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Ohio River Algal Bloom

Northern Kentucky Water District is monitoring the Algal Blooms that have been reported at several areas on the Ohio River

Erlanger, KY – The Northern Kentucky Water District (District) received notice from the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) that there are algal blooms in various areas along the Upper Ohio River Basin. While the greater Cincinnati community is not currently experiencing an algal bloom, the algae in the Upper Ohio River have been identified as Microcystis. Microcystis is a cyanobacteria (or blue green algae) that can develop into a harmful algal bloom (HAB). The District has been monitoring the water to make sure it is safe. The Ohio River is both visually inspected and laboratory tested for cyanobacteria regularly. ORSANCO, the Kentucky Division of Water and other organizations are also closely monitoring the Ohio River for occurrence of algal blooms in the river.

Your drinking water is safe to drink. The District has treatment processes in place to remove the toxins from the water should they occur. We will ensure these treatment processes are operating at peak performance. Powdered activated carbon is the first step in our treatment process. This step adsorbs and removes the toxin that is associated with an HAB. Conventional filtration and chlorine are also processes that will help remove the HAB. The District's state-of-the art advanced treatment processes including granular activated carbon and ultraviolet light will serve as additional protective treatment barriers. The District regularly consults with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), national water quality experts, public health groups, and environmental groups on water quality issues.

"Maintaining the safety of our community's drinking water is our highest priority," said Ron Lovan, President & CEO of NKWD. "District staff have been working closely with numerous water professionals and agencies, and we have taken the necessary precautionary measures to protect our drinking water supply and the public's health and safety."

Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) serves approximately 81,000 customer accounts, or nearly 300,000 people in Campbell and Kenton Counties, portions of Boone, Grant and Pendleton Counties, and the Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport.