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North Dakota Department of Health Rescinds Blue-green Algae Warnings for Green Lake and Froelich Dam

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and Agriculture (NDDA), Animal Health Division, have rescinded the blue-green algae warnings which were issued for Green Lake, located east of Wishek in McIntosh County, and Froelich Dam, located north of Selfridge in Sioux County. The warning for Green Lake was issued Thursday, Aug. 4 while the warning for Froelich Dam was issued Thursday, Aug. 18. Both warnings were issued following monitoring by the NDDoH that showed the presence of blue-green algae and very high levels of microcystin in the water of the lakes. Microcystin is a cyanotoxin caused by blue-green algae. When present in water, cyanotoxins are dangerous for both people and animals.

The NDDoH has been monitoring both lakes at several locations every one to two weeks since the warnings were posted. “Samples collected last week showed very low microcystin concentrations at all locations tested in the lakes. As a result, we believe the warnings are no longer necessary for Green Lake and Froelich Dam,” said Mike Ell with the NDDoH’s Division of Water Quality.

While the advisory has been rescinded for Green Lake and Froelich Dam, the public is reminded that blue-green algae blooms may still occur on lakes and wetlands in the state. For a list of current advisories and warnings go to the NDDoH Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) website at <http://www.ndhealth.gov/WQ/SW/HABs/defaultHABs.htm>.

For more information on public health issues, contact Mike Ell, NDDoH, at 701.328.5214, or Susan Keller, State Veterinarian, at 701.328.2655.

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