



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

August 14, 2014

RE: Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure Improvements Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) Impacts and Cyanotoxin Testing Equipment

Dear Surface Water System Owner and Operator:

I am writing to notify owners and operators of all surface water treatment plants in Ohio of new funding opportunities for infrastructure improvements addressing impacts from HABs and cyanotoxin testing equipment.

\$50 Million Available for Infrastructure Improvements Addressing HAB Impacts

Ohio EPA will make available \$50 million as zero-interest loans for enhanced water treatment infrastructure and back-up water sources at public water systems that use surface water as a source. Priority will be given to water systems in the Lake Erie watershed and those that have experienced an algal bloom or a detection of toxins. Qualifying projects include components that treat for toxins produced from harmful algal blooms, as well as projects that implement avoidance strategies such as interconnections with other water supplies, new elevated storage facilities and installation of alternative sources of water. A call for project nominations will occur in the near future and water systems could receive assistance as early as this fall.

\$1 Million Available for Cyanotoxin Testing Equipment

Ohio EPA will make available \$1 million in grant funds to be disbursed in up to \$10,000 increments to public water systems using surface water. These funds may be used for the purchase of equipment, supplies and training for analysis of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms (HABs). For conditions, allowable purchases, and details on how to apply for funding, please see the application at

<http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/HABs/ToxinKitGrantApplication.doc>

If your public water system chooses not to purchase a test kit and you have a bloom of concern in your water source, Ohio EPA will sample per the PWS HAB Response Strategy. This sampling will be done on a prioritized basis as described in the Response Strategy, available at:

http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/HABs/PWS_HAB_Response_Strategy_2014.pdf.

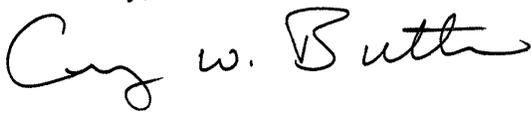
Additional Information

A webinar is also scheduled for Friday, August 15 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EST to answer any questions. To register for the webinar, go to <https://ohioepa.webex.com/ohioepa/k2/j.php?MTID=t4fde875f0a3e66a5266504e391d4d8ab>.

Additional information on the ELISA testing method is available in the "Ohio EPA Consensus Microcystin Abraxis ELISA-ADDA Analytical Methodology" and "Quick Reference Guide for Laboratories". These documents are available at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/HABs/MicrocystinMethodology.pdf> and <http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/HABs/MicrocystinQRG.pdf>.

If you have any questions regarding these funding opportunities, please contact your Ohio EPA district office representative. If you don't know who your district representative is, please contact our Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160 or email SWPWSfunding@epa.ohio.gov for a referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig W. Butler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "B".

Craig W. Butler
Director

Hard copy will follow