



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:
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Okatibbee Lake closes Collinsville Beach and West Bank Beach

MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Okatibbee Lake closes Collinsville Beach Area and West Bank Beach in Mississippi effective July 15, 2011 due to lack of rainfall in the area since April.

Okatibbee Lake is 2 feet 6 inches below the normal summer depth and this affects recreation activities. As result, Collinsville Beach and West Bank will close today; however, Pine Springs Beach and all day use areas, campgrounds and boat ramps will remain open for other recreation activities.

“The beach buoy lines cannot be moved due to uncertainty of the lake bottom.” Public Affairs Officer E. Patrick Robbins, said. “The area outside the designated swim buoys is unsafe for swimmers for several reasons. The undesignated areas do not provide a level, even beach surface, contain hidden hazards and put swimmers in close proximity to the boat traffic areas.”

Visitors are reminded to wear their life jackets when recreating on or in the lake.

The outlook for the remainder of the summer months ultimately will depend on the weather and rainfall in the area.

For Okatibbee Beach and Park information call the Okatibbee Project Office at 601-626-8431 and then press 2. For the Daily Lake Report call 601-626-8431 and then press 3.

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