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For Release: Immediately
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News Release

Entergy to Fill Lakes Hamilton and Catherine

Hot Springs, Ark. – Lakes Hamilton and Catherine will begin to return to normal summertime levels March 7. The lakes were drawn down 3 feet in accordance with Entergy’s drawdown plan approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in November. Both lakes will rise approximately 9 inches per day beginning March 7 and ending March 10 when both lakes will be at their normal springtime levels.

Lakes Hamilton and Catherine are annually drawn down in the winter to facilitate shoreline maintenance and inspection, and to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation. The timing of this year’s refill will help the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission collect walleye eggs below Carpenter Dam. Commission biologists predict that walleye eggs will be ready for harvest as early as March 11.

“The biologists need the water to be back to normal levels for their fish collecting operations,” said Bobby Pharr, process superintendent of Entergy Hydro Operations.

The collected walleye are then transported to Andrew Hulsey State Fish Hatchery on Lake Hamilton, where their eggs are harvested. This is where a large percentage of the 2 million walleye fry are raised to stock walleye in lakes across Arkansas. Entergy’s drawdown plan requires the company to coordinate the draw downs of the lakes with the commission.

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Lakefront property owners should take precautions, as always, when the lakes begin to rise. Precautions include removing construction debris or leaf piles in the lakebed to higher ground, securing boats to withstand higher water, and returning floating docks to their permitted locations.

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. 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, personal water craft 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 and 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 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, visit our Web site at 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 more than \$10 billion and approximately 14,000 employees.