Southern Illinois
Power Cooperative

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NOTICE

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ISSUE: In fall of 2025, routine aquatic plant surveys by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in Lake of Egypt detected the presence of a new invasive plant species at multiple locations in Beaver Creek. After consultation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resource's Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, this aquatic plant was identified as Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), also called Brazilian waterweed or Anacharis. **Brazilian elodea** is an aquatic plant that is native to South America. It has spread widely across the globe due to its popularity as an aquarium plant. It grows quickly and densely, and while this may make the species desirable in an aquarium, it makes it highly problematic when released into natural waterways. Brazilian elodea can quickly grow into massive single species stands, outcompeting native plants, slowing water movement, trapping sediment, and impacting water quality. These dense stands can restrict recreational activities like swimming, fishing, boating, and waterskiing. The plant has been reported to cause issues at power plants, irrigation projects, and drinking water facilities by restricting water flow and clogging intake pipes. Brazilian elodea spreads quickly by fragmentation, when small fragments of plants (such as those chopped up by a boat motor) grow their own roots to spread to new locations. The plant can grow in a wide range of temperatures, light levels, water quality, and water clarity, making it an ideal invader.

TREATMENT: To prevent negative impacts to Lake of Egypt from this injurious species, treatment with the goal of eradication will be conducted beginning in the spring of 2026. Because of the risk of fragmentation, physical removal of Brazilian elodea is not recommended in cases where plants are already established in large numbers. The most effective treatment is the use of chemical herbicides. Because Brazilian elodea was detected only within the arm of the lake, but not at 96 other sampling locations elsewhere in the lake, the infestation appears to be contained for now, and chemical treatment has a high probability of success. However, since Brazilian elodea was detected at multiple sites in the lake section, the entire section is considered to be invaded, and the entire section will be treated. A fluoridone-based herbicide will be applied throughout the lake arm. A slow-release pellet form will be used, which means that the herbicide will be present in the system over a longer period of time and will be more effective at long-term treatment. Concentration monitoring will be conducted and additional treatments will be performed if necessary. Vegetation monitoring will also be performed to determine the treatment's impact.

PRODUCT: Sonar One pellets will be used in the treatment of Beaver Creek area. When used as directed, there are no water use restrictions for drinking water, fishing or swimming. Sonar is registered for use by the EPA for aquatic weed control. SIPC has contracted with licensed professionals for application of the product. Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Lake of Egypt Water Department are in support of the treatment plan.

EVALUATION: Treatment will be conducted over a period of two years, with assessments at the end of that two-year period to guide next steps. Beaver Creek will be closed to public access during the treatment period to ensure maximum efficacy and reduced risk for spread.