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Contact: Bobby Pharr, (501) 844-2148

## News Release

### **Entergy to Fill Lakes Hamilton and Catherine**

Lakes Hamilton and Catherine will begin to return to normal summertime levels March 7. In November, Lake Hamilton was drawn down five feet, and Lake Catherine was drawn down three feet. Both lakes will rise from three to seven inches per day beginning March 7 and ending on March 13.

In addition to facilitating shoreline maintenance and inspection, annual drawdowns are part of a plan to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation. Entergy's Aquatic Vegetation Plan has proven to be successful. The primary culprit, Eurasian Milfoil, which had clogged much of the upper portion of Lake Hamilton in summers past, is, for now, nowhere to be seen.

Last summer's annual aquatic vegetation inspection indicated that Entergy's Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan has been effective in combating the excessive growth of water milfoil and naiad in Lake Hamilton that has caused many lake users problems in the past, according to Bobby Pharr, Entergy's process superintendent for Hydro Operations. "We hope that these nuisance weeds stay suppressed, but we must be cautious because it is unlikely that we have totally eradicated them from the lake, and we are susceptible to being reinfested from other lakes, as well."

Entergy and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission will continue to work together to monitor all the types of nuisance aquatic vegetation found in Lakes Hamilton and Catherine. Each year in late summer, the volume of aquatic vegetation is inspected to determine the best management tool to use at the best time. Normal drawdowns are from three to five feet. Whether or not to conduct additional 9-foot drawdowns depends on the results of future annual inspections.

Lake Catherine is formed by Rempel Dam, and Lake Hamilton is formed by Carpenter Dam, both of which Entergy built more than 60 years ago for hydroelectric generation. Lakes Hamilton and Catherine are part of Project 271, a hydroelectric project licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The reservoirs, project lands and associated Rempel and Carpenter Dams are operated under a license granted by the FERC. The FERC license requires and authorizes Entergy to control certain activities that affect the lake's environmental, safety, and recreational values. Permits must be obtained from Entergy for any construction activity on the lake or shoreline, including boat docks, piers, walkways, swim docks, PWC ramps, decks, landings, embankments, bulkheads, seawalls, and dredging and filling operations. Relocation, replacement, enlargement or significant alteration of existing facilities also requires a new permit from Entergy.

The public is reminded that federal and state laws prohibit the collection and removal of artifacts from Entergy's lands that are within the FERC Project 271 boundary associated with Lakes Hamilton & Catherine. The Hot Springs/Malvern area is rich in cultural history, and the license from the FERC assigns Entergy a role in preserving that history for the benefit of future generations. Specifically, the license from FERC assigns responsibilities to Entergy for protecting historical properties, including archeological sites, within the project boundary. As a response to this license's requirement, Entergy must prohibit the collecting, digging and removal of artifacts from the lake bed or shoreline of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine.

For more information concerning the annual drawdown, information on vegetation management strategies, or to obtain a booklet on the permitting of docks and seawalls, please visit our Web site at [www.entergy.com/hydro](http://www.entergy.com/hydro) or call Entergy's Hydro Operations office at 501-844-2148.

Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, and it is the second-largest nuclear generator in the United States. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.6 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of over \$9 billion and approximately 14,000 employees.

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