

# AKE NEWS and Shoreline Views



There have been a lot of changes in the 81-year history of Bagnell Dam and the Lake of the Ozarks. Originally constructed with the sole purpose of producing hydroelectric power, Bagnell Dam and the Lake have become much more than a place to generate electricity.

t has developed into one of the most intensely used and developed waterways in the United States. Another change is the size and scope of Ameren Missouri's license for the operation of Bagnell Dam and the reservoir, which is issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The initial license, issued in 1926 for Bagnell Dam and the Osage Project, consisted of just 15 pages. Today, it has evolved into a much larger document with many appendices, maps and articles which determine how Ameren Missouri manages and operates everything from power

production to shoreline development. A key factor in meeting these requirements is keeping the Lake community informed of how our company has collaborated with FERC over the years to be good stewards of the Lake and its resources. Therefore, we are proud to present our first Lake-wide newsletter. We hope you find it informative and useful as we partner together to continue to enjoy the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks, a great natural resource.



#### The Shoreline Management Plan and the Project Boundary

A key provision of our license is the development of a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). This document establishes how shoreline activities can occur with the goal of protecting the environmental, scenic and recreational amenities of the Lake. A key provision of the SMP is the project boundary. In simple terms, the project boundary is a line around the Lake that has been established to encompass the Lake and protect resources. In the past, the project boundary was located at varying elevations and often the exact location was not completely understood. In 2012, Ameren Missouri successfully revised the project boundary to a uniform elevation of 662 feet around the Lake's shoreline. Accordingly, any project at or below the 662 elevation must be in compliance with the SMP and approved by Ameren Missouri before beginning any construction.



#### Structures Within the Project Boundary

Once you have determined the location of the 662 elevation, structures such as boat docks and seawalls may be installed and maintained within the project boundary provided the necessary permits are issued. Unfortunately, lakeside accessory structures such as patios, decks, sidewalks or gazebos are no longer allowed. Ameren Missouri recognizes there are many existing accessory structures around the Lake and some have been in place for decades. The good news is the vast majority of them can remain and stay in place provided they are properly permitted. However, our future focus on the project boundary must ensure that no new ones are built. That is what makes knowing the location of the 662 project boundary elevation so important.

Decks, patios or sidewalks, as pictured, MAY NO LONGER BE CONSTRUCTED at or below the 662 elevation which is the project boundary.



## How Do I Know Where the 662 Elevation is Located?

Elevations discussed in the SMP refer to how far an object is above mean sea level. When the Lake was constructed, bench marks and other surveying information were established based upon sea level at Biloxi, Mississippi. This was done to provide for a constant reference point and to ensure that uniform measurements could be taken no matter where the location is around the Lake. Today, these same benchmarks are used in recording the daily Lake level. You can find out the daily Lake level by calling **573.365.9205** or visiting **AmerenMissouri.com/Lake**.

If you know the current Lake level, you can easily take a few simple measurements that will let you determine approximately where the 662 elevation is located. For example, if the current Lake level is being reported at 659 feet, you know that the 662 elevation will be 3-feet higher than the surface of the water. It is important to remember that this vertical difference must be transferred to the surrounding property and not a horizontal measurement. In our example, if you were to take a 3-foot tall object like a yard stick and place one end at the water's edge, you would know that the bottom of the yard stick is resting at an elevation of 659 feet and the top would be at elevation 662 feet. By drawing a level line from the top of the stick to the surrounding shoreline, you would now know the approximate location of the 662 elevation at your property.

There are many factors that could influence the overall accuracy of this procedure, such as flooding or high releases from Truman Dam which causes less predictable levels. But, in most instances, this procedure will certainly provide you with enough information to determine if you should contact the Shoreline Management Office before beginning your project.





In many cases, the 662 elevation or the project boundary will appear to be on the face of your seawall. However, in these instances the original 662 elevation will be located somewhere behind the seawall and a careful review of the seawall permit file will be required to help establish the 662 elevation. In most cases, the boundary will be approximately 3-feet landward of the seawall. In all cases, no new construction can occur on top of the seawall or immediately behind the seawall. You should always contact the Shoreline Management Office if you have questions before beginning construction.

