



PowerSouth Energy Cooperative Shoreline Permitting During Scheduled Drawdowns Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: When is the next scheduled Gantt Lake drawdown?

A: Gantt Lake is tentatively scheduled to begin a drawdown on Sept. 20, 2019. It is anticipated that lake levels will be restored following maintenance repairs at the dam and spillway sometime in mid- to late November.

Q: Why is Gantt Lake being drawn down?

A: PowerSouth needs to maintain specific safety factors at the dam and spillway of Gantt Hydroelectric Dam, as required and regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The drawdown allows access to make necessary repairs to the dam and inspect certain structural components. As such, the lake must be lowered periodically.

Q: How far will the lake be lowered?

A: Gantt Lake is expected to be drawn down approximately 22 feet.

Q: How long will it take to lower Gantt Lake?

A: The drawdown will take approximately two-and-one-half weeks. The lake will be lowered slowly for the first eight feet of depth to reduce bank sloughing and to allow mussels time to burrow into the lake bed. Gantt Lake will be lowered at a controlled rate to aid in mussel recovery and to secure continued plant operations.

Q: How long will Gantt Lake be down?

A: PowerSouth anticipates it will begin to refill Gantt Lake in mid- to late November 2019. However, the lake could begin refilling sooner if all required maintenance has been completed or if seasonal rainfall becomes an issue.

Q: Do I need a permit to construct boat docks, piers, boat ramps, seawalls, dredging, or filling while the lake is drawn down?

A: Yes. Boat dock and pier permits will be issued by PowerSouth. PowerSouth's Land Management Department can be contacted (334) 427-3000 to begin this application and permitting process. Boat ramps, seawalls, dredging, or fill projects will require a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District Regulatory Office (<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>), prior to PowerSouth granting a permit. Based on the nature and location of your project, additional mussel or archeological surveys may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You may also contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by phone at (251) 690-2658, callers should request the South Alabama Branch. Projects that must be permitted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could take up to **six months to receive the**

necessary permit, and PowerSouth encourages you to begin requesting necessary permits for your project as early as possible. Securing any and all permits and approvals is the sole responsibility of the property owner.

Q: Can I begin construction immediately on my boat dock, pier, boat ramp, seawall, and dredge or fill project if I have all of my appropriate approvals?

A: Yes, however, all permitted construction activities that would impact the lake bed must be suspended from Sept. 20, 2019, until Oct. 9, 2019. These dates are tentative and may be subject to change, so please check with PowerSouth's Land Management Department at (334) 427-3000 before you begin any construction or maintenance activities.

Q: Why must I suspend my construction during this time?

A: PowerSouth, in cooperation with multiple state and federal natural resource agencies (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)), will be conducting a mussel salvage effort to recover and relocate federally threatened or endangered mussels and state designated mussel species of concern stranded on the dry lake bed. Salvage crews will need full and unhindered access to the lake bed during this effort to recover these imperiled species. Any disturbance or access to the dry lake bed during this time is prohibited.

Q: Why are PowerSouth, USFWS, ADCNR, and other natural resource agencies conducting the mussel salvage effort?

A: The narrow pigtoe, southern sandshell, and fuzzy pigtoe were listed as threatened species, and the southern kidneyshell and Choctaw bean were listed as endangered species on Oct. 10, 2012, by USFWS. Both Gantt and Point A Lakes were designated as critical habitat at that time for the narrow pigtoe mussel, while Patsaliga Creek and the upper Conecuh River above Gantt Lake were also designated as critical habitat for the five mussels. For species and habitat information for these mussels, visit (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-10/pdf/2012-24161.pdf>). Additionally, the Gulf Lilliput and cypress floater mussels are state listed as imperiled and critically imperiled, respectively (http://www.alnhp.org/track_2016.pdf). Therefore, PowerSouth, USFWS, and ADCNR will be making an effort to protect and conserve these species by relocating stranded mussels to Point A Lake and the upper Conecuh River during the drawdown of Gantt Lake.

Q: Can I enter the dry lakebed for recreational purposes?

A: No. The public should refrain from entering the dry lakebed to limit disturbance of mussels that may burrow during the drawdown. The public should also minimize all work areas as much as possible.