



The Metropolitan District

water supply • environmental services • geographic information

## MDC STATEMENT ON HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS

August 5, 2014  
For Immediate Release

**(HARTFORD, CT)** – The Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) and the associated toxins affecting the public water supply in Toledo Ohio, is being linked to an bloom of cyanobacteria or blue green algae caused by the high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in Lake Erie. Some of the cyanobacteria species produce a variety of toxins such as microcystin, which was detected in the Toledo water supply. This is truly an unfortunate, unforeseen circumstance that Toledo city officials and water supply management actively and constructively addressed, and we understand that Toledo's drinking water supply is now safe for consumption. We commend the water company for its emergency response and their customers for their patience throughout this crisis.

The Metropolitan District (MDC) is extremely vigilant in testing its water supply to ensure that it is of the highest quality and safe to drink. We are sensitive to the inconvenience caused by any disruption of water service, regardless of the time period. The customers of the MDC should be aware that we have significantly protected watershed areas that include extensive land holdings surrounding the reservoirs, and little if any agriculture activity occurs within these watershed areas. As a result, there are low levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in our drinking water reservoirs. Additionally, the MDC employs an active reservoir algae monitoring program and routinely analyzes the reservoirs for algae, inclusive of cyanobacteria species.

The likelihood of a bloom of cyanobacteria and or other algae species such as those seen in Lake Erie, the major source of water for the Toledo water system, is extremely low. The Metropolitan District remains committed to the continued monitoring of our reservoirs, plant processes and our distribution system to bring the highest quality of potable water possible to the customers of the District.

**About the MDC:** *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to portions Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

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