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### **North Dakota Department of Health Rescinds Blue-green Algae Advisory for Lake Ashtabula**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Division, have rescinded the blue-green algae advisory which was issued for Lake Ashtabula, located near Valley City in Barnes County. The advisory was issued for Lake Ashtabula on August 31, 2016, following the report of a dog death. Follow up monitoring by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the NDDoH had previously showed high levels of microcystin in the water at several recreational areas around the lake. Microcystin is a cyanotoxin caused by blue-green algae. When present in water, cyanotoxins are dangerous for both people and animals.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been monitoring the lake since the advisory was posted and has noted a significant improvement in the water quality of the lake in recent days. As a result, we believe an advisory is no longer necessary,” said Mike Ell with the NDDoH’s Division of Water Quality.

While the advisory has been rescinded for Lake Ashtabula, the public is reminded that advisories and warnings are still in effect for several lakes and reservoirs across the state and that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, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5214, or Susan Keller, State Veterinarian, at 701.328.2655.

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