

Life on the Lakes

Information About Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

Going Digital

Life on the Lakes will be moving to a digital format. Entergy Arkansas produces three issues of the lakefront property owner newsletter each year (spring, summer and fall) to communicate important information on the management of lakes Hamilton and Catherine. All past issues were in paper format and mailed.

Beginning this fall, the spring and fall issues will be published only in digital format. The advantage of electronic communications is it is more efficient, timely, less expensive and environmentally friendly.

You can visit the Entergy hydro operations website at entergy.com/hydro to obtain information about the lakes, its management and what rights and responsibilities the public has regarding use of the project lands and water. You will also be able to download current and past issues of Life on the Lakes from the hydro operations website.

As a public service to the recreational users of lakes Hamilton and Catherine and the Ouachita River below R Emmel Dam, Entergy hydro operations issues a weekly email of the current operational plans for Carpenter and R Emmel dams. This brief email mainly provides general guidance on when we plan to release water from the dams, which affects both the levels of the river below the dams and, to a lesser extent, the levels of the lakes. This information can be useful in planning recreational outings for fishing and floating downstream. We will also use this service to announce anticipated lower lake levels prior to upcoming storms, information on shoreline facility/activity permitting and other issues concerning recreational and project uses.



Each year after being placed on the distribution list, you will be asked to renew your subscription if you wish to continue to receive emails. Remember also to re-subscribe if you change your email address.

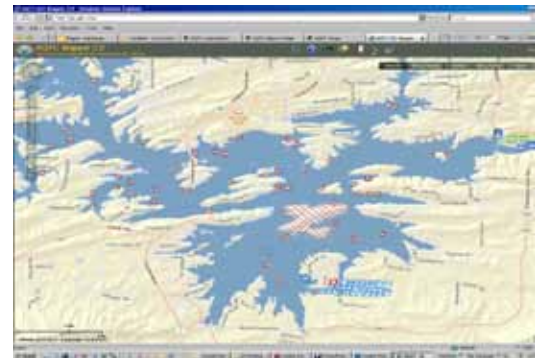
If you have trouble signing up for this service, please contact hydro operations at bpharr@entergy.com.

www.entergy.com/hydro

Where Do The Fish Hang Out?

Fishermen in general are becoming more adept at using GPS units for returning to preferred cover or habitat whether placed by them or someone else. There is no individual ownership of fish habitat, and all can access and use them.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has created an interactive map showing the location of brush piles with GPS coordinates on Lake Hamilton and other Arkansas lakes. Visit their website at www.gis.agfc.com to experience this interactive map.



Who do you call?

☎ To report an outage	800-968-8243
☎ To request shoreline facility or activity permits	501-844-2148 x3
☎ To report floating logs/trees (USCG Aux.)	501-844-9541
☎ Hydro Operations	501-844-2148
☎ Flow Release Information	501-844-2148 x2
☎ Drawdown Information	501-844-2148 x1
☎ Boating Accidents:	
Garland County Sheriff	501-622-3660
AR Game & Fish	800-482-9262



May, 2012

Permit Application Checklist

So, you have an application for a shoreline facility or activity and now ask, "What else does Entergy Arkansas need to understand what I want to do?"

To facilitate a quick processing of your application, here is a checklist of what is needed with your completed and notarized application form.

1. Dimensioned Drawings

Site drawing - This is an overview of your entire lakefront property showing the proposed facility and any existing shoreline facilities. (Be sure to show property lines, etc.)

Profile drawing - This is a drawing showing a side view of proposed dock/seawall facilities. (Include the height of your proposed roof or seawall.)

Plan drawing - This is detailed drawing showing measurements of facilities. (Include overall length, width and height, boat stall measurements, etc.)

2. Adjacent Property Owners Comment Form

This form should be completed and have signatures of your neighbors on both sides. Also, have your neighbors initial a copy of the drawings showing the proposed facility. If your neighbor prefers, they can send their comments directly to Entergy.

3. Copy of Survey and Deed

This is used to provide details of exact ownership. If you have recently purchased the property, one should have been provided at closing.

4. Photographs

Photos are very useful, not only for the proposed facility, but, also on existing facilities. We are now asking for a post-construction photo showing the facilities once they are completed to verify compliance with the permit.

5. Processing Fee

Entergy hydro operations currently charges a onetime processing fee for each permit. At this time, we do not charge an annual fee for your shoreline facilities.

Submitting these items to Entergy hydro operations will expedite the time in which it takes to issue a permit.



Permit Processing Fee Increase

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for Project 271 - Lakes Hamilton and Catherine allows Entergy Arkansas to charge reasonable fees to cover the cost of administering its shoreline permitting program. The company at this time charges only a one-time, non-refundable permit fee which only helps defray the total cost of the program.