# A word from our Lake Area Representatives

#### Dear Dock Owner:

As the summer approaches, members of the Missouri House of Representatives from the Lake of the Ozarks area look forward to the warmer weather and opportunities for everyone to take advantage of the Lake. We would like this to be a safe summer season, and we're encouraging you to please take time to make sure your dock is safe from electrical hazards. Ameren Missouri, COMO Electric Cooperative, Laclede Electric Cooperative and Southwest Electric Cooperative are also concerned about your safety and pleased to provide information to keep you safe during the summer months.

Looking forward to another great year at the Lake of the Ozarks,

Wanda Brown **District 57** 

**David Wood District 58** 

**District 124** 

Warren Love **District 125** 

**Diane Franklin District 123** 

### **Rocky Miller**

**Electricity and Docks** 

We all know that water and electricity don't mix. As a dock owner, there is no greater responsibility than to ensure the safety of your electrical system for your friends and family. The first step is to ensure that your dock is properly grounded and protected with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Frequent inspection of your facility along with testing of all safety devices should become a routine part of your dock maintenance activities. If you are unfamiliar with electrical systems you should seek the help of an insured and bonded electrician. Additional information concerning dock electrical systems can be found by visiting at AmerenMissouri.com/Lake.

#### **Get it Inspected**

Think of your dock wiring as you do your smoke alarms. Just as you shouldn't put up a smoke alarm and consider the job done for as long as you own your home, you shouldn't consider your dock wiring to be in safe working order without frequent inspection.



In some locations, the local fire protection district or village offers dock-wiring inspections, which are occasionally free. If you live in an area where this isn't the case, take the initiative to find a qualified, insured electrician to periodically inspect your dock wiring.

#### **Check it Yourself**

In between inspections, a GFCI tester can help you determine if your GFCI breakers are working correctly to interrupt the current should a dangerous situation exist. The testers can be purchased inexpensively at area hardware stores.



Simply plug the tester into a GFCI breaker. The GFCI should trip. If it doesn't, don't use the circuit and call a qualified, insured electrician. Consider hanging your tester from a hook on your dock as a reminder to use it frequently. And remember, talk to your neighbors and encourage them to use their tester. While your dock wiring might be perfectly safe, if your neighbor's dock wiring is faulty or worn, the hazard can easily make its way to the water surrounding your home.



If you are in the water and feel tingling or another sensation that you associate with electricity, swim away from the dock, get everyone out of the water immediately and CALL 9-1-1. Lake-area Fire Districts and the Village of Four Seasons require a permit and inspection when installing or modifying a dock and any time work is being performed on the electrical system of a dock. Contact the appropriate inspection agency for assistance with your permit and inspection. If your area is not supported by one of the districts or villages below, you will need to hire a qualified electrician to inspect the dock as Ameren Missouri does not conduct electrical inspections.

#### **City of Camdenton**

437 W. US Hwy 54 Camdenton, MO 65020 573.346.3600

Lake Ozark Fire Protection District 1767 Bagnell Dam Boulevard Lake Ozark, MO 65065 573.365.3202

Mid-County Fire Protection District 184 N. Hwy 5 Camdenton, MO 65020 573.346.2049

Northwest Fire Protection District P.O. Box 128 Climax Springs, MO 65324 573.347.3110

Osage Beach Fire Protection District 1170 Bluff Drive Osage Beach, MO 65065 573.348.1221

Rocky Mount Fire Protection District 20401 Brendel Boulevard Rocky Mount, MO 65072 573.392.4301

Sunrise Beach Fire Protection District

30 Porter Mill Springs Drive Sunrise Beach, MO 65079 573.374.4411

Village of Four Seasons 133 Cherokee Road Four Seasons, MO 65049 573.365.3833

#### **Permits**

All structures within the project boundary must be authorized in accordance with our FERC license. This authorization has been a requirement since 1931 and is accomplished by the issuance of a permit. Permit review and approval was originally handled by the Corps of Engineers and now is administered by Ameren Missouri. Each individual structure that is installed or has been installed within the project boundary must have its own permit number that is issued to the current owner of the facility. Permit numbers are

## MESSAGE TO TRANSFERS

If you buy a lakeside house, it is your responsibility to transfer all the permits into your name. This can be done with a single transfer request and \$35 processing fee. This will cover all the permits (dock, pump, seawall, etc.) on your new property. For more information call the Shoreline Management Office at 1.573.365.9212 or 1.573.365.9208.



