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Lake drawdown begins this month

By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland
This month Ameren Missouri will begin its annual winter drawdown.

According to Jeff Green, supervisor for Ameren Missouri Shoreline Management, over the next few weeks the lake level will be lowered to approximately 654. However, if it's a dry winter lake elevations could go as low as 651.

"A lot of people thought we started the drawdown in December because the lake was already so low, but that was just the result of little rainfall. We also didn't have much coming from Truman, which was allowed to stay a little lower this year to allow for the flood waters up north," he explained. "If that trend continues, the lake level just might be a little lower than normal this winter."

Green also said he's been

fielding calls from people asking how the project boundary issue will affect permits for bank stabilization.

"We tell them it won't have any effect at all, either on the drawdown or on issuing permits. It will be business as usual," he said.

Barb Duncan, office manager at Rock Works, said they already are starting to get calls for work.

"Once the lake starts dropping, people can see the footings of their seawalls and realize they need help," she said, adding that adding riprap can usually solve many of the problems. "The rock not only helps stabilize the existing wall, it breaks up the wave action - absorbs the energy so you don't have waves crashing into the wall and then bouncing back and crashing into your dock."

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