



## Lake Maumelle Management Planning -- 10/14/2022 Update

As part of Central Arkansas Water's continued efforts to ensure the highest water quality for our customers, the utility will be embarking on a new reservoir management program to control plant and algae growth, manage taste and odor and improve the overall ecological health of Lake Maumelle.

Built in the 1950s, Lake Maumelle is the primary water source for more than 500,000 CAW customers in eight counties. It was built specifically to provide drinking water and has provided some of the best drinking water in North America for decades. CAW was recognized as top five best-tasting drinking water in North America by the American Water Works Association only two years ago. Lake Maumelle continues to produce fantastic water, but the dynamics of all reservoirs change over the years, and now is the time for CAW to prepare the lake for future generations. This proactive approach to reservoir management will ensure fantastic water for years to come.

One of the first steps in this comprehensive plan will began Friday, October 14, 2022 with the application of hydrogen peroxide into the lake close to the intake of the Lake Maumelle pump station. This application is a preventative measure to control algal blooms. This method of algae control has been used throughout the US and globally for more than 20 years, and is safe for fish, plants, and wildlife in or near the lake. Additionally, CAW's application plan was reviewed and approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Hydrogen peroxide is simply water with an extra oxygen molecule (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), but that extra molecule is powerful. That extra molecule oxidizes, which can kill bacteria. Hydrogen peroxide is used daily in household applications and the food industry. It is safe when utilized in a controlled, measured fashion, as it will be used in Lake Maumelle. Customers will see no change in the taste or quality of water coming into homes and businesses, as the water will still go through the normal water treatment process between the time it was drawn from the lake until it arrives at the faucet.

This effective antiseptic treatment can reduce the amount of algae that could make its way to the water treatment plant and potentially disrupt the process there by clogging the filters. This leads to an easier, more effective water treatment process at the water treatment plant and ensures that your water exceeds all regulatory standards, remains safe and is of the highest quality.



These algae blooms have been increasing in the fall months on Lake Maumelle in recent years along with the rapid expansion of invasive plants like hydrilla. Hydrilla grows from the lakebed in the water and must be treated to keep it under control. Like most other lakes in Arkansas, Lake Maumelle contains areas of hydrilla growth, primarily in the shallower areas of the lake on the western end. Mitigation of this invasive species is crucial to maintain lake health for drinking water.

To combat the areas of hydrilla growth, CAW will begin a winter drawdown of the lake starting at the end of October. This drawdown will take the lake about 10 feet below the spillway, which is only about six feet more than its current level. This will be a longer, slower drawdown than what would be typical to allow flexibility for any rain events and would have the lake at its wintertime level at the end of December.

This drawdown will expose hydrilla to the winter elements, aiding in its remediation. This is a typical process among lakes in Arkansas, with many scheduling drawdowns annually. CAW last implemented a drawdown of Lake Maumelle in 2010.

Additional steps, as needed, could include the application of low-concentration herbicide, other hydrilla control mechanisms, and future dredging of the lake to improve water quality while restoring water volume. More information will be provided to CAW customers and stakeholders if any of these additional steps are utilized.

CAW's purpose is to protect public health by providing outstanding water services. This program does exactly that by improving and protecting our most valuable resource to ensure the health of generations to come. CAW is proud to deliver high-quality, affordable, abundant, dependable water services every day.

Anyone with questions about this program can contact our Water Quality department at 501-210-4914, or email [communications@carkw.com](mailto:communications@carkw.com).