Like everything else, it's costing more these days to conduct business than ever before. Entergy Arkansas is no different, with rising fuel prices, supply costs, mail delivery, etc, it just costs more to process permits. Consequently, we are adjusting our permitting fees to try and keep up with some of our costs.

NON-COMMERCIAL FEE STRUCTURE (Effective June 1, 2012)

- ▶ Seawall, Boat Ramp, Dredging and Concrete Steps - \$550
- ▶ Docks, Boardwalks, Swim Decks, Piers, and Geo Thermal Loops - \$400
- ▶ Trampolines, Wooden Steps, PWC Ramps/Lifts, Rip-Rap - \$200
- ▶ Permit Transfers: Within 60 days of sale = \$200; After 60 days = \$400

All other current fees will remain the same. Applications that require extensive review, expediting or require additional inspections may be assessed additional fees based on the time required to process the application.

For more information on the permit processing fee structure, contact Entergy Arkansas at 501-844-2197.



Compliance and Enforcement

All facilities and activities along the shoreline of lakes Hamilton and Catherine are subject to periodic inspections for compliance with Entergy rules and regulations and to ensure they are consistent with our federally approved shoreline management plan. In the event non-compliance is discovered, Entergy Arkansas will take the necessary actions to have the facility/activity brought into compliance or removed from the lake.

In the event of a violation, Entergy may not only take actions to have a facility removed, but also impose violation fees for the unauthorized facility/activity. Common violations include unpermitted PWC ramps/lifts, relocations, deck additions and roof overhangs.

Below are examples of such penalty fees:

- After-the-fact permit processing fee - Double processes fee and/or removal.
- Unpermitted dredging - \$100/square yard of material removed.

Entergy strongly encourages lakefront property owners to ensure they have a permit before they do anything on or along the shorelines of lakes Hamilton and Catherine to avoid any such penalties. Please contact us at dbatson@entergy.com or at (501) 844-2197 if you have any questions.



Courtesy of Daniel Valovich

Improve Fisheries and Help Reduce Nuisance Vegetation

Each November Entergy draws lakes Hamilton and Catherine down and refills the lakes the following March. These drawdowns benefit the lakes in many ways. They allow lakefront property owners to do shoreline maintenance and facilitate cleanup of unwanted debris and trash. It also allows Entergy and others to conduct inspections for unauthorized activities.

There are also biological benefits to these yearly drawdowns, namely nuisance invasive aquatic vegetation control. Lake Hamilton has experienced an explosive growth of two such species, southern naiad and Eurasian water milfoil. In years past, these plants have significantly impacted the recreational use of the lake. As a result, Entergy Arkansas, in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, developed an aquatic vegetation management plan in 1997. The plan calls for drawdowns of up to 9 feet to be the primary tool to reduce the spreading growth of nuisance underwater vegetation. Each year in August, Entergy and the AGFC perform inspections of the species and coverage of nuisance

aquatic vegetation in the lakes to determine the appropriate drawdown depths.

Due to the recent success with vegetation control and to allow for long-range planning, Entergy will tentatively plan future drawdowns to continue on an alternating pattern of 3 and 5 feet. Alternating the drawdown depths helps prevent any one vegetation species from adapting to a particular depth. Annual inspections will continue to verify that this strategy is working and determine if adjustments to the long-range plan are needed. When extensive aquatic vegetation is observed on the lakes, drawdowns up to 9 feet will still be considered as they have been successful in the past on Lake Hamilton to control such invasive growth. The drawdown depth and schedule for any year is announced each September.

During a drawdown, the lakebed in shallow areas is exposed to the air and freezing temperatures, which helps control the growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation. Aquatic plants (within reasonable amounts of coverage) are often biologically desirable and serve as nursery cover for young fish. Aquatic invertebrates live among the vegetation, providing a food source for small fish. Shoreline property owners are encouraged not to eradicate native aquatic vegetation adjacent to their property by dredging or chemical application.

Fertile water is a key element for good fishing. Nutrients enter the lakes from the tributary streams. These nutrients, which are beneficial to the lake food chain, can become buried in the sediment of the lakebed and cannot cycle in the lake's natural food chain. Annual drawdowns allow the lakebed to dry, crack open and aerate, releasing nutrients when the lake refills. In a process similar to aerating your lawn and adding fertilizer, it allows the soil to breathe and cycle nutrients.

Lakefront property owners can help improve the lake's ecology by seeding the exposed lakebed in front of their property with winter rye grass. The rye grass will sprout quickly and make the area much more attractive through the winter months. In the spring when the lake rises again, the grass will die and will transfer nutrients from the soil to the water, promoting the growth of plankton. The plankton will provide food for the fish and, by clouding the water somewhat, reduce the photosynthesis needed for nuisance aquatic vegetation growth. The sooner this seeding is done after the drawdown begins the more effective it will be. We suggest that to help the grass seed take hold; you rake the seed in while the ground is still moist.

