

Information About Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

Lakes Hamilton & Catherine Refill Dates

LAKES HAMILTON & CATHERINE 2003 REFILL SCHEDULE

Lake Hamilton Refill

Start Phase 1	Feb. 22, 2003	
End Phase 1	Feb. 28, 2003	4.5' ↑
Stable	Feb. 29 to Mar. 7, 2003	
Start Phase 2	Mar. 8, 2003	
End Phase 2	Mar. 14, 2003	4.5' ↑

Lake Catherine Refill

Start	Feb. 22, 2003	
End	Feb 28, 2003	5' ↑

Lakes Hamilton and Catherine will begin to refill beginning Feb. 22. In November, Lake Hamilton was drawn down nine feet, and Lake Catherine was drawn down five feet. In accordance with an agreement between Entergy and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, both lakes will be refilled by March 15 so as not to interfere with this spring's fish spawn.

The spring refill of Lake Hamilton will occur in two phases. Phase 1 will begin Feb. 22 and end Feb. 28, raising the lake 4.5 feet. Phase 2 will begin March 8 and end March 14, raising the lake another 4.5 feet, back to its normal summertime level. There will be a one-week period between the two phases during which the lake level will pretty much remain stable. This will allow dock owners and contractors

to return docks that were temporarily relocated before the drawdown back to their permitted location.

Lake Catherine's level will gradually rise five feet, beginning on Feb. 22 and ending Feb. 28. The normal summertime level for Lake Hamilton is approximately 399.7 feet above sea level, and Lake Catherine's summertime level is approximately 304 feet above sea level. The lake levels may fluctuate as much as 24 inches on Lake Catherine and 12 inches on Lake Hamilton, except during the spring fish spawning period which ends in May.

For more information concerning the annual drawdown, information on vegetation management strategies, or to obtain a booklet on the permitting of docks and seawalls, see our web page or call Entergy's Hydro Operations office at 501-844-2148.

Check Us Out on the Web

Entergy Hydro Operations has a web site where you can obtain information such as:

- General Information about the Lakes
- Shoreline Facility Permit Information
- Real Time Lake Level and River Flow Information
- Past "Life on the Lakes" Newsletters
- Water Safety Information
- Many Related Links

You can also find how to subscribe to our E-mail water release updates.

Check us out at www.entergy.com/hydro



Nuisance Vegetation & Drawdowns

This year's drawdown on Lake Hamilton is the first of two consecutive nine-foot drawdowns announced last fall as part of a revised Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan. Exposing more of the lakebed in Lake Hamilton should help reduce the amount of nuisance vegetation next summer. The degree of success depends on the number of consecutive days of sub-freezing temperatures that occur while the lakebed is exposed.

Entergy's Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan called for the use of more extensive winter drawdowns and the stocking of grass carp by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission as the primary methods of "whole-lake" nuisance vegetation control. The plan was successful in 1997 in significantly reducing Southern naiad in the southern half of the lake, but in recent years a new species of nuisance underwater weed, Eurasian milfoil, has invaded the northern half of the lake. Milfoil, which is not native to the United States, is rapidly spreading downstream. Unlike the native Southern naiad, milfoil is more resistant to winter kill. In response, Entergy and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission have determined that two consecutive years of 9-foot drawdowns are needed to slow and hopefully reduce this explosive growth.

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

Send their names and address to:

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