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News Release

Entergy Lowering Lake Levels in Advance of Hurricane Gustav

As a precaution in case of excessive rain in the Hot Springs area, Entergy Arkansas, Inc. is lowering the levels of lakes Catherine and Hamilton in anticipation of heavy rainfall from Hurricane Gustav. Both lakes were lowered last night to the bottom of their normal operating range.

If heavy rainfall continues to be forecasted for the rest of the week, an additional lowering of one foot may occur beginning Monday night. Entergy Arkansas is carefully watching the forecast as this weather event continues to develop. The public can subscribe to an email notification service on our web site at www.entergy.com/hydro to receive the latest news on this and future weather events as they affect the lakes.

During Sunday night, both lakes were drawn down to the bottom of their normal operating range. Lake Hamilton was drawn down to 399 feet above sea level and Lake Catherine was drawn down to 303 feet above sea level. Lake Hamilton's normal operating range is between the 399 and 400 elevations. Lake Catherine's normal operating range is between the 303 and 305 elevations.

Additional lowering may be necessary beginning Monday night depending on if heavy rainfall continues to be forecasted. If this second lowering occurs, both lakes will be lowered another foot bringing Lake Hamilton's level to approximately 398 and Lake Catherine to approximately 302. In summary, if both precautionary drawdowns do occur, the lakes may be approximately two feet below their normal target level until the threat of heavy rain passes.

Those who have boats docked in shallow water on either lake should consider either moving them to deeper water or taking them out of the water. Boaters should be extra cautious while on the lakes during and after the temporary drawdown period because additional shallow areas will exist and the forecasted rains will increase the amount of debris washed into the lakes.

"Lowering the lake levels by this amount will give us some breathing room, should a very heavy, extended rain occur in our watershed," said Bobby Pharr, process superintendent Entergy Arkansas Hydro Operations. "Current forecasts tell us this is a reasonable possibility, so we want to be prepared."

"Unlike Lake Ouachita, lakes Hamilton and Catherine have no room to store extra water," Pharr said. "Water entering our lakes will have to be passed through the Ouachita River system." The current low level of Lake Ouachita will allow it to store water entering in from its watershed, greatly helping lakes Hamilton and Catherine. Lake Ouachita, which is currently around 574.13 feet above sea level, has approximately 17 feet of storage capability before reaching the top of the flood pool level.

If there is a need to lower the lakes an additional foot, Entergy Arkansas will run water through the generators at Remmel Dam, which creates Lake Catherine, and Carpenter

Dam, which creates Lake Hamilton. If additional release is required, the dams are equipped with gates, which can be opened for rapid release.

Water levels in the Ouachita River below Remmel Dam may rise during this potential drawdown, but should not approach flood status. However, all residents near the lakes and the Ouachita River need to be alert to the possibility of deteriorating conditions should excessive rainfall occur in the Hot Springs area.

“Entergy Arkansas has an Emergency Action Plan that dictates our response to these types of situations. We have placed our Flood Response Team on alert and will closely monitor the effects of Hurricane Gustav as they unfold,” said Pharr.

For more information concerning this precautionary drawdown call Entergy Arkansas’ 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.