The sign shall be mounted on the lake side of the dock in a location most visible from the cove or the main channel

Missouri State law requires all docks located at the Lake of the Ozarks to display their permit number and the nearest land-based 911 address, including the zip code.

unique to each parcel of land, much like a 911 address, they do not move with a facility such as a boat dock. If you are unsure if one of your lakeside improvements is properly permitted or don't have copies of your permits, contact the Shoreline Management Office at **1.573.365.9212** or **1.573.365.9208**.



#### **Dock Storage and Enclosed Structures**

Docks have become an extension of your home and provide many hours of enjoyment to your Lake of the Ozarks experience. It is important to remember that any addition to your dock requires authorization and approval from the Shoreline Management Office. This includes storage lockers, tiki bars and any other enclosures. Enclosed structures are limited to a total of 80 square feet per dock and are prohibited from having dishwashers, garbage disposals, showers or restroom facilities. If you have questions about allowable structures or uses, please contact the Shoreline Management Office before beginning your project. We can be reached at **1.573.365.9212** or **1.573.365.9208**.

#### **Lake Levels**

Many factors can affect the lake level and how the flow is managed from Bagnell Dam. Our FERC license contains a guideline of specified elevations that we try to follow for each season. Naturally, during periods of drought or heavy precipitation these elevations may not be attainable but on average lake levels have very closely followed these elevations. The new license requires a minimum flow of 900 cubic feet per second (CFS) through Bagnell Dam to protect the aquatic resources of the Osage River. This can lead to falling lake levels during times of inadequate rainfall. You may find out the daily lake level by calling **1.573.365.9205**.



No discussion about Lake levels would be complete without providing information about the floodplain for the Lake of the Ozarks. The floodplain for the Lake is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which delegates the administration of floodplain regulations and information about the National Flood Insurance Program to local jurisdictions such as counties and cities. Ameren Missouri is not involved in these programs and any questions concerning floodplain elevations or flood insurance should be directed to the local floodplain administrator. Contact information for each county can be found in the important numbers section located on the last page of this newsletter.

	Emergency Low-level limit	645 feet	
	Winter Draw Down	654 feet	
	Low–level limit	3 feet below guide curve	
I WALL	Corps of Engineers Boundary	658.5 feet	
	Recreation Pool	659 feet	
	Full Pool	660 feet	
	Top of Flood Pool	661 feet	



The Lake's largest volunteer program began in 1991 with the mission of making sure the Lake was free of trash and debris. Since that time, over 5.5 million pounds of trash and debris has been removed by over 10,000 volunteers. Along the way, members of this organization have been instrumental in shaping the current flotation policy, including the requirement for encapsulated flotation. With this simple change our volunteers have almost completely removed the old white foam flotation that littered the shoreline for so many years. Today, these same volunteers continue the proud tradition of cleaning the Lake by walking the shoreline collecting the recreational debris that is bound to accumulate in a water body that is as heavily used as the Lake of the Ozarks. The opportunity to get involved in this great program has never been easier. If you would like to become involved please contact the Adopt-the-Shoreline Program at 1.573.365.9252.





P.O. Box 993 Lake Ozark, MO 65049 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #1 OSAGE BEACH, MO

#### Website:

#### AmerenMissouri.com/Lake

#### **Important Phone Numbers:**

# Lake Protection Hot Line 1.573.365.9203 Lake Level 1.573.365.9205 Adopt-the-Shoreline 1.573.365.9252 Missouri State Highway Patrol 1.573.751.3313 Water Patrol Division (non-emergency) 1.573.751.3313 Benton County (Emergency Management) 1.660.438.8412 Camden County (Planning & Zoning) 1.573.346.4440 Miller County (County Commission) 1.573.378.4643

Shoreline Management Staff is here to assist you with your next lakeside project and to help answer your questions about Ameren Missouri's role at the Lake.

#### Osage Arm – Bagnell Dam to 16-mile marker and Gravois Arm

Jos	sh Friedrich	. 1.573.365.9247		
Chi	is Korsmeyer	. 1.573.365.9209		
Osage Arm 16 to 32-mile marker and the Niangua's and Glaize Arms				
Chu	uck Van Bebber	. 1.573.365.9215		
Osage Arm 32-mile marker to Truman Dam				
Joe	e Daly	1.573.365.9207		
Commercial Docks and Docks Larger Than 3,000-square Feet				
Hei	di Shewmaker	1.573.365.9216		
Dredging, Wetlands, Shoreline Vegetation or other Environmental Questions				
Bry	an Vance	1.573.365.9252		
Geo	organne Bowman	1.573.365.9217		
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