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North Dakota Department of Health Rescinds Remaining Blue-green Algae Advisories for Bowman-Haley Reservoir, Lake Tschida, and Devils Lake

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), Animal Health Division, have rescinded the remaining blue-green algae advisories which were issued for lakes and reservoirs in the state this year. The NDDoH and NDDA issued a warning or advisory for a total of 15 lakes and reservoirs and one river (Des Lacs River) this year. Last year the NDDoH and NDDA issued one advisory which was for Homme Dam.

The remaining three lakes and reservoirs for which advisories are being rescinded include Bowman-Haley Reservoir, Lake Tschida, and Devils Lake. The advisory for Bowman-Haley Reservoir was issued Friday, July 22, while the advisories for Lake Tschida and Devils Lake were issued on Friday, Aug. 5, and Friday, Sept. 16, respectively. All advisories were issued following monitoring 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.

While advisories have been rescinded for all remaining lakes and reservoirs in the state, the public is reminded that blue-green algae blooms may still occur on lakes and wetlands in the state. For more information on blue-green algae blooms 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, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5214; or Susan Keller, State Veterinarian, at 701.328.2655.

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