

Memorandum for Record

Subject: CORPS DISTRICT BLUE-GREEN ALGAE (BGA) ISSUES

1. In response to this summers' unprecedented BGA blooms in the Tulsa District, all Corps District Environmental Compliance Coordinators (ECC) were asked for comments on BGA issues they have or are currently experiencing this summer in their Districts. The following bullets provide a brief overview of this International issue:

* BGA blooms occur world-wide with massive blooms reported annually throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South America

* In the United States BGA blooms occur throughout the country

* Corps District Involvement (Not all Districts responded. It should be assumed other Districts are currently experiencing BGA blooms

* Jacksonville District- One swimming beach at a corps lake is currently closed by directive of the local County Government

* Kansas City District – Perry Lake, Kansas – a Warning has been posted at two beaches and a General Advisory has been posted around the remainder of the lake

Milford Lake, Kansas – A Warning has been posted over entire lake – **Body contact with lake water prohibited.**

* Portland District – Willow Creek Reservoir – State Health Advisory around entire lake

* New England District – Corps lakes in four of the six states in the District experience annual blooms that require State Advisories (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire)

* Tulsa District - Marion Lake, Kansas – State Advisory

Big Hill Lake, Kansas – State Advisory

* * Keystone Lake – Two Areas are closed, one area is posted with a Warning sign, and the remainder of the lake is posted with an Advisory. Tulsa District imposed postings using State of Kansas and World Health Organization/National Centers for Disease control (CDC) guidelines.

* * Fort Gibson Lake – One beach is closed as a precautionary act by the Lake Manager and the remainder of the lake has been posted with an Advisory.

* * Tenkiller Lake – The entire lake has been posted with an Advisory

** Eufaula Lake – One Public Use Area has been posted with a Warning sign and the remainder of the lake has been posted with an Advisory. Continuing reports of algae blooms have prompted additional water sampling. Results may trigger additional Warnings being posted.

State Blue-Green Algae Monitoring Programs - Several state websites were checked for BGA information. With the exception of Arkansas, all states checked either have a BGA Policy in place or provide BGA information and a Point of Contact to report BGA blooms and possible illness from exposure. Of the states adjacent to Oklahoma, Kansas has a BGA policy, Arkansas has no BGA information available on the web sites I looked at, and the remaining states including Oklahoma provide BGA information and Points of Contact.

Many states are currently experiencing BGA blooms .

The Oklahoma State Epidemiologist is now providing Tulsa District weekly Summaries of Illness reports Related to Harmful Algal Blooms .

** Tulsa District imposed postings for lakes in Oklahoma were made using State of Kansas and World Health Organization/National Centers for Disease control (CDC) guidelines.

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