Notice: Marine Toilets Being Inspected

To ensure protection of the water quality in lakes Hamilton and Catherine, the Arkansas Department of Health, Marine Sanitation Division, will be conducting inspections on all boats with permanent toilets on board during the month of June. The inspections will be focused only on boats that have pump out facilities on board.

Arkansas State Act 1774 of 2003 House Bill 2525, Section 27-101-411 states: "Raw sewage shall not be discharged from any vessel into waters of the state."

The Department of Health is mandated to: "Administer and enforce all laws and regulations, to the extent permitted by federal law and in accordance with applicable regulations adopted by the United States Coast Guard and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, relating to marine toilet facilities, marine sanitation devices, and unlawful discharge of marine sewage from vessels into waters of this state."

If you have any questions concerning the inspections and wish to talk to an inspector, contact Sandra Abbott, senior environmental specialist, Marine Sanitation Division with the Arkansas Department of Health at (501) 920-1954.



Boater's Education is Not Just for Kids conti...



By Kimberly Bogart,
Entergy hydro operations

In summer 2011, I wrote the article, "Boaters Education is Not Just for Kids." We often see signs and advertisements for wearing your life jacket, and know that anyone born after 1985 must have a boating education card. I happen to fall into the "grandfathered pre-1985" category, and I have piloted boats since I was a little kid growing up on the Great Lakes in Michigan, – where you got your boating license years before your driver's license. I should know how to man a boat on the water. I'm an adult, right? Well, I decided that maybe there was something to getting a refresher on piloting a boat and took my own advice; I enrolled in one of the local courses.

During the course, the instructor strongly encouraged parents to attend, as well as, send their children, because not only do children learn from watching you, you will get a chance to interact with them and help them to learn the right way to operate a boat.

Living in Arkansas allows you access to some of the most beautiful lakes around. But that access comes at a cost, and taking one day out of your busy schedule to attend a boater's education course might just help you to avoid an accident, potentially saving your life or the life of someone you love. If all you learn is one new thing at this course, then it will have been worth your time.

Courses are being offered in our area at:

Power Boats:

Boating Education Classes: May 25, June 16 and July 21.

"Women on Water" hands on course: May 26, June 16 and July 22.
(The course is free but you must have passed boaters education.)

Note that May 25 – 28 is Boaters Safety Weekend on Lake Hamilton. Power Boats will donate life jackets, throwable devices and glow-sticks to the Marine Patrol and Game & Fish to give to boaters that are not in compliance. The coast guard auxiliary will be conducting free safety inspections to all Lake Hamilton boaters at this location.

Lake Catherine State Park: May 6 and 19.

Lake Ouachita State Park: May 23, June 13, July 18 and Aug. 8.

DeGray Lake Resort State Park: May 9, May 22 and June 4 and 21.

You can also take advantage of Boat Arkansas – the official online course (small fee applies). But you will still have to pass the test in person at a testing site to receive your card. Go to the Arkansas Game & Fish website to find a testing site near you.

Dock Lighting Reminder



To improve boating safety, our permitting guideline for dock lighting states:

"Only low-watt yellow-colored lighting that does not create a hazard to boaters is allowed on any type of facilities (this includes boardwalks, decks, piers, swim docks and boat docks). All lights are to be pointed downward and shielded to prevent visibility of the bulb within 50' of the lake side of the facility. Motion-activated lighting is preferred. Two-inch-diameter blue reflectors placed at 10-foot intervals along the docks' sides are recommended. Red, green or white lights shall not be used as they could be confused as navigational lights."

You're Responsible...

You're responsibilities as a dock owner -

- **To Obtain a Permit:** *Relocation or significant alterations, changing the footprint, roof line or support structure of existing facilities requires the approval of Entergy Arkansas. These "facilities" must be brought into compliance with all current Entergy regulations, specifications and requirements before a permit is issued.*

- **To Comply With Your Permit:** *Your facility must conform to the location, specifications and all other conditions (see inside back cover) of your permit, in addition to any specific specifications, requirements and conditions that Entergy Arkansas may determine to be appropriate subsequent to permitting of your facility.*

- **To Secure Your Facilities:** *Loose flotation material and loose or derelict facilities present a serious hazard to water recreation. Flotation must be securely attached and the facility properly anchored and secured at all times.*

- **To Maintain Your Facilities:** *It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that the facility is properly maintained and when it is constructed, modified or replaced, that the waste material is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner, including ensuring that all electrical components of your facilities are in compliance with all applicable electrical codes as well as other federal, state and local codes.*



Full-Scale Exercise at Carpenter Dam

In addition to requiring that Entergy have an emergency action plan for Carpenter and Rempel dams, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires we regularly practice that plan to test its effectiveness. As a result, we met with the Garland and Hot Spring counties' departments of emergency management and discussed with them what kind of exercise we could do that would not only test hydro operations' EAP, but provide the most benefit to the emergency response agencies of the state, county and local cities in this area. After many months of planning, hydro operations participated in a full-scale exercise on March 29 that simulated a terrorist attack on Carpenter Dam.

