



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Dina Pierce, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Darla Peelle, (614) 644-2160

### **Ohio EPA Updates Algae Results for Grand Lake St. Marys**

Analysis of the microcystin samples taken from a large blue-green algae bloom on Grand Lake St. Marys on June 14 shows microcystin was not detected in several samples and ranged between 3.3 ppb and 12.9 ppb in four sampling locations.

All of these numbers are below the World Health Organization's guideline for recreational contact concerns. However, the current algae bloom is *Aphanizomenon gracile*, a different species than the *Planktothrix* that was dominant in the summer of 2009. Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are capable of producing a variety of toxins. Because different algae have been identified in recent samples, Ohio EPA is conducting further analysis to determine if public health concerns exist.

Public drinking water in the area is supplied by the city of Celina. Sampling results indicate that the treated water does not contain microcystin or other algal toxins. The current treatment processes used at the city of Celina water treatment plant are advanced and are known to be effective at removal of microcystin and other algal toxins. Ohio EPA will continue to work with Celina to monitor the finished water and document the effectiveness of the treatment.

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