

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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DWS Circular Letter #2015-07

To: Surface Water and Ground Water Under Direct Influence Public Water Systems
From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section
Date: May 21, 2015
Subject: Toxins Associated with Harmful Algal Blooms in Drinking Water

The Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section (DWS), would like to advise all surface public water systems, as well as public water systems utilizing ground water under the influence of surface water, of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's upcoming announcement on June 15, 2015 regarding public water system health advisory levels for cylindrospermopsin and microcystin in drinking water.

The DPH DWS will provide technical assistance to public water systems and consumers concerning this announcement. We will be providing additional information related to monitoring strategies and assessment this summer as surface water utilities react and adapt to this information.

In preparation for this announcement, the DWS is asking for all surface public water systems to make a system specific evaluation and self-assessment. We have created a short, convenient, online survey based on an American Water Works Association and Water Research Foundation guidance document. This survey will assist us in developing a statewide strategy for surface water public water systems. It is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KHCG3VP>; please complete this anonymous survey no later than June 1, 2015. Any questions on the survey please contact Eric McPhee at the DWS.

We anticipate providing you with specific feedback for consistent approaches for monitoring, assessing and responding to the presence of toxins. We also intend on assisting you with working with your customers and their questions and concerns.

For further guidance, please refer to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) - Water Utility Manager's Guide to Cyanotoxins <http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4548a.pdf> or the DWS website <http://www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater> (see 'Featured Links').

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