The Lake Hamilton Fire Department wanted to do a fire boat-based response, so we started the day with a simulated boat fire below the dam. To exercise the Hot Springs Police Department response to an active shooter situation, we had armed intruders take some of our personnel hostage (all actors, of course) Then the Hot Springs Fire Department set off a water canon to simulate an explosion inside the dam. This allowed the various city and county swiftwater rescue teams to deploy and rescue volunteer victims in the river near Malvern. Diamondhead police, Lake Catherine State Park and LHFD also got in the game with mock evacuations inside Diamondhead and the state park. Red Cross opened a shelter for the evacuees at the Garland County fairgrounds and the Garland County sheriff's department SWAT team responded to Blakely Mountain Dam.

A mobile command center was established at Entergy Park near the dam, and the downtown emergency operation center was opened up in the Main Fire Station. Evaluators and controllers from all over the state came to observe and critique the various responses. Many more agencies than those mentioned were involved. It was truly a team effort with plenty of activity all morning long. Two television stations as well as state and local newspapers covered the action.

We are pleased to report that the terrorists were neutralized, damage to the facility (all fake, of course) was repairable, and all the victims were successfully rescued. We are fortunate to have this high caliber of police, fire and emergency response personnel who truly work together. Not all communities have this level of competence, dedication and cooperation among their public servants. Entergy was proud to play a small part in helping to bring this exercise to fruition.



Emergency Preparedness

What to do...

...if you notice a problem at a dam – call 911. Local authorities know who to contact when there are concerns with the local dams on the Ouachita River.

...if you notice a river/lake is unexpectedly high and rising on a clear day – immediately head for higher ground and call 911 to report the situation.

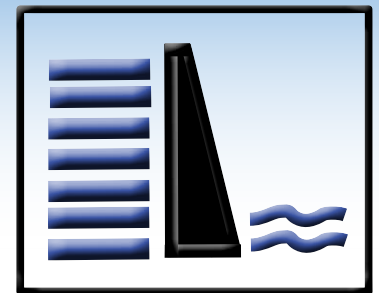
...if a road is covered with water – remember that floodwaters are deceptive. As the old saying goes, “Turn around, don’t drown.” Roadways can become compromised by floods and these weak spots are not always visible. Avoid flooded areas if you can.

...if your car stalls in a flooded area – abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car - and its occupants - away.

...if a flood traps you in your house – move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and portable radio with you. Then wait for help; don’t try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will be looking for you.

...if you receive a reverse 911 call – first, take it seriously. Next, listen carefully and follow all of the instructions from the phone call. If it is to warn you of a flood, it may tell you to stay in your home or head to higher ground immediately. Do so as quickly as possible.

Entergy Arkansas monitors Carpenter and Rempel dams 24/7, but, if you notice an unusual situation concerning the lake levels or the dams, call 911 to report it. Thanks to FEMA publication 593-237B (9/90) for information used in this article.





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Help Us With Our Mailing List

Please contact Entergy Arkansas, at
 844-2148 or send an e-mail to
kbogar1@entergy.com
 with any corrections.

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What Requires a Permit?

All shoreline facilities, structures and ground-disturbing activities on Entergy Arkansas, Inc. Project 271 lands or water require a permit from Entergy Arkansas prior to installation or placement. Some of the most common types of facilities, structures and activities that require a permit include:

- ✓ Boat docks
- ✓ Piers
- ✓ Landings
- ✓ PWC ramps
- ✓ Decks
- ✓ Walkways
- ✓ Boardwalks
- ✓ Bridges
- ✓ Boat Ramps
- ✓ Steps
- ✓ Seawalls
- ✓ Riprap
- ✓ Fill/dredge
- ✓ Excavation
- ✓ Roads
- ✓ Waterlines
- ✓ Buoys
- ✓ Utility facilities
- ✓ Water withdrawal
- ✓ Heat/Air exchange piping
- ✓ Inflatable platforms/trampolines
- ✓ Boat lifts (when outside the slip)



Any changes to the footprint, roof line, support structure or change in the size of an existing facility requires a new application/permit.

To learn more about Entergy Arkansas' shoreline facility permit program and the requirements and specification for private facilities on Entergy Arkansas' property, visit our web site at www.entergy.com/hydro or contact us at (501) 844-2148.

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

Send their names and addresses to:

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