



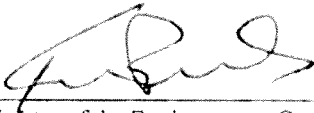
## **REPORTS OF CYANOBACTERIAL (BLUE-GREEN ALGAL) BLOOMS**

### **PROTOCOL**

(July 2011)

1. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Operations Division's District Office is the lead responder for reports of occurrence of a blue-green algal bloom.
2. If the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), Public Health Inspector (PHI) receives an initial report of a blue-green algal bloom they are to refer the complainant on to the North Bay MOE, tel. 705-497-6865 or the Ministry's Spills Action Centre at 1-866-268 6060 (24/7 operation).
3. Following preliminary notification, if the MOE determines a field investigation is required, samples will be collected and sent to the MOE Laboratory to be analyzed using the ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) method.
4. When a sample is taken GPS coordinates and other necessary contact information are recorded on an MOE Incident Report and Sample Submission Form.
5. MOE receives results from the laboratory (approximate 48 hours) and forwards the results to the complainant, municipality, and NBPSDHU. If the sample analysis result is positive, the MOE forwards the GPS coordinates to affected parties also.
6. If the results are positive the NBPSDHU advises the public accordingly.
7. a) If the bloom occurs in a beach or other near shore public areas, i.e. marina, park, etc. the NBPSDHU will conduct weekly visual inspections. If after 3-4 weeks following initial identification, the algal bloom appears to have dissipated, the NBPSDHU will contact the MOE inspector who took the initial samples.  
b) If the algal bloom occurs in areas other than the near shore the NBPSDHU will contact the complainant and/or applicable municipal staff on a weekly basis. If after 3-4 weeks following initial identification, the algal bloom is reported to have dissipated the NBPSDHU will contact the MOE inspector who took the initial samples.
8. The MOE will resample at the request of the NBPSDHU (no sooner than 3-4 weeks after the initial sampling and as soon as possible but generally within 7 days) after the visual assessments referred to in # 7 above have been undertaken (i.e. no slime residue remaining). Two resamples will be collected one week apart. If results indicate no presence of BGA, the advisory will be lifted employing the same means as initially issued.

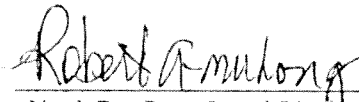
9. In the event that the MOE inspector is unable to resample in a timely fashion (within 7 days), the area NBPSDHU PHI will take the sample at the same location as the initial MOE sample using the GPS coordinates provided. MOE will provide sample bottles, client codes and applicable sample submission forms to the NBPSDHU.
  
10. If the resample results are positive, both agencies will discuss next steps.



Ministry of the Environment, Operations Division

2011-07-21

Date



North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

2011-07-21

Date