Children

Arkansas State Boating Law states:

Children 12 years old and younger must wear a United States Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device securely fastened to their persons at all times while in any vessel. The only exception is if the child is within the enclosed area of a houseboat or cruiser, or within the area enclosed by railings on a party barge, cruiser or houseboat and the vessel is not underway.



Photo by Daniel Martin, PFBC

Deserted Islands

Have you ever pondered what book you would like to have with you if stranded on a deserted island? If the island is on lakes Hamilton or Catherine, may we recommend our Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and our Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). These books guide Entergy in the management of our lakebed, shoreline lands and islands associated with Project 271, a hydroelectric development licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

There are many undeveloped islands exposed on lakes Catherine and Hamilton. Some of them are small and some are quite large, like Electric Island. During the drawdowns when the lakebed is exposed, there are even more islands that the public should be aware of when boating. Entergy's SMP and HPMP, which are required by FERC, explain how our shoreline and islands are to be managed so as to preserve their natural and cultural characteristics.

Several islands have been given official names on maps such as Electric Island (formerly known as Big Goat Island), Little Goat Island and Rabbit Island. Many have no official names but all are governed by our required SMP.

From the names of some of them, grazing island goats may have been an acceptable practice in the past; however, the destruction they can do to the natural state of the island make them inconsistent with our SMP. Recently two goats were placed on a small un-named island on Lake Hamilton but were later relocated to protect the island as well as the goats themselves.



Electric Island, the largest island at 125 acres, was donated by Entergy to the Nature Conservancy and is managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Entergy's undeveloped islands are popular for hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing. Camping is not allowed

on any of the islands due to the lack of facilities and concerns with uncontrolled campfires and litter impacting their natural beauty. Camping is available and is welcomed at Lake Catherine State Park and Stephens/Avery parks on Lake Hamilton just below Blakely Dam.

Entergy's undeveloped islands on the lakes are maintained to serve as wildlife habitat and scenery to be enjoyed by visitors of our lakes. Now feel free to grab a book and go find a deserted island where you would like to become stranded.

Boating Safety Education Required

Any person born on or after January 1, 1986, must attend a state-approved boating safety class to operate a boat or personal watercraft. You must be 14 years of age or older to operate a personal watercraft. The Garland County Sheriff's Department will be conducting free classes throughout the year. To find out class schedules, call 501-622-3660.



Garbage in our lakes comes from many sources including street drains, yards, parking lots, beaches, streams, ditches and people on the water. On the land or on the water, you can help clean up our lakes. The following are ways you can make a difference:

- Keep your cigarette butts off the ground and out of the lakes.
- When purchasing refreshments, choose recyclable containers (and recycle them) instead of foam cups with plastic lids and straws.
- Bring sandwiches and snacks from home in reusable containers rather than in plastic food bags.
- Put all trash in its place.
- If you run a waterfront business or live on the lake, maintain your garbage cans with lids and pick up debris before it gets in the water.
- Have a permanent onboard trash can in your boat. Use a bucket with a lid or other sturdy device.
- Help guests understand that on your boat no trash is thrown overboard.
- Put empty cans back in your cooler for recycling.
- If your trash blows overboard, go back and get it, carefully using the opportunity as "crew-overboard" practice.
- Keep used monofilament line out of the lakes and streams.



Trash Bash 2006

Come Join Us & Help Clean-Up

Lakes Hamilton & Catherine, the Ouachita River and Area Roads

September 9

Shoreline Clean-up Time
8 - 11 a.m.

Rain or Shine

Appreciation/Award Luncheon
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mark your calendar for **September 9, 2006**, and join us in a **litter clean-up day** for lakes Hamilton and Catherine, the Ouachita River (below Rempel Dam) and area roads. This event will consist of a **three-hour public clean-up** effort (8 – 11 a.m.) of the shorelines and area roads in Garland and Hot Spring counties. Groups involved in Adopt a Highway, Road or Spot programs are also encouraged to schedule a litter pickup on Sept. 9. The clean-up event will be followed by an **appreciation/award luncheon** (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) at the **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Andrew Hulsey Fish Hatchery** on Fish Hatchery Road off Highway 290. The luncheon will include food and drinks, awards, prize drawings, live entertainment and environmental education booths. You are encouraged to bring the whole family and lawn chairs/blankets. A **Morgan Nick Alert booth** will be available at the luncheon where you can have a digital picture taken of your child to help in identification if your child ever is missing.

All groups and individuals **must register** at one of the check stations or by calling 501-623-7871 to attend the luncheon and be eligible for awards and more than \$1,000 worth of prize drawings - **GRAND PRIZE will be a laptop computer!** Since the lake will not be drawn down during this time, **volunteers with boats are needed.** You should bring some type of tool to reach out from your boat to retrieve trash along the shore (i.e. fish net, rake or hoe). **For those without boats**, there will be areas at Lake Catherine State Park, Carpenter Dam Park, Rempel Dam Park and along roads close to the lakes for walkers to clean up.

This event is coordinated by **Trash Bash Council, Inc.** Members of the council include: Entergy Arkansas Inc., Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, Malvern Chamber of Commerce, Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, Garland County Sanitation, Hot Spring County Sanitation, City of Hot Springs Sanitation, City of Hot Springs Parks Department, Lake Catherine State Park, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. **This clean-up is being held in conjunction with the Great Arkansas Clean-up, the annual fall statewide litter pickup campaign presented by Keep Arkansas Beautiful, a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc.**

If you know of a particularly littered area that would benefit from this clean-up effort or if you need additional information on **Trash Bash**, call Adam Roberts at the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission at 501-623-7871, Blake Hogue with Entergy at 501-844-2148, or Bill Burrough with the City of Hot Springs Sanitation at 501-321-6911.

Lake Catherine

Lake Catherine State Park Ramp
Rempel Dam Park
Diamondhead Marina
Carpenter Dam Park

CHECK STATIONS

Ouachita River

Millinium Park & Boatramp
(Rockport)

Lake Hamilton

Sunnybrook Landing
Hulsey Fish Hatchery Boat Ramp
Hill Wheatley Park
Jess Gideon's Boat Ramp
PowerBoats on Central Ave.



Presented and Sponsored By



Pitch in and help keep our lakes beautiful



**BOATERS:
Protect
Yourself from
this
Silent Killer!**

*Carbon monoxide
is colorless, odorless
and tasteless and
mixes evenly with the
air.*

Carbon monoxide is a potentially deadly gas produced any time a carbon-based fuel, such as gasoline, propane, charcoal or oil, burns. Sources on your boat include gasoline engines, generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters. Cold or poorly tuned engines produce more carbon monoxide than warm, properly tuned engines.

Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and tasteless and mixes evenly with the air. It enters your bloodstream through the lungs and displaces the oxygen your body needs. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning - irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness and dizziness - are often confused with seasickness or intoxication. *Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very short exposure to high concentrations can lead to death.*

Each year, boaters are injured or killed by carbon monoxide. Most incidents occur on older boats and within the cabin or other enclosed areas. Exhaust leaks, the leading cause of death by carbon monoxide, can allow carbon monoxide to migrate throughout the boat and into enclosed areas. New areas of concern are the rear deck near the swim platform with the generator or engines running and teak surfing or dragging behind a slow moving boat. Regular maintenance and proper boat operation can reduce the risk of injury from carbon monoxide.

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

Send their names and addresses